



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 20 December 2012

18050/12

**PE 611
FIN 1076
INST 745**

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 18 December 2012

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

Item 2 on the agenda
Chairman's announcements

Financial Regulation - Delegated act

Mr LAMASSOURE informed BUDG members that up to now there was no objection to the delegated act concerning the new Financial Regulation. In case no objection was issued by 29 December, it would be published and enter into force on 1 January 2013.

Interparliamentary Committee Meeting

The Chairman announced that the next meeting would take place from 28 to 30 January 2013. The meeting would allow members of national or regional parliaments to express themselves on the Annual Growth Survey adopted by the Commission, which set out EU priorities for the coming year. The meeting of the European Council in March will then provide policy orientations and, in April, Member States will submit their plans for sound public finances. After assessment by the Commission, the process will end at the end of June by the Council's country-specific recommendations.

Rapporteurs for 2014 budgetary procedure

Mr LAMASSOURE informed BUDG members that Ms JENSEN (ALDE, DK) would be the rapporteur for Section III (general budget) and Ms HOHLMEIER (PPE, DE) for the other institutions.

New European Authorities for the supervision of financial activities

The Chairman announced that a meeting organised by Ms HAUG (S&D, DE) on the three new agencies would take place on 10 January 2013.

Item 4 on the agenda

Budget 2014 - Exchange of views on the Guidelines Budget 2014 - Other Sections

Co-rapporteurs: Ms JENSEN (ALDE, DK) and Ms HOHLMEIER (PPE, DE)

Mr LAMASSOURE underlined that the first question was the point of issuing guidelines, as no agreement had been reached on MFF.

Ms JENSEN was in favour of presenting guidelines even in the absence of MFF. She intended to issue a first draft to be discussed in January. In any case, she considered that a first assessment of the budgetary procedure under the Lisbon Treaty was of interest with regard to the preparation of the Spring budgetary trilogue.

Mr LAMASSOURE recognised that guidelines could be an occasion to give the alarm that, in case the European Council maintained about the same figures as discussed in November for the next MFF, payments would go beyond the envisaged ceiling by 2014. He also underlined that it was time to include a debate on the revenue aspect of the annual budgetary procedure and to make public those data, notably concerning national contributions.

Mr FÄRM worried about the possible management of those guidelines together with other procedures: budget 2013, European Semester and MFF, all in January and February. Even if he was not opposed to the issue of guidelines, he considered that they were time-consuming and complicated to coordinate.

Ms TRÜPEL (GREENS, DE) insisted on the need to communicate to the outside world that it was true that the EP requested more money for EU but that the EP was also in favour of better spending - shifting appropriations towards areas where it was important to invest in this time of crisis. She also underlined the importance of timing when issuing positions so as to ensure the best impact.

Mr LAMASSOURE recognised that 2014 guidelines were an occasion to send a message on MFF. However, a specific message on MFF was envisaged at the beginning of 2013 and would be discussed at the next meeting of the contact group with Mr SCHULZ on 10 January. He agreed with Ms TRÜPEL on the need for better spending but underlined the EP difficulties with defining negative priorities.

Ms JENSEN agreed that it was important to focus on 2014 needs and that 2014 guidelines would not substitute for MFF negotiations. She insisted on the need for sufficient financing in this period of crisis.

Ms HOHLMEIER, rapporteur for the other institutions, intended to insist in the guidelines on the need to take into account the economic and financial situation in Member States which implied restrictions in the EP budget. She wanted to focus on structural reforms, as needs could be covered not only by increased financing but also by improved structure. She envisaged possible further savings by developing translation and interpretation on demand, by reducing paper printing, by creating working groups on the issue of savings, by improving interinstitutional cooperation notably in translation and by supervising building policy. She envisaged the same guidelines for the other institutions, taking into account the specificities of the EEAS and the Court of Justice.

Mr VAUGHAN (S&D, UK) supported Ms HOHLMEIER and wanted her to point out that some progress had been made and that it was important to continue.

Mr ASHWORTH (ECR, UK) pointed out the contradiction between the lower cost of the EP compared with other parliaments and the increased responsibilities given to the EP by the Lisbon Treaty. He considered the lack of resources as worrying.

Calendar:

Deadline for amendments: 9 January 2013

Vote in BUDG: 23 January 2013

Vote in Plenary: February I 2013

Item 5 on the agenda

Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 - Own resources

Rapporteurs: Mr BÖGE (EPP, DE), Mr KALFIN (S&D, BG)

- Exchange of views

This item was postponed.

Item 6 on the agenda

Statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations

BUDG/7/10672

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms HERCZOG (S&D, HU)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (AFCO): Ms GIANNAKOU (PPE)

- Exchange of views

Mr FÄRM (S&D, SE) presented the rapporteur's first conclusions. Ms HERCZOG supported the Commission's proposal and considered it essential, due to the crucial role of the European political parties and foundations. She insisted on the need for a control of the respect of EU values and for financial flexibility, notably regarding the calendar of political activities, and she requested the possibility of carrying over appropriations. She considered that the organisation of joint events should not be considered as donations and that no limit should be defined on donations accepted by European political parties and foundations from natural or legal persons. She welcomed the creation of a committee to control the criteria to be respected by European political parties and foundations and requested that this committee should give its opinion within a reasonable time period. She wanted to highlight that national authorities also had an important role in the control over the funding of parties and foundations.

Mr LAMASSOURE underlined that this issue was sensitive as Member States had various cultural and historical backgrounds, going from absence of control to strict control, and various financing systems, going from public financing to financing only by members. He announced that Ms GRÄSSLE would be the rapporteur for the proposal amending the Financial Regulation in relation to this proposal.

Ms GRÄSSLE agreed with Mr LAMASSOURE's analysis. She supported the Commission's proposal in general but wanted to be cautious when creating exemptions compared with general rules and considered that those exemptions should be duly justified.

Calendar:

Deadline for amendments: 20 December 2012

Vote in BUDG: 23 January 2013

Vote in AFCCO: 18-19 February 2013

Item 7 on the agenda

EU-Kiribati Protocol setting out opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the EC-Kiribati Fisheries Partnership Agreement

BUDG/7/10765

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr ALFONSI (GREENS, FR)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (PECH): Ms LÖVIN (GREENS)

- Exchange of views

The rapporteur explained that the protocol concerned agreements from 2013 to 2015. He was satisfied by those agreements, as a part of the financing was devoted to the development of the fisheries capacities of the island and that those capacities were well defined. He intended to insist in his draft opinion on the need for a good implementation of those agreements by the Commission.

Calendar:

Deadline for amendments: 19 December 2012

Vote in BUDG: 23 January 2013

Vote in PECH: 18 February 2013

Vote in Plenary: March 2013.

VOTING TIME

Item 8 on the agenda

Nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia.

BUDG/7/07872

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

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (ITRE): Mr CHILCHESTER (ECR)

- Consideration and adoption

The report, as amended, was adopted with 27 votes in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

Item 9 on the agenda

European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2013

BUDG/7/10961

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

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (ECON): Ms FERREIRA (S&D)

- Consideration and adoption

The report, as amended, was adopted with 26 votes in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

Item 10 on the agenda

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (repeal of Council Regulations (EC) No 1198/2006, (EC) No 861/2006 and (EC) No XXX/2011 on integrated maritime policy)

BUDG/7/08044

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr ALFONSI (GREENS)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (PECH): Mr CADEC (PPE)

The report, as amended, was adopted with 27 votes in favour, 3 against and 2 abstentions.

Item 11 on the agenda

2012 Budget: Section III - Commission

Rapporteur: Ms BALZANI (S&D, IT)

- Transfer No DEC 39/2012

This transfer of EUR 70 million aimed at providing the funding of the new fisheries agreement with Mauritania. Mr LAMASSOURE explained that this transfer was sensitive as PECH envisaged to defer its approval on the renewal of this agreement and recommended not to vote this transfer. However, Mr LAMASSOURE, supported by Mr ALFONSI (GREENS, FR), insisted on the obligation of voting due to the legal obligation to finance this current agreement.

The transfer was approved.

Item 12 on the agenda

2012 Budget: Other Sections

Rapporteur: Mr FERNANDES (EPP, PT)

There was no transfer request.

Item 13 on the agenda

Building policy

BUDG/7/04688

Rapporteur: Ms HOHLMEIER (EPP, DE)

- Exchange of views

European Commission -OIL - Jean Monnet building JMO-2, Luxembourg

The rapporteur informed BUDG members that she had received additional information from the Commission and that the project appeared at this stage as interesting. On this basis, she could start writing her draft opinion but she still needed some further information on the calendar of the works and their financing. The vote will therefore be postponed.

Item 14 on the agenda
Any other business

None.

Item 15 on the agenda
Next meeting

23 January 2013, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 and 18.30 – 19.30 (Brussels)
29 January 2013, 11.00 – 13.00 (Brussels)