

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

2008/2025(BUD)

28.5.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the 2009 budget: First reflections on the 2009 PDB mandate for the
conciliation
(2008/2025(BUD))

Rapporteur: Maria Martens

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Expresses deep concern at the consequences of soaring global food prices for the provision of food aid in developing countries, and takes note of the drastic shortfall that has already been highlighted by funding agencies; calls on the Commission to adapt the budget line 23 02 02 to real needs that will arise in 2009 and to increase the budget line accordingly without jeopardising other EP political priorities; notes that food prices stem from structural causes and are not expected to fall in 2009 or subsequent years and that under the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid the European Union "aims to demonstrate its commitment to humanitarian response by mobilising adequate funding for humanitarian aid based on assessed need"; calls for additional resources to be provided for this purpose in 2009 by all budgetary means available, including traditional budgetary mechanisms such as the flexibility instrument or innovative means such as revision of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) to release 2008 underspends in Title 05;
2. Calls for the continuation of budget lines 19 09 02 (cooperation with middle income group countries in Latin America) and 19 10 01 05 (cooperation with middle income group countries in Asia) as preparatory actions for financing interventions in those regions which do not fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA) and therefore fall outside Regulation (EC) 1905/2006; stresses that such actions are desirable in order to respond to strategic EU interests or issues of mutual concern and calls on the Commission to propose a financing instrument for such actions without delay;
3. Draws attention to the problem of the precarious financing situation in Heading 4 resulting from needs in Kosovo and Palestine that could not be foreseen when the MFF was established; believes that this problem can only be addressed through a comprehensive revision of the MFF leading to increases in the Heading 4 ceiling for the period 2009-2013; points out that the thematic programme "Investing in People" needs to serve a great number of policies and programme priorities and that, among these priorities, health has seen a reduction in spending since 2003-2006, and annual allocations for 2007 and 2008 have not reached their annual average, as programmed for the period 2007-2013;
4. Welcomes the Commission's initiatives to launch a Global Climate Change Alliance and a Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund as important steps to support developing countries in adapting to and mitigating climate change; stresses however that funds allocated so far are inadequate; calls for an increase in immediate funding for these initiatives in the 2009 budget, additional to planned development commitments; emphasises, furthermore, the importance of strengthening these initiatives by securing additional long-term funds;
5. Stresses the need for a comprehensive assessment of the results of EU development co-operation actions and their likely sustainability, including for assistance delivered as budget support; points out that transparency in this area is fundamental for parliamentary

accountability; emphasises the need to meet the benchmark of dedicating, by 2009, 20% of its allocated assistance under country programmes covered by the Development Cooperation Instrument to basic and secondary education and basic health, through project, programme or budget support linked to these sectors; urges the Commission to strengthen its evaluation of results and forward its findings to Parliament;

6. Welcomes the Commission's plans to implement its proposed Millennium Development Goals (MDG) contracts as soon as possible; and calls for the principles behind the contracts to be extended to all other general and sectoral budget support;
7. Invites the Commission to further develop thinking and practice on how parliamentary scrutiny of budgetary aid in partner countries could be improved;
8. Calls for the gender performance indicators attached to budget support to be strengthened, and expanded into areas such as women's civil rights;
9. Supports the continued inclusion of targets to increase spending on health and education in budget support agreements; and suggests that agreements include clear timelines for reaching the Abuja Declaration target of spending 15% of a national budget on health, and the Global Campaign for Education target of spending 20% of a national budget on education.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	28.5.2008
Result of final vote	+: 29 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Alessandro Battilocchio, Thijs Berman, Danutė Budreikaitė, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Corina Crețu, Beniamino Donnici, Fernando Fernández Martín, Juan Fraile Cantón, Alain Hutchinson, Filip Kaczmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Maria Martens, Gay Mitchell, Luisa Morgantini, Horst Posdorf, José Ribeiro e Castro, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Feleknas Uca, Anna Záborská, Jan Zahradil
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	John Bowis, Ana Maria Gomes, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Manolis Mavrommatis, Mihaela Popa, Renate Weber, Gabriele Zimmer