



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 9 September 2013**

**13556/13**

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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 5 September 2013

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

***Item 4 on the agenda***

**Multiannual Financial Framework for the years 2014-2020**

***Item 5 on the agenda***

**Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management.**

BUDG/7/11093

Co-rapporteurs: Mr KALFIN (S&D, BG) and Mr DEHAENE (EPP, BE)

- Exchange of views

Items 4 and 5 were discussed together.

Mr KALFIN (S&D, BG) recalled that an agreement had been reached at political level on 27 June 2013, that was endorsed by the European Parliament on 3 July 2013. The official referral was made by the Council on 22 July 2013, which requested both the European Parliament's consent on the MFF and the approval of the draft Inter Institutional Agreement (IIA).

While the rapporteur underlined the fact that the European Parliament's consent requested by the treaty provisions did not allow any change in the wording of the draft MFF, he invited BUDG to endorse his report on the IIA, in which he made two amendment proposals to the leading AFCO Committee, namely suggesting that alternative working arrangements are made by 2016 to facilitate the adoption of the MFF through an enhanced participation of the European Parliament in the negotiation process and that the Council negotiate the MFF related parts of the legal bases.

Mr LAMASSOURE (EPP, FR) announced that the final vote on MFF would be taken at the October II Plenary, since two conditions needed to be fulfilled before the vote of the Plenary, namely (a) that the second part of DAB No 2/2013 (the so called DAB No 2bis/2013), amounting to EUR 3.9 billion, be endorsed by the Council and (b) that MFF related files progress under satisfactory conditions, respecting the European Parliament's legislative powers. The latter condition referred in particular to the European Parliament's complaint that in the Council Ministers do not consider that they have a mandate to depart from what was agreed at the February European Council (issue also raised by Ms JENSEN (ALDE, DK) and Mr FARM (S&D, SE)).

According to Mr LAMASSOURE, if the Council feels unable to negotiate on what had been decided at European Council level, a high level summit should be organised in the coming weeks and before the vote on MFF. However, he recalled that the European Parliament's term is coming to an end and it would be anyway better to have some results, "even if mediocre", than having no results at all.

He also announced that BUDG had scheduled a visit to Vilnius and was looking forward to meeting President GRIBAUSKAITE.

The representative of the Commission announced that the Commission would adopt the EUR 3.9 billion DAB No 2bis/2013 at the end of September.

**Item 6 on the agenda**

**General Budget of the European Union 2014 - all sections.**

Rapporteurs: Ms JENSEN (S&D, DK) and Ms HOHLMEIER (EPP, DE)

- Exchange of views

Ms JENSEN (ALDE, DK) referred to the vote in Council on 2 September by written procedure and regretted that the Council was "doing its business as usual", by cutting the Commission's DB proposal (0.8 % in payment appropriations and 0.2 % in commitment appropriations). She complained in particular about cuts in sub-heading 1a (*Competitiveness and growth*) and in the administrative expenditure. Ms HOHLMEIER (EPP, DE) complained in particular about cuts for EEAS security. Mr NARANJO ESCOBAR (EPP, ES), supported by Ms JĘDRZEJEWSKA (EPP, PL), complained about cuts to the European Schools. Ms GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL (S&D, ES) pointed out cuts to the "Horizon 2020" programme, which were qualified as "illogical" by Mr PLENKOVIC (EPP, HR) since the programme contributed to enhance employment. Mr RIQUET (EPP, FR) pointed out that the EU budget was not in keep with wider EU competences. Mr FERNANDES (EPP, PT), supported by Mr RIQUET addressed the issue of the agencies and inquired about the Commission's approach.

The representative of the Commission urged the European Parliament to restore the figures proposed by the Commission. As for Agencies, in his view the Commission approach was that of calling for efforts to streamline them, either by merging them or, in a few cases, even questioning their existence.

Mr LAMASSOURE announced the calendar for the 2014 DB:

- 5 September at noon: deadline for AMDs;
- 26 September: debate in BUDG;
- 2-3 October: vote on AMDs in BUDG;
- 9 October: Plenary vote on resolution;
- 4 November: Conciliation;
- 7 November: trilogue;
- 11 November: second Conciliation.

***Item 7 on the agenda***

**Draft amending budget No 6/2013**

Rapporteur: Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT)

- Exchange of views

***Item 8 on the agenda***

**Draft amending budget No 7/2013**

Rapporteur: Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT)

- Exchange of views

***Item 9 on the agenda***

**Mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument to complement the financing in the general budget of the EU for 2013 towards the financing of the European Social Fund too increase allocations to France, Italy and Spain.**

Items 7, 8 and 9 were discussed together.

Mr LA VIA did not express any particular comments with regards to DAB No 6/2013 considering it purely technical. On the other hand, DAB No 7/2013 was of a political nature resulting from discussions at the European Council on 27 June. In a situation of budgetary constraints, his only concern was the future need to cover the additional commitments with payments.

The representative of the Commission took note of the European Parliament's willingness to adopt the MFF at the October II Plenary and warned that in case of delays, difficulties should be expected. With regards to the 2013 budget, he welcomed the European Parliament's vote on DAB No 2/2013 (first tranche) in at the September Plenary and urged the co-legislators to proceed with the adoption of the 2nd tranche without delays in order to allow the Commission to pay the upcoming bills on time. He also welcomed the analysis of the Council position on the 2014 DB made by the rapporteur and agreed with her comments. He added that the low margin left in the Commission proposal was a result of the tight budget that the Commission had to cope with while accepting to pay the invoices. He explained that the lower appropriations for the European Schools in the Commission proposal stemmed from the modified financing arrangement, but the level of funding was kept unchanged. Finally, two letters of amendments were foreseen to be adopted by the Commission in the upcoming weeks: one for frontloading of the appropriations for "Horizon 2020" and "Cosme" and a "classical" letter of amendment for agriculture.

Mr LAMASSOURE reminded the Committee as well that the monitoring meeting on payment with the Lithuanian Presidency should be convened soon, once all the DABs covering the payment needs for 2013 were on the table.

***Item 10 on the agenda***

**Location of the seats of the European Union's Institutions**

Rapporteur: Mr ALVARO ()

- Exchange of views

This item was postponed.

***Item 11 on the agenda***

**Macro-financial assistance to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms NEYNSKI (EPP, BG)

Rapporteur for INTA: Mr MOREIRA (S&D, PT)

- Exchange of views

On behalf of the rapporteur, Ms JEDRZEJEWSKA (EPP, PL) gave a positive opinion on the Commission proposal, claiming that in a situation of a civil war in Syria and a big number of refugees flowing to Jordan, the need for strengthening the government public finances is fully justified and should be supported.

***Calendar:***

*Deadline for amendments: 18 September 2013 at noon*

*Vote in BUDG: 3 October 2013*

*Vote in INTA: 14 October 2013*

*Vote in Plenary: October II*

***Item 12 on the agenda***

**Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 912/2010 setting up the European GNSS Agency**

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms HAUG (S&D, DE)

Rapporteur for ITRE: Ms SARTORI (EPP, IT)

- Exchange of views

In the rapporteur's view, the content of the rapport was fully acceptable. She proposed, however, to submit amendments touching upon three problematic issues: 1) general decrease of the Agency's budget in a situation of the increased number of tasks assigned, 2) lack of a European School (type II) on the site of the Agency and 3) correction coefficient applied to the GSA's staff. She was expecting to receive the Commission's written explanations on the last two issues soon.

Calendar:

Deadline for amendments: 6 September 2013 at 17.00

Vote in BUDG: 26 September 2013

Vote in ITRE: 14 October 2013

Vote in Plenary: tbc

**Item 13 on the agenda**

**Transitional provisions regarding the regulations on Direct payments, Rural development and financing, monitoring and management of the CAP.**

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

- Exchange of views

The rapporteur presented the content of the proposal and explained the functioning of the transition mechanism. He informed the Committee that his opinion will be available soon in EN.

Calendar:

Deadline for amendments: 10 September 2013 at noon

Vote in BUDG: 26 September 2013

Vote in AGRI: 30 September 2013

Vote in Plenary: tbc

**VOTING TIME**

**Item 14 on the agenda**

**Draft amending budget No°2/2013**

BUDG/7/12503

Rapporteur: Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT)

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

**Item 15 on the agenda**

**Draft amending budget No 3/2013**

BUDG/7/12502

Rapporteur: Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT)

The report, as amended, was adopted with 31 votes in favour and 1 against.

**Item 16 on the agenda**

**Draft amending budget No 4/2013**

BUDG/7/12608

Rapporteurs: Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT) and Mr VAUGHAN (ALDE, UK)

The report was adopted unamended with 32 votes in favour and 2 against.

***Item 17 on the agenda***

**Draft amending budget No 5/2013**

BUDG/7/12631

Rapporteur: Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT)

The report, as amended, was adopted with 33 votes in favour and 1 against.

***Item 18 on the agenda***

**Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund: flooding in Slovenia, Croatia and Austria in autumn 2012**

BUDG/7/12627

Rapporteur: Mr FERNANDES

The report was adopted unamended with 33 votes in favour and 1 against.

***Item 19 on the agenda***

**Location of seats of the European Union's Institutions**

Rapporteur: Mr ALVARO SALDE, DE)

This item was postponed.

***Item 20 on the agenda***

**Protocol between the EU and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the two parties currently in force.**

BUDG/7/12410

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

The report was adopted unamended with 34 votes in favour and 2 against.

***Item 21 on the agenda***

**Multiannual funding of the European Maritime safety Agency in the field of response to pollution caused by ships and to marine pollution caused by oil and gas installations**

BUDG/7/12397

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms HAUG (S&D, DE)

The report, as amended, was adopted with 33 votes in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

***Item 22 on the agenda***

**2013 Budget: Section III - Commission**

Rapporteur: Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT)

- Transfers No DEC 13/2013

Transfers No DEC 13/2013 was approved.

***Item 23 on the agenda***

**2013 Budget: Other Sections**

Rapporteur: Mr VAUGHAN (S&D, UK)

Transfer OMB 3/2013

Transfer EDPS N°1

Both transfers were approved.

***Item 24 on the agenda***

**Building policy**

Rapporteur: Ms HOHLMEIER (EPP, DE)

This item was postponed.

**\*\*\*END OF VOTING TIME**

***Item 25 on the agenda***

**Reporting on the work of the Joint Working Group "Bureau/BUDG"**

Chair of the BUDG delegation: Mr LYON (ALDE,UK)

- Exchange of views

The chair explained that the objective of the working group was to identify the potential areas for savings and to cost cuts in the EP. He presented main "candidate areas" identified so far: i.e.: administrative IT systems, production of paper documents and translation. An important element in the search for savings was the cooperation with ECOSOC and CoR in the field of translations. However, no concrete steps to undertake were agreed with the Bureau yet, the interim report to be presented soon to the BUDG will outline the work achieved so far.

***Item 26 on the agenda***

**Any other business**

None.

***Item 27 on the agenda***

**Next meeting**

11 September 2013, 09.30 - 12.30 and 15.00-18.30 (Strasbourg)