



2019/2028(BUD)

9.9.2019

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020
(2019/2028(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes the overall reduction of AMIF commitment appropriations by 15,4 % (i.e. by EUR 172 million) compared to 2019; regrets the decrease of commitment appropriations aimed at strengthening and developing the CEAS and enhancing responsibility-sharing between Member States (i.e. by 29,5 %) compared to 2019; acknowledges, nevertheless, that the commitment appropriations remain well above the level established in the 2018 budget and realises that the decrease is, at least in part, linked to the fact the reform of the Dublin Regulation has been blocked because of political inertia in the Council; recalls the importance of ensuring high standards of asylum in the Union as well as providing adequate financial capacity to support the reception, sheltering and integration of asylum seekers and migrants in the Member States, effective return strategies, resettlement programmes, the efficiency of asylum application examinations, the enforcement of decisions regarding asylum applications, and to respond to emergency assistance needs of Member States hosting large numbers of asylum seekers and/or of first arrivals; notes that the AMIF budget does not include some financial reserves to finance the reformed Dublin legislation and the new Union resettlement schemes in case of adoption of that legislation during 2020; proposes to foresee an amount in the reserve for temporary arrangements for disembarkation in the Union and relocation of people rescued in the Mediterranean; suggests, in order to free financial resources, that the EU Trust Fund for Africa and the regional development protection programmes for North Africa that primarily support external policies of the Union are funded by Heading IV of the Union budget (Global Europe) instead of by the AMIF under Heading III (Security and Citizenship); recalls the need to ensure coherence between actions undertaken under Heading III and Heading IV;
2. Calls on the Commission to increase the number of budget lines under the AMIF to facilitate greater transparency regarding how the financial resources of the Fund are allocated to the different objectives of that Fund; calls, in particular, for the clear separation of expenditure on enhancing fair return strategies from expenditure on legal migration and promoting effective integration of third-country nationals;
3. Recalls the need to allocate an adequate amount of resources from the Union budget to reinforce the external dimension of migration and to guarantee an adequate protection of the Union's external borders;
4. Stresses the low amount foreseen for emergency assistance in the ISF (EUR 8,5 million); requests the Commission to carefully and more realistically re-evaluate this amount taking into account possible emergency assistance needs of Member States in the framework of the ISF, such as the management of security-related incidents;
5. Calls for higher funding for the Europe for Citizens programme, given the fundamental role that it plays in order to strengthen the European demos and its citizenship;
6. Notes the increases of commitment appropriations of JHA agencies such as EASO

(41,5 %), EBCG (34,6 %), CEPOL (14 %), EMCDDA (7,7 %), FRA (5,4 %), Eurojust (5,2 %), and Europol (2,1 %) compared to the 2019 budget; welcomes the overall increase of the funds available through the Justice Programme; regrets however the decrease in commitments for the component Facilitating and supporting judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters (i.e. by 23,6 %);

7. Notes that the budget of the EBCG has increased by 34,8 % (i.e. by EUR 108 million) in 2020 following the adoption of the EBCG new mandate, which is by far the largest increase among all JHA agencies; recalls that the Court of Auditors identified as part of the discharge of the 2017 budget that Member States overestimated the financial need of the EBCG in 2017; notes the objective of providing the EBCG with more human resources (10 000 border guards by 2027), and the fact that the number of deaths at sea keeps increasing in light of the absence of SAR assets in the Mediterranean; suggests that this boost in resources should also be used for rescuing lives at sea; calls on the Commission to urgently create a fund aimed at supporting search and rescue operations in order to guarantee a strong SAR presence in the Mediterranean; regrets the remarkable difference between the commitment appropriations assigned to EBCG (EUR 420 million) in 2020 and the amount accorded to EASO (EUR 133 million); calls for EASO to be transformed into a fully-fledged decentralised Union agency with a greatly enhanced mandate and considers that the budget and staffing of EASO should be increased to allow the Agency to properly perform the duties it has been entrusted; notes the reduction of ISF commitment appropriations by 6,1% (i.e. by EUR 32,6 million) compared to 2019; recalls the need to provide support in the field of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters;
8. Welcomes the increase of commitment appropriations of the EPPO (70,5 %); recalls the important role of the EPPO in investigating and prosecuting fraud involving Union funds and the need to provide sufficient financial resources so that it becomes fully operational before December 2020; asks the Commission to further study the financial needs for an expansion of the role of the EPPO to include cross-border terrorism in line with its Communication on 12 September 2018;
9. Regrets that the Commission did not follow the budgetary requests of Europol and Eurojust and proposed to reduce the funds in 2020 for Europol by EUR 33,5 million and Eurojust by EUR 3.7 million as compared to their financial objectives; underlines that such decrease might have an impact on the operational activities of both agencies; notes that Europol's support has been crucial in joint investigations across the Union and has a key role in the fight against organised crime; supports the implementation of Europol's Strategy 2020+, aiming at strengthening Europol's operational support and analytical capabilities to the benefit of the Member States, and proposes new investments in important crime areas, such as the fight against drug trafficking and financial crime; notes that the decrease of the eu-LISA commitment appropriations by 18,7 % (i.e. by EUR 55 million) corresponds to the end of the development of the Entry-Exit System; reiterates the need to ensure adequate financial support, staffing and staff training for JHA agencies to effectively deliver the tasks assigned to them in full transparency and to fight against cross-border serious crime in full compliance with fundamental rights;
10. Welcomes the amount allocated to the EDPS (EUR 19 million); notes that more than

30 % of this amount are used to provide the secretariat for the EDPB; emphasises the need to ensure appropriate budgetary and staff resources for EDPS to carry out the additional tasks resulting from the implementation of the new Union data protection framework (GDPR) with full independence; stresses therefore that the allocated budget is the bare minimum;

11. Is concerned that the Commission's draft budget for CEPOL (funding gap EUR 1,5 million) does not allow CEPOL to sufficiently cover the demand from Member States regarding education and training for the law enforcement communities in the Union and its neighbourhood; regrets that CEPOL does not get sufficient funding to address new challenges in light of the new information systems such as SIS II, and that it cannot deliver training to law enforcement officials in fields such as corruption and excise fraud, while the EU Strategic Training Needs Assessment has identified these as necessary for law enforcement at Union level; instead, it had to refuse 54 valid and legitimate training requests of Member States in the field of law enforcement leadership, illegal immigration, hate crime, and money laundering because of budgetary restraints; argues that the budgetary request of CEPOL (EUR 12 million) for 2020 is needed to be able to meet the increasing demand of Member States, particularly in the field of cybercrime and digitalisation; points out that trust, networks and information exchange between law enforcement communities across borders could be further improved by adding a new one-month component to the current CEPOL Exchange Programme and offering study visits to Europol and exchange programmes between operational officers from Member States and Europol staff; that this would require, however, appropriate additional financial and human resources for CEPOL;
12. Notes the increasing recruitment of "temporary agents" as compared to "contract agents" in the Union agencies; considers that the sensitivity of information accessible to staff of agencies in the JHA field requires a strict policy of confidentiality, in particular with regard to staff recruitment and management;
13. Encourages the Commission to strengthen support for investigative journalism, including cross-border investigative journalism, and media freedom through dedicated funds, which contributes, among other areas, to revealing and combatting crime, as well as raising awareness among Union citizens;
14. Recalls its support to fight against discriminatory practices, gender-based violence, hate crimes as well as for the full enjoyment of rights, equality and justice programmes; stresses the significant role played by appropriations spent for non-discrimination instruments, and equality support programmes to enforce minorities' rights, with a special focus on the rights of women, elderly persons, persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ persons;
15. Calls on the Commission, the Council and Member States to implement gender budgeting in all public expenditure, especially when planning, negotiating, implementing and revaluating the next multiannual financial framework (MFF); the commitment to safeguard the promotion and protection of gender equality, women's and girls' rights in the 2020 budgetary procedure is crucial; gender budgeting should therefore be integrated in all budget lines and follow: 1) the promotion of accountability and transparency in fiscal planning; 2) the increase of gender responsive participation in

the budget process; and 3) the advancement of gender equality and women's rights;

16. Calls for sustainable and adequate funding to be benchmarked for actions provided for an effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention and the Victims' Rights Directive, as key pieces of legislation on fighting violence against women and domestic violence as well as providing an adequate support to victims, creating a comprehensive legal framework and approach to combat gender-based violence, raising awareness campaigns and building a proper state infrastructure in order to combat such violence;
17. Deplores the fact that there has been no noticeable progress in terms of following up on the Union's high level political and legal commitments to gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process and spending decisions since 2015, also identified by the fact that in the mid-term review of the 2014-2020 MFF nor in the Commission's proposal for the 2021-2027 gender equality has been taken into consideration.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	5.9.2019						
Result of final vote	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 100px;">+:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>-:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4</td> </tr> </table>	+:	46	-:	10	0:	4
+:	46						
-:	10						
0:	4						
Members present for the final vote	<p>Malik Azmani, Katarina Barley, Fernando Barrena Arza, Pietro Bartolo, Vladimír Bilčík, Vasile Blaga, Saskia Bricmont, Jorge Buxadé Villalba, Damien Carême, Caterina Chinnici, Clare Daly, Anna Júlia Donáth, Lena Düpont, Cornelia Ernst, Sylvie Guillaume, Balázs Hidvéghi, Antony Hook, Evin Incir, Sophia in 't Veld, Marina Kaljurand, Fabienne Keller, Peter Kofod, Moritz Körner, Alice Kuhnke, Jeroen Lenaers, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Magid Magid, Roberta Metsola, Claude Moraes, Nadine Morano, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Kostas Papadakis, Nicola Procaccini, Paulo Rangel, Terry Reintke, Ralf Seekatz, Michal Šimečka, Birgit Sippel, Sylwia Spurek, Tineke Strik, Ramona Strugariu, Annalisa Tardino, Dragoş Tudorache, Milan Uhrík, Tom Vandendriessche, Bettina Vollath, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Javier Zarzalejos</p>						
Substitutes present for the final vote	<p>Bartosz Arłukowicz, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Claire Fox, Raphaël Glucksmann, Livia Járóka, Kris Peeters, Anne-Sophie Pelletier, Sabrina Pignedoli, Loránt Vincze, Maria Walsh, Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez</p>						

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

46	+
NI	Sabrina Pignedoli
PPE	Bartosz Arłukowicz, Vladimír Bilčík, Vasile Blaga, Lena Düpont, Balázs Hidvéghi, Livia Járóka, Jeroen Lenaers, Roberta Metsola, Kris Peeters, Paulo Rangel, Ralf Seekatz, Loránt Vincze, Maria Walsh, Javier Zarzalejos, Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez
RENEW	Malik Azmani, Anna Júlia Donáth, Antony Hook, Sophia in 't Veld, Fabienne Keller, Moritz Körner, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Michal Šimečka, Ramona Strugariu, Dragoș Tudorache
S&D	Katarina Barley, Pietro Bartolo, Caterina Chinnici, Raphaël Glucksmann, Sylvie Guillaume, Evin Incir, Marina Kaljurand, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Claude Moraes, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Birgit Sippel, Sylwia Spurek, Bettina Vollath
VERTS/ALE	Saskia Bricmont, Damien Carême, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Alice Kuhnke, Magid Magid, Terry Reintke, Tineke Strik

10	-
GUE/NGL	Pernando Barrena Arza, Clare Daly, Cornelia Ernst, Anne-Sophie Pelletier
ID	Peter Kofod, Annalisa Tardino, Tom Vandendriessche
NI	Claire Fox, Kostas Papadakis, Milan Uhrík

4	0
ECR	Jorge Buxadé Villalba, Nicola Procaccini, Jadwiga Wiśniewska
PPE	Nadine Morano

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention