



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Legal Affairs

2011/0177(APP)

18.9.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Legal Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the proposal for a Council regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020
(COM(2011)0398 – 2011/0177(APP))

Rapporteur: Dagmar Roth-Behrendt

PA_NonLeg_Interim

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Legal Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its report:

Justice

1. Considers it an absolute priority to draft legislation that is simple, clear and comprehensible in order to ensure that EU legislation has a high level of transparency and is implemented effectively; points out, in this regard, that the further development of a European area of justice needs to be supported via adequate financial resources, with a view to providing citizens with EU-wide standards, a basic level of justice, non-discriminatory treatment and the full opportunity for them to exercise their rights anywhere in Europe;
2. Considers it essential that the EU funds, with meaningful financial allocations, a series of dedicated financial programmes to support its legislation and policies in the area of justice, focusing on cross-border issues that can only be adequately addressed by coordinated action at the level of the EU;
3. Stresses that a better achievement of full access to justice, thorough judicial training and effective judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters could be further ensured by increasing the proposed allocation for the Justice Programme 2014-2020 and calls for a 5 % increase in its financial envelope;

Administration

4. Agrees with the need expressed by the Commission to rationalise administrative expenditure; stresses, however, that it is vital to strike a balance between making further savings and ensuring that the institutions can perform their tasks and duties in accordance with their obligations and powers under the Treaties, taking account of the difficult challenges posed by the current economic crisis;
5. Notes, in this connection, that 80 % of the savings foreseen by the Commission stem from a proposed staff reduction of 5 %; profoundly disagrees with the application of a linear staff reduction to all institutions, bodies and agencies as their roles and responsibilities under the Treaties differ widely; stresses that it should be left to each of them to decide where, and which, cuts can be introduced so as to not hamper their proper functioning;
6. Recalls that, in 2004, the European Union civil service underwent a profound reform which has already generated savings of €3 billion, and will continue to generate savings for the EU budget of some further €5 billion until 2020; notes that the administrative expenditure of the EU represents only 5.8 % of the multi-annual financial framework (MFF) 2007-2013, which itself represents around 1 % of the EU's GNI;
7. Acknowledges the fact that the economic and social context, which differs over the period of the next MFF, needs to be taken into account by the Budgetary Authorities, but stresses that, more than ever, the EU needs an efficient civil service with highly qualified and

multilingual staff, drawn from among citizens of the Member States on the widest possible geographical basis and with due regard to gender balance; points out that staff must be independent, adhere to the highest professional standards and be willing to leave their countries of origin; moreover, notes that staff need to be provided with the means to carry out their duties as efficiently and loyally as possible;

8. Will strongly oppose any measure which violates the legal position of officials with regard to fundamental rights, the general principles of Union law and the principle of social justice and which jeopardises the proper functioning of the EU administration in the fulfilment of its mission to serve the citizens and the Union.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	18.9.2012
Result of final vote	+: 23 -: 1 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Raffaele Baldassarre, Luigi Berlinguer, Sebastian Valentin Bodu, Françoise Castex, Christian Engström, Marielle Gallo, Giuseppe Gargani, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Sajjad Karim, Klaus-Heiner Lehne, Antonio Masip Hidalgo, Jiří Maštálka, Alajos Mészáros, Bernhard Rapkay, Evelyn Regner, Francesco Enrico Speroni, Dimitar Stoyanov, Rebecca Taylor, Alexandra Thein, Rainer Wieland, Cecilia Wikström, Tadeusz Zwiefka
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Piotr Borys, Eva Lichtenberger, Arlene McCarthy, Angelika Niebler, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, József Szájer
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Jacek Włosowicz