

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2006/2018(BUD)

15.9.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2007
(C6-0000/2006 - 2006/2018(BUD))

Section III – Commission

Draftsperson: István Szent-Iványi

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Regrets that the structure of the 2007 PDB, based on the merger of several previously separate budget lines, hinders effective parliamentary oversight and adequate priority setting; welcomes in this context the agreement reached on the pre-accession, new neighbourhood and stability instruments after the exchange of letters between the institutions, which, inter alia, outline the mechanisms for implementing the declarations on democratic scrutiny and coherence of external actions attached to the interinstitutional agreement on budgetary discipline and sound financial management, since such agreement provides for greater insight into the implementation of the Community's financial assistance;
2. Points out that, since the Commission has submitted a proposal for a separate instrument for human rights, the budget nomenclature needs to be adapted to the new situation;
3. Takes the view that recourse to the margin of EUR 110 million available under heading 4 is unavoidable, given the number of already identifiable challenges;
4. Considers that the EU should focus its limited financial resources on regions and issues where its assistance can make a real difference;
5. Reaffirms the need to earmark sufficient resources for implementing the EU's Thessaloniki Agenda and facilitating the gradual European integration of the Western Balkan countries, and insists on the inclusion in the budget of an indicative breakdown of allocations per country to allow better oversight and comparison;
6. Expects the Council and the Commission to keep Parliament fully informed about preparations for the future EU mission in Kosovo; urges them to use CFSP/ESPD mechanisms and Community resources in a coordinated and coherent fashion so as to optimise their impact;
7. Will agree to a substantial increase of CFSP expenditure only if the provisions of the Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline and sound financial management are strictly complied with;
8. Stresses the need gradually to achieve a proportionally equal allocation of resources for the European Neighbourhood and Partnership (ENP) financial co-operation both with Mediterranean countries and Eastern European countries, in order to strengthen stability, security and democracy throughout Europe and beyond;
9. Reiterates its view that, with the exception of humanitarian aid, assistance to governments should not be provided if the governments are responsible for clear worsening of the situation in the fields of democracy, the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms;
10. Considers that activities to protect and promote human rights in the world should be

financed under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights without prejudice to the funds to be earmarked for those policies under the corresponding geographical instruments;

11. Takes the view that proper internal and external communication is an integral part of the EU's external and enlargement policies, and calls for adequate resources to be allocated for that purpose.

PROCEDURE

Title	The draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2007 - Section III - Commission		
References	2006/2018(BUD)		
Committee responsible	BUDG		
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	AFET		
Draftsperson Date appointed	István Szent-Iványi 25.1.2006		
Discussed in committee	20.6.2006	11.7.2006	12.9.2006
Date adopted	12.9.2006		
Result of final vote	+: 37 -: 2 0: 3		
Members present for the final vote	Panagiotis Beglitis, Bastiaan Belder, Monika Beňová, Elmar Brok, Paul Marie Coûteaux, Simon Coveney, Véronique De Keyser, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos, Maciej Marian Giertych, Jana Hybášková, Anna Ibrisagic, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Ioannis Kasoulides, Bogdan Klich, Helmut Kuhne, Joost Lagendijk, Vytautas Landsbergis, Cecilia Malmström, Pasqualina Napoletano, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Raimon Obiols i Germà, Vural Öger, Alojz Peterle, João de Deus Pinheiro, Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski, Bernd Posselt, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Libor Rouček, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, György Schöpflin, Gitte Seeberg, István Szent-Iványi, Antonio Tajani, Charles Tannock, Paavo Väyrynen, Inese Vaidere, Geoffrey Van Orden, Josef Zieleniec		
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Laima Liucija Andrikiienė, Irena Belohorská, Alexandra Dobolyi, Lilli Gruber, Tunne Kelam, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Marcello Vernola		
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote			