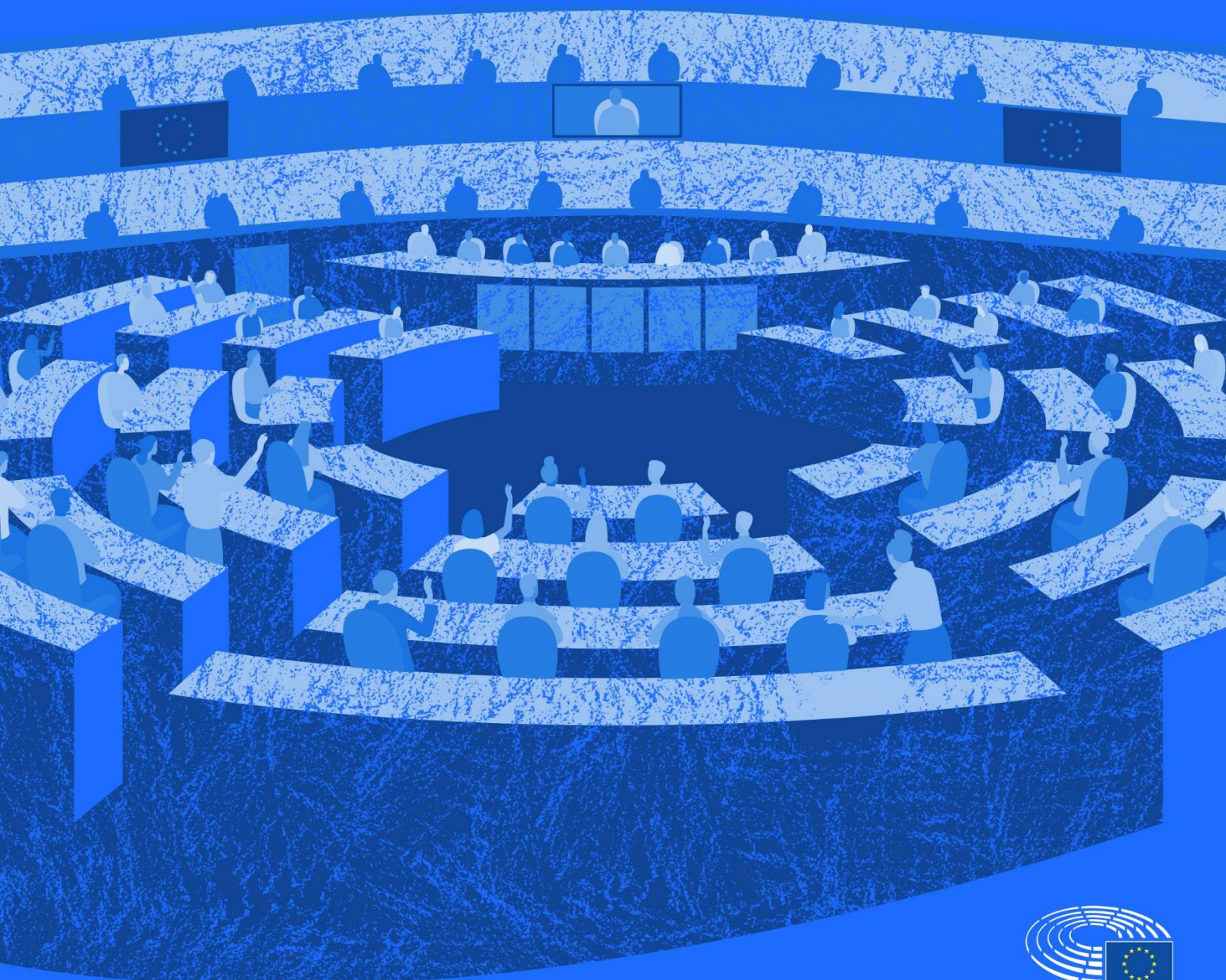


ACTIVITY REPORT

2019 – 2024

BUDG

Committee on Budgets



Activity Report 2019–2024

Committee on Budgets (BUDG)

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1. Foreword by the Chair



I am very pleased to present the activity report of the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) for the 9th legislative term. Its aim is to give an overview of our work during the last five years.

Reading through this activity report and the articles on the main topics we dealt with, the lists of dossiers we treated, the missions we went on, the hearings we organised and the external

expertise we commissioned, it all brings me back to the time when we held our first (constituent) [meeting](#). Back then, while I was honoured to be elected as chair and felt the responsibility of my (our) tasks, I certainly only had a limited idea of what would then be the course of action.

From the very beginning of the term, our committee was busy with crucial tasks, such as preparing the last budget of the 2014-2020 cycle, the negotiations on the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, the debate on Own resources, the budgetary implications of Brexit, to name a few.

Soon after, the CoViD-19 pandemic started, forcing our Members and the staff to work remotely during months and to remain active in order to [discuss](#) and [deliberate](#) under high pressure on several needed emergency measures - like the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) or a bit later another urgent [package](#) with the Draft amending budget 1 and 2, the amending of the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020, the mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument for 2020 and the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin 2020.

The CoViD-19 crisis gave rise to a new set of proposals to accelerate the financial recovery in Europe, and the committee was busy in the intense and strategic negotiations on new instruments like the NextGenerationEU and the Recovery and Resilience facility (RRF).

During the whole pandemic Parliament remained operational and ensured that the necessary urgent measures were voted. I am very proud that the BUDG committee was the first one to successfully pilot the remote vote on the required measures, despite the difficult sanitary circumstances.

In the second half of the term, the Russian aggression to Ukraine (and its financial consequences) was the main trigger for the further intensification of the committee business. For BUDG, it materialised in the need to work quickly towards higher energy independence and more affordable energy prices, hence the fast adoption of a revised RRF, the REPowerEU regulation.

The EU finances were also severely impacted due to the rise of inflation, the increased borrowing costs for NGEU and the need to help Ukraine. This led the

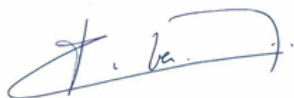
Commission in 2022 to adopt – following Parliament’s pressure – a substantial proposal to revise the MFF, in a package together with a new support programme for Ukraine – the Ukraine Facility and, the STEP programme to reinforce the Union strategic autonomy. After intense negotiations, we adopted these crucial measures in record time so that Ukraine could get the much-needed support at the beginning of 2024.

While dealing with these strategic files in very intense and challenging negotiations throughout the term, the BUDG committee needed to deal also with the ordinary daily business, voting on budgetary transfers, amending budgets, building projects, European Globalisation Fund mobilisations, Solidarity measures for the many natural catastrophes etc.

Taking decisions is a time-consuming effort within a democracy. The Committee on Budgets was no exception. Over this term, we dealt with 131 reports, 96 opinions, 297 transfers and 95 building projects, we held 170 committee meetings (94 BUDG alone and 76 together with other committees), 49 coordinators meetings, 25 budgetary trilogues, 13 conciliations, 44 legislative trilogues and many more shadow meetings, preparatory trilogues, interinstitutional technical meetings and, last but not least, around-a-coffee meetings.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Members who have worked professionally and constructively in the committee in these 5 years, and to the staff who has assisted us professionally in all the proceedings, efficiently preparing and following-up on the political reflections, discussions and deliberations. It has been an honour and a pleasure to be their Chair.

I hope you will enjoy reading this report.



Johan Van Overtveldt

2. Committee mandate

Under the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the BUDG Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. the multiannual financial framework of the Union's revenue and expenditure and the Union's system of own resources;
2. Parliament's budgetary prerogatives, namely the budget of the Union as well as the negotiation and implementation of interinstitutional agreements in this field;
3. Parliament's estimates according to the procedure defined in the Rules;
4. the budget of the decentralised bodies;
5. the financial activities of the European Investment Bank which are not part of European economic governance;
6. the budgetisation of the European Development Fund, without prejudice to the powers of the committee responsible for the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement;
7. financial implications and compatibility with the multiannual financial framework of all Union acts, without prejudice to the powers of the relevant committees;
8. keeping track of and assessing the implementation of the current budget notwithstanding Rule 98(1), transfers of appropriations, procedures relating to the establishment plans, administrative appropriations and opinions concerning buildings-related projects with significant financial implications;
9. the Financial Regulation, excluding matters relating to the implementation, management and control of the budget.



