



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
The Chair

24.2.2021

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Mr Johan Van Overtveldt
Chair
Committee on Budgets
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on Guidelines for the 2022 budget – Section III (2020/2265(BUI))

Dear Mr Chair,

Dear Mr Van Overtveldt,

Due to the tight timeline in BUDG, ENVI coordinators have decided on 11 January 2021 that ENVI would provide an opinion on the Guidelines for the 2022 budget - Section III (2020/2265 (BUI)) in the form of a letter. Therefore, both as ENVI Chair and as Standing Rapporteur for the Budget, let me provide you with ENVI's contribution in the form of resolution paragraphs, which was adopted by ENVI at its meeting of 24 February 2021 and which hopefully will be taken into account by your committee:

- Highlights that the 2022 Union budget should contribute to securing a quick, resilient, socially fair and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects, as well as fostering a strong economic recovery and achieving the revised 2030 Union climate and environmental targets, including halting and reversing biodiversity loss, and energy targets and the objective of making the EU climate neutral by 2050 at the latest; stresses that a green recovery is a crucial step in meeting the targets of the Paris Agreement, while ensuring that adequate support is provided to the Member States that have been most affected by the pandemic and its socio-economic consequences;
- Stresses that the 2022 Union budget should be aligned with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement, the objectives set out in the [Regulation (EU) 2020/XXX establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulation (EU)2018/1999 (the 'European Climate Law')], with the European Green Deal objectives, social inclusion and regional cohesion, and the United Nations

Sustainable Development Goals, while ensuring that adequate support is provided to achieve a just transition, based on solidarity and fairness;

- Underlines the importance of achieving climate and biodiversity mainstreaming targets; highlights that it is essential that support is only given to activities which are in line with the "do no significant harm" principle; strongly supports the target for climate-related spending of at least 30 % of the overall Union budget and the European Union Recovery Instrument expenditures, insists that this target be met and calls for effective efforts from the first year of the MFF to achieve this level of spending; recalls the ENVI position of 5 September 2019 to set a 40% target for climate mainstreaming in the 2021-2027 MFF; recalls that 37% of the spending under the [Regulation (EU) 2020/XXX establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility (the 'Recovery and Resilience Facility')] should contribute to climate objectives; strongly emphasises the importance of a legally binding target for biodiversity-related spending of 7.5 % from 2024 and 10 % from 2026 onwards of the MFF, considering an upward revision in the next MFF; considers that all efforts should be made to reach this 10% annual spending on biodiversity as soon as possible from 2021 onwards;
- Reiterates its call to track climate and biodiversity-related expenditure using robust, transparent and comprehensive methodology; welcomes the commitment of the Commission to cooperate closely with the Parliament and Council on the development of the tracking methodology and the achievement of the applicable targets; insists that the methodology for climate spending take into consideration the effects of the phasing out of NGEU funding, differentiate between climate mitigation and adaptation where feasible and include relevant measures for insufficient progress; expects this work to take into account the highest standards already applied for such tracking; welcomes that existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals will be taken into account; looks forward to the annual consultations on the climate target, as set out in the IIA;
- Insists that sufficient resources should be secured in the 2022 Union budget for tackling and reversing biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, protecting, preserving and restoring degraded ecosystems, and for the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, of the Farm to Fork Strategy, of the Circular Economy Action Plan and of a Zero-pollution Action Plan; reiterates its call on the Commission to secure an adequate level of human resources for Directorates relevant for ensuring full implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy, Chemical Strategy for Sustainability and moving towards a circular and climate neutral economy by 2050 at the latest; is concerned by the fact that the staffing of the Directorate General for Environment has undergone significant reductions in the last years and its HR level represents only 1,3 % of all Commission staff; believes that a sufficient level of qualified staff is a precondition for the successful implementation and enforcement of Union policies;
- Stresses that the 2022 Union Budget should be climate and biodiversity proof; believes that much further investment is necessary for climate action and that climate-resilience needs to be built into long-term investments;
- Points to the importance of maintaining the level of support distributed to EU flagship programmes and Funds, including EU4Health, the new LIFE programme and the Just Transition Fund;
- Highlights that the 2022 Union budget should contain sufficient resources for the development and upgrading of capabilities to ensure improved pandemic preparedness

and management and to strengthen Union action on key aspects of health, leading to the creation of a European Health Union contributing to equitable access to health care and based on Treaty competences; stresses that sufficient resources should be allocated in particular for increasing investments in research and development;

- Calls for the 2022 Union budget to support the Parliament’s resolution of 10 July 2020 on the EU’s public health strategy post-COVID-19, including in particular the call for the European Commission, the Member States and global partners to ensure rapid, equal and affordable access for all people worldwide to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments as soon as they are available;
- Points to the need to continue to allocate sufficient funding to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, in order to help tackle public health emergencies such as the current pandemic, forest fires, floods, earthquakes and other natural and human-made disasters, the effects of which are expected to be further exacerbated by climate change, and to strengthen budgetary response to unforeseen events; welcomes the MFF agreement on providing additional funding for the UCPM, including disaster preparedness, improvements in forecast-based planning early warning systems, knowledge exchange and lessons learned from previous experiences;
- Calls for the implementation of the roadmap on new own resources, reaffirms its position supporting in particular own resources that contribute to the Union’s goals on health, the environment and the climate, and notably a significant share of the income from the emissions trading scheme, non-recycled plastic packaging waste and a carbon border adjustment mechanism;
- Recalls the importance of ensuring sufficient financial resources for the Union agencies under the remit of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ECHA, ECDC, EEA, EFSA and EMA), enabling them to fulfil their mandate, execute their tasks and inter alia respond optimally to the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak; stresses that adequate financial support to those agencies is key for the successful achievement of the objectives of the European Green Deal, for securing public health and for affording the optimum level of protection to all.

I have sent a similar letter to Mr Karlo Ressler, general rapporteur for the 2022 Budget.

Yours sincerely,

Pascal CANFIN