



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 7 March 2013

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**PE 115
FIN 119
INST 118**

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 4 March 2013

The meeting was chaired by Ms HAUG (S&D, DE).

Item 4 on the agenda

MF - Own resources

Rapporteurs: Mr BÖGE (EPP, DE), Mr KALFIN (S&D, BG), Mr DEHAENE (EPP, BE),
Ms JENSEN (ALDE, DK)

- Exchange of views

Mr KALFIN confirmed that the rapporteurs were finalising the text of the resolution to be voted in Plenary next week.

BUDGET 2014

Item 5 on the agenda

Budget 2014 - Mandate for the trilogue

Rapporteur: Ms JENSEN (ALDE, DK)

- Exchange of views

This item was not discussed.

Item 6 on the agenda

Estimates of revenue and expenditure for 2014 - Section I - Parliament

BUDG/7/11882

Rapporteur: Ms HOHLMEIER (PPE, DE)

- Exchange of views

The rapporteur opened the debate with the main challenges for EP's 2014 budget on the basis of the Report of the Secretary-General to the Bureau on the Preliminary Draft Estimates. She confirmed that before the Conciliation meeting between BUDG and the Bureau on 13 March, a Pre-conciliation meeting would take place on 5 March. In her draft report, she wanted to underline the structural measures taken to achieve greater efficiency. She explained that of the 3.58 % increase of EP's 2014 budget (compared to its 2013 budget), 2.20 % was due to the elections of new MEPs and the application of the Statutes for MEPs and their assistants, and that the rest of the increase derived from other legal obligations. She pointed out that this increase was lower than in 2009, the year of the previous European elections, and that it should be taken into account that the costs related to the accession of Croatia should be met for the whole year in 2014. She welcomed the savings made in the Konrad Adenauer Building (KAD) building project.

Mr LYON (ALDE, UK) recognised that the next European elections would lead to unavoidable costs but wanted the increase to be kept under the inflation rate.

Ms HERCZOG (S&D, HU) mentioned that this increase would not be seen positively by the general public. She pointed particularly to the high increase in building costs. She also asked for additional information on the amounts related to the upcoming European elections.

Calendar:

Pre-conciliation BUDG/Bureau: 5 March 2013

Deadline for amendments: 12 March 2013 (instead of 11 March)

Conciliation BUDG/Bureau: 13 March 2013

Vote in BUDG: 20-21 March 2013

Vote in Plenary: 17 April 2013

Item 7 on the agenda

Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived

BUDG/7/11058

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr VAUGHAN (S&D, UK)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (EMPL): Mr COSTELLO (S&D)

- Exchange of views

The rapporteur presented his draft opinion. He welcomed the creation of this new instrument and the enlargement of its scope, addressing not only food deprivation but also homelessness and material deprivation of children. However, he was concerned about the amount of EUR 2.5 billion envisaged in the European Council conclusions on the new MFF, which constituted a decrease compared to the current food aid programme, and about the possible increased administrative burden for beneficiaries, notably NGOs. He insisted on the need for further simplification of the rules. He requested that any unused funds should remain within the programme and should be made available to other Member States using this programme or to other beneficiaries. He also proposed removing the provision for co-financing that could be an obstacle for some Member States facing severe economic and financial difficulties.

Mr KOZLOWSKI (PPE, PL), Mr LA VIA (PPE, IT), Ms DURANT (GREENS, BE), Mr RIQUET (PPE, FR), Mr DAERDEN (S&D, BE), Mr FERNANDES (PPE, PT), Ms HAUG and Mr KLUTE (GREENS, DE) supported the rapporteur.

Mr KOZLOWSKI proposed that the risk of poverty was taken into account when allocating amounts to Member States. Mr LA VIA advised focusing on the most important element, i.e. food, as resources had been decreased whereas the scope had been enlarged. Mr RIQUET and Mr DAERDEN asked to avoid any interruption in the allocation of funds by foreseeing a provisional aid from the European Social Fund in case the new MFF was not adopted within the deadlines. Mr FERNANDES underlined that the initial objective of the "Europe 2020" Strategy to reduce the number of people in poverty by 20 million should be reviewed, as the problem was increased by the crisis.

Mr VAUGHAN concluded that simplification was certainly necessary and that the amount was insufficient due to the current crisis. He was in favour of a co-financing of 100 %, but was aware that it would increase the problem due to the reduced total amount.

Calendar:

Deadline for amendments: 5 March 2013

Vote in BUDG: 26 March 2013

Vote in EMPL: April 2013

Item 8 on the agenda

Mobilisation of the EGF: application EGF/2012/023 IT/Antonio Merloni SpA from Italy cases

Rapporteur: Mr DAERDEN (S&D, BE)

The rapporteur presented the proposal which concerned 1 517 workers and amounted to EUR 5 million.

Calendar:

Deadline for amendments: 5 March 2013

Vote in EMPL: 20 March 2013

Vote in BUDG: 20-21 March 2013

VOTING TIME

Item 9 on the agenda

Establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps EU Aid Volunteers

BUDG/7/11510

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms MUÑIZ DE URQUIZA (S&D, ES)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (DEVE): Ms STRIFFLER (PPE)

- Consideration and adoption

The report, as amended, was adopted with 29 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

Item 10 on the agenda

Recommendation to the EEAS and to the Council on the 2013 review of the organisation and the functioning of the EEAS

BUDG/7/11086

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms NEYNSKY (PPE, BG)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (AFET): Mr BROK (PPE)

- Consideration and adoption

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

Item 11 on the agenda

Fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Madagascar

BUDG/7/10716

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

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

- Consideration and adoption

The report, calling upon PECH to postpone EP's consent until the organisation of democratic elections and the reinstatement of a democratic order in Madagascar, was adopted.

Item 12 on the agenda

Protocol between the EU and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania setting out fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the two Parties currently in force

BUDG/7/10732

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

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (PECH): Mr MATO ADROVER (PPE)

- Consideration and adoption

The report, as amended, was adopted with 23 votes in favour, 10 against and 1 abstention.

Item 13 on the agenda

2013 Budget: Section III - Commission

Rapporteur: Mr LA VIA (PPE, IT)

Transfer No DEC 01/2013 was approved.

Item 14 on the agenda

2013 Budget: Other sections

Rapporteur: Mr VAUGHAN (S&D, UK)

There was no transfer request.

Item 15 on the agenda

Building policy

Rapporteur: Ms HOHLMEIER (EPP, DE)

- Exchange of views

This item was not discussed.

Item 16 on the agenda
Any other business

None.

Item 17 on the agenda
Next meeting

Wednesday 20 March 2013, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)

Thursday 21 March 2013, 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)
