



2023/0264(BUD)

31.8.2023

OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024
(2023/0264(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Eva Maria Poptcheva

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Calls for the 2024 EU budget to ensure that all Member States put in place well-designed, future-oriented investment and responsible and sustainable structural reforms in order to strengthen Member States' competitiveness, to generate more job opportunities, to meet EU climate neutrality and biodiversity targets, and to unleash the full potential of the EU economy and achieve long-term, inclusive and sustainable growth and advance the green and digital transitions;
2. Calls on the 2024 Union budget to be a true European budget that allows (i) to successfully tackle the social and economic consequences of the war in Ukraine, in particular the increase in energy and food prices, (ii) to promote the strategic autonomy of the Union, and (iii) to accelerate the implementation of the EU Green Deal, RepowerEU, the Net-Zero Industry Act and the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP);
3. Considers that simple, sound, enforceable and responsibility-driven fiscal rules that promote forward-looking countercyclical policies and ensure public debt and deficit sustainability are key for the long-term economic prosperity of Member States and the Union; takes note of the fact that the proposed reform of the economic governance framework foresees more flexibility for strategic public investments and allows for different debt reduction paths for Member States; believes that a strategy of determined, gradual and realistic fiscal consolidation is warranted to strengthen fiscal sustainability and to rebuild fiscal buffers; recalls the need for the reform to be approved preferably prior to the deactivation of the general escape clause; stresses that economic governance at the EU level should be subject to strong democratic accountability and should contribute to enhancing fiscal policy coordination;
4. Calls for the 2024 budget to include targeted spending in areas that are key for the Union's strategic autonomy and competitiveness such as energy, defence security and military mobility, climate, biodiversity and agriculture, healthcare, education and reindustrialization in key technological sectors, based on economic growth and price stability and aiming for a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment;
5. Stresses that the Union budget as well as national fiscally responsible tax incentives should contribute to increasing the spending in research and development (R&D) as a key driver for innovation and economic growth by leveraging both private and public investment; stresses the importance of financing net zero technology innovation;
6. Calls for adequate resources to ensure that European companies and the Union are competitive internationally, and are able to attract productive investments and create quality employment, and to increase productivity in the context of growing international competition;

7. Emphasises the need for an appropriate revision of the current Multiannual Financial Framework in order to make it fit for the new circumstances that arose after its adoption in 2020, including by facilitating spending in strategic areas for the EU's competitiveness;
8. Stresses the importance of the additional new EU own resources to cover the costs of the repayment of NextGenerationEU, financing of the EU budget and of the green and digital transition; calls for a swift implementation of the Global Tax Deal; recalling that a share of the revenue generated under Pillar One is also included in the first basket of own resources; takes note of the Commission's willingness that a share of corporate income tax collected under BEFIT as well as a Financial Transaction Tax or Financial Activities Tax should form part of a second basket of new own resources while recognising that tax policy is a competence of Member States, whilst seeking at EU level a better coordination in the tax policies;
9. Recalls that good fiscal policy and administrative cooperation are essential to attract investment and favour the competitiveness of European companies, thus increasing public revenue and job opportunities; recognises the complex framework of administrative cooperation in the field of taxation and calls therefore for the sufficient funding of the Fiscalis programme; highlights that the Fiscalis programme is a crucial cooperation programme for Member States and their national tax authorities to pursue common goals regarding the fight against tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning;
10. Believes that the budget plays an important role in the completion of the Banking Union and the Capital Markets Union; recalls that the Union lags behind other jurisdictions regarding companies' access to financing;
11. Considers that the facilitation of SMEs' access to financing is a priority for the Union; understands that the EU funded programmes to support SMEs must be properly financed and should be financially reinforced;
12. Recalls that public investment should be a driver for further private investment for the creation of quality jobs, growth generation and competitiveness reinforcement; calls therefore for an increase of the InvestEU programme;
13. Calls for the budget to provide support to Ukraine for as long as Russia's war of aggression continues, and to contribute to its reconstruction, including through the European Union Solidarity Fund and the Emergency Aid Reserve; highlights that the newly-proposed Ukraine Facility will contribute to the reconstruction, recovery and modernization of Ukraine as well as to the availability of funds for the integration of refugees; takes note that Ukraine has received grants as budget support and considers the advantage of grants in order not to further degrade the external and public debt of Ukraine; calls to maintain European citizens' support for the actions taken against Russia and for other actions needed in supporting Ukraine;
14. Reiterates that the budget should effectively support and complement the uptake of funds under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the success of which will depend on the swift implementation by Member States, strict compliance with the RRF Regulation and the monitoring and evaluation work of the European Commission; expresses concern about increasing financing costs of the RRF due to increasing interest costs; underlines

the importance of systematic coherence, synergies and the added value of transnational and cross-border projects in the context of RFF and European Structural and Investment Funds;

15. Calls for adequate additional financial and human resources for the European Supervisory Agencies (ESAs), specifically for the European Banking Authority and the European Securities and Markets Authority, including for the upcoming Anti-Money-Laundering Authority (AMLA), in order to execute strictly those tasks assigned to them by the European Parliament and the Council, which have increased through the ESAs review and sectoral legislation; highlights that the speedy developments in the fields of sustainable finance, financial technology, anti-money laundering, cyber resilience and other areas entail increased competences and responsibilities for the ESAs and thus, calls for these to be matched with adequate staff and funding; calls also for adequate funding dedicated to the fight against tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning; considers the EU Tax Observatory a useful contribution to both democratic debate and informing decision makers and thus calls on the Commission to continue the support for the Observatory; stresses that all organisations receiving Union funding must behave in a politically neutral and unbiased way; notes that this also applies to organisations that are supposed to provide independent financial expertise as well as for organisations providing research in the area of taxation; calls for adequate funding for the Anti-Money-Laundering Authority (AMLA) to be able to perform its tasks competently; underlines the increasing need to strengthen the efficient functioning of the EU's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) measures and the necessary contribution of AMLA as a direct supervisor as well as the focal point of an integrated system composed of the Authority itself and the national authorities with an AML/CFT supervisory mandate, aimed at ensuring compliance with AML/CFT-related obligations;
16. Notes that where the 'Do No Significant Harm' Principle is incorporated in Union activities, it should be respected in the budgetary implementation and necessary corrective measures to be taken if and when needed;
17. Stresses that cohesion policy and the Structural and Investment Funds have been a pillar of the European Union, as they have enabled the creation and development of business projects in regions with greater difficulties, as well as much-needed public investments in these regions; calls on Member States to ensure an effective and timely absorption of cohesion policy funds, including through modernisation and adequate staffing of their administrations, so that such funds are used according to their policy purpose; calls for implementing existing programs in a coordinated, rapid, efficient and transparent manner to achieve the true recovery and cohesion of the European Union.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	30.8.2023
Result of final vote	+: 42 -: 6 0: 6
Members present for the final vote	Rasmus Andresen, Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Gunnar Beck, Isabel Benjumea Benjumea, Gilles Boyer, Engin Eroglu, Markus Ferber, Jonás Fernández, Giuseppe Ferrandino, Claude Gruffat, José Gusmão, Enikő Győri, Eero Heinäluoma, Michiel Hoogeveen, Danuta Maria Hübner, Stasys Jakeliūnas, France Jamet, Billy Kelleher, Ondřej Kovařík, Philippe Lamberts, Aušra Maldeikienė, Costas Mavrides, Siegfried Mureşan, Caroline Nagtegaal, Luděk Niedermayer, Piernicola Pedicini, Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Eva Maria Poptcheva, Evelyn Regner, Antonio Maria Rinaldi, Dorien Rookmaker, Alfred Sant, Ralf Seekatz, Pedro Silva Pereira, Irene Tinagli, Ernest Urtaşun
Substitutes present for the final vote	Marc Angel, Esther de Lange, Nicolaus Fest, Valérie Hayer, Eugen Jurzyca, Andżelika Anna Możdżanowska, Johan Nissinen, Tonino Picula, René Repasi, Andreas Schwab, Sven Simon
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Pablo Arias Echeverría, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Jens Geier, Colm Markey, Alessandro Panza, Tom Vandendriessche

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

42	+
PPE	Pablo Arias Echeverría, Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Isabel Benjumea Benjumea, Markus Ferber, Danuta Maria Hübner, Esther de Lange, Aušra Maldeikienė, Colm Markey, Siegfried Mureşan, Luděk Niedermayer, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Andreas Schwab, Ralf Seekatz, Sven Simon, Tom Vandenkendelaere
Renew	Gilles Boyer, Engin Eroglu, Giuseppe Ferrandino, Valérie Hayer, Billy Kelleher, Ondřej Kovařík, Caroline Nagtegaal, Eva Maria Poptcheva
S&D	Marc Angel, Jonás Fernández, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Jens Geier, Eero Heinäluoma, Costas Mavrides, Tonino Picula, Evelyn Regner, René Repasi, Alfred Sant, Pedro Silva Pereira, Irene Tinagli
Verts/ALE	Rasmus Andresen, Claude Gruffat, Stasys Jakeliūnas, Philippe Lamberts, Piernicola Pedicini, Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Ernest Urtegas

6	-
ECR	Michiel Hoogeveen, Eugen Jurzyca, Johan Nissinen
ID	Gunnar Beck, Nicolaus Fest, France Jamet

6	0
ECR	Andżelika Anna Możdżanowska, Dorien Rookmaker
ID	Alessandro Panza, Antonio Maria Rinaldi
NI	Enikő Győri
The Left	José Gusmão

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention