



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**NOTE**

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from : General Secretariat of the Council  
to : Delegations

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Subject: Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament's **Committee on Budgets (BUDG)** held in Brussels on 26 June 2013

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

***Item 2 on the agenda***  
**Chairman's announcements**

Mr LAMASSOURE informed BUDG members that an extraordinary BUDG meeting will be organised on Monday 1 July at 18h30 in Strasbourg. The agenda will be:

- vote on DAB1/2013 related to Croatia (approved in Coreper on 26 June). This would make a vote in plenary possible;
- possibly vote on the first step of EUR 7,3 billion of DAB2/2013;
- exchange of views on the discussions on MFF.

He mentioned that further discussions on MFF were planned but that their schedule and format were not defined. An extraordinary Coreper meeting could be organised on Friday following the European Council.

### *Item 3 on the agenda*

#### **Presentation of the Commission's Draft Budget 2014**

Commissioner LEWANDOWSKI presented the draft budget for 2014. He recognised that this proposal was not based on an agreed MFF but he urged the European Parliament to take it as a starting point due to the pressure of time. The basis was the most advanced state of play of the negotiations and adjustments would be possible at a further stage by letters of amendment. He recalled that growth, employment and competitiveness remained the priorities. As it was the first year of a new MFF, the focus was placed on commitments and the payments appropriations amounted to EUR 136.1 billion, i.e. -5.8% compared with 2013. He pointed out that the European Globalisation Fund and the Emergency Aid Reserve were outside the MFF. He justified some increases or decreases under the headings. He highlighted the frontloading in 2014 and 2015 proposed for the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) and also the efforts made in favour of SMEs.

Ms JENSEN (ALDE, DK) rapporteur for the budget 2014 (Section III) recalled that the starting point of the Commission, i.e. the European Council Conclusions of 7/8 February 2013, were not agreed. She regretted the lack of sufficient increase in research programmes, in heading 4 taking into account the current crisis in Syria and in heading 3. She also expressed her concern in relation to the decreases in the European External Action Service. She also asked the Commission about the consequences of a possible non-adoption of the whole amount for DAB2/2013.

Ms JĘDRZEJEWSKA (EPP, PL), Ms GARDIAZÁBAL RUBIAL (S&D, ES), Ms TRÜPEL (Greens/EFA, DE), Ms SOUSA (GUE/NGL, PT) and Mr RIQUET (EPP, FR) expressed their disappointment on this reduced budget. However, Mr GARRIGA POLLEDO (EPP, ES) considered that a low level of commitments was adequate in a first year of a MFF. Mr LAMASSOURE pointed out that the reduction in 2014 was not only related to the decrease of the MFF but was also due to the changes of many policies each seven years, slowing their implementation. He considered that this decrease occurred at the worse moment, in this time of financial crisis.

Mr ASHWORTH (ECR, UK), Mr HARTONG (NI, NL) and Ms ANDREASEN (EFD, UK) welcomed the proposal and even regretted that the budget would not be further decreased.

Mr MULDER (ALDE, NL) and Ms HAUG (S&D, DE) asked the Commission what would happen if the MFF was not agreed. Mr LEWANDOWSKI preferred not to answer the question, considering an absence of agreement as very negative.

Ms GARDIAZÁBAL RUBIAL and Mr MULDER asked the Commission which basis had been taken for 2013 in relation with DAB2/2013. Mr LEWANDOWSKI confirmed that the proposal was based on the approval of a DAB2/2013 of EUR 11.2 billion. Ms TRÜPEL, supported by Mr LAMASSOURE, also asked what would be the consequences of the late claims at the end of 2013 on the budget 2014.

Mr GARRIGA POLLEDO, Ms GARDIAZÁBAL RUBIAL and Mr RIQUET pointed out the low level of the margins, indicating that it would change the negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament during the conciliation in November.

Ms JĘDRZEJEWSKA and Mr MULDER asked the Commission which legal basis were taken into account for the commitments appropriations.

Ms JĘDRZEJEWSKA and Mr GARRIGA POLLEDO pointed out the significant increase in pension, questioning its possible evolution. Ms JĘDRZEJEWSKA, Ms HERCZOG (S&D, HU) and Mr NARANJO ESCOBAR (EPP, ES) questioned the consequent decrease in European Schools.

Ms GARDIAZÁBAL RUBIAL, Mr MULDER, Ms TRÜPEL (Greens/EFA, DE) and Mr GODMANIS (ALDE, LV) approved YEI but questioned the frontloading, wondering which programmes had been decreased in order to achieve it. Mr ASHWORTH welcomed the initiative but questioned the absorption capacity of Members States. Mr NARANJO ESCOBAR wanted the young people not only between 15 and 24 years but also between 24 and 29 years to be taken into account. Ms GRÄSSLE (EPP, DE) asked which legal basis existed for this initiative.

Ms HOHLMEIER (EPP, DE) vehemently reproached the Commission for having modified the figures in the European Parliament budget. Mr LEWANDOWSKI assured the Committee that the figures proposed by the European Parliament had been respected, except those related to the salary adjustment for 2013 and 2014, following the latest decisions on this issue (salary freeze).

Mr LAMASSOURE deeply regretted that the Commission's presentation mentioned the European Council's conclusions of February 2013 but omitted the European Parliament's resolution of 19 March 2013.

Mr LEWANDOWSKI insisted on the need for the first step of DAB2/2013 (EUR 7,3 billion) in August 2013 and for the rest of the total amount later. In his opinion, the latest claims of the year postponed to the following year were a normal situation. He took note of the disappointment of many members concerning the reduced budget for 2014 but he asked to be realistic and to do the best with the available appropriations. The remaining margins were not high but could be used to meet the European Parliament priorities. Concerning YEI, he insisted on the Member States responsibility for its implementation. He explained that the frontloading came from CEF and Territorial cooperation.

***Item 4 on the agenda***  
**Any other business**

No other item was discussed.

***Item 5 on the agenda***  
**Next meeting(s)**

- 27 June 2013, 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)
- 1 July 2013, 18.30 (Strasbourg)
- 11 July 2013, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)