Multiannual financial framework for the years 2007-2013

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The Committee on Budgets adopted the interim report drafted by Reimer BÖGE (EPP, DE) on the proposal for a Council regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2007-2013.

The committee recalls that, according to the European Commission's latest financial programming for 2012-2013, the margin available under heading 1a will be less than EUR 50 million per year and the global margin available under all headings will be limited to EUR 436 million for 2012 and EUR 435 million for 2013.

Members state that the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism has potentially significant budgetary implications.

Therefore, in this respect, they request the Council and the Commission to take account of the following recommendations:

- work with European Parliament to allow swift adoption of the new instruments needed to implement the budgetary provisions of the Lisbon Treaty and revise the current MFF in order to provide for the extra resources necessary to deliver initiatives not foreseen when the current MFF was adopted;
- fully comply with Articles 311, 312(3) and (5) of the TFEU in order to facilitate the adoption of the financial framework and provide the Union with the means necessary to attain its objectives and carry out its policies, taking into account the new areas of action given by the Lisbon Treaty, including in the fields of external action, sport, space, climate change, energy, tourism and civil protection;
- draw all necessary conclusions from the fact that even before the addition of these new Lisbon-related needs, **over the last four years of the current MFF, the annual budgets could only be agreed either through using up the existing margins or through recourse to the instruments foreseen by the current IIA** to finance EU priorities such as Galileo, the food facility or the European Recovery Plan, and that remaining margins under the ceilings of the current financial framework are estimated to be negligible for the remainder of the period;
- acknowledge that the current economic climate might lead the budgetary authority to make some efforts towards reprioritisation within the budget;
- recognise that new needs cannot be met through redeployment or reprioritisation and that a **revision of the MFF and the flexibility mechanisms included in the IIA is necessary**, contrary to the Council's position as set out in its conclusions of 16 March 2010 on the budget guidelines for 2011;
- respond to declaration 3 of the current IIA calling for a full, wide-ranging review by 2008/2009 covering all aspects of EU spending and resources, and stop attempting to deal with the challenges /competences given to the EU by the new Treaty through a very narrow review of the functioning of the current IIA lacking any political dimension;
- recognise that the position of the Council and the Commission on the revision of the MFF until now is contradictory with the fact that they are **constantly coming up with new proposals** calling for new resources such as the "Bananas Agreement" and ITER;

- take all necessary steps for a revision of the MFF providing the extra resources necessary to deliver the European External Action Service and other Lisbon-Treaty-related policy priorities, as well as other initiatives, particularly under Heading 1a "Competitiveness Growth and Employment" and Heading 4 "External Relations", providing EU added value;
- take note of the fact that **without this revision the Parliament will not be able to adopt any proposals for new agencies or any further Council initiatives** unless accompanied by proposals for fresh resources;
- recognise the importance of flexibility to **create reserves and margins allowing the EU to respond to current and future needs** (the Parliament is not prepared to enter into negotiations over any proposal that does not include at least the current degree of flexibility over revisions to the financial framework of up to 0,03% of EU GNI);
- understand that a purely technical approach to the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty in the budgetary field is insufficient and that, for the Parliament to be able to give its consent, entering without delay a real, political negotiation at an appropriately high, and if necessary at the highest, level, is a must;
- give further thought to the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism ahead of the adoption of the MFF regulation; accept that both arms of the budgetary authority be involved in decisions concerning the impact this mechanism could have on the EU budget; agree that any possible budgetary needs linked to this mechanism should be financed through an ad-hoc revision of the MFF to ensure that sufficient involvement of the budgetary authority is guaranteed on time.