3. Main files of the Committee

3.1. General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020



Discussions on the budget of the European Union for the year 2020 took place in quite the context. Not only was it negotiated against the background of parallel talks on the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 and on the reform of the Own Resources system, it was also haunted by uncertainty regarding the UK's participation in the budget

after Brexit. Moreover, Parliament had to work on the budget 2020 over two terms, as the general guidelines for the preparation of the budget 2020 were adopted in Plenary in March 2019, while the actual negotiations happened after the European elections of May 2019, with newly elected members and Commission.

Work started under the leadership of Monika Hohlmeier (EPP, Germany) and Eider Gardiazabal Rubial (S&D, Spain), two returning and experienced members, with clear guidelines adopted ahead of the publication of the draft budget of the Commission in July 2019, quickly followed by the position of the Council, consisting in a series of horizontal cuts, as per the usual approach. A first trilogue took place later that month, based on recommendations agreed upon with the BUDG coordinators instead of the usual resolution of the Parliament on the Draft Budget, which could not be adopted in time due to the electoral year.

It was then time for Members to adopt their reading of the Council position, submitted in September 2019. The path to a compromise within the Committee was a complex and 1365 amendments-long one. Climate was a joint priority, but disagreements between groups over the level of expenditure blocked any agreement, with proposals ranging from EUR 2.4 billion to EUR 3.4 billion above the draft budget. The strategy of bilateral negotiations between groups were challenging, with many new members not yet familiar with the budget procedure.

The agreement came last minute, with a compromise asking for EUR 3 billion above the draft budget, including EUR 2 billion for climate. The Parliament delegation was now ready to face the Council during the Conciliation Committee. Members emphasized that beyond climate, lines such as the research and innovation programme Horizon 2020, the Connecting Europe Facility, COSME and Erasmus+ as well as an adequate level of payments and the full mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument and the Global Margin were clear priorities.

Negotiations with the Council were not easy but after many hours a deal was reached, setting an overall level of appropriations at EUR 168.6 billion in commitments and EUR 153.5 billion in payments, adding EUR 850 million in commitments over the draft budget to fund the priorities of the Parliament. A clear success of the EP strategy! Political groups welcomed the deal, notably attributed to the fact that the Parliament delegation remained united until the very end of the conciliation. However, this was not the end of the road for the rapporteurs, as no less than nine Draft Amending Budgets were submitted by the European Commission over the year 2020.

"The negotiations were challenging, but a great experience. I am happy that we managed to negotiate one of the highest increases of the annual budget in a long time. Every single Euro directly benefits citizens, which was my motivation." - **Monika Hohlmeier** - Rapporteur for Section III

"For 2020, we tried to get the most out of the EU budget by pushing to the maximum all the flexibility that the MFF allowed. Our priority was clear: supporting the fight against climate change and all the EU policies that have a real impact in citizens' daily lives, EU regions and their cities and territories." - **Eider Gardiazabal Rubial** - Rapporteur for Other Sections

See related EP press releases: [1-10-2019](#) - [23-10-2019](#) - [15-11-2019](#) - [18-11-2019](#) - [27-11-2019](#) - [24-6-2020](#) - [10-7-2020](#)

3.2. General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021



The negotiation on the budget of the Union for the year 2021 was a peculiar one, as it was the first of seven annual deals to be reached in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, which was still not agreed upon at the beginning of the procedure, despite work starting in 2018.

The legislative work started with the general guidelines of the Parliament, which were adopted in a Committee meeting on 28 May 2020. This time, the General Rapporteur Pierre Larrouturou (S&D, France) decided to put the annual budgetary procedure at the service of the MFF negotiation, and to adopt the baseline position of the interim report on the MFF. Political priorities included mitigating the effects of CoViD-19, and making the green and digital transitions succeed.

Due to a lack of agreement on the MFF, the Commission delayed the publication of the draft budget. Yet, on 27 July, it eventually published one as time was running short, based on its own MFF proposal, with commitment appropriations set at EUR 166.7 billion and payment appropriations at EUR 163.5 billion. The

Council adopted its position, on 29 September, cutting commitments to EUR 162.9 billion and increasing payments to EUR 164.8 billion.

Parliament followed by adopting its reading of the Council position in Plenary on 12 November. Beforehand, an agreement between MEPs and Member States had been reached to increase by EUR 16 billion the MFF package. The Parliament's reading consequently increased commitments to EUR 181.7 billion and focused on climate change, energy, digital, transport, space, SMEs, tourism, security, migration, fundamental rights and external action.

The position of the Parliament also restored the amounts cut by the Commission for the Parliament's own budget, as Co-Rapporteur Olivier Chastel (Renew, Belgium) defended that these cuts were not acceptable for the institution to conduct its work. Moreover, these were unacceptable in substance but also in spirit, as they consisted in a breach of the Gentlemen Agreement preventing Parliament and Council's budgets to be interfered with.

Those few weeks were all the more intense for Co-Rapporteur Pierre Larrourou, who went on a hunger strike for 18 days in an effort to pressure Member States into increasing amounts in the MFF package, to invest in health, climate and employment. They were not restful for the staff either, given that online working methods in the context of the pandemic were particularly stressful and time-consuming.

Afterwards, the Budgetary Conciliation convened on 12 November led to a common understanding on 7 December but technically failed, as there was still no adoption in the Council of the MFF. The Commission had to submit a new draft budget on 10 December, which reflected this understanding and was swiftly adopted, setting levels at EUR 164.3 billion for commitments and at EUR 166.1 billion for payments. This meant that Parliament managed to secure an increase of EUR 185 million in addition to what was planned in the initial draft budget. Signed by late President David Sassoli on 18 December 2020, the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2021 still kept Co-Rapporteurs busy for quite a while, as six draft amending budgets were submitted during the implementation year.

"In good conscience, we all knew that this budget was not enough. But it was the maximum we could have obtained, given the MFF negotiated unanimously with the Heads of State. Yet, a solution that could mobilise EUR 50 billion per year for health, climate and employment does exist, and it cannot be blocked by the unanimity rule: taxing financial transactions through enhanced cooperation. The European Commission had said that such a tax could be adopted by 2022... We are still eagerly waiting for an agreement on this tax so that we can finally have a bigger budget to meet the Union's priorities!" – **Pierre Larrourou** – Rapporteur for Section III

"The 2021 budget is the victory of a united Parliament, of a Europe that has listened to its citizens and acted accordingly. The difficult negotiations with the Council on the first budget of this new cycle have given the Union the means to start on 1st January 2022 in the best possible conditions to ensure recovery. Our objectives have been to uphold the European values of solidarity and responsibility" - **Olivier Chastel** - Rapporteur for Other Sections

See related EP press releases: [15-10-2020](#) - [12-11-2020](#) - [18-11-2021](#) - [04-12-2020](#) - [18-12-2020](#)

3.3. General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022



The budget of the European Union for the year 2022 was negotiated with many challenges in the background, and on top of them, the pandemic. This is why the European Parliament, under the leadership of Rapporteurs Karlo Ressler (EPP, Croatia) for Section III and Damian Boeselager (Greens/EFA, Germany) for other Sections, decided to fight for a recovery budget.

This was reflected in the guidelines adopted, in which Parliament notably called for investments in favour of employment, the green and digital transitions, a European Health Union, an inclusive recovery and a safe and prosperous EU. The draft budget later published by the European Commission set commitment appropriations at EUR 167.79 billion and payment appropriations at EUR 169.39 billion. The adoption at Coreper level of the Council's frugal reading quickly followed, cutting EUR 1.43 billion in commitments.

Once formally adopted by the Council on 6 September, Parliament adopted its own reading of the Council position on 21 October, restoring the cuts made and proposing increases in relation to the priorities identified in the guidelines. Drafting this position was no easy task for the Committee, given that many amendments (1450) had to be considered and that not all elements could be included in the text, due to the Commission's late announcements of measures related to humanitarian support in Afghanistan, support to Syrian refugees and the set up of the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA).

Both arms of the budgetary authority, Parliament and Council, then entered the conciliation period and intense negotiations to finally reach an agreement just before the end of the 21-day period, on 15 November.

The deal sets an overall level of appropriations at EUR 169 515,8 million in commitments and EUR 170 603,3 million in payments. This corresponds to an

overall net increase of EUR 479,1 million in commitments over the Commission's Draft Budget, as amended by the Amending Letter.

The deal adds EUR 508,5 million in commitment appropriations on top of DB+AL to fund priorities requested by the Parliament, including EUR 190 million to NDICI-Global Europe, EUR 60 million to Horizon Europe, EUR 47,5 million to LIFE, EUR 30 million to Erasmus+, EUR 31 million to EU4Health, EUR 30 million for the Single Market Programme, EUR 5,5 million for Creative Europe, EUR 5,5 million for Citizens, Rights & Values programmes.

As for Other Sections, the Parliament managed to secure additional posts for the secretariats of the committees (66) and for political groups (76) within its own budget. This part was very challenging, as the Council questioned the Gentlemen's Agreement between Parliament and Council by asking the Rapporteur to justify these increases. The Parliament also secured reinforcements for the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors and the European External Action Service.

The Rapporteurs still worked on the general budget 2022 throughout the implementation year, with five draft amending budgets and multiple requests for transfers.

"After intense negotiations, the final agreement on the 2022 Budget was made only a few minutes before the legal deadline. I am proud to have been able to secure an additional 480 million EUR, which allowed us to provide more support to SMEs and Erasmus+ programs, as well as to boost the digital and green transition." - **Karlo Ressler** - Rapporteur for Section III

"It was a fun and tough fight to first ensure Parliament's position is prudent when it comes to the budget of all EU institutions and then to get the maximum out of Council. I like how we with Karlo and the other Parliamentarians worked together a strong team." - **Damian Boeselager** - Rapporteur for Other Sections

See related EP press releases: [25-03-2021](#) - [08-06-2021](#) - [28-09-2021](#) - [11-10-2021](#) - [21-10-2021](#) - [12-11-2021](#) - [16-11-2021](#) - [24-11-2021](#) - [21-06-2022](#)

3.4. General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2023



The negotiations on the 2023 budget took place against the backdrop of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the after effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, including supply chain disruption, high-energy prices and rising inflation.

Work started with the guidelines of the Parliament, under the leadership of Nicolae Ștefănuță, Rapporteur (Renew

until 2023, Greens/EFA since 2023, Romania) for Section III and Niclas Herbst (EPP, Germany) for other Sections. They set out priorities such as growth, a Health Union, the green and digital transitions, the rule of law and Union values, opportunities for all and a stronger Union for its people and in the world.

The draft budget of the Commission set appropriation levels at EUR 185.6 billion in commitments and EUR 166.3 billion in payments. It indicated that it would address support for Ukraine, in a later amending letter because of uncertainties. Another issue, the likely increase in the amount for EURI repayment costs owing to higher than expected interest rates, was also left to the amending letter.

In its position, the Council proposed to cut commitment appropriations by EUR 1 641.4 million for the MFF headings and to reduce payment appropriations by EUR 530 million. As ever, the proposed cuts contradicted many of the purported priorities of the Presidency-in-Office.

Parliament's reading increased commitments by EUR 1.7 billion and focused on a limited set of priorities, the first of which was support for Ukraine and the response to Russia's war of aggression, including defence. Other priorities were climate and the environment, research and health.

The Commission issued its Amending letter before the conciliation, which addressed the response to Ukraine and set out the estimate for the amount required for EURI repayment costs. The Amending letter normally contains technical updates. On this occasion, it was highly political, which added complexity to already difficult negotiations. Furthermore, the Commission surprisingly made a large cut to the ITER programme, claiming that the lead DG had only just notified it of the need to do so, and by reducing significantly the amount for EURI on the basis of an unclear methodology. Still, Parliament was successful in securing reinforcements. The final deal set appropriation levels at EUR 186.6 billion in commitments and EUR 168.6 billion in payments, meaning that Parliament obtained EUR 1.04 billion for its priorities on top of the draft budget.

As for Other Sections, the Parliament managed to secure additional posts to strengthen its security towards cyber and hybrid threats (52) within its own budget. However, the Commission and the Council during the negotiations insisted to have a statement asking the Commission, in close cooperation with CERT-EU and the other institutions to draw up an overview of current cybersecurity staffing and needs across institutions. While the Commission did not agree to grant any posts to the Court of Justice or the European External Action Service for cybersecurity before it finalised its needs assessment, it was an important achievement in leading the way for a reinforcement of cybersecurity across institutions.

As for each year, co-Rapporteurs still worked on the budget throughout the implementation year with four draft amending budgets submitted and a series of requests for transfers.

“EU budget 2023 was a crisis budget that had to meet the urgent needs of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the direct and indirect consequences, refugees, high energy bills, inflation, in addition to the economic and social consequences left by the pandemic. We obtained a good result immediately, we also obtained the partial revision of the CFM which led to a consolidation package of 60 billion euros. In the future, the Parliament must be more assertive in its role as budgetary authority and fight for a reform from the roots for a budget at the level of the scope of the European construction and especially the level of the expectations of European citizens.” – **Nicolae Ștefănuță** – Rapporteur for Section III

“Effective budget planning is not just about numbers; it's about envisioning a future where every allocated euro reflects our values, addresses our challenges, and propels the EU towards prosperity and equity.” – **Niclas Herbst** – Rapporteur for Other Sections

See related EP press releases: [05-04-2022](#) - [07-06-2022](#) - [14-07-2022](#) - [03-10-2022](#) - [10-10-2022](#) - [19-10-2022](#) - [25-10-2022](#) - [15-11-2022](#) - [23-11-2022](#)

3.5. General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024



The 2024 procedure began against a backdrop of continued war in Ukraine, cost of living pressure and high inflation and interest rates. It also began with Parliament having made the case for a comprehensive revision of the MFF 2021–2027 and facing, without a revision, exceptionally limited margins and flexibility for 2024.

Work started with the guidelines, adopted in committee on 28 March, but rejected in plenary due to a dispute over the financing of border fences. The vote also brought about a change, with Siegfried Mureșan (EPP, Romania) taking over from Janusz Lewandowski (S&D, Poland) as rapporteur for Section III just ahead of the draft budget. Parliament had decided to draw up an ad hoc report warning of the impact of rising NextGenerationEU borrowing costs prior to the draft budget.

The draft budget confirmed warnings of spiralling NGEU repayment costs, with those costs at twice the programmed level and therefore eating significantly into the budget's flexibility. The DB set commitment appropriations at EUR 189.3 billion and payment appropriations at EUR 143.1 billion. The Council adopted its position, on 8 September, cutting commitments to EUR 187 billion and payments to EUR 141.2 billion, primarily on the assumption of lower NGEU costs. Unusually, it increased funding for humanitarian aid.

Two weeks after the draft budget, the Commission proposed to revise the MFF, but did not modify the draft budget. Parliament decided to align its reading with its interim report on the MFF revision. This meant, in practice, marking

amendments linked to the revision as distinct from 'standard' amendments. This allowed Parliament to be flexible for the conciliation, able to work either on the basis of a revised MFF or not. The conciliation began on 24 October. It was by then clear that, owing to delays in the Council, there would be no MFF revision in time for the 2024 budget. The Rapporteur therefore decided to focus on those areas of the budget that would not be reinforced through the revision, such as research, transport, Erasmus+, Rights and Values, young farmers and LIFE, with Council in any case pushing for increases in Heading 6.

The agreement in conciliation added EUR 112 million to the draft budget plus amending letter, with an additional EUR 667 million for Parliament priorities, mostly coming from reductions in NGEU repayment needs and in costs for ITER. While overall reinforcements may have been slightly lower than in previous years, the bulk of the money that was liberated was in special instruments, generally off limits for reinforcements as far as Council is concerned - and yet another sign of the strain on the budget.

As for Other Sections, the debate was around the use of special instruments for heading 7 and the distinction between "salary" versus "non-salary" lines used by the Commission that triggered reductions in the estimates of Parliament's (EUR 27.7 million) and other institutions' budgets. Several discussions were held at technical level and in conciliation. The three institutions agreed on a new methodology considering all expenditure linked to Members as "salary" lines.

In the last few months of the 9th term, the rapporteurs were still working on the 2024 budget, starting with the MFF-related draft amending budget published by the Commission on 29 February 2024 following the adoption of the revised MFF.

*"We have managed together, as a united Parliament, during the negotiations with the Council and the Commission, to deliver on our citizens' expectations and to make sure that the EU programmes are properly funded in the 2024 budget. Although the budgetary procedure was challenging - tight Draft Budget, with zero margins in 4 out of 7 headings, and difficult negotiations on the MFF revision in parallel - we were successful in ensuring a bigger and stable budget for 2024. We have secured in the conciliation EUR 807.7 top-ups for Parliament's priorities and agreed on an amending budget as soon as the MFF revision was concluded, with a view to reinforcing the 2024 budget and aligning it with the revised MFF" - **Siegfried Mureşan** - Rapporteur for Section III*

*"Despite numerous constraints, we managed to provide EU institutions with resources to ensure that they are equipped to fulfil their mandate and functions in the service of EU citizens. We also fought hard to obtain a reinforcement of European external action, a much needed element given geopolitical challenges." - **Nils Ušakovs** - Rapporteur for Other Sections*

See related EP press releases: [28-03-2023](#) - [07-06-2023](#) - [09-10-2023](#) - [18-10-2023](#) - [11-11-2023](#) - [22-11-2023](#)

3.6. General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2025



The 2025 budget procedure is the fifth one under the MFF 2021-2027, reflecting - and reiterating - the well-rehearsed institutional approaches: 'prudent budgeting' in the Council and an elaborate list of strategic priorities in the Parliament. Yet, the 2025 procedure is marked by some specificities, which promise to render the decision making exceptionally difficult, but also

particularly interesting:

- In an election year, the preferences of the outgoing members who determine the 'guidelines' do not necessarily match the choices of the incoming members who will have to introduce and vote on budgetary amendments in record time
- It will have to operationalise the MFF revision of February 2024: implement reinforcements or even entirely new budget chapters and basic acts for Ukraine, the Western Balkans and migration policies. But also a number of reductions in cherished programmes such as Horizon or Health
- Moreover, the NGEU repayment costs will begin to really bite: the newly approved EURI cascade mechanism requires the budget authority to identify multiple sources beyond the programmed amounts for the EURI line, before it can resort to the new 'backstop' instrument, the EURI reserve above the MFF ceilings

The 2025 procedure takes place during an election year. As per the usual calendar, only the steps of adopting the guidelines for the Section III budget and adopting the EP estimates are therefore completed before the elections. At the time of writing, the EP estimates were still being negotiated. Particular elements of this annual budgetary procedure include the increase on statutory obligations, impacted by inflation from previous exercises, the budgetary impact of the 15 additional Members expected after the election and the necessity to give sufficient resources for core parliamentary work and support activities against the background of negative margin for Heading 7.

The guidelines report sets out the Committee's priorities for the 2025 budget, which it considers should be people-centred and offer better opportunities to all EU citizens, while minimising negative impact on flagship programmes. The budget will also have to be instrumental in supporting the EU's established policies, cater for new and emerging strategic priorities and retain some capacity to react to unforeseen developments. The report also underlines that the negotiations will be marked by a general scarcity of margins and flexibility amid high international tensions. Finally, the 2025 budget will be the first one

under the revised 2021–2027 MFF, including the new mechanism for financing the EURI repayment costs.

See [here](#) the calendar for the budget 2025 procedure.

“The vote on the guidelines report demonstrated that our institution is united and that we need to allocate adequate financial resources to meet the priorities voiced by EU citizens. Our focus ranges from enhancing business development to creating high-quality jobs, investing in infrastructure as well as in rural regions, implementing a new European education plan, and introducing concrete measures to support European farmers. As Rapporteur, I successfully negotiated the inclusion of the social dimension as cross-cutting criterion for all funding opportunities and policy areas, marking a big step for the future of the EU, faithful to our commitment to ensuring no one is left behind.” – **Victor Negrescu** – Rapporteur for Section III

“Thanks to the fruitful collaboration of colleagues from all institutions and from within the Parliament, and in light of our shared concern over the sustained pressure on the Heading 7 of the budget, we are working towards a deal that will provide each institution with the adequate means to fulfil its missions. Making sure that the integrity of the rules regarding other sections of the annual budget is respected remains a priority.” – **Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou** – Rapporteur for Other Sections

See related EP press releases: [13-03-2024](#)

3.7. Special instruments

Special instruments are over and above the expenditure ceilings of the long-term budget, both for commitment and payment appropriations. However, the amounts reserved for flexibility instruments can never go above the own resources ceiling. The scope, financial allocation and way of operating of the special instruments are laid out in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) Regulation and in the Inter-Institutional Agreement between the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council.

The Committee on Budgets dealt with the different types of special instruments during the last term. On the one hand, with the thematic special instruments which provide for flexibility and additional financial support for specific events or budget lines. These are the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund and the Brexit Adjustment Reserve. On the other hand, the Committee dealt with non-thematic special instrument which provide the possibility to address more generally unforeseen circumstances or new/emerging priorities throughout the duration of the Multiannual Financial Framework. To mention here are the Flexibility Instrument and the Single Margin Instrument.

3.7.1. European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers



During this legislature, the BUDG committee adopted reports on 27 different files for the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) for a total mobilisation of EUR 84.303.245 million. Rapporteurship was attributed according to a rotation system agreed by coordinators. EGF interventions followed applications from ten different Member States, with

Belgium and Spain at the forefront with five applications each.

The EGF's aim being to provide additional support to workers who are suffering from the consequences of major structural changes in world trade patterns or of the global financial and economic crisis, events in past years amplified the need for such an instrument. Notably the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine have reduced economic competitiveness and had a negative impact on economic growth in the EU.

The files in question addressed various economic sectors, from retail or tourism to industrial production and meat processing. Quite notable was a surge of applications regarding the aviation sector and related services as a direct result of the pandemic.

The EGF procedure is characterized by its very short timeframe: a mere six weeks are available from referral of the file to adoption of the report in Plenary, often leaving only a few days for establishing a draft report or for submitting amendments. However, the committee has developed a good spirit of swift cooperation on these files, always conscious of their real impact on the ultimate beneficiaries' lives.

"The EGF is a very special EU solidarity instrument, which supports workers facing restructuring and redundancy, as a result of economic transition. Investing in re-skilling and upskilling European workers, including the self-employed, means investing in our future and a fair and dynamic European economy. It was a pleasure to work as a Rapporteur on an EGF file concerning a company in the aviation sector, which is facing multiple challenges in the current economic context." - **Eero Heinäluoma** - one of the BUDG rapporteurs for the EGF

"The EGF is a symbol of European solidarity and an important tool to support decent and sustainable employment in the European Union. This is especially crucial in regards to the ecological and just transformation of the Union industry: Through its support for highly targeted active labour market measures the EGF helps to provide workers with the necessary qualifications in line with the European Green Deal." - **Monika Vana** - one of the BUDG rapporteurs for the EGF

See related EP press releases: [14-11-2019](#) - [20-10-2020](#) - [18-05-2021](#)

3.7.2. EU Solidarity Fund



The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) was set up to respond to major natural disasters and express European solidarity to disaster-stricken regions within Europe. The Fund was created as a reaction to the severe floods in Central Europe in the summer of 2002. Since then, it has been used for 109 natural disasters covering a range of different catastrophic events including

floods, forest fires, earthquakes, storms, and droughts.

In 2020, the scope of the EUSF was expanded towards health emergencies in view of addressing urgencies linked to the pandemic. The Fund has also been mobilised for 20 interventions on public health crises.

Resources for EUSF are allocated in the reserve line of the annual budget. Once resources are to be made available to a country eligible to EUSF, the European Commission determines the amount and proposes its mobilisation to the budgetary authority. The mobilisation is accompanied by a transfer of appropriations from the reserve line to the operational line of the EUSF.

At the beginning of the 9th term, coordinators decided to attribute these files via a rotation system for reason of expediency. The BUDG committee dealt with 23 interventions of the EUSF covering 14 Member States and 1 accession country (Türkiye) in response to natural disasters, and 20 interventions in response to the CoViD-19 crisis for a total mobilisation of EUR 3.377.356.749.

At the time of writing, the European Commission was assessing the requests from Italy, Slovenia and Greece following floods and forest fires in summer 2023.

Despite the valuable contribution the EUSF is offering to disaster-stricken countries there are also controversies around its operation. With the likelihood for natural disasters and extreme weather events increasing as well as the strength of extreme weathers rising, the need for an adequate level of resources to tackle such situations is underlined. Otherwise, the lack of funding can lead to cuts in eligible costs. This happened in 2022 when a considerable pro-rata reduction of the potential aid amount by almost EUR 1,2 billion was applied.

“The cold Sunday morning that marked the first day of lockdown in March 2020 will stay forever engraved in the memory of the people of Zagreb. We were woken up by one of the strongest earthquakes in Croatian history. In just ten seconds of complete powerlessness before nature’s wrath, the earthquake destroyed thousands of family homes and damaged the socio-cultural center of Croatia’s capital city. The shocking images of nurses and doctors evacuating terrified pregnant women, mothers, and newborns—my wife and daughter among them—will be hard to forget.

As rapporteur, I insisted on a quick procedure within Parliament so that all 684 million euros designated for the earthquake