

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

2004/2099(ACI)

24.4.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the proposal for renewal of the interinstitutional agreement on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure
(COM(2006)0036 - C6-0318/2005 - 2004/2099(ACI))

Draftswoman: Glenys Kinnock

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Rejects the 20.4% cut made by the European Council of December 2005 to the level of funding proposed by the Commission for Heading 4 for the period 2007-2013, as this will not provide sufficient resources for the Community to fulfil its role as "a global player"; considers that a more realistic level of funding is indispensable, not only to respond to repeated criticisms that the Community "punches below its weight" in external policies but also, most importantly, to ensure that a meaningful effort can be made towards the eradication of poverty in developing countries along the lines set out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); stresses, particularly, that the allocation for development actions must be commensurate with commitments made by Member States to increase their levels of Official Development Assistance towards the United Nations target of 0.7% of Gross National Income by 2015.
2. Welcomes the establishment of new external policy priorities giving greater emphasis to the regions neighbouring the Community and providing the means to re-establish stability in situations of political turmoil; stresses, however, that these new priorities should not detract from the importance of fulfilling commitments made on the MDGs and giving priority to the poorest countries and the poorest communities within countries.
3. Gives its full support to the recommendation of the European Council of December 2005 that "the Union should aim to ensure over the period 2007-2012 that at least 90% of its overall external assistance be counted as official development assistance according to the present DAC definition".
4. Agrees with the principle of simplification of the legislative environment, but insists that nothing in the Interinstitutional Agreement should prejudge the outcome of current or forthcoming negotiations on its legislative work, including the legislative architecture for Heading 4 and the relative merits of including policy details and financial allocations within legislation as currently proposed.
5. Draws attention to the repeated use of the Flexibility Instrument to fund unforeseen needs in Heading 4 during the period 2000-2006 and calls for a sufficient unallocated margin to be preserved under the Heading 4 ceiling to make provision for similar needs likely to arise in the future; calls, in that regard, for adequate facilities for flexibility to be applied to the whole Financial Perspective to make provision for the possible additional funding for Heading 4 if the need arises.
6. Highlights the need for sufficient funding to be provided for adequate compensation of ACP countries signatories to the Sugar Protocol to the Cotonou Agreement which face serious economic and social consequences following the reform of the EU Sugar Regime, and calls for an allocation to be ring-fenced from the Heading 4 margin for this purpose.

PROCEDURE 

Title	the proposal for renewal of the interinstitutional agreement on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure
Procedure number	2004/2099(ACI)
Committee responsible	BUDG
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	DEVE 27.10.2005
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Glenys Kinnock 25.1.2006
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	20.2.2006
Date adopted	24.4.2006
Result of final vote	+: 13 –: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Margrietus van den Berg, Koenraad Dillen, Michael Gahler, Filip Andrzej Kaczmarek, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Luisa Morgantini, Horst Posdorf, Frithjof Schmidt, Felekna Uca
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Linda McAvan, Zbigniew Zaleski, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	