



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 23 October 2012

15333/12

**PE 467
FIN 820
INST 614**

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 October 2012

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

BUDGET 2013

Outcome of the budgetary trilogue of 17 October 2012

Mr LAMASSOURE presented the outcome of the budgetary trilogue of 17 October, which concerned the European Parliament's amendments to the Council's position on the 2013 draft budget, the implementation of the 2012 budget and the payments issue, draft amending budget (DAB) No 5/2012 and agencies.

Regarding the payments issue, Mr LAMASSOURE explained that the European Parliament distributed during the meeting a non-paper on the possible certification by Member States of their payment claims estimates. This document proposed a new method to deal with this issue, which he considered to be a technical one to be managed by Commission and Member States. The idea was to centralise all the requests in Member States, with a certification at high level and a publication of those estimates. In Mr LAMASSOURE's opinion, such a measure could prevent the Ministers responsible for the budget from "denying" their national requests, which are currently sent by different national or regional instances to the Commission's different DGs. If, on the basis of such estimates, the Council refused to finance the requests, it would become its "own problem" to determine where the reductions could be made in Member States.

Mr LYON (*ALDE, UK*) considered that this issue was not a technical but a political one. He questioned the European Parliament's mobilisation in favour of Member States' payments, given that the EP was assuming what he considered to be Member States "own responsibilities". Mr GODMANIS (*ALDE, LV*) preferred to remain involved in this fight.

Concerning DAB No 5/2012, devoted to the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund (see item 4), Mr LAMASSOURE asked the Council to deal with this DAB separately from the upcoming DAB No 6/2012 and to consider it as urgent that the eight-weeks period foreseen in Protocol No 1 of the Lisbon Treaty on the role of National parliaments be shortened.

Ms BALZANI, rapporteur for the 2012 budget (Section III - Commission), informed BUDG members that, following the trilogue, she would table oral amendments to her draft report on DAB No 5/2012, insisting on the urgency.

Mr VAUGHAN reported that he asked the Council to recognise the efforts made by the European Parliament and by the other institutions to limit their budgetary requests. He wanted the Council to accept the partial restoration of the 2013 draft budget. Concerning the 2013 draft budget in general, he noted the Council's reluctance for accepting the figures presented by the Commission.

Ms HAUG, rapporteur for agencies, was very surprised that the Council postponed its decision on the three agencies which were on the agenda of the trilogue, even though there were no budgetary implications. Mr LAMASSOURE had proposed a written procedure.

BUDGET 2012

Item 4 on the agenda

Draft amending budget No 5/2012: Solidarity Fund response to earthquakes in Emilia-Romagna (Italy) and modification of the budget line for the preparatory action for the European Year of Volunteering 2011

BUDG/7/10867

Rapporteur: Ms BALZANI (S&D, IT)

- Consideration and adoption

The rapporteur presented the proposal. She regretted that the Council considered it as a priority to respect the eight-weeks period foreseen in Protocol No 1 to the Treaty on the role of National parliaments. She tabled two oral amendments highlighting the risk of delays resulting from this eight-weeks period and the risk of creating a new item to be discussed during the Conciliation procedure.

The report was adopted as amended. As the Council had not yet taken position, this vote was only conditional and aimed at giving a political signal.

Calendar: Vote in Plenary: November 2012, after the Council has taken position.

Item 5 on the agenda

Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund

BUDG/7/10711

Rapporteur: Mr FERNANDES (EPP, PT)

- Consideration and adoption

On behalf of the rapporteur, Mr LAMASSOURE presented the proposal.

The report was adopted

Calendar: Vote in Plenary: November 2012, after the Council has taken position

Item 6 on the agenda

MFF 2014-2020 - Own resources

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

- Exchange of views

Mr LAMASSOURE reported on the state of discussions after the participation of the European Parliament's delegation in a breakfast meeting before the GAC meeting on 16 October and after the Contact Group meeting of 17 October.

The discussion at the GAC meeting was based on the so-called "Negotiating Box" and on a work document presented by the Presidency on horizontal issues: macro-economic conditions, flexibility and outstanding commitments (RAL). The European Parliament's delegation insisted on the key points detailed in the "Interim report in the interests of achieving a positive outcome of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 approval procedure" voted in BUDG on 10 October. Mr LAMASSOURE noted no great progress in the discussions and confirmed that Member States were divided in two blocks: the "better spending" block and the group of the "friends of cohesion". He considered that the European Parliament belonged more to this latest group. He was in any case satisfied that the co-decision procedure appeared to be secured and that informal trilogues had been initiated or pursued in co-decision procedures. However, he recalled that the European Parliament would not be able to give its consent on the MFF if this agreement would prejudice issues related to the co-decision procedure.

Regarding own resources, Mr LAMASSOURE was optimistic because they were taken into account in the "Negotiating Box" and because most countries were ready to discuss this issue. He understood, however, Mr DEHAENE's pessimism, regretting that no debate on the content had taken place. He recognised that even concerning the enhanced cooperation on the financial transaction tax (FTT), which could be considered as a first success, there was no unanimity between Member States on the use of this resource. Moreover, the VAT reform had not been studied yet. Mr DEHAENE thought there was a risk that, at the end of November, many decisions would have been taken on the MFF while nothing concrete had been decided on own resources and that the Commission was not ready with new proposals.

Concerning the possibility of a budget for the Eurozone, Mr LAMASSOURE recalled the need to ensure the unity of the EU budget, the need to integrate a maximum amount of programmes in this budget and the request for an annex to this budget listing financial aids on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. He pointed out that the only reaction came from the DE Minister preferring to use the word "capacity" instead of "budget" for the Eurozone. Mr LAMASSOURE recalled that the European Parliament would not take position on the MFF before it had received further information. Mr KALFIN informed BUDG members that new amendments would be tabled to the interim report to be voted in Plenary, insisting again on the budgetary principle of "unity" according to Article 310 TFEU and proposing a new heading in the MFF, in order to integrate the "capacity" for the Eurozone inside the EU budget. Following the Contact Group's meeting, it was decided that those amendments should be tabled by political groups and not by BUDG.

Item 7 on the agenda

Amendment to Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Banking Authority) as regards its interaction with Council Regulation (EU) No .../... conferring specific tasks on the European Central Bank concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions

BUDG/7/10650

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

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (ECON): Mr GIEGOLD (GREENS)

- Exchange of views

The rapporteur proposed budgetary amendments:

- requesting the involvement of the budgetary authority in the financial decisions implied by this extension;
- inviting the Commission to present a financial statement;
- reminding the host State of the joint statement of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on decentralised agencies;
- asking for appropriate financial and human resources, in order to adequately fulfil the additional tasks assigned to it under this Regulation.

Calendar: Deadline for amendments: 23 October 2012;

Vote in BUDG: 15 November 2012;

Vote in ECON: End November 2012.

Item 8 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, FR)

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

- Exchange of views

This item was postponed.

Item 9 on the agenda

Union Civil Protection Mechanism

BUDG/7/08554

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr STAVRAKAKIS (S&D, EL)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (ENVI): Ms GARDINI (EPP)

- Exchange of views

The rapporteur presented the new proposal aiming at supporting, coordinating and supplementing the actions of Member States. His amendments insisted on the importance of prevention and coordination with other actors and on the need for a sufficient financing to meet those objectives.

Ms SOUSA (GUE, PT) agreed with the rapporteur, insisting on the crucial role of this mechanism. She will table amendments asking to increase the part allocated to the interventions inside the EU.

Calendar: Deadline for amendments: 19 October 2012;

Vote in BUDG: 15 November 2012;

Vote in ENVI: 28 November 2012.

Item 10 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 CHICHESTER (ECR)

- Exchange of views

This item was postponed.

Calendar: Deadline for amendments: 14 November 2012;

Vote in BUDG: 28 November 2012;

Vote in ITRE: 18 December 2012.

Item 11 on the agenda

Preparation of the multiannual financial framework regarding the financing of EU cooperation for African, Caribbean and Pacific States and Overseas Countries and Territories for the 2014-2020 period (11th European Development Fund)

BUDG/7/10558

Rapporteur for the opinion: Mr KOZLOWSKI (EPP)

Rapporteur for the responsible committee (DEVE): Mr TIROLIEN (S&D)

- Exchange of views

This item was postponed.

Calendar: Deadline for tabling amendments: 10 December 2012;

Vote in BUDG: 23 January 2013;

Vote in DEVE: February 2013.

VOTING TIME

Item 12 on the agenda

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: application EGF/2012/003 DK/VESTAS - Denmark

BUDG/7/10720

Rapporteur: Mr SURJÁN (EPP, HU)

- Consideration and adoption

The report, as amended, was adopted with 18 votes in favour, 4 against and 3 abstentions.

Item 13 on the agenda

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: application EGF/2012/002 DE/manroland from Germany

BUDG/7/10659

Rapporteur: Mr FERNANDES (EPP, PT)

- Consideration and adoption

The report, as amended, was adopted with 18 votes in favour, 4 against and 3 abstentions.

Item 14 on the agenda

European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014 - 2020)

BUDG/7/07503

Rapporteur: Ms SOUSA (GUE, PT)

- Consideration and adoption

The report, as amended, was adopted with 17 votes in favour, 4 against and 5 abstentions.

Item 15 on the agenda

2012 budget: Section III - Commission

Rapporteur: Ms BALZANI (S&D, IT)

- Transfers DEC 27, 28, 29,30, 31, 32, 33 and 34/2012

DEC 27/2012 and 28/2012 were related to the EGF cases dealt with under items 12 and 13.

The rapporteur recommended the adoption of all transfers and she specifically presented DEC 30/2012, the traditional "global transfer" of the end of the year. She highlighted the limited amount of this transfer this year, which showed, in her opinion, on the one hand, a good implementation of the budget but, and on the other hand, proving the insufficiency of the budget, this transfer being unable to meet the requests under sub-heading 1b (Cohesion). Ms JEDRZEJESWSKA (EPP, PL) asked the Commission to confirm that most of the decreases in budget lines allowing those transfers were only related to delays. After the Commission had confirmed that those payments should be partly postponed in 2013, supported by Mr LAMASSOURE, she advised using this fact during the discussions in the Conciliation Committee in order to support the requests for additional payments.

All transfers were approved.

Item 16 on the agenda

2012 budget: Other Sections

Rapporteur: Mr FERNANDES (EPP, PT)

- Court of Justice: Transfers CoJ 03, 04 and 05/2012
- Committee of Regions: Transfers INF 4 and 5/2012
- European Economic and Social Committee: Transfer INF 2/2012

Mr LAMASSOURE, on behalf of the rapporteur, presented the requests.

All transfers were approved.

END OF VOTE

Item 17 on the agenda
Any other business

Declaration of vote

Ms HAUG wanted to explain her negative vote concerning the EGF case related to manroland from Germany (see item 13). She justified this vote by DE's opposition to this fund.

Item 18 on the agenda

Next meeting

- 6 November 2012, 15.00 – 18.30 and 18.30 - 20.00 (Brussels)
