



**2018/2046(BUD)**

4.7.2018

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019  
(2018/2046(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Danuta Maria Hübner

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. Whereas 2019 will be the year of European elections and of the withdrawal of the UK from the Union;
1. Welcomes the proposed increase of 4,1 % in commitment appropriations and 2,1 % in payment appropriations for the ‘Europe for Citizens’ programme and the 3,7 % increase in commitment appropriations and 24,4 % in payment appropriations for the “Rights, Equality and Citizenship” programme, as compared to the 2018 budget, as these programmes contribute to enhancing the overall civic participation in Union politics and the exercise of the rights deriving from Union citizenship;
  2. Considers that from the constitutional point of view, a reinforcement of the Union institutions is necessary and that the transnational challenges that must be managed, such as climate change and immigration, among others, require a 2019 budget that is higher in real terms than that of 2018;
  3. Calls for a 10% increase in the financing of the Europe for Citizens programme in view of the results of the mid-term evaluation of the implementation of this programme<sup>1</sup>, where it is mentioned that a significant number of projects, which could have helped the programme have a wider impact, could not be funded;
  4. Considers that additional budgetary appropriations should be devoted to strengthening the level of knowledge about the European Union, especially, but not only, by dedicating resources to the financing of the development of a common curriculum on citizenship education;
  5. Welcomes the increase of 46 % in the commitment appropriations for the European Citizens Initiative (ECI), and regrets the decrease of 3 % in payment appropriations for this programme, compared to the levels for 2018;
  6. Welcomes the increase in the funding for European Political Parties with 35 % in commitment and payment appropriations in line with the amendments recently made by Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/673 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>2</sup> concerning the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations;
  7. Notes the increase in funding for communication actions by 5,3 % in commitment appropriations and 2,3 % in payment appropriations and regrets that the increase is not more substantial, especially since 2019 is the year of European elections;

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2018)0170.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/673 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 May 2018 amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations (OJ L 114I , 4.5.2018, p. 1).

8. Considers that European Public Spaces (EPSs) have some untapped potential for providing information to citizens concerning the issues at stake in European elections and their involvement in the debate on the Future of Europe; therefore believes that the European Public Spaces network should be expanded to cover all Member States; regrets that this objective could not be attained for the 2019 European elections, as there are only 18 EPSs existing, even though they should have been 21 by 2019, according to the financial programming;
9. Considers that the 2019 budget should provide additional financing for programs fostering and integrating immigrants and refugees, particularly in the border States of the Union, also with the aim of guaranteeing their full insertion in the community of law that is the European Union;
10. Deplores that the Commission continuously uses money from existing budget lines to finance newly created funds, which are outside the Union budget and are thus not subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	2.7.2018
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 21 -: 3 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Gerolf Annemans, Mercedes Bresso, Elmar Brok, Richard Corbett, Pascal Durand, Esteban González Pons, Danuta Maria Hübner, Ramón Jáuregui Atondo, Alain Lamassoure, Jo Leinen, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Markus Pieper, Paulo Rangel, Helmut Scholz, György Schöpflin, Pedro Silva Pereira, Barbara Spinelli, Josep-Maria Terricabras, Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski, Guy Verhofstadt
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Ashley Fox, Jérôme Lavrilleux, David McAllister, Cristian Dan Preda
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Daniela Aiuto, Jonás Fernández, Birgit Sippel

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>21</b>	<b>+</b>
ALDE	Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Guy Verhofstadt
GUE/NGL	Helmut Scholz, Barbara Spinelli
NI	Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski
PPE	Elmar Brok, Esteban González Pons, Danuta Maria Hübner, Alain Lamassoure, Jérôme Lavrilleux, Markus Pieper, Paulo Rangel, György Schöpflin
S&D	Mercedes Bresso, Richard Corbett, Jonás Fernández, Jo Leinen, Pedro Silva Pereira, Birgit Sippel
VERTS/ALE	Pascal Durand, Josep Maria Terricabras

<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>
ECR	Ashley Fox
EFDD	Daniela Aiuto
ENF	Gerolf Annemans

<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention