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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations

Subject: Partial summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament
Committee on Budgets (BUDG), held in Brussels on 16 April 2015

The meeting was chaired by Mr ARTHUIS (ALDE, FR).

4. Fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Madagascar

Rapporteur for the opinion: Jean-Paul Denanot (S&D)
Responsible: PECH: Ricardo Serrão Santos (S&D)

5. Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cape Verde

Rapporteur for the opinion: José Manuel Fernandes (PPE)
Responsible: PECH: Peter van Dalen (ECR)

- Exchange of views

The rapporteurs for the opinion recommended to give consent to both proposals.

Draft calendar:

- 23.04 Deadline for tabling amendments
- 06.05 Consideration of amendments and vote in the BUDG Committee
- 16.06 Vote in the PECH Committee

6. Elements for a payment plan

- Presentation by the Commission (Vice-President Georgieva)

The Vice-President gave a presentation on the Commission's payment plan. She elaborated on the expected situation by heading and drew lessons for the future, including the continuation of the Commission's "active management" and the need for Member States to advance the implementation of the Cohesion policy earlier in the programming period. Ms Georgieva indicated that the Commission will include in its Draft Budget for 2016 a level of appropriations allowing the phasing out of the abnormal backlog for 2007-2013 programmes. She concluded that the issue of the backlog would be solved by the end of 2016 "provided we have a prudent budget for 2016".

Following the intervention by the Vice-President, some MEPs criticised the lack of concrete measures, which in their view should have been part of the document. Ms Gardiazábal and Mr Deprez indicated that the analysis carried out was a forecast of payments rather than a proper payment plan. They also pointed out that the plan did not cover the whole MFF period. Mr Lewandowski considered that the assumptions included in the paper were optimistic, expecting a lot of tension in the last years of the current programming period.

Vice-President Georgieva acknowledged that within the current MFF, it would still be necessary to prioritise. She committed to continue the discussions with Parliament and Council.

8. Improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty

Rapporteur for the opinion: Jean Arthuis (ALDE)

Responsible: AFCO: Elmar Brok (PPE) + Mercedes Bresso (S&D)

- Exchange of views

In his draft opinion, Mr Arthuis advocated a more prominent role of the Parliament during the MFF negotiations, suggesting the alignment of the MFF periods with the parliamentary terms of five years and inviting the European Council to abandon its unanimity voting rule. The rapporteur also called on the Council to return to the spirit of the Treaties by providing the European Budget with genuine own resources instead of relying on GNI-based contributions. He finally indicated that the use of the Budget as a guarantee was placing the Union in a state of potential indebtedness, contrary to the principle of budgetary equilibrium.

Draft calendar:

22.04 Deadline for tabling amendments

06.05 (tbc) Consideration of amendments and vote in the BUDG Committee

July / September Vote in the AFCO Committee

9. European Parliament's estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2016

Rapporteur: Gérard Deprez (ALDE)

- Indicative vote

The rapporteur presented the outcome of the negotiations with the Bureau, following three conciliation meetings. In the final agreement, the budget initially proposed by the Parliament's Secretary-General was finally decreased by - EUR 11,82 million, leading to an overall increase of +2,4% in comparison to the Parliament's budget for 2015. A maximum of EUR 15 million would be devoted to the reinforcement of the security in 2016, including measures against cyber-crime.

Regarding Parliament's establishment plan and the 5% staff reduction target, the rapporteur proposed a reduction of - 59 posts (out of which 2 posts to be transferred to the Commission). On the other hand, he endorsed the creation of additional posts to reinforce the security (+25), the secretariats of four parliamentary committees (+20) and the management of local assistants (+3).

Mr Deprez also announced that as of 1st of January 2016, the MEP's secretariat allowance would increase by + EUR 1 500 per month, subject to the adoption of a new regulation for the engagement of local assistants.

The Committee endorsed the Parliament's estimates of revenue and expenditure for 2016 by a positive indicative vote.

Draft calendar:

27.04	Bureau's adoption of the preliminary draft estimates
27.04	BUDG final vote
29.04	Plenary vote

***** Voting time *****

10. Draft amending budget n°2/2015 : Transfer of commitments shared management; Economic, social and Territorial Cohesion; Sustainable growth; Security and citizenship; Global Europe

The proposed DAB n° 2/2015 was approved as amended.

11. Investment for jobs and growth: promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Union

The draft opinion was adopted.

12. Financing for Development

The draft opinion was adopted.

13 2015 Budget: Section III - Commission

None

14. 2015 Budget: Other Sections

The following transfers were approved:

- Court of Auditors - V/AB-01 and 02
- European Parliament - C1/2015
- Committee of the Regions - INF 1/2015

15. Building policy

The vote was postponed following a two-week extension of the deadline (art. 203.5 of the Financial Regulation)

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

21. Next meeting

6-7 May 2015 (Brussels)
