



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 September 2012

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NOTE

from :	General Secretariat of the Council
to :	Delegations
Subject:	Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Budgets (BUDG) held in Brussels on 6 September 2012

The meeting was chaired by Mr LAMASSOURE (EPP, FR).

Presentation of the study: "The impact on the EU and national budgets of EU agencies"

The study looked into the budgetary impact of transferring responsibilities and tasks from the national level to the European level following the creation of EU agencies. It also examined the synergies created between agencies, the potential duplication of tasks and the degree of cooperation. The study focused on two agencies: The European Aviation Safety Agency and the European Medicines Agency and covered all 27 EU Member States.

The conclusions presented by its authors were the following:

- setting up mechanisms including the EU level has improved the system and resulted in stronger credibility on the globalised market;
- more active participation of smaller Member States in the governance and decision-making process was possible;
- the clearer and more harmonised EU legal framework was of benefit to the industry;

- no duplication of tasks was found; however, the transfer of competences did not generate any savings at national level.

In their concluding remarks, the authors of the study recommended further reinforcing the European governance model within the EU agencies, to harmonise its structure across the agencies and to improve its transparency.

Ms JENSEN (ALDE, DK) and Ms HERCZOG (S&D, HU) welcomed the report and invited the BUDG and CONT committees to further discuss the subject. The reforms introduced at EU level should also have an impact on national agencies and, according to Ms HERCZOG, this should be followed up closely.

Mr LAMASSOURE noted that the study did not detect any duplication of tasks in the analysed sample. He insisted, however, that more needed to be done in order to generate savings at national level and recommended pursuing the analysis of the agencies from that perspective.

Item 4 on the agenda

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013 - all Sections

BUDG/7/09512

Co-rapporteurs: Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT) and Mr VAUGHAN (S&D, UK)

- Exchange of views

For the rapporteur for Section III - Commission, Mr LA VIA, the EUR 5 billion cut in payment appropriations operated by the Council in its position on the draft budget for 2013 was, in the first place, seriously undermining the credibility of EU policies and actions. In his view, obligations incurred would have to be honoured anyway as the political and legal commitments had already been made. He reverted as well to the European Council conclusions of 28-29 June 2012, where the Heads of State and Government delivered a political message committing themselves to support measures for growth and to pursue a goal of "more Europe" and not "less Europe". In the light of the above, the Council position on the draft budget for 2013 was considered by the rapporteur as "inconsistent".

From the rapporteur's point of view, the European Parliament (EP) as a representative of the EU citizens had to pursue with even more efforts its mission guaranteeing growth and prosperity for the EU citizens. The rapporteur invited the BUDG members to submit amendments that focused on growth-creating programmes and measures enhancing employment.

He recalled as well the upcoming interinstitutional meeting on payment appropriations scheduled on 26 September 2012 and expressed the willingness to achieve a common understanding between all parties involved on the real needs for payments as a basis for negotiations.

He finally invited the political groups to review the question of ITER with a view to finding a common approach for its further financing.

Mr VAUGHAN, the rapporteur for the other institutions, informed the Committee that the EP would limit the increase in its draft budget for 2013 to 1.9 % (the inflation level), excluding the additional appropriations for Croatia. His objective, however, was to include even the additional expenses for Croatia within this budget growth and in order to achieve it, additional savings of EUR 9 million were necessary. He expressed confidence that BUDG members, the Bureau and the Secretary-General would manage to find those additional savings. From his point of view the 1.9 % inflation level was a limit for the budget growth for all institutions, the EEAS could be the only one exception from this rule.

Mr GARRIGA POLLEDO (EPP, ES) agreed with the rapporteur that an austerity approach was necessary for the EP budget and insisted that no exceptions were granted. With regard to the EU budget for 2013, supported by Mr MULDER (ALDE, NL), he asked for a tougher stance on commitment appropriations as a way of achieving more savings in the future.

According to Ms GARDIAZÁBAL RUBIAL (S&D, ES) the Council position did not come as a surprise in a situation of difficult economic conditions persisting in the EU. She warned, however, that not honouring obligations could simply be considered as illegal. She said that her political group would submit amendments that would follow closely the Commission's proposal.

Ms JEDRZEJEWSKA (EPP, PL) enquired about the methodology the Council had followed in the establishment of its position. Mr LYON (ALDE, UK), followed by Mr LAMASSOURE (EPP, FR), insisted on the fact that figures presented in the Commission's draft budget were not "abstract", but based on estimates provided directly by the Member States. He asked the Commission to disclose those estimates as soon as possible and preferably before the interinstitutional meeting on payments. Mr LAMASSOURE also stressed that the Council should be publicly confronted with its contradictory approach and asked the Commission to inform the public systematically each time a shortage of payment appropriations was observed.

Ms HAUG (S&D, DE) did not appreciate Mr VAUGHAN's exceptional approach towards the EEAS and objected to further cuts in the EP budget.

Calendar:

Deadline for tabling amendments: 8 October 2012, 12.00

Item 5 on the agenda

MFF 2014-2020/Own resources

Co-rapporteurs: Mr BÖGE (EPP, DE), Mr KALFIN (S&D, BG), Mr DEHAENE (EPP, BE) and Ms JENSEN (ALDE, DK)

a) MFF 2014-2020

Mr LAMASSOURE informed the BUDG members that two meetings took place during the summer break with the Cyprus Presidency. The first was a working meeting with Minister MAVROYANNIS at which the EP presented its concerns related to the Negotiating Box. In the EP's view, the negotiations on the next MFF should follow two separate axes - a budgetary framework where the EP, according to the Lisbon Treaty, was to give its consent, and the other axis related to the content of the legislative proposals. Following that meeting, Minister MAVROYANNIS received a document prepared by the EP services analysing the Negotiating Box and containing certain suggestions for modifications in line with the EP's preoccupations.

The second meeting was the meeting of EU Ministers in charge of General Affairs that took place in Cyprus on 30 August 2012. This meeting was solely devoted to the MFF issue. Mr LAMASSOURE expressed his satisfaction that the majority of Ministers present at the meeting shared the EP's concerns on the methodology and working arrangements for the adoption of the 2014-2020 legislative proposals. Subsequently, and in the absence of Council conclusions from this informal meeting, the EP took the initiative to prepare a document that would be submitted to Minister MAVROYANNIS next week in Strasbourg concerning the cooperation, the working arrangements and the calendar of negotiations on the legislative proposals between the EP's committees and the Council's working groups, in accordance with what had been discussed in Cyprus. The aim of this document would be to speed up the negotiations between the institutions; it would not contain any figures.

Mr LAMASSOURE regretted that the Council did not advance substantially on the MFF issue and that divisions between the "Friends of cohesion" and the "Friends of better spending" persisted. He considered that the approach proposed by the Cyprus Presidency in the letter addressed to the Ministers during the meeting, suggesting to find a compromise "downwards", was not very encouraging. He concluded by reminding that the MFF would be the main agenda point of the extraordinary European Council meeting on 22-23 November 2012, where the Heads of State and Government would aim at preparing grounds for an agreement in December this year (the European Council meeting of 18 October 2012 would not be devoted to the MFF as previously planned, but would deal solely with the euro crisis and the banking union). Taking into account this new date, the next contact group meeting with EP President would focus on the calendar of the MFF negotiations.

Finally, Mr LAMASSOURE pointed out that the budgetary calendar for 2013 would certainly coincide at some point with the MFF negotiations. He was not able to say at this stage what would be the consequences of this accumulation of important political issues such as a probable draft amending budget on payments for 2012, the draft budget for 2013, appropriations for ITER in 2013 and the next MFF negotiations, but advised to keep the discussions separate and to proceed step by step. He indicated that the EP was finalising its Interim Report on the EP's position on the next MFF with a view to submitting it to the European Council of 22-23 November 2012. He informed the Committee, however, that the EP would not disclose its stance until the Council makes an "important step forward".

b) Own Resources

Concerning the Own Resources, Mr LAMASSOURE noted that there was some general opening and common understanding of the need to reform the own resources system and that an enhanced cooperation between certain Member States could eventually be envisaged. He said that the Cyprus Presidency had the intention of approaching the Member States on the issue of the VAT-based own resource in the upcoming weeks.

Calendar:

Deadline for tabling amendments: 26 September 2012, 12.00

Item 6 on the agenda

Interim report in the interests of achieving a positive outcome of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 approval procedure (2011/0177(APP))

BUDG/7/09389

Co-rapporteurs: Mr KALFIN (S&D, BG), Mr BÖGE (EPP, DE)

This item was postponed.

Item 7 on the agenda

Common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation)

BUDG/7/07526

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (AGRI): Mr DANTIN (EPP, FR)

This item was postponed.

Item 8 on the agenda

Direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the CAP

BUDG/7/07519

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (AGRI): Mr CAPOULAS SANTOS (S&D, PT)

This item was postponed.

Item 9 on the agenda

Financing, management and monitoring of the CAP

BUDG/7/07540

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr PASTAMKOS (EPP, EL)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (AGRI): Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT)

This item was postponed.

Item 10 on the agenda

Support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

BUDG/7/07533

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (AGRI): Mr CAPOULAS SANTOS (S&D, PT)

This item was postponed.

Item 11 on the agenda

The European Semester for economic policy coordination: Implementation of 2012 priorities

BUDG/7/10020

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms TRAUTMANN (S&D, FR)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (ECON): Mr GAUZÈS (EPP, FR)

- Exchange of views

In the absence of the rapporteur, Ms GARDIAZÁBAL RUBIAL presented the draft opinion. In her draft opinion, the rapporteur insisted on the importance of a certain "democratisation" of the European Semester. It should be guaranteed by a proper cooperation between the EP and the national parliaments. The second important element put forward by the rapporteur was the defence of the EU budget's added value. Being purely an investment budget, the synergies to be gained in terms of growth and employment should not be overlooked. In that perspective national contributions to the EU budget should be excluded from the calculation of national deficits as suggested in the legislative proposal related to the European Semester.

Calendar:

Deadline for tabling amendments: 10 September 2012, 12.00

VOTING TIME

Item 12 on the agenda

Internal Security Fund - Police cooperation, preventing and combating crime and crisis management

BUDG/7/07986

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr RIQUET (EPP, FR)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (LIBE): Mr IACOLINO (EPP, IT)

Vote

The opinion was adopted as amended with 30 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

Item 13 on the agenda

General provisions - Asylum and Migration Fund and Internal Security Fund

BUDG/7/07983

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms HOHLMEIER (EPP, DE)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (LIBE): Mr FONTANA (EFD, IT)

Vote

The opinion was adopted as amended with 29 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

Item 14 on the agenda

Internal Security Fund - External borders and visas

BUDG/7/07976

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms HOHLMEIER (EPP, DE)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (LIBE): Mr MARINESCU (EPP, RO)

Vote

The opinion was adopted as amended with 30 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

Item 15 on the agenda

Asylum and Migration Fund

BUDG/7/07981

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms HOHLMEIER (EPP, DE)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (LIBE): Ms GUILLAUME (S&D, FR)

Vote

The opinion was adopted as amended with 31 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

Item 16 on the agenda

Establishment of Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)

BUDG/7/08187

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr TORVALDS (ALDE, FI)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (ITRE): Ms RIERA MADURELL (S&D, ES)

Vote

The opinion was adopted as amended with 34 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

Item 17 on the agenda

Fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand

BUDG/7/09683

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr ALFONSI (Greens/EFA, FR)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (PECH): Mr CHRISTENSEN (S&D, DK)

Vote

The opinion was adopted as amended with 32 votes in favour, 2 against and 0 abstentions.

Item 18 on the agenda

"COSME": Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (2014 - 2020)

BUDG/7/08067

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr RÜBIG (EPP, AT)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (ITRE): Mr CREUTZMANN (ALDE, DE)

Vote

The opinion was adopted as amended with 32 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

Item 19 on the agenda

Rules for the participation and dissemination in 'Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)'

BUDG/7/08099

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr TORVALDS (ALDE, FI)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (ITRE): Mr EHLER (EPP, DE)

Vote

The opinion was adopted as amended with 31 votes in favour, 2 against and 0 abstentions.

Item 20 on the agenda

Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology

BUDG/7/08126

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr GODMANIS (ALDE, LV)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (ITRE): Mr LAMBERTS (Greens/EFA, BE)

Vote

The opinion was adopted as amended with 32 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

Item 21 on the agenda

Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2014-2018) complementing Horizon 2020 – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

BUDG/7/08092

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr TORVALDS (ALDE, FI)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (ITRE): Mr SKINNER (S&D, UK)

Vote

The opinion was adopted as amended with 29 votes in favour, 3 against and 3 abstentions.

Item 22 on the agenda

Innovative financial instruments in the context of the next Multiannual Financial Framework

BUDG/7/08736

Rapporteur for the report: Ms GARDIAZÁBAL RUBIAL (S&D, ES)

Vote

The report was adopted as amended with 31 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

Item 23 on the agenda

Establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

BUDG/7/08208

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms TRÜPEL (Greens/EFA, DE)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (ENVI): Ms HAUG (S&D, DE)

Vote

The opinion was adopted as amended with 30 votes in favour, 2 against and 0 abstentions.

Item 24 on the agenda

European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014 - 2020)

BUDG/7/07503

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms SOUSA (GUE/NGL, PT)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (EMPL): Ms HARKIN (ALDE, IE)

This item was postponed.

Item 25 on the agenda

2012 Budget: Section III - Commission

Rapporteur: Ms BALZANI (S&D, IT)

- No DEC 25/2012 (Emergency Aid Reserve)

The transfer was approved.

Item 26 on the agenda

2012 Budget: Other Sections

Rapporteur: Mr FERNANDES (EPP, PT)

- European Data Protection Supervisor - No 1/2012
- European Court of Auditors - Nos V/AB-01/A/12, V/AB-02/C/12, V/AB-03/A/12

These transfers were approved.

Item 27 on the agenda

Any other business

No other item was discussed.

Item 28 on the agenda

Next meeting

19 September 2012, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)