



2016/2120(BUD)

17.11.2016

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument to finance immediate budgetary measures to address the on-going migration, refugee and security crisis
(2016/2120(BUD))

Rapporteur: Monica Macovei

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes the proposed mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument under heading 3 in the draft General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2017 for an amount of EUR 530 million and recalls that this translates to the full amount available for this instrument in 2017 under the current MFF rules; reiterates that budgetary flexibility has its limits and can only be a short-term solution for unexpected events that then need to be addressed with ordinary budget lines; stresses, however, that this amount is insufficient to meet the growing challenges;
2. Acknowledges that the financial impact of the current internal security crises, as well as of the humanitarian and migratory challenges, were not accounted for when the current MFF was adopted in 2013; recalls that the Flexibility Instrument has to be used for clearly identified expenses which cannot be covered within the limits of the ceilings available for one or more other headings; regrets that the Commission did not use the opportunity of the MFF mid-term revision to adjust the ceiling of heading 3 accordingly;
3. Emphasises that, even with the systematic mobilisation of the totality of the Flexibility Instrument under heading 3 in the coming years, the financial resources available will not be sufficient to tackle the increased needs; considers as essential, therefore, a fair distribution of funding according to priorities, in full transparency and accountability;
4. Welcomes the proposal of the Commission in the context of the MFF mid-term revision which aims to increase the capability of the budget to react quickly and adequately to unforeseen events; points in particular to the proposal for the creation of a new European Union Crisis Reserve to be financed from de-committed appropriations as well as the doubling in size of the Flexibility Instrument and the Emergency Aid Reserve; stresses that the changes introduced in the MFF mid-term revision should secure the budgetary stability and predictability for the remainder of the MFF 2014-2020;
5. Recalls that the fair and transparent distribution of funding between the different objectives of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (Fund) was a priority for Parliament during the negotiations leading to the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹, which established the Fund; calls on the Commission to increase the number of budget lines under the Fund accordingly, in order to facilitate a better readability and transparency of how the financial resources allocated to the different objectives and thus to those budgetary lines will be spent; calls on the Commission, in particular, to separate expenditure on enhancing fair return strategies from expenditure on legal migration and promoting the effective integration of third-country nationals in all future draft budgets as proposed in paragraph 12 of the Opinion of 24.9.2014 of the Committee on

¹ Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, amending Council Decision 2008/381/EC and repealing Decisions No 573/2007/EC and No 575/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decision 2007/435/EC (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 168).

Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs for the Committee on Budgets on the Council position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015 (2014/2040(BUD))¹.

¹ PE536.206v03-00.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	17.11.2016
Result of final vote	+: 38 -: 3 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Malin Björk, Caterina Chinnici, Frank Engel, Tanja Fajon, Mariya Gabriel, Kinga Gál, Ana Gomes, Nathalie Griesbeck, Sylvie Guillaume, Jussi Halla-aho, Monika Hohlmeier, Filiz Hyusmenova, Sophia in 't Veld, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Marju Lauristin, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Monica Macovei, Roberta Metsola, Claude Moraes, József Nagy, Péter Niedermüller, Judith Sargentini, Birgit Sippel, Branislav Škripek, Csaba Sógor, Helga Stevens, Traian Ungureanu, Bodil Valero, Harald Vilimsky, Josef Weidenholzer, Kristina Winberg, Tomáš Zdechovský
Substitutes present for the final vote	Anna Hedh, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Ska Keller, Jeroen Lenaers, Andrejs Mamikins, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Christine Revault D'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Barbara Spinelli
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Verónica Lope Fontagné, Mylène Troszczynski, Tom Vandenkendelaere