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P9_TC1-COD(2020)0069

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P9_TA(2020)0127

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P9_TC1-COD(2020)0068

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Key to symbols used

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure: second reading
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure: third reading

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments by Parliament:

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the ■ symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2020-2021 SESSION

Sittings of 13 to 16 May 2020

The texts adopted of 14 May 2020 concerning the discharge for the financial year 2018 have been published in OJ L 417, 11.12.2020.

Sitting of 27 May 2020

TEXTS ADOPTED

Wednesday 13 May 2020

I

(Resolutions, recommendations and opinions)

RESOLUTIONS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

P9_TA(2020)0065

A safety net to protect the beneficiaries of EU programmes: setting up an MFF contingency plan

European Parliament resolution of 13 May 2020 with recommendations to the Commission on a safety net to protect the beneficiaries of Union programmes: setting up an MFF contingency plan (2020/2051(INL))

(2021/C 323/01)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- having regard to Articles 311 and 312(4) of the TFEU,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the years 2021 to 2027, submitted by the Commission on 2 May 2018 ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 14 March 2018 on the next MFF: Preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020 ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to its interim report of 14 November 2018 on the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 — Parliament's position with a view to an agreement ⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 10 October 2019 on the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework and own resources: time to meet citizens' expectations ⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down certain transitional provisions for the support by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No 228/2013, (EU) No 229/2013 and (EU) No 1308/2013 as regards resources and their distribution in respect of the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards their resources and application in the year 2021 ⁽⁶⁾,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.

⁽²⁾ COM(2018)0322.

⁽³⁾ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0075.

⁽⁴⁾ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0449.

⁽⁵⁾ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0032.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2019)0581.

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- having regard to point 16 of the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission ⁽⁷⁾,
 - having regard to point 10 of the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making ⁽⁸⁾,
 - having regard to Rules 47 and 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the letter of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A9-0099/2020),
- A. whereas the Commission should have presented its proposal for a new MFF before 1 January 2018, in accordance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013, but decided instead to postpone it by several months;
- B. whereas on 14 March 2018, Parliament was the first Union institution to adopt its position and lay down its priorities on the MFF post 2020;
- C. whereas on 2 May 2018, the Commission presented a set of legislative proposals on the 2021-2027 MFF and Union Own Resources, followed by legislative proposals for the setting-up of new Union programmes and instruments; whereas this proposal entailed an overall MFF ceiling of EUR 1 134,6 billion in 2018 prices, or 1,11 % of the pre-crisis EU-27's GNI ⁽⁹⁾ (including 0,03 % from the European Development Fund), which entailed a significant reduction compared to the estimated 1,16 % of the 2014-2020 MFF in relation to the EU-27's GNI, with the stated objective to provide a basis for a swift negotiation to be concluded before the Parliament elections of 2019;
- D. whereas on 14 November 2018, Parliament adopted its interim report with detailed figures, amounting to an overall MFF ceiling of EUR 1 324,1 billion in 2018 prices (1,3 % of the EU-27's GNI), and amendments constituting its negotiating mandate and has stood ready, since then, to enter into negotiations with the Council in the interest of reaching an agreement in a timely manner; whereas that negotiating mandate was reconfirmed on 10 October 2019;
- E. whereas between November 2018 and April 2019, Parliament adopted negotiating mandates or first reading positions at record speed on almost all sectoral programmes, and agreed to negotiate several partial agreements and common understandings with the Council in order not to delay the process of setting up the new programmes; whereas the Council's methodology of preparing MFF negotiating boxes, that include a significant number of sectoral provisions falling under the ordinary legislative procedure, has prevented the Council from negotiating with Parliament on key aspects of the sectoral legislative acts as well as on the rule of law proposal;
- F. whereas, the European Council has already extended the timeframe for reaching a political agreement on the MFF several times, thereby reducing *de facto* the possibility of ensuring a smooth transition from the 2014-2020 MFF to the 2021-2027 MFF;
- G. whereas first figures were only submitted by the Finnish Presidency of the Council to the General Affairs Council and to the European Council in December 2019, that is more than 18 months after the Commission proposals; whereas the proposal of the Finnish Presidency fully disregarded Parliament's position;
- H. whereas the special European Council meeting on the MFF of 20-21 February 2020, convened by the President of the European Council, failed to come to a conclusion;
- I. whereas, following the failure of the special summit, the European Council is now well behind the 2013 timeframe for negotiations on the 2014-2020 MFF, when the European Council reached its political agreement on 8 February 2013; whereas, following the subsequent negotiations between Parliament and Council, the MFF and the sectoral legislative acts were adopted at a very late stage, resulting in serious setbacks for the transition to the 2014-2020 MFF and the launch of the Union programmes to the detriment of beneficiaries and citizens, notably in shared management programmes;

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 304, 20.11.2010, p. 47.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1.

⁽⁹⁾ Gross National Income as forecast at the time of presentation of the MFF proposal on 2 May 2018, not taking into account subsequent and upcoming evolutions, notably as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

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- J. whereas, in light of the succession of delays and regardless of when the European Council finally adopts conclusions, there is now a tangible risk that the next MFF will not be agreed in time to enter into force on 1 January 2021 and there will be no smooth transition from the 2014-2020 MFF to the 2021-2027 MFF, considering also the risk of widely diverging positions between Parliament and Council and the need for intense interinstitutional negotiations in the framework of both the consent procedure and the ordinary legislative procedure;
- K. whereas the Covid-19 outbreak, despite highlighting the importance and the potential of a strong Union budget to ensure a comprehensive and immediate Union response, has further delayed the negotiations and agreement on the next MFF in the European Council and is affecting the conditions in which interinstitutional negotiations could be carried out;
- L. whereas, should a new MFF not be adopted on time, Article 312(4) TFEU provides for a safety net to protect the beneficiaries of Union programmes in the form of an automatic and temporary extension of the ceilings and other provisions of the last year of the present framework, which would result in an overall ceiling of EUR 162 243 million in 2018 prices or EUR 172 173 million in current prices, in 2021, which would be the equivalent of 1,15 % of the GNI of the EU-27;
- M. whereas the basic acts of a considerable number of the current expenditure programmes however contain expiry dates that, together with lack of operational preparedness, might undermine the safety net provided by the TFEU; whereas those expiry dates would have to be extended or lifted in order to be brought into consistency with the principles underpinning Article 312(4) TFEU and to avoid a shutdown of the concerned programmes, which would be to the detriment of its beneficiaries and of the Union as a whole, especially in times of crisis;
- N. whereas Parliament consequently urged the Commission in its resolution of 10 October 2019 to start preparing an MFF contingency plan, with the aim of protecting beneficiaries and ensuring the continuity of funding, to be presented in the beginning of 2020 to facilitate a swift adoption by Parliament and the Council;
- O. whereas the Commission has already acknowledged the risks posed by the potential expiry or non-adoption of certain legislative acts for the next MFF, namely by proposing a transitional regulation which aims at providing certainty and continuity for the final beneficiaries;
- P. whereas Parliament has been prepared well in advance and repeatedly warned against the shutdown of Union programmes while declaring its intention not to be forced into accepting a bad MFF agreement due to time pressure;
- Q. whereas the health crisis resulting from the Covid-19 outbreak and the unprecedented socio-economic impacts on citizens' lives make an even more compelling case to eliminate any risk of discontinuity or disorderly extension of the current MFF and programmes; whereas it has become increasingly important to guarantee that the Union will be able to carry out its operations and to provide an ambitious crisis response and recovery strategy despite the uncertain date of the entry into force of the new MFF; whereas the Commission should deliver to stakeholders an unequivocal message in that respect;
- R. whereas the 2021 Union budget should continue to address the immediate social and economic consequences of the Covid-19 emergency; whereas an ambitious, responsible and solidarity-oriented MFF contingency plan could provide a better basis than a late and inadequate MFF for delivering the Union's crisis response, recovery strategy and political priorities, building on the existing programmes with the appropriate readjustments, reorientations, and flexibilities as well as the positive measures already taken under the 2020 budget; whereas negotiations on the next MFF would remain urgent, also considering the time subsequently needed to launch the new programmes, to modify and ratify the new Own Resources decision;

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- S. whereas it is now an imperative for the Commission to put forward the relevant necessary legislative proposals and operational provisions, in its capacity as guardian of the Treaties and holder of the right of initiative, and in line with the oral and written commitment taken on 16 July 2019 by the President-elect of the Commission, to respond with a legislative act when Parliament, acting by a majority of its members, adopts resolutions requesting that the Commission submits legislative proposals;
1. Requests that the Commission submit, by 15 June 2020, based on the relevant legal bases for each expenditure programme⁽¹⁰⁾ and in the light of Article 312(4) TFEU, a proposal for an MFF contingency plan to provide a safety net to protect the beneficiaries of Union programmes, following the recommendations set out in the Annex hereto;
 2. Requests the MFF contingency plan to:
 - lift or extend the time limits laid down in the basic acts of all relevant MFF expenditure programmes;
 - where legally necessary, notably under shared management programmes, update the relevant financial amounts on the basis of a technical prolongation of the 2020 levels;
 - revise the rules and objectives governing the relevant expenditure programmes so that they can be temporarily refocused on addressing and mitigating the immediate economic and social consequences of the Covid-19 outbreak and on helping in the recovery;
 - allow for targeted reinforcements to this end, building on the positive measures already taken under the 2020 budget; and for the setting-up of the most urgent new instruments and initiatives as part of the post-Covid-19 reconstruction and recovery package;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the accompanying recommendations to the Commission and the Council.
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⁽¹⁰⁾ Articles 19(2), 21(2), 33, 42, 43(2), 46(d), 77(2), 78(2), 79(2), 79(4), 81(1), 81(2), 82(1), 84, 87(2), 91(1), 100(2), 113, 114, 149, 153(2)(a), 164, 165(4), 166(4), 167(5), 168(4)(b), 168(5), 169, 172, 173(3), 175, 177, 178, 182(1), 182(4), 183, 188, 189(2), 192(1), 194(2), 195(2), 196, 197, 203, 207(2), 209(1), 212(2), 214(5), 325, 338(1), 349, 352 of the TFEU and Articles 7(1) and 203 of the Euratom Treaty.

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ANNEX TO THE MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE CONTENT OF THE PROPOSAL REQUESTED****A. PRINCIPLES AND AIMS OF THE PROPOSAL**

1. The MFF contingency plan aims at providing a safety net to protect the beneficiaries of the Union programmes in the event that the 2021-2027 MFF could not be agreed in time to enter into force on 1 January 2021. The MFF contingency plan should ensure a satisfactory degree of predictability and continuity in Union budget implementation. Furthermore, it should enable the Union to provide a response to the immediate social and economic consequences of the Covid-19 outbreak and to work on the recovery;
2. The MFF contingency plan should include one or several legislative proposal(s) to lift or extend the time limits laid down in the basic acts of all concerned expenditure programmes and, where legally necessary notably under shared management programmes, update the relevant financial amounts on the basis of a technical prolongation of the 2020 levels. The legislative proposal(s) should also include a temporary refocusing of the objectives of all the relevant expenditure programmes, so that they can best address the immediate consequences of the Covid-19 outbreak. For the same purpose, wherever relevant, the proposal(s) should include a re-adjustment of the rules to allow for maximum flexibility in the implementation notably of shared management programmes, including the extension and follow-up of all legislative measures introduced in 2020 to support Member States and beneficiaries in mitigating the impact of Covid-19 outbreak;
3. The MFF contingency plan should allow for targeted reinforcements of the relevant expenditure programmes in the 2021 budget and for the setting-up of the most urgent new legislative instruments, measures and programmes, as part of the reconstruction and recovery package needed after the Covid-19 outbreak;
4. The MFF contingency plan should be tabled by 15 June 2020, unless the MFF negotiations between Parliament and the Council lead to a political agreement before that date. This timeframe for tabling the contingency plan will address a double necessity: a) to ensure that the budgetary procedure for the year 2021 starts with all the necessary information as regards contingency planning; b) to ensure that the relevant legislative proposals can be adopted by the co-legislators before the conciliation on the 2021 budget. This will be the time when the budgetary authority will have to take a final decision on next year's Union budget either on the basis of a new 2021-2027 MFF or on the basis of an extension of the 2020 ceilings;
5. The measures necessary for the implementation of the contingency plan should be financed through the annual budget, within the limits of the MFF ceilings for 2020 and of the flexibility provisions of the 2014-2020 MFF as extended in accordance with Article 312(4) TFEU, on the basis of a technical prolongation of the amounts already agreed by the budgetary authority in 2020, increased by the 2 % deflator and by the additional amounts necessary for the implementation of the post-Covid-19 reconstruction and recovery package. This technical prolongation should also determine the national envelopes under the shared management programmes.

B. ACTION TO PROPOSE

1. One or several legislative proposal(s) to:
 - lift or extend the time limits laid down in the basic acts of all relevant MFF expenditure programmes,
 - where legally necessary notably under shared management programmes, update the relevant financial amounts on the basis of a technical prolongation of the 2020 levels, and
 - revise the rules and objectives governing the relevant expenditure programmes so that they can be temporarily refocused on addressing and mitigating the immediate economic and social consequences of the Covid-19 outbreak and on helping in the recovery, including the extension and follow-up of all legislative measures introduced in 2020 for this purpose.
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Thursday 14 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0069

Genetically modified soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547-127

European Parliament resolution of 14 May 2020 on the draft Commission implementing decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547-127, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (D065067/03 — 2020/2535(RSP))

(2021/C 323/02)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Commission implementing decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547-127, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (D065067/03,
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on genetically modified food and feed ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Articles 7(3) and 19(3) thereof,
- having regard to the vote of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health referred to in Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, on 9 December 2019, at which no opinion was delivered, and to the vote of the Appeal Committee on 23 January 2020, at which again no opinion was delivered,
- having regard to Articles 11 and 13 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the opinion adopted by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on 22 May 2019, and published on 5 July 2019 ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to its previous resolutions objecting to the authorisation of genetically modified organisms ('GMOs') ⁽⁴⁾,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13.

⁽³⁾ Scientific Opinion of the EFSA Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms on the assessment of genetically modified soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547-127, for food and feed uses, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-135), EFSA Journal 2019; 17(7):5733, <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2019.5733>

⁽⁴⁾ In its eighth term, Parliament adopted 36 resolutions objecting to the authorisation of GMOs. Furthermore, in its ninth term Parliament has adopted the following resolutions:

- European Parliament resolution of 10 October 2019 on the draft Commission implementing decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MZHG0JG (SYN-ØØØJG-2), pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0028).
- European Parliament resolution of 10 October 2019 on the draft Commission implementing decision renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soybean A2704-12 (ACS-GMØØ5-3) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0029).
- European Parliament resolution of 10 October 2019 on the draft Commission implementing decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 89034 × 1507 × MON 88017 × 59122 × DAS-40278-9 and genetically modified maize combining two, three or four of the single events MON 89034, 1507, MON 88017, 59122 and DAS-40278-9 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0030).

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- having regard to Rule 112(2) and (3) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety,
- A. whereas, on 28 October 2016, Monsanto Europe N.V. on behalf of Monsanto Company, submitted to the national competent authority of the Netherlands an application in accordance with Articles 5 and 17 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 ('the application'); whereas the application covered the placing on the market of foods, food ingredients and feed containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified (GM) soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547-127, as well as the placing on the market of products containing or consisting of GM soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547-127 for uses other than food and feed, with the exception of cultivation;
- B. whereas, on 22 May 2019, EFSA adopted a favourable opinion, which was published on 5 July 2019, in relation to that application;
- C. whereas GM soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547-127 has been developed to confer tolerance to dicamba, glufosinate ammonium and glyphosate-based herbicides⁽⁵⁾;

Complementary herbicides

- D. whereas it has been shown that the cultivation of herbicide-tolerant GM crops results in a higher use of herbicides, due in large part to the emergence of herbicide-tolerant weeds⁽⁶⁾; whereas, as a consequence, it is to be expected that crops of GM soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547-127 will be exposed to both higher and repeated doses of the complementary herbicides (glufosinate, dicamba and glyphosate), which will potentially lead to a higher quantity of residues in the harvest;
- E. whereas a peer-reviewed study found that glyphosate accumulates in GM soybeans⁽⁷⁾; whereas a pilot project carried out in Argentina found surprisingly high levels of glyphosate residues on GM soybeans⁽⁸⁾;

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- European Parliament resolution of 14 November 2019 on the draft Commission implementing decision renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified cotton LLCotton25 (ACS-GHØØ1-3) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0054).
 - European Parliament resolution of 14 November 2019 on the draft Commission implementing decision renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soybean MON 89788 (MON-89788-1) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0055).
 - European Parliament resolution of 14 November 2019 on the draft Commission implementing decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 89034 × 1507 × NK603 × DAS-40278-9 and sub-combinations MON 89034 × NK603 × DAS-40278-9, 1507 × NK603 × DAS-40278-9 and NK603 × DAS-40278-9 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0056).
 - European Parliament resolution of 14 November 2019 on the draft Commission implementing decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize Bt11 × MIR162 × MIR604 × 1507 × 5307 × GA21 and genetically modified maize combining two, three, four or five of the single events Bt11, MIR162, MIR604, 1507, 5307 and GA21 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0057).

⁽⁵⁾ EFSA opinion, p. 3.

⁽⁶⁾ See, for example, Bonny, S., 'Genetically Modified Herbicide-Tolerant Crops, Weeds, and Herbicides: Overview and Impact', Environmental Management, January 2016, 57(1), pp. 31-48, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26296738> and Benbrook, C.M., 'Impacts of genetically engineered crops on pesticide use in the U.S. — the first sixteen years', Environmental Sciences Europe 24, 24 (2012), <https://enveurope.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/2190-4715-24-24>

⁽⁷⁾ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24491722>

⁽⁸⁾ https://www.testbiotech.org/sites/default/files/TBT_Background_Glyphosate_Argentina_0.pdf

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- F. whereas questions concerning the carcinogenicity of glyphosate remain; whereas EFSA concluded in November 2015 that glyphosate was unlikely to be carcinogenic and the European Chemicals Agency concluded in March 2017 that no classification was warranted; whereas, on the contrary, in 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the specialised cancer agency of the World Health Organization, classified glyphosate as a probable carcinogen for humans; whereas a number of recent scientific peer-reviewed studies confirm the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate⁽⁹⁾;
- G. whereas glufosinate is classified as toxic to reproduction 1B and thus meets the ‘cut-off criteria’ set out in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽¹⁰⁾; whereas the approval of glufosinate for use in the Union expired on 31 July 2018⁽¹¹⁾;
- H. whereas in GM plants, the way that complementary herbicides are broken down by the plant, and the composition and thus toxicity of the break-down products (‘metabolites’), may be driven by the genetic modification itself⁽¹²⁾;
- I. whereas, in spite of this, the assessment of herbicide residues and their metabolites on GM plants is considered to be outside the remit of the EFSA Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms;
- J. whereas, whilst EFSA states in its opinion that ‘the assessment of herbicide residues relevant for this application has been investigated by the EFSA Pesticide Unit’, this is not sufficient in itself since the combinatorial toxicity of the complementary herbicides and metabolites as well as their potential interaction with the GM plant itself, in this case GM soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547-127, have not been taken into account;
- K. whereas, in addition, according to the EFSA Pesticide Unit, toxicological data allowing a consumer risk assessment to be performed for several metabolites of glyphosate relevant for GM glyphosate-tolerant crops are missing⁽¹³⁾ and there are insufficient data to derive maximum residue levels (‘MRLs’) for glyphosate on GM soybeans⁽¹⁴⁾;
- L. whereas the lack of analysis of herbicide residues on the GM crops and the potential health risks for consumers has been raised as a concern by a number of Member State competent authorities⁽¹⁵⁾;

⁽⁹⁾ See, for example, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1383574218300887>, <https://academic.oup.com/ije/advance-article/doi/10.1093/ije/dyz017/5382278>, <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0219610>, and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6612199/>

⁽¹⁰⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC (OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1).

⁽¹¹⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/eu-pesticides-database/public/?event=activesubstance.detail&language=EN&selecte-dID=1436>

⁽¹²⁾ This is indeed the case for glyphosate, as stated in EFSA Review of the existing maximum residue levels for glyphosate according to Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005, EFSA Journal 2018; 16(5):5263, p. 12, <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/fr/efsajournal/pub/5263>

⁽¹³⁾ EFSA Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance glyphosate, EFSA Journal 2015; 13(11):4302, p. 3, <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/4302>

⁽¹⁴⁾ EFSA Review of the existing maximum residue levels for glyphosate according to Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 — revised version to take into account omitted data, EFSA Journal 2019; 17(10):5862, p. 4, <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2019.5862>

⁽¹⁵⁾ Member State comments on GM soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547-127 can be accessed via EFSA’s register of questions: <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/login?>

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- M. whereas the conclusions of an international research project entitled 'Risk Assessment of genetically engineered organisms in the EU and Switzerland', presented in January 2020, found that the Union risk assessment of GMOs fails to deal in a satisfactory way with risks to public health and the environment, including in relation to the health risks associated with the consumption of products derived from herbicide-tolerant GM plants ⁽¹⁶⁾;

MRLs and related controls

- N. whereas, under Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁷⁾, which aims to ensure a high level of consumer protection in relation to MRLs, the residues on imported crops for food and feed of active substances which are not authorised for use in the Union should be carefully controlled and monitored ⁽¹⁸⁾;
- O. whereas, on the contrary, under the latest coordinated multiannual control programme of the Union (for 2020, 2021 and 2022), Member States are not obliged to measure glufosinate residues on any products, including soybean ⁽¹⁹⁾; whereas it cannot be excluded that glufosinate residues on GM soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547-127, or products derived from it for food and feed, will exceed MRLs, which have been put in place to ensure a high level of consumer protection;

Undemocratic decision-making

- P. whereas the vote on 9 December 2019 of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health referred to in Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 delivered no opinion, meaning that the authorisation was not supported by a qualified majority of Member States; whereas, the vote on 23 January 2020 of the Appeal Committee also delivered no opinion;
- Q. whereas the Commission recognises that the fact that GMO authorisation decisions continue to be adopted by the Commission without a qualified majority of Member States in favour, which is very much the exception for product authorisations as a whole but which has become the norm for decision-making on GM food and feed authorisations, is problematic ⁽²⁰⁾;
- R. whereas, in its eighth term, Parliament adopted a total of 36 resolutions objecting to the placing on the market of GMOs for food and feed (33 resolutions) and to the cultivation of GMOs in the Union (three resolutions); whereas, to date, Parliament has adopted seven objections in its ninth term; whereas there was not a qualified majority of Member States in favour of authorising any of those GMOs; whereas despite its own acknowledgement of the democratic shortcomings, the lack of support from Member States and the objections of Parliament, the Commission continues to authorise GMOs;

⁽¹⁶⁾ https://www.testbiotech.org/sites/default/files/RAGES_%20Factsheet_Overview_0.pdf

⁽¹⁷⁾ Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC (OJ L 70, 16.3.2005, p. 1).

⁽¹⁸⁾ See recital 8 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/533 of 28 March 2019 concerning a coordinated multiannual control programme of the Union for 2020, 2021 and 2022 to ensure compliance with maximum residue levels of pesticides and to assess the consumer exposure to pesticide residues in and on food of plant and animal origin (OJ L 88, 29.3.2019, p. 28).

⁽²⁰⁾ See, for example, the explanatory memorandum of the Commission's legislative proposal presented on 22 April 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the use of GM food and feed on their territory and the explanatory memorandum of the Commission's legislative proposal presented on 14 February 2017 amending Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

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- S. whereas no change of law is required for the Commission to be able not to authorise GMOs when there is no qualified majority of Member States in favour in the Appeal Committee ⁽²¹⁾;

Upholding the Union's international obligations

- T. whereas Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 provides that GM food or feed must not have adverse effects on human health, animal health or the environment, and requires the Commission to take into account any relevant provisions of Union law and other legitimate factors relevant to the matter under consideration when drafting its decision; whereas these legitimate factors should include the Union's obligations under the United Nations' (UN's) Sustainable Development Goals ('SDGs'), the Paris Climate Agreement and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity ('UN CBD');
- U. whereas a recent report by the UN's Special Rapporteur on the right to Food found that, particularly in developing countries, hazardous pesticides have catastrophic impacts on health ⁽²²⁾; whereas SDG Target 3.9 aims by 2030 to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination ⁽²³⁾;
- V. whereas EFSA found that the estimated operator exposure to glufosinate, classified as toxic to reproduction, when used for weed control in GM maize exceeded the acceptable operator exposure level (AOEL) even when personal protective equipment was used ⁽²⁴⁾; whereas the risk of increased operator exposure is of particular concern in relation to herbicide-tolerant GM crops, given the higher volumes of herbicides used;
- W. whereas deforestation is a major cause of biodiversity decline; whereas emissions from land-use and land-use change, mostly due to deforestation, are the second biggest cause of climate change after burning fossil fuels ⁽²⁵⁾; whereas the Paris Climate Agreement and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted under the UN CBD and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets promote sustainable forest management, protection and restoration efforts ⁽²⁶⁾; whereas SDG 15 includes the target of halting deforestation by 2020 ⁽²⁷⁾; whereas forests play a multifunctional role that support the achievement of most SDGs ⁽²⁸⁾;
- X. whereas soya production is a key driver of deforestation in the Amazon, Cerrado and Gran Chaco forests in South America; whereas 97 % and 100 % of soya cultivated respectively in Brazil and Argentina is GM soya ⁽²⁹⁾;

⁽²¹⁾ The Commission 'may', and not 'shall', go ahead with authorisation if there is no qualified majority of Member States in favour at the Appeal Committee according to Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 (Article 6(3)).

⁽²²⁾ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/SRToxicsandhumanrights/Pages/Pesticidesrighttofood.aspx>

⁽²³⁾ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

⁽²⁴⁾ EFSA Conclusion regarding the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance glufosinate, EFSA Scientific Report (2005) 27, 1-81, p. 3, <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2005.27r>

⁽²⁵⁾ Communication of the Commission of 23 July 2019, 'Stepping up EU action to Protect and Restore the World's forests', COM(2019)0352, p. 1.

⁽²⁶⁾ Idem, p. 2.

⁽²⁷⁾ See target 15.2: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/>

⁽²⁸⁾ Communication of the Commission of 23 July 2019, 'Stepping up EU action to Protect and Restore the World's forests', COM(2019)0352, p. 2.

⁽²⁹⁾ International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, 'Global status of commercialized biotech/GM crops in 2017: Biotech Crop Adoption Surges as Economic Benefits Accumulate in 22 Years', ISAAA Brief No. 53 (2017), pp. 16 and 21, <http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/53/download/isaaa-brief-53-2017.pdf>

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Y. whereas the Union is the world's second largest importer of soya, the majority of which is imported for animal feed; whereas analysis by the Commission has found that soya has historically been the Union's number one contributor to global deforestation and related emissions, accounting for nearly half of the deforestation embodied in all Union imports ⁽³⁰⁾;

1. Considers that the draft Commission implementing decision exceeds the implementing powers provided for in Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003;

2. Considers that the draft Commission implementing decision is not consistent with Union law, in that it is not compatible with the aim of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, which is, in accordance with the general principles laid down in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³¹⁾, to provide the basis for ensuring a high level of protection of human life and health, animal health and welfare, and environmental and consumer interests, in relation to GM food and feed, while ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market;

3. Calls on the Commission to withdraw its draft implementing decision;

4. Calls on the Commission not to authorise the import for food or feed uses of any GM plant which has been made tolerant to a herbicide, in this case glufosinate, which is not authorised for use in the Union;

5. Calls on the Commission, in the upcoming REFIT of the MRL legislation as well as the Farm to Fork strategy, to commit to not permitting the presence of any residues of toxic pesticides, such as glufosinate, in imports of food and feed into the Union; reiterates its call to the Commission and Member States to ensure effective controls of agricultural products imported from third countries with a view to ensuring a high level of health protection and a level playing field for European food production ⁽³²⁾;

6. Calls on the Commission to fully integrate the risk assessment of complementary herbicide residues and their metabolites, including combinatorial effects, into the risk assessment of herbicide-tolerant GM plants, regardless of whether the GM plant concerned is to be cultivated in the Union or is for import into the Union for food and feed uses;

7. Calls on the Commission to withdraw proposals for GMO authorisations, whether for cultivation or for food and feed uses, if no opinion is delivered by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health;

8. Notes and welcomes that the mission letter of each Commissioner states that they 'will ensure the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals within their policy area. The College as a whole will be responsible for the overall implementation of the Goals.' ⁽³³⁾;

⁽³⁰⁾ Technical Report — 2013 — 063 of the Commission, 'The impact of EU consumption on deforestation: Comprehensive analysis of the impact of EU consumption on deforestation', study funded by the European Commission, DG ENV, and undertaken by VITO, IIASA, HIVA and IUCN NL, <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/pdf/1.%20Report%20analysis%20of%20impact.pdf>, pp. 23-24: Between 1990 and 2008, the Union imported crop and livestock products embodying 90 000 km² of deforestation. Crop products accounted for 74 000 km² (82 %) of this, with oil crops having the largest share (52 000 km²). Soybeans and soya cake accounted for 82 % of this (42 600 km²), equivalent to 47 % of the Union's total import of embodied deforestation.

⁽³¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1).

⁽³²⁾ European Parliament resolution of 16 January 2019 on the Union's authorisation procedure for pesticides (Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0023), paragraph 32.

⁽³³⁾ See, for example, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/sites/comm-cwt2019/files/commissioner_mission_letters/mission-letter-frans-timmermans-2019_en.pdf, p. 2.

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9. Welcomes that the European Green Deal, the flagship project of the Commission, has been put forward as an integral part of the Commission's strategy to implement the UN's 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
 10. Recalls that SDGs can only be achieved if supply chains become sustainable and synergies are created between policies ⁽³⁴⁾;
 11. Reiterates its alarm that the Union's high dependence on imports of animal feed in the form of soybeans causes deforestation in third countries ⁽³⁵⁾;
 12. Calls on the Commission not to authorise the import of GM soybeans, unless it can be shown that their cultivation did not contribute to deforestation;
 13. Urges the Commission to review all its current authorisations for GM soybeans in light of the Union's international obligations, including those under the Paris Climate Agreement, the UN CBD and the SDGs;
 14. Reiterates its call for the implementation of a European vegetable protein production and supply strategy ⁽³⁶⁾, which would enable the Union to become less dependent on GM soybean imports and to create shorter food chains and regional markets; insists that this be integrated into the upcoming Farm to Fork Strategy;
 15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, and to the governments and parliaments of the Member States.
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⁽³⁴⁾ European Parliament resolution of 11 September 2018 on transparent and accountable management of natural resources in developing countries: the case of forests (OJ C 433, 23.12.2019, p. 50), para. 67.

⁽³⁵⁾ Idem

⁽³⁶⁾ European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2020 on the European Green Deal (Texts adopted, P9_TA(2020)0005), http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0005_EN.html, para. 64.

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P9_TA(2020)0124

New MFF, own resources and Recovery plan

European Parliament resolution of 15 May 2020 on the new multiannual financial framework, own resources and the recovery plan (2020/2631(RSP))

(2021/C 323/03)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Articles 225, 310, 311, 312, 323 and 324 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
 - having regard to the Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950,
 - having regard to the Commission proposal of 2 May 2018 for a Council regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the years 2021 to 2027 (COM(2018)0322),
 - having regard to its interim report of 14 November 2018 on the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 — Parliament's position with a view to an agreement ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution of 10 October 2019 on the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework and own resources: time to meet citizens' expectations ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution of 17 April 2020 on EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the final report and recommendations of the High-Level Group on Own Resources,
 - having regard to the Commission's European Economic Forecast: Spring 2020,
 - having regard to its resolution of 15 January 2020 on the European Green Deal ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 14 January 2020 on the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan (COM(2020)0021),
 - having regard to its resolution of 18 December 2019 on fair taxation in a digitalised and globalised economy: BEPS 2.0 ⁽⁵⁾,
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 11 December 2019 on the European Green Deal (COM(2019)0640),
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has had tragic and disastrous consequences for people and their loved ones;
- B. whereas this crisis has placed severe constraints on the welfare and healthcare systems of Member States;
- C. whereas the COVID 19 crisis is affecting vulnerable groups in particular, resulting in increased inequalities, poverty, unemployment and social divergences, as well as undermining social and employment standards in Europe;
- D. whereas the EU and its Member States have committed to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda, the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Paris Agreement;
- E. whereas Member States' asymmetric economic responses could endanger the EU's convergence efforts and create distortions to the single market;

⁽¹⁾ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0449.

⁽²⁾ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0032.

⁽³⁾ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2020)0054.

⁽⁴⁾ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2020)0005.

⁽⁵⁾ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0102.

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- F. whereas many businesses have been forced to close or face that risk, and large parts of our economy are at a standstill;
- G. whereas the disruption is affecting the EU economy as a whole, and whereas an equal debt issuance capacity and access to funding must be ensured in order to deal with the crisis, including for Member States not in the euro area;
- H. whereas, according to the Commission's Spring 2020 economic forecast, the EU's GDP is expected to contract by 7,4 %;
- I. whereas the European Council has been unable to agree on a common roadmap for recovery after the crisis; whereas, however, it has given the Commission the task of coming up with a recovery package with an adjusted MFF at its core;
- J. whereas Parliament already expressed its concerns over the size of the next MFF as proposed by the Commission in May 2018, before the COVID-19 crisis, on the grounds that it would prevent the EU from delivering on its political commitments and responding to the important challenges ahead;
- K. whereas SMEs are the backbone of our economy and need less bureaucracy, regulations that are fit for purpose, better networks of entrepreneurs and scientists, and investment in cross-border infrastructure;
- L. whereas Article 312 of the TFEU states that Parliament must give its consent to the MFF;
- M. whereas the Commission is expected to urgently prepare an MFF contingency plan to protect EU beneficiaries and eliminate any risk of discontinuity, in case an agreement on the next MFF is not reached in time to enter into force on 1 January 2021, as formally requested by Parliament;
- N. whereas the MFF contingency plan is fully compatible with the Recovery Plan;
- O. whereas the EU commemorated the 70-year anniversary of the Schuman Declaration on 9 May 2020;
1. Stresses that European citizens must be at the heart of the recovery strategy; recalls that their interests are represented by the European Parliament; hence warns the Commission against any attempt to design a European recovery strategy that is outside the community method and resorts to intergovernmental means;
 2. Recalls that the MFF is the budgetary tool through which the EU fulfils its ambitions; warns the Commission against any attempt to design this European recovery strategy that would not be built on the MFF and its programmes; demands that Parliament be involved in the shaping, adoption and implementation of the recovery fund, and that it be at the centre of the decision-making process to ensure democratic accountability;
 3. Insists that the revamped MFF and Europe's recovery strategy should be based on the principles of economic and territorial cohesion, social dialogue and transformation towards a resilient, sustainable, socially just and competitive economy;
 4. Recalls that one of Parliament's main missions is to keep the executive in check; warns the Commission against the use of misleading headline figures when presenting its recovery plan; stresses that the Union's credibility is at stake;
 5. Recalls that Parliament must give its consent to the MFF; warns the Commission against presenting a revised MFF where the recovery plan is financed to the detriment of existing and upcoming programmes; warns the Commission against the temptation to build budgetary tools without Parliament's participation and thus escaping democratic oversight; recalls the possibility offered by Article 324 of the TFEU in that regard; stands ready to reject any proposals that would not meet these standards; recalls that Parliament will not give its consent to the MFF without an agreement on the reform of the EU's own resources system;

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A strong multiannual financial framework for the EU's recovery and beyond

6. Recalls Parliament's position on the need for an ambitious MFF that meets EU citizens' expectations and matches the political commitments and ambitions of the EU with the necessary financial means; demands that the Commission's revised proposal for the 2021-2027 MFF calculate the new Recovery and Transformation Fund on top of the next MFF; believes that the new MFF proposal should take account of both the need to effectively address the fallout of the crisis and of the additional instruments and initiatives linked to the political agenda of the new Commission;

7. Insists on an assessment before the end of the recovery strategy and for the MFF to be revised accordingly during its mid-term revision;

8. Notes that frontloading of resources can help mitigate the immediate effects of the crisis, especially in cohesion policy, but that it does not provide additional money and cannot be advertised as such; warns that excessive frontloading will result in a weakened budget that will prevent the EU from investing in its common future, leaving it more vulnerable to further crises;

9. Calls on EU leaders and the Commission to take bold decisions regarding the reform of the EU own resources system, including the introduction of a basket of new own resources; reaffirms its position, as set out in the MFF interim report, regarding the list of potential candidates for new own resources: a common consolidated corporate tax base, digital services taxation, a financial transaction tax, income from the emissions trading scheme, a plastics contribution and a carbon border adjustment mechanism; reiterates its position in favour of the abolition of all rebates and corrections, the simplification of the VAT-based own resource, and the use of fines and fees as extra revenue for the EU budget;

10. Warns Member States that if they do not want to accept the creation of new own resources, securing a viable MFF will inevitably entail accepting a further increase in their direct GNI contributions;

11. Calls for an immediate and permanent increase of the Own Resources ceiling in order to meet the needs of the MFF and the Recovery and Transformation Fund and factor in the anticipated GNI drop after the recession induced by the crisis;

12. Is determined to oppose any attempt to jeopardise the adequate funding of the next MFF in order to provide immediate financing for the recovery strategy; demands that the recovery plan must be embedded in an increased MFF that includes new own resources;

13. Insist that the Recovery and Transformation Fund must be financed on top of existing and upcoming EU policies and must not affect our long-term priorities and strategic objectives nor result in a smaller MFF;

A credible European Recovery and Transformation Fund

14. Calls on the Commission to present a massive recovery package in line with Parliament's resolution of 17 April 2020; calls for the Recovery and Transformation Fund to be financed through the issuance of long-dated recovery bonds guaranteed by the EU budget, maximising the headroom and subject to a repayment plan; underlines that the Fund will be a principal component of an overall package providing an investment impulse, including by drawing in private investment, of EUR 2 trillion in size and be of a duration commensurate to the expected deep and long-lasting impact of the current crisis;

15. Urges for the Package to be disbursed through loans and, mostly, through grants, direct payments for investment and equity, and for the Fund to be managed directly by the Commission; believes that money should go to programmes within the EU budget, enjoying full parliamentary oversight and participation, and being subject to appropriate auditing and reporting requirements;

16. Highlights, however, that the Fund should not put an additional burden on national treasuries and should be guided by the principles of sound finance; is ready to consider maintaining Member States' GNI contributions at current nominal levels in exchange for the establishment of new own resources that would not only pay the interest and principal repayments of the issuances but would also finance an ambitious MFF;

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17. Recalls the need to preserve the credibility of our Union and warns the Commission against the use of financial wizardry and dubious multipliers to advertise ambitious figures; warns that headline figures of investment to be mobilised do not constitute, and cannot be presented as, the genuine size of a Recovery and Transformation Fund;

18. Recalls the Treaty provisions that the EU Budget revenue and expenditure shall be in balance and that the institutions shall ensure that financial means are made available to allow the Union to fulfil its legal obligations in respect of third parties; calls in that respect for a budgetary treatment of the recovery bonds that is economically sound and that is in line with the normal accounting of every public authority, including Member States; proposes that, instead of putting the entirety of the outstanding amount in the yearly budget, only the payments due in each year must be covered within the headroom under the Own Resources ceiling, while maintaining full transparency over outstanding repayments of interest and principal and notwithstanding the necessity of a repayment plan;

19. Stresses that timing is of the essence and that the Recovery and Transformation Fund must be linked to the current and upcoming MFF and be aligned with its structure and objectives; urges the Recovery and Transformation Fund to become operational as soon as possible this year;

20. Calls for this massive recovery package to transform our economies and strengthen their resilience through the pooling of strategic investments to support SMEs, and to increase job opportunities and skills to mitigate the impact of the crisis on workers, consumers and families; calls therefore for investments to be prioritised into the Green Deal, the digital agenda and achieving European sovereignty in strategic sectors, with a consistent industrial strategy and while shortening and diversifying supply chains and reorienting trade policies; calls for the creation of a new standalone European health programme;

21. Considers it crucial that these efforts have a strong social dimension and be aligned with the objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and the objective of gender equality, so as to ensure that the recovery strengthens territorial cohesion and competitiveness, and that it addresses social and economic inequalities and the needs of those hit hardest by the crisis, such as women, minorities and those on or below the poverty line;

22. Stresses that these funds will be directed to projects and beneficiaries that comply with our Treaty-based fundamental values, the Paris Agreement, the EU's climate neutrality and biodiversity objectives, and the fight against tax evasion, tax avoidance and money laundering; urges the Commission to ensure that State aid guidelines are compatible with such conditions;

23. Recalls the importance of international solidarity; calls on the Commission and the Member States to lead recovery and transformation efforts resulting from COVID-19 at international level while upholding our values of solidarity, the protection of human rights, democratic principles, the rule of law and multilateralism;

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24. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the European Council and the Commission.

Wednesday 13 May 2020

III

(Preparatory acts)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

P9_TA(2020)0055

Labelling of tyres: fuel efficiency and other essential parameters *II**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the Council position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the labelling of tyres with respect to fuel efficiency and other parameters, amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1222/2009 (14649/2/2019 — C9-0078/2020 — 2018/0148(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: second reading)

(2021/C 323/04)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Council position at first reading (14649/2/2019 — C9-0078/2020),
 - having regard to its position at first reading ⁽¹⁾ on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2018)0296),
 - having regard to Article 294(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the provisional agreement approved by the committee responsible under Rule 74(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation for second reading of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (A9-0094/2020),
1. Approves the Council position at first reading;
 2. Notes that the act is adopted in accordance with the Council position;
 3. Instructs its President to sign the act with the President of the Council, in accordance with Article 297(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
 4. Instructs its Secretary-General to sign the act, once it has been verified that all the procedures have been duly completed, and, in agreement with the Secretary-General of the Council, to arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;
 5. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

⁽¹⁾ Texts adopted of 26.3.2019, P8_TA(2019)0230.

Wednesday 13 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0056

Minimum requirements for water reuse *II**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the Council position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse (15301/2/2019 — C9-0107/2020 — 2018/0169(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: second reading)

(2021/C 323/05)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Council position at first reading (15301/2/2019 — C9-0107/2020),
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 12 December 2018 ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 6 December 2018 ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to its position at first reading ⁽³⁾ on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2018)0337),
 - having regard to Article 294(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the provisional agreement approved by the committee responsible under Rule 74(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation for second reading of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (A9-0098/2020),
1. Approves the Council position at first reading;
 2. Takes note of the Commission statement annexed to this resolution;
 3. Notes that the act is adopted in accordance with the Council position;
 4. Instructs its President to sign the act with the President of the Council, in accordance with Article 297(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
 5. Instructs its Secretary-General to sign the act, once it has been verified that all the procedures have been duly completed, and, in agreement with the Secretary-General of the Council, to arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;
 6. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 110, 22.3.2019, p. 94.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 86, 7.3.2019, p. 353.

⁽³⁾ Texts adopted of 12.2.2019, P8_TA(2019)0071.

Wednesday 13 May 2020

ANNEX TO THE LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

COMMISSION DECLARATION ON MICROPLASTICS

The Commission acknowledges that microplastics are substances of emerging concern in relation to water quality. In the light hereof, and considering that this is a general issue not limited to reclaimed water only, the Commission undertakes to pursue its efforts to further address this important issue.

Wednesday 13 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0057

EU-Montenegro status agreement on actions carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in Montenegro *****European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Status Agreement between the European Union and Montenegro on actions carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in Montenegro (06847/2019 — C9-0138/2019 — 2019/0043(NLE))****(Consent)**

(2021/C 323/06)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (06847/2019),
 - having regard to the draft Status Agreement between the European Union and Montenegro on actions carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in Montenegro (06846/2019),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 77(2), points (b) and (d), Article 79(2), point (c), and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C9-0138/2019),
 - having regard to Rule 105(1) and (4) and Rule 114(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A9-0018/2020),
1. Gives its consent to the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of Montenegro.
-

Wednesday 13 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0058

EU-Serbia status agreement on actions carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in Serbia ***

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Status Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Serbia on actions carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in the Republic of Serbia (15581/2018 — C9-0180/2019 — 2018/0409(NLE))

(Consent)

(2021/C 323/07)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (15581/2018),
 - having regard to the draft Status Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Serbia on actions carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in the Republic of Serbia (15579/2018),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 77(2), points (b) and (d), Article 79(2), point (c), and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C9-0180/2019),
 - having regard to Rule 105(1) and (4) and Rule 114(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A9-0019/2020),
1. Gives its consent to the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of Serbia.
-

Wednesday 13 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0059

Renewal of the EU-India Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation ***

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the draft Council decision on the renewal of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of India (06104/2020 — C9-0090/2020 — 2020/0015(NLE))

(Consent)

(2021/C 323/08)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (06104/2020),
 - having regard to Council Decision 2002/648/EC of 25 June 2002 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of India ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 186 and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C9-0090/2020),
 - having regard to Rule 105(1) and (4) and Rule 114(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (A9-0096/2020),
1. Gives its consent to the renewal of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of India.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 213, 9.8.2002, p. 29.

Wednesday 13 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0060

Renewal of the EU-Ukraine Agreement on cooperation in science and technology ***

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the draft Council decision on the renewal of the Agreement on cooperation in science and technology between the European Community and Ukraine (06101/2020 — C9-0091/2020 — 2020/0016(NLE))

(Consent)

(2021/C 323/09)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (06101/2020),
 - having regard to the Council Decision 2003/96/EC of 6 February 2003 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and Ukraine ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 186 and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C9-0091/2020),
 - having regard to Rule 105(1) and (4) and Rule 114(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (A9-0095/2020),
1. Gives its consent to the renewal of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of Ukraine.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 36, 12.2.2003, p. 31.

Wednesday 13 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0061

EU-Belarus Agreement on readmission of persons residing without authorisation ***

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Belarus on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation (12158/2019 — C9-0004/2020 — 2019/0181(NLE))

(Consent)

(2021/C 323/10)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (12158/2019),
 - having regard to the draft Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Belarus on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation (12160/2019),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 79(3) and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C9-0004/2020),
 - having regard to Rule 105(1) and (4) and Rule 114(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A9-0097/2020),
1. Gives its consent to the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of Belarus.
-

Wednesday 13 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0062

EU-Belarus Agreement on facilitation of issuance of visas ***

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Belarus on the facilitation of the issuance of visas (12362/2019– C9-0013/2020 — 2019/0182(NLE))

(Consent)

(2021/C 323/11)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (12362/2019),
 - having regard to the draft Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Belarus on the facilitation of the issuance of visas (12363/2019),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 77(2), point (a) and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C9-0013/2020),
 - having regard to Rule 105(1) and (4) and Rule 114(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Foreign Affairs,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A9-0090/2020),
1. Gives its consent to the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of Belarus.
-

Wednesday 13 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0063

Amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) — Protocol ***

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (13447/2019 — C9-0187/2019 — 2019/0225(NLE))

(Consent)

(2021/C 323/12)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (13447/2019),
 - having regard to the Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (13446/2019),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 43 and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a) (v), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C9-0187/2019),
 - having regard to Rule 105(1) and (4) and Rule 114(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Fisheries (A9-0089/2020),
1. Gives its consent to the conclusion of the Protocol;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Executive Secretariat of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).
-

Wednesday 13 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0064

EC-Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution. Extension of the Protocol ***

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania concerning the extension of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, expiring on 15 November 2019 (12928/2019 — C9-0175/2019 — 2019/0210(NLE))

(Consent)

(2021/C 323/13)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (12928/2019),
 - having regard to the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on an extension to the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, expiring on 15 November 2019 (12927/2019),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 43(2) and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C9-0175/2019),
 - having regard to Rule 105(1) and (4) and Rule 114(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Budgets,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Fisheries (A9-0088/2020),
1. Gives its consent to the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
-

Wednesday 13 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0066

International road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions: cabotage operations between Germany and Switzerland *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council empowering Germany to amend its existing bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland with a view to authorising cabotage operations in the course of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries (COM(2019)0221 — C9-0001/2019 — 2019/0107(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

(2021/C 323/14)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2019)0221),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Articles 2(1) and 91 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0001/2019),
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs on the proposed legal basis,
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 25 September 2019 ⁽¹⁾,
 - after consulting the Committee of the Regions,
 - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (A9-0006/2020),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

P9_TC1-COD(2019)0107

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 13 May 2020 with a view to the adoption of Decision (EU) 2020/... of the European Parliament and of the Council empowering Germany to amend its bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland with a view to authorising cabotage operations in the course of the provision of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries

(As an agreement was reached between Parliament and Council, Parliament's position corresponds to the final legislative act, Decision (EU) 2020/853.)

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 14, 15.1.2020, p. 118.

Wednesday 13 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0067

International road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions: cabotage operations between Italy and Switzerland *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council empowering Italy to negotiate and conclude an agreement with Switzerland authorising cabotage operations in the course of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries (COM(2019)0223 — C9-0002/2019 — 2019/0108(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

(2021/C 323/15)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2019)0223),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Articles 2(1) and 91 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0002/2019),
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs on the proposed legal basis,
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 25 September 2019 ⁽¹⁾,
 - after consulting the Committee of the Regions,
 - having regard to Rules 59 and 40 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (A9-0007/2020),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

P9_TC1-COD(2019)0108

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 13 May 2020 with a view to the adoption of Decision (EU) 2020/... of the European Parliament and of the Council empowering Italy to negotiate and conclude an agreement with Switzerland authorising cabotage operations in the course of the provision of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries

(As an agreement was reached between Parliament and Council, Parliament's position corresponds to the final legislative act, Decision (EU) 2020/854.)

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 14, 15.1.2020, p. 118.

Wednesday 13 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0068

Automated data exchange with regard to dactyloscopic data in the United Kingdom *

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 May 2020 on the draft Council implementing decision on the launch of automated data exchange with regard to dactyloscopic data in the United Kingdom (14247/2019 — C9-0198/2019 — 2019/0819(CNS))

(Consultation)

(2021/C 323/16)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Council draft (14247/2019),
 - having regard to Article 39(1) of the Treaty on European Union, as amended by the Treaty of Amsterdam, and Article 9 of Protocol No 36 on transitional provisions, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C9-0198/2019),
 - having regard to Council Decision 2008/615/JHA of 23 June 2008 on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 33 thereof,
 - having regard to Rule 82 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A9-0100/2020),
1. Rejects the Council draft;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 210, 6.8.2008, p. 1.

Thursday 14 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0122

Temporary measures concerning the general meetings of European companies (SEs) and of European Cooperative Societies (SCEs) ***

European Parliament legislative resolution of 14 May 2020 on the draft Council regulation on temporary measures concerning the general meetings of European companies (SEs) and of European Cooperative Societies (SCEs) (07648/2020 — C9-0133/2020 — 2020/0073(APP))

(Special legislative procedure — consent)

(2021/C 323/17)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council regulation (07648/2020),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 352 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C9-0133/2020),
 - having regard to Rules 105(1) and (4) and 163 of its Rules of Procedure,
1. Gives its consent to the draft Council regulation;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.
-

Thursday 14 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0123

Parliament's estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2021**European Parliament resolution of 14 May 2020 on Parliament's estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2021 (2019/2214(BUD))**

(2021/C 323/18)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 314 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 39 thereof,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management⁽³⁾,
- having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1023/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 amending the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 26 October 2017 on combatting sexual harassment and abuse in the EU⁽⁵⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 11 September 2018 on measures to prevent and combat mobbing and sexual harassment at the workplace, in public spaces, and in political life in the EU⁽⁶⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 15 January 2019 on gender mainstreaming in the European Parliament⁽⁷⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 28 March 2019 on Parliament's estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2020⁽⁸⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 23 October 2019 on the Council position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020⁽⁹⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 27 November 2019 on the joint text on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020 approved by the Conciliation Committee under the budgetary procedure⁽¹⁰⁾,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green Deal (COM(2019)0640) — paragraph 2.1.4 on 'Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way';
- having regard to the Secretary-General's report to the Bureau on drawing up Parliament's preliminary draft estimates for the financial year 2021,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.⁽²⁾ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.⁽³⁾ OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 287, 29.10.2013, p. 15.⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 346, 27.9.2018, p. 192.⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 433, 23.12.2019, p. 31.⁽⁷⁾ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0010.⁽⁸⁾ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0326.⁽⁹⁾ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0038.⁽¹⁰⁾ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0071.

Thursday 14 May 2020

- having regard to the preliminary draft estimates drawn up by the Bureau on 9 March 2020 pursuant to Rules 25(7) and 102(1) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the draft estimates drawn up by the Committee on Budgets pursuant to Rule 102(2) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to Rule 102 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A9-0102/2020),
- A. whereas this procedure is the first full budgetary procedure conducted in the new legislature and concerns the first year of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework;
- B. whereas among the priority objectives that have been proposed by the Secretary-General for the 2021 budget are: providing the necessary resources for the second full year after the election of the new Parliament even in view of the incoming Commission's ambitions and providing the resources for priority projects on engaging with citizens, multiannual building projects, green Parliament, security and IT development;
- C. whereas the Covid-19 outbreak is having humanitarian, social, financial and economic consequences; whereas the International Monetary Fund predicts a global contraction of 3 % in 2020 and a fall of 7,4 % of the GDP of the euro zone for the year 2020; whereas the measures taken by Parliament in 2020, such as 100 % air filtering, reinforced cleaning arrangements, adapting and putting in place of new computing and telecommunications solutions, will have consequences on Parliament's budget for 2021; whereas the 2021 budget will need to address the consequences of the Covid-19 outbreak; whereas Parliament's budget shall guarantee its ability to exercise its full legislative competences and allow for its proper functioning;
- D. whereas a budget of EUR 2 110 467 628 has been proposed by the Secretary-General for Parliament's preliminary draft estimates for 2021, representing an overall increase of 3,52 % on the 2020 budget; whereas the estimates adopted by Parliament represented an increase of 2,3 % (EUR 1 953 million) for 2018, an increase of 2,48 % (EUR 1 999 million) for 2019 and an increase of 2,68 % (EUR 2 050 million) for 2020;
- E. whereas almost two thirds of Parliament's budget is index-bound expenditure, which relates mainly to remunerations, pensions, medical expenses and allowances for serving and retired Members (20 %) and staff (34 %), as well as to buildings (12 %), and which is adjusted according to the Staff Regulations and Statute for Members of the European Parliament, to sector-specific indexation, or to the inflation rate;
- F. whereas Parliament already stressed in its resolution of 29 April 2015 on Parliament's estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2016 ⁽¹⁾ that Parliament's budget should be set on a realistic basis and should be in line with the principles of budgetary discipline and sound financial management;
- G. whereas the credibility of Parliament as one arm of the budgetary authority depends to an extent on its ability to manage its own spending and on its ability to promote democracy at Union level;
- H. whereas the voluntary pension fund was established in 1990 by the Bureau's Rules governing the additional (voluntary) pension scheme ⁽²⁾; whereas, at its meeting of 10 December 2018, the Bureau decided to modify the rules applicable to the pension fund by raising the retirement age from 63 to 65 and by introducing a 5 % levy on pension payments for future retirees to improve the viability of such payments; whereas it is estimated those changes to the rules reduced the actuarial deficit by EUR 13,3 million;
- I. whereas Members' legislative workload has been extended and strongly complemented by communication activities as citizens are more interested in European affairs than ever before and now expect to be in touch with their representatives through traditional and new social media platforms; whereas, as a result, the implementation rate of the parliamentary assistance allowance has increased in recent years;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 346, 21.9.2016, p. 188.

⁽²⁾ Texts adopted by the Bureau, PE 113.116/BUR./rev. XXVI/01-04-2009.

Thursday 14 May 2020

- J. whereas the Court of Auditors issued an opinion No 5/99 on 16 June 1999 entitled 'Pension Fund and Scheme for Members of the European Parliament'.

General framework

1. Emphasises that the largest part of Parliament's budget is fixed by statutory or contractual obligations and is subject to annual indexation and for 2021 those obligations are estimated at EUR 32 million;
2. Underlines that 2020 is the last year covered by the current multiannual financial framework; recalls that Parliament has largely remained within the 20 % to 22 % share under Heading 5 — Administration and that over the past years the rate of increase has been lower than the rate of increase laid down in Heading 5;

3. Endorses the agreement reached in the Conciliation between the Bureau and the Committee on Budgets on 28 April 2020 to set the increase over the 2020 budget at 2,54 %, corresponding to an overall level of estimates of EUR 2 090 467 628 for 2021, to decrease the level of expenditure of the preliminary draft estimates approved by the Bureau on 9 March 2020 by EUR 20 million and to reduce accordingly the appropriations proposed on the following budget lines:

1004 — Ordinary travel expenses; 1005 — Other travel expenses; 1200 — Remuneration and allowances; 2007 — Construction of buildings and fitting-out of premises; 2024 — Energy consumption; 300 — Expenses for staff missions and duty travel between the three places of work; 302 — Reception and representation expenses; 3042 — Meetings, congresses, conferences and delegations; 3242 — Expenditure on publication, information and participation in public events; 325 — Expenditure relating to liaison offices; 422 — Expenditure relating to parliamentary assistance; 10 1 — Contingency Reserve;

4. Notes the ongoing negotiations on the new multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 and the uncertainty regarding the funding level of the new Heading 7 — European Public Administration; stresses that Parliament has fulfilled the 5 % staff reduction objective and actually saw an overall cut of 6 %; highlights the fact that, since the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, Parliament has had to cope with an increased amount of tasks and specialised committees, which has resulted in a significant increase in legislative and coordination work; notes that synergies and re-prioritisation were achieved in the last legislative term; stresses that the functioning of Parliament depends on the fulfilment of its administrative tasks, which require adequate staffing levels; notes the fact that inter-institutional pensions covered in that heading are projected to significantly increase in the coming years;

5. Notes that the Secretary-General's preliminary draft estimates report presupposes an orderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union; understands from that report that most of the savings resulting from the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union have already been incorporated into the 2020 budget, which takes into account that Parliament will only have 705 Members as from 1 February 2020; is surprised, nevertheless, that the estimates for 2021 do not follow the logical savings trend on the budgetary lines directly impacted by the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union; questions the reasons behind the increase in costs relating to travel (line 1004) and to parliamentary assistance (line 4220) from 2018 to 2021 despite the reduction in the number of Members and accredited parliamentary assistants (APAs) following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union; requests a detailed analysis and justification of the costs and savings relating to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union before the Autumn reading;

6. Notes the explanation given in Parliament's Committee on Budgets that an increasing number of Members have decided to hire a fourth assistant to cope with the increasing level of parliamentary work; notes that, following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union, fewer Members have to handle the same level of legislative work; notes that the decision to provide a second office at Parliament's workplace in Strasbourg has led Members to take more assistants on missions; notes the explanation given in Parliament's Committee on Budgets that Members have undertaken more travel in recent years and will most likely continue to do so in 2021;

7. Underlines that Parliament's key functions are to co-legislate with Council, to decide on the Union budget, to represent citizens and to scrutinise the work of other Union institutions; also considers that newly-formed special committees or sub-committees should not lead to a decrease in staff in the other committees;

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8. Highlights Parliament's role in building European political awareness and promoting Union values;
9. Stresses that significant savings as compared to the proposal of the Bureau are required to bring that proposal closer to the expected general inflation rate for 2021 and that significant steps need to be implemented to ensure the most efficient and transparent use of public money; recommends that adequate attention should be paid to the cost of projects, not only by Parliament's Committee on Budgets members at the time of deciding the annual budget with the Bureau, but also, at the latest, by the time of deciding on the launch of projects;
10. Draws attention to the high amount of extraordinary committee meetings in Strasbourg and the growing number of staff missions between the three places of work; urges Parliament to reduce those extraordinary meetings to a minimum so that Members can concentrate on the plenary agenda, tax payers money is saved and the CO₂ footprint reduced by lowering the number of staff missions;
11. Highlights in this respect that requests voted by Parliament should be implemented without delay as a matter of principle;

Transparency and accuracy

12. Welcomes the new approach that has been taken in the preparation of the Secretary-General's report during the past years, such as the provision of additional information on medium- and long-term planning, investments, statutory obligations, operational expenditure and methodology, as requested by the budgetary authority;
13. Stresses that Parliament's 2021 budget must be realistic and accurate regarding the matching of needs and their costs, to avoid over-budgeting;
14. Emphasises that maximum care should be taken to ensure that the overall budgetary and staffing resources at Parliament's disposal are used in the most cost-efficient way possible to enable Parliament and Members to legislate successfully; reiterates that this implies careful planning and organisation of its working methods and, whenever possible, the pooling of functions and structures to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy, functional overlaps and duplication of effort;
15. Considers that Parliament should ensure high quality and socially responsible procurement so that contracts are awarded to companies that respect environmental and core labour standards; calls for more robust scrutiny of the working conditions of Parliament's external staff;

Engaging with citizens

16. Underlines that Parliament is the only Union institution that is subject to universal suffrage, whose decisions have a real impact on Union citizens; considers it of the utmost importance to provide citizens with a better understanding of Parliament's activities;
17. Welcomes the new mission statement for the European Parliament Liaison Offices (EPLOs) and the emphasis on a pro-active engagement in two-way communication with citizens and stakeholders at the local and regional level through more dynamic communication, also involving stakeholders and engaging more with citizens; notes the mainstreaming of Europa Experience centres in all Members States; considers it of outermost importance for Parliament to continuously engage with the European citizens through various communicative channels, in the spirit of a multifaceted political dialogue, not only during the electoral year but throughout the entire legislature;
18. Notes that Europa Experience centres shall inform the European public, particularly the youth, on the key powers of Parliament; notes that Europa Experience centres have already been inaugurated in Berlin, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Ljubljana, and Strasbourg and in 2020 in Tallinn and that, in 2021, it is planned to set up Europa Experience centres in the new Konrad Adenauer building in Luxembourg, in Rome, Paris, Warsaw, Stockholm and Prague; calls for a continuous evaluation of the results achieved; calls for a detailed breakdown of expenditure for the establishment of the new Europa Experience centres for 2021 before Parliament's reading of budget in Autumn 2020, as well as a detailed multi-annual budgetary planning, that factors in the running cost of each of the centres already opened;

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19. Requests more information on the arrangements for and cost of the creation of a series of mobile versions of the Parliamentarium, which would tour Member States to provide citizens with information on Parliament and the Union; stresses that this type of initiative must be decentralised and be carried out from the Europa Experience centres to make savings and to be rational; takes note that the project includes a mobile application which contains the best of existing Parliamentarium content;

20. Notes Parliament's intention and the Bureau's decision to expand Parliament's activity and diplomatic presence beyond the borders of the Union to Indonesia (Jakarta), Ethiopia (Addis Ababa) and the United States (New York) and questions the added value of such expansion; requests that a detailed and thorough analysis of the representation costs and costs inherent in such expansion, namely accommodation, secretariats, staff, residence, transport, be carried out and shared with Parliament's Committee on Budgets; calls for collaboration between Parliament and the European External Action Service regarding the nature of the work and the status of Parliament's employees during external missions; requests that an analysis be carried out on the added value of the current representation of Parliament in Washington;

21. Welcomes the fact that Parliament invests considerable efforts in the services it offers to visitors, especially young people who will remain a key target group; calls on the responsible services to provide information about sustainable travel choices and evaluate the possibility of introducing a financial incentive to opt for such a mode of transport whenever circumstances allow; asks the Bureau to examine the feasibility of establishing a 'cluster for seniors' highlighting Union programmes and policies that benefit active ageing; requests more information on the new visitors strategy and the four-year information campaign before Parliament's reading of budget in Autumn 2020; calls for a thorough evaluation of the communication campaign undertaken before and during the 2019 European elections; is of the opinion that any new communication measures should be based on an objective and factual analysis of that evaluation;

22. Welcomes the proposal to transform the biennial European Youth Event (EYE) into a coherent process so that the period before and after the EYE are turned into a series of meaningful interactions between Parliament and young people; considers that, for reasons of equity and social justice, Parliament should reimburse the travel and accommodation expenses of young people participating in the event which takes place in Strasbourg; requests that the arrangements for reimbursement are clearly set out on Parliament's website; invites Parliament to develop similar meetings between Members and young people at local level through its EPLOs;

Multiannual Building projects

23. Reiterates its call for a transparent decision-making process in the field of buildings policy based on early information, having due regard to Article 266 of the Financial Regulation;

24. Recommends that the annual budget planning take into account the regular renovation of all buildings and that an amount corresponding to 3 % of the total surface area of all buildings be allocated for that purpose, as already reflected in the 'Building strategy beyond 2019' adopted by the Bureau on 16 April 2018 ⁽¹³⁾; considers such allocation to be part of a regular and anticipatory building policy which should also focus on deep-retrofitting and should ensure that Parliament strives for a maximum improvement in energy efficiency and hence savings in the energy consumption and cost of Parliament's facilities;

25. Takes note that after completion of the works on the east wing of the new Konrad Adenauer building in Luxembourg in 2020 and the gradual move of staff into the new building, the works on the west wing should get underway in 2021; asks for further details regarding the expenditure for the project management of the construction of the west wing and the security surveillance of the construction site; reiterates its wish for the Secretary-General to obtain details of the gradual staff move; calls furthermore for a review of the spaces needed by Parliament in light of the expected increase in teleworking;

26. Welcomes the reduction of EUR 11,5 million relating to rent, maintenance and energy costs in 2021 compared to 2020 resulting from the move into the new Konrad Adenauer building and the abandonment of Towers A and B in Luxembourg; requests an overview of all other currently rented buildings that will remain occupied in 2021 as well as a detailed projection of the growing energy costs;

⁽¹³⁾ In line with the minimum energy performance requirements as laid out in Article 5 of Directive 2012/27/EU (Energy Efficiency Directive).

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27. Takes note of the ongoing practice of the year-end 'mopping-up transfer' to contribute to current building projects; notes that such 'mopping-up transfer' takes place systematically on the same chapters, titles and, often, exactly on the same budgetary lines; takes note of the explanation given to Parliament's Committee on Budgets by Parliament's services that Parliament has saved almost EUR 100 million in interest due to that practice over the last years and has thus been able to keep its significant building projects financially under control; highlights that Parliament's budget implementation rate is at almost 99 %; considers that such a legal practice risks being perceived as a programmed over-budgeting in certain areas in order to generate funds for the financing of Parliament's building policy; calls for a reflection on the financing of key investments in the building policy, based on more transparency and detailed planning;

28. Asks the Bureau to make known its decision on the future of the Spaak building in Brussels as well as all the supporting documents available within the services; notes that the renovation of that building could also present an opportunity to optimise the use of existing spaces according to Parliament's current needs as described in the updated building strategy beyond 2019; takes note of the unavailability during renovation works of the Spaak building for a period of approximately five years; reiterates its request that Parliament's Committee on Budgets be provided with an estimate and a detailed breakdown of the costs once the Bureau has made the decision; reminds that the 2021 budget includes items for the preparation of the works in the Spaak building;

29. Calls upon the Secretary-General to consider an appropriate period to recover recyclable materials such as copper, cladding and others for re-use and repurposing through a specialised company;

30. Recalls that, in various resolutions, a vast majority of Parliament's Members expressed support for a single seat to ensure the efficient use of Union taxpayers' money and to assume its institutional responsibility to reduce its carbon footprint; emphasises that the geographical dispersion of Parliament's three seats amounts to 6 % of the institution's overall budget, while its annual environmental impact is estimated to be between 11 000 to 19 000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions; underlines the negative public perception caused by that dispersion; recalls the need to find solutions to optimise parliamentary institutional work, financial costs and the carbon footprint;

31. Welcomes the idea that Parliament is committed to undertaking the necessary adaptation and renovation of its buildings in order to create an environment accessible to all users in line with Union standards; stresses that works to improve the accessibility for persons with disabilities and those with reduced mobility already started in Strasbourg and that the projects will continue in 2021 in both Brussels and Strasbourg, but also in six EPLOs; asks that such renovations continue in all other buildings of Parliament and that Parliament commit to the functional accessibility requirements for the built environment laid down in Annex III of Directive (EU) 2019/882 ⁽¹⁴⁾, referring to relevant international and European standards to fulfil those requirements in procurement procedures so Members, staff and visitors with disabilities and those with reduced mobility can access the buildings and make use of its facilities on an equal basis with others in line with the obligations set by the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

Security, IT and infrastructure development

32. Supports the investment made by Parliament to maintain a modern and efficient workplace; considers that the building security and the cyber-security are essential for the safety and functioning of Parliament; welcomes the fact that with the entrance of the Weiss building, Parliament will have almost finished the work to secure all of its buildings; requests updated information on the overall costs of that project; reiterates that IT security shall remain a top priority as well as powerful and secure cloud services, fully respecting data protection; invites Parliament to study the possibility of using open source infrastructure;

33. Welcomes the Digital Workplace4MEP strategy which delivers solutions for mobility and efficiency; considers that the deployment of high-quality hybrid devices shall contribute to achieving the environmental management target of reducing paper consumption by 50 % by 2024; expects that in budgetary terms, that deployment will lead to significant cost savings due to the phasing out of other types of devices;

⁽¹⁴⁾ Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services (OJ L 151, 7.6.2019, p. 70).

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34. Notes that Directorate-General for Translation is aiming to develop a tool that is able to automatically transcribe and translate parliamentary multilingual debates in real time, so that all citizens have equal access to information in their language; highlights that the effectiveness and added value of such tools have to be ensured and proven in advance in all 24 official languages; asks that an analysis be carried out on the total cost of the whole project and the impact on human resources; asks for an estimation of the timeline when that technology would be available; considers that the means dedicated to multilingualism, namely translation and interpretation, should not be reduced, as long as there is no reduction in workload;

35. Calls for improvements in the current set up of tracking and tracing of IT-related issues between operating units of Parliament's services in order to increase efficiency and transparency; calls, in particular, for simplification of the reporting of Members' travel expenses to ensure efficient, speedy and user-friendly system and traceability of claims;

36. Calls for the further development of stable and secure teleworking facilities for all devices;

Green Parliament and sustainable mobility

37. Underlines that since 2016, Parliament is the first Union institution to become carbon neutral, because after making all possible efforts to reduce its CO₂ emissions, it offsets 100 % of its irreducible emissions;

38. Recalls that the carbon footprint scope of Parliament encompasses the following seven main categories: energy consumption; leak of refrigerant gases, freight, transport of persons, supply of equipment and services, direct waste, and fixed assets; welcomes the Bureau decision that new and more ambitious environmental targets were set for the current legislative term, that should be achieved by 2024 in key areas such as carbon footprint reduction, reduction of carbon emissions from transport of persons, reduction of gas, heating oil and district heating consumption, reduction of electricity consumption, reduction of paper consumption, reduction of non recycled waste, reduction of water consumption and reduction of food waste; calls for a detailed roadmap on achieving those targets to be presented to Parliament's Committee on Budgets; calls for an annual review of results and the option to increase the ambition of those standards by mid-term in 2022;

39. Welcomes the new parking policy developed in Parliament's car parks aimed at promoting the use of electric vehicles, namely bicycles, cargo-bikes, scooters and cars, through the installation of electric charging stations; calls for that policy to be extended to all other Parliament car parks; supports all future measures to encourage Members and staff to reduce the use of passenger cars and to prioritise the use of public transport and bicycles, including also financial incentives;

40. Encourages Members to use transport possibilities that respect the environment objectives envisioned by Parliament; asks the Bureau to revise the Implementing measures of the Statute for Members of the European Parliament so that Members are reimbursed for flexible economy airline tickets when traveling within the Union, with exceptions accepted for flights longer than four hours of duration or flights with a stopover; takes note that travels of many Members from their constituencies to the places of work of Parliament require long journeys and can only be undertaken by plane;

41. Calls for the protection of the environment and the saving of resources; is concerned, in this regard, by the fact that Members do not use their free Belgian railway travel pass; calls on the Bureau to find a solution for optimising the use of that pass and provide the financial details of the agreement with the SNCB/NMBS; recalls its request to make greater use of videoconferencing, including with external participants through the use of widespread software and other technologies;

42. Welcomes the notice of the Questors of 18 February 2020 to encourage Members and political group secretariats to apply the voluntary trunk-sharing policy with the aim of decreasing the number of lorries needed for Strasbourg missions thereby helping to reduce Parliament's carbon footprint; calls for an analysis of alternatives to the trunks in line with the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) target for a paperless Parliament as soon as possible;

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Members and accredited parliamentary assistants related issues

43. Reiterates its concern about the additional expenditure on interpretation of the oral explanations of votes during plenary sessions; stresses that the cost of translating and interpreting the oral explanation of votes is estimated at EUR 21 431 per voting day or EUR 900 102 per year; recalls that alternatives, such as a written explanation of votes as well as various public communication facilities, are available to Members wishing to explain their voting positions; in that context, calls for a reasonable use of Parliament resources and considers that in order to achieve significant savings, the oral explanation of votes could be abolished;

44. Recalls Article 27(1) and (2) of the Statute for Members of the European Parliament which states that 'the voluntary pension fund set up by Parliament shall be maintained after the entry into force of this Statute for Members or former Members who have already acquired rights or future entitlements in that fund' and that 'acquired rights and future entitlements shall be maintained in full'; further notes that at the end of 2018, the amount of net assets to be taken into account and the actuarial commitment amount to EUR 112,3 million and EUR 398,4 million, respectively, leading to an estimated actuarial deficit of EUR 286,1 million; points out that this raises concerns about the possible exhaustion of the Voluntary Pension Fund; calls upon the Secretary-General and the Bureau to fully respect the Statute for Members of the European Parliament and to establish with the pension fund a clear plan for Parliament assuming and taking over its obligations and responsibilities for its Members' voluntary pension scheme; supports the request from the Bureau to the Secretary-General to investigate ways to ensure a sustainable financing of the Voluntary Pension Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Statute for Members of the European Parliament while ensuring full transparency; considers that all possible avenues should be exhausted to find a fair solution to the problem, while keeping Parliament's liability to a minimum; appeals the Bureau and the members of the Voluntary Pension Fund to support measures aiming at limiting the deficit of the Voluntary Pension Fund;

45. Reiterates its appeal for transparency regarding the General Expenditure Allowance for Members, in line with the renewed calls from Parliament's plenary; urges the Bureau to immediately resume discussions about the General Expenditure Allowance and to come up with an agreement as soon as possible; believes that such agreement should include common rules for greater transparency and financial accountability; stresses that any new measures increasing transparency should not create unnecessary bureaucracy for Members and their offices to extent possible;

46. Recalls its call for the Bureau to work on a technical solution to allow Members to exercise their right to vote while benefiting from maternity or paternity leave, during a long-term illness or in cases of force majeure; asks the Bureau to clarify the legal, financial, and technical limits such a solution would entail;

47. Welcomes the measures taken by Parliament regarding the Covid-19 outbreak, including new temporary working methods and allowing the use of Parliament's facilities in the battle against the coronavirus; asks the Bureau to propose further measures to address consequences of the Covid-19 outbreak; asks the Secretary-General to evaluate the financial consequences of those measures for Parliament's budgets for 2020 and 2021 and present it to Parliament's Committee on Budgets before Parliament's reading of the budget in Autumn 2020; calls on the Secretary-General to elaborate detailed guidelines to better prepare for any future *force majeure* events in order to ensure a continued fulfilment of Parliament's legislative functions if orderly functioning cannot be upheld;

48. Recalls its request regarding the amount of the allowances paid to the APAs for the missions they carry out between the three places of work of Parliament with a view to ensuring that the Bureau align it at the level of allowance systems for civil servants and other agents; considers that any rise in the Members' envelope for parliamentary assistance in the course of the mandate should have that purpose as a primary justification;

49. Asks the Bureau to assess the possibility and financial impact of an extension of the status of APAs to local assistants; asks for clarification on the criteria taken into account to establish the table of remuneration for local assistants and requests a thorough analysis of those criteria to assess their up-to-date character; recommends that attention be paid to ensuring commensurate tasks and salaries of the assistants in the Member States;

50. Calls again on the Conference of Presidents to revise the Implementing provisions governing the work of delegations and missions outside the European Union; underlines that such a revision should consider the possibility for APAs, subject to certain conditions, to accompany Members on official Parliament Delegations and Missions;

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51. Calls on the Bureau to scrutinise the current system of budget allocation to the committees to assess its advantages and disadvantages and to increase the committees' flexibility and autonomy in the planning and allocation of funding for tasks and assignments;

52. Asks the Bureau to establish full flexibility of presence for Members during Green Weeks to facilitate their working arrangements;

Other issues

53. Welcomes the existing cooperation agreements between Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee, with a view to identifying other areas in which back-office functions could be shared; invites the Secretary-General to evaluate existing cooperation between Union institutions in order to identify further potential synergies and savings;

54. Deplores the recent price increases in Parliament's canteens, especially the self-service restaurant in the Altiero Spinelli building in Brussels; considers those increases have not been accompanied by food quality improvement; asks the Bureau to assess the possibility of engaging a new service provider for the Altiero Spinelli building's self-service restaurant and revising its subvention policy to make the meals more affordable;

55. Points to the requirement adopted in the last reform of the Rules of Procedure to adopt a gender action plan aiming to incorporate a gender perspective in all of Parliament's activities, at all levels and all stages; calls on Parliament's Bureau to urgently initiate its work in that area by opening a call for an external audit to undertake a mapping of the current situation and make recommendations in both the political and the administrative sides of Parliament's activities; stresses that the audit should cover all the areas and indicators developed in the European Institute for Gender Equality's 'Gender-sensitive parliaments toolkit' and identify the rules that facilitate or block gender equality in each aspect analysed with the aim of targeting them in Parliament's Gender Action Plan;

56. Recalls the recommendations of Parliament's resolutions of 26 October 2017, 11 September 2018 and 15 January 2019 on combating sexual harassment and abuse in the Union as well as measures to prevent and combat mobbing and sexual harassment; demands that the Secretary-General provide all information on the work and that has been done in that regard and the programme for the near future; asks the Secretary-General to provide an assessment of the new harassment procedures before presenting the 2022 estimates to the Bureau; is of the opinion that staff as well as Members should be encouraged to participate in training courses to minimise the occurrence of such events inside Parliament;

57. Notes that Parliament's new travel agency started operating on 1 January 2019; notes that Members experienced difficulties reaching the travel service's call centre during and outside working hours, calls for an improvement in availability; presses for a simple and user-friendly complaints mechanism, which allows for speedy resolution of any problems; deplores that tickets proposed by the agency are not always the most cost effective ones and that Members experience considerable delays in the reimbursement of their travel costs; calls on Directorate-General for Finance to launch a satisfaction survey on the services of the travel agency, and requests an evaluation of their work during the ongoing contract;

58. Calls upon the Secretary-General and the Bureau to instil a culture of performance-based budgeting across Parliament's administration, and a lean management approach in order to enhance efficiency and environmental sustainability, reduce paperwork and diminish bureaucracy in the institution's internal work; stresses that the experience of lean management is the continuous improvement of the work procedure thanks to simplification and to the experience of the administrative staff;

59. Emphasises that Parliament should be a safe place to work in, both physically and psychologically; is concerned by the effect on workers of the new contracts for cleaning in Parliament; urges the Secretary-General to verify that the highest standards of labour law are being upheld by external contractors, in particular as regards psychological pressure and working conditions;

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60. Adopts the estimates for the financial year 2021;

61. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the estimates to the Council and the Commission.

Friday 15 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0125

Macro-financial assistance to enlargement and neighbourhood partners in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 15 May 2020 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on providing Macro-Financial Assistance to enlargement and neighbourhood partners in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis (COM(2020)0163 — C9-0119/2020 — 2020/0065(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

(2021/C 323/19)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2020)0163),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 212(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0119/2020),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - after consulting the European Economic and Social Committee,
 - after consulting the Committee of the Regions,
 - having regard to the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 5 May 2020 to approve Parliament's position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Rules 59 and 163 of its Rules of Procedure,
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

P9_TC1-COD(2020)0065

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 15 May 2020 with a view to the adoption of Decision (EU) 2020/... of the European Parliament and of the Council on providing macro-financial assistance to enlargement and neighbourhood partners in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

(As an agreement was reached between Parliament and Council, Parliament's position corresponds to the final legislative act, Decision (EU) 2020/701.)

Friday 15 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0126

Temporary measures concerning the operation of air services *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 15 May 2020 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules for the operation of air services in the Community in view of the COVID-19 pandemic (COM(2020)0178 — C9-0124/2020 — 2020/0069(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

(2021/C 323/20)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2020)0178),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 100(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0124/2020),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - after consulting the European Economic and Social Committee,
 - after consulting the Committee of the Regions,
 - having regard to the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 8 May 2020 to approve Parliament's position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Rules 59 and 163 of its Rules of Procedure,
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

P9_TC1-COD(2020)0069

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 15 May 2020 with a view to the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2020/... of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 on common rules for the operation of air services in the Community in view of the COVID-19 pandemic

(As an agreement was reached between Parliament and Council, Parliament's position corresponds to the final legislative act, Regulation (EU) 2020/696.)

Friday 15 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0127

Temporary measures concerning the validity of certificates and licences (omnibus) *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 15 May 2020 on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific and temporary measures in view of COVID-19 outbreak and concerning the validity of certain certificates, licences and authorisations and the postponement of certain periodic checks and training in certain areas of transport legislation (COM(2020)0176 — C9-0126/2020 — 2020/0068(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

(2021/C 323/21)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2020)0176),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Articles 91 and 100(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0126/2020),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - after consulting the European Economic and Social Committee,
 - after consulting the Committee of the Regions,
 - having regard to the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 8 May 2020 to approve Parliament's position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Rules 59 and 163 of its Rules of Procedure,
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

P9_TC1-COD(2020)0068

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 15 May 2020 with a view to the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2020/... of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific and temporary measures in view of the COVID-19 outbreak concerning the renewal or extension of certain certificates, licences and authorisations and the postponement of certain periodic checks and periodic training in certain areas of transport legislation

(As an agreement was reached between Parliament and Council, Parliament's position corresponds to the final legislative act, Regulation (EU) 2020/698.)

Friday 15 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0128

Port infrastructure charges *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 15 May 2020 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2017/352, so as to enable managing bodies or competent authorities to provide flexibility in respect of the levying of port infrastructure charges in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak (COM(2020)0177 — C9-0123/2020 — 2020/0067(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

(2021/C 323/22)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2020)0177),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 100(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0123/2020),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - after consulting the European Economic and Social Committee,
 - after consulting the Committee of the Regions,
 - having regard to the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 8 May 2020 to approve Parliament's position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Rules 59 and 163 of its Rules of Procedure,
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

P9_TC1-COD(2020)0067

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 15 May 2020 with a view to the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2020/... of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2017/352, so as to allow the managing body of a port or the competent authority to provide flexibility in respect of the levying of port infrastructure charges in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak

(As an agreement was reached between Parliament and Council, Parliament's position corresponds to the final legislative act, Regulation (EU) 2020/697.)

Friday 15 May 2020

P9_TA(2020)0129

4th railway package: extension of the transposition periods *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 15 May 2020 on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive (EU) 2016/797 and Directive (EU) 2016/798, as regards the extension of their transposition period (COM(2020)0179 — C9-0125/2020 — 2020/0071(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

(2021/C 323/23)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2020)0179),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 91(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0125/2020),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - after consulting the European Economic and Social Committee,
 - after consulting the Committee of the Regions,
 - having regard to the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 8 May 2020 to approve Parliament's position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Rules 59 and 163 of its Rules of Procedure,
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

P9_TC1-COD(2020)0071

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 15 May 2020 with a view to the adoption of Directive (EU) 2020/... of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2016/798, as regards the extension of their transposition periods

(As an agreement was reached between Parliament and Council, Parliament's position corresponds to the final legislative act, Directive (EU) 2020/700.)

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