



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Regional Development*

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**2011/0177(APP)**

2.10.2013

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft Council regulation laying down the multiannual financial  
framework for the years 2014-2020  
(11791/2013 – C7-0238/2013 – 2011/0177(APP))

Rapporteur: Andrey Kovatchev

PA\_Leg\_Consent

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Your Rapporteur regrets the cuts made in all MFF ceilings and in Cohesion policy maximum level of expenditure in particular. It should be recalled that, if in the next programming period the EU Cohesion Policy is to go on representing a strong tool to increase strategic investment with a proven added value and put the European economy back on the growth and competitiveness track by creating jobs and wealth for the EU citizens and thus improving their quality of life, its funding had to be maintained at least at the level of the 2007-2013 period, as an absolute minimum level of sound funding.

The cuts in cohesion policy ceilings are problematic as they may jeopardise the goals laid down in the Europe 2020 Strategy for the whole of the EU and the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion in particular. It is therefore doubtful whether cohesion policy will remain a functional mechanism enabling proper involvement by all EU regions in the single market, which might thus undermine European solidarity.

Your rapporteur is also concerned about the inclusion in the draft MFF regulation of Article 8 which makes a reference to macro-economic conditionality, thereby somehow assuming that macro-economic conditionality will be agreed by the co-legislators in the context of the negotiations on the legislative package for cohesion policy, and thus pre-empting Parliament's position in the context of those negotiations.

It should also be recalled that one of the preconditions for the adoption of the MFF regulation, as stipulated in Parliament's resolution of 3 July 2013 on the political agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, was to have a *'political agreement on the relevant legal bases, especially on points that are also reflected in the MFF Regulation'*.

However, by the time the draft MFF regulation was referred to Parliament at the beginning of September and by the time your rapporteur drafted this opinion, no agreement had yet been reached by Parliament's negotiating team and the other institutions on the issue of macro-economic conditionality or on other important issues pertaining to the legislative procedure.

Your rapporteur is thus recommending that Parliament give its consent as the only possible way to ensure the foreseeability and flexibility of EU policy spending by 2020, instead of relying on the uncertainty of EU annual budgets, which however in no way guarantees that EU policies will deliver the results expected by EU citizens, as policy implementation is at risk.

Furthermore, the Committee on Budgets (BUDG), as the Committee responsible for issuing the recommendation on the draft Council regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020, should ensure that before Parliament gives its consent, all remaining major obstacles at the interinstitutional negotiations have been removed, and in particular those concerning macro-economic conditionality.

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The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament give its consent, provided that the

conditions established by the European Parliament's resolution of 3 July on the political agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 are fulfilled.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	24.9.2013
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 43 -: 3 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	François Alfonsi, Charalampos Angourakis, Catherine Bearder, John Bufton, Francesco De Angelis, Tamás Deutsch, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Danuta Maria Hübner, Filiz Hakaeva Hyusmenova, Iñaki Irazabalbeitia Fernández, María Irigoyen Pérez, Seán Kelly, Mojca Kleva Kekuš, Constanze Angela Krehl, Jacek Olgierd Kurski, Petru Constantin Luhan, Vladimír Maňka, Iosif Matula, Erminia Mazzoni, Miroslav Mikolášik, Jens Nilsson, Jan Olbrycht, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Younous Omarjee, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Ovidiu Ioan Silaghi, Monika Smolková, Georgios Stavrakakis, Nuno Teixeira, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Oldřich Vlasák, Kerstin Westphal, Hermann Winkler, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Andrea Cozzolino, Ivars Godmanis, Juozas Imbrasas, Karin Kadenbach, Andrey Kovatchev, James Nicholson, Heide Rühle, Elisabeth Schroedter, Richard Seeber, Giommara Uggias, Iuliu Winkler
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	António Fernando Correia de Campos, Sabine Verheyen