



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 2 December 2013**

**17218/13**

**PE 570  
FIN 876  
INST 658**

**NOTE**

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from :	General Secretariat of the Council
to :	Delegations
Subject:	Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament's <b>Committee on Budgets (BUDG)</b> held in Brussels on 27 November 2013

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

***Item 4 on the agenda***

**Financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union**

BUDG/7/14091

Rapporteur: Ms GRÄSSLE (EPP, DE)

- Exchange of views

The rapporteur presented the main elements of Commission's proposal to amend the Financial Regulation, including the carry-over rules for the Emergency Aid Reserve, projects under the Connecting Europe Facility and for unused appropriations.

In addition, Ms GRÄSSLE pointed out that she could not accept the discharge procedure for public-private partnerships (PPP) as proposed by the Commission in its draft delegated act. She proposed to open the discussions on Article 209 of the Financial Regulation.

The Commission representative (Director-General Mr JOUANJEAN) reminded the Committee that the current wording of the Financial Regulation was already accepted by both Parliament and Council. He indicated that the proposed discharge procedure for PPPs addresses the needs of simplification and increased efficiency and suggested having a mid-term review of PPPs' discharge procedure.

Mr KALFIN (S&D, BG) indicated that further changes are needed in the Financial Regulation following the Common Provision Regulation (CPR) agreement in the field of Cohesion.

Moreover, Ms GRÄSSLE stated that the Financial Regulation should also be updated in order to address the treatment of funds resulting from the agreements on the fight against the illegal traffic in tobacco products.

Following the questions raised by Mr GEIER (S&D, DE) and Mr MULDER (ALDE, NL) on the timetable for adoption of the amended Financial Regulation, the rapporteur indicated that she targeted the Plenary session in January 2014.

## ***BUDGET 2014***

### ***Item 5 on the agenda***

#### **European Union Solidarity Fund**

BUDG/7/13489

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

Rapporteur for the responsible Committee (REGI): Ms ESTARÀS FERRAGUT (PPE, ES)

- Exchange of views

The rapporteur, supported by Mr FERNANDES (EPP, PT), welcomed the Commission's proposal on the new European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF). He presented his draft opinion, which included amendments aimed at speeding up the assessment process, lowering the threshold for what constitutes a 'regional natural disaster' to 1% of the region's gross domestic product (GDP) and fixing the amount of the advance payment at 15% of the amount of the contribution anticipated.

The Commission representative recalled that the EUSF does not replace national instruments. He indicated that should the regional threshold be lowered, the number of eligible cases would automatically increase, imposing more pressure on payments during the next multiannual financial framework.

### ***Calendar***

*17 December, 12.00 Deadline for amendments (BUDG Committee)*

*22-23 January 2014 Possible discussion of amendments and Vote (BUDG Committee)*

*10-11 February 2014 Vote (REGI Committee)*

***Item 6 on the agenda***

**The European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2014**

BUDG/7/13396

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms WERTHMANN (ALDE, AT)

Rapporteur for the responsible Committee (ECON): Mr De BACKER (ALDE, BE)

- Exchange of views

The rapporteur outlined the main elements contained in her draft opinion on the Commission's Annual Growth Survey 2014, such as the need for a speedy implementation of frontloaded programmes, especially the Youth Employment Initiative, and the importance attached to the reform of the EU's own resources system, including the creation of a high-level group on own resources.

**Calendar**

*3 January Deadline for amendments (BUDG Committee)*

*22/23 January 2014 Vote (BUDG Committee)*

*30 January 2014 Vote (ECON Committee)*

***Item 7 on the agenda***

**Financial management for certain Member States experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability**

BUDG/7/13057

Rapporteur: Mr ALFONSI (Greens/ALE, FR)

This item was not discussed.

**Calendar**

*7 January - 10.00 Deadline for amendments (BUDG Committee)*

*22/23 January 2014 Vote (BUDG Committee)*

*10-11 February 2014 Vote (PECH Committee)*

***VOTING TIME***

***Item 8 on the agenda***

**Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (application**

**EGF/2012/011 DL/Vestas - Denmark)**

BUDG/7/14327

Rapporteur: Mr KOZLOWSKI (EPP, PL)

The report, as amended, was adopted with 24 votes in favour and 3 against.

***Item 9 on the agenda***

**Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund - application EGF/2013/001  
FI/Nokia from Finland**

BUDG/7/14324

Rapporteur: Mr NARANJO ESCOBAR (EPP, ES)

The report, as amended, was adopted with 25 votes in favour and 3 against.

***Item 10 on the agenda***

**Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund - application EGF/2013/003  
DE/First Solar from Germany**

BUDG/7/14320

Rapporteur: Ms NEYNSKY (EPP, BG)

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

***Item 11 on the agenda***

**European Long-term Investment Funds**

BUDG/7/13278

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ms GARDIAZÁBAL RUBIAL (S&D, ES)

Rapporteur for the responsible Committee (ECON): Ms KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU (PPE, EL)

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

***Calendar***

*20-21 January 2014 Vote (ECON Committee)*

***Item No 12 on the agenda***

**Renewal of the EU-Russia agreement on cooperation in science and technology**

BUDG/7/13583

Rapporteur for the opinion (BUDG): Mr PAKSAS (EFD, LT)

Rapporteur for the responsible Committee (ITRE): Ms SARTORI (EPP)

The report was adopted unamended with 26 votes in favour and 3 against.

***Item No 13 on the agenda***

**2013 Budget: Section III - Commission**

Rapporteur: Mr LA VIA (EPP, IT)

DEC No 28/2013, DEC No 31/2013, DEC No 32/2013, DEC No 33/2013, DEC No 34/2013,  
DEC No 36/2013, DEC No 38/2013, DEC No 40/2013 and DEC No 41/2013 were approved.

***Item 14 on the agenda***

**2013 Budget: Other Sections**

Rapporteur: Mr VAUGHAN (S&D, UK)

EP - C4/2013, EP - C7/2013, EP - C8/2013, EP - C9/2013, EP - C10/2013, EP - C12/2013 and EDPS - 2/2013 were approved.

Following a question raised by Mr HARTONG (NI, NL) on transfer EP - C8/2013, the representative of Parliament's administration informed the Committee that the average cost per tablet, including technical support, amounted to EUR 845.

***Item 15 on the agenda***

**Buildings policy**

Rapporteur: Ms HOHLMEIER (PPE, DE)

- **European External Action Service's new offices for the EU delegation in Egypt**
- **European Parliament's extension of lease contract (Goldbell building in Luxembourg)**

Following the presentation by the rapporteur of the above-mentioned building projects, the Committee did not raise objections to the proposals.

- **Draft opinion on a building project notified by the European Banking Authority (EBA)**

The rapporteur presented her draft opinion on EBA's short-term office accommodation contracts. She noted that the Agency had failed to notify the Budgetary authority prior to the signing of rent contracts with significant financial implications. She invited both Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) and Court of Auditors to scrutinise the contracts signed in the framework of their annual discharge and audit procedures.

Mr LYON (ALDE, UK), supported by Mr ASHWORTH (ECRF, UK), backed the rapporteur's opinion whereas Mr GEIER (S&D, DE) recalled that it was a political decision to locate the three European Supervisory Authorities in some of the most expensive locations in Europe.

Mr RIQUET (EPP, FR), Mr MULDER (ALDE, NL) and Ms WERTHMANN (ALDE, AT) wondered whether it would be possible to hold accountable the person responsible at EBA.

EBA's Executive Director, Mr FARKAS, took the floor to claim that the Agency inherited all the existing contracts. He restated his willingness to attend any forthcoming Committee meeting in order to provide further explanations.

The report was adopted unamended with 28 votes in favour.

**\*\*\*End of vote\*\*\***

***Item 16 on the agenda***

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

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

This item was not discussed.

***Item 17 on the agenda***

**Reporting on the trilogue on EIB external mandate under Rule 70**

**(COM(2013)0293 -2013/0152(COD))**

Rapporteur: Mr KALFIN (S&D, BG)

The rapporteur briefed the Committee about the state of play of the negotiations. The discussions with the Council have just started and at this stage divergences still remain notably in areas such as reporting, the Parliament's role vis-à-vis local authorities and the proposed increase of the ceilings.

Mr KALFIN informed the Committee that a new trilogue will take place next week and his intention was to finalise negotiations before the end of this year.

Mr PLENKOVIC (EPP, HR) complimented the rapporteur for the work carried out so far.

***Item 18 on the agenda***

**Any other business**

None.

***Item 19 on the agenda***

**Next meeting(s)**

- (poss.) Monday 9 December 2013 (Strasbourg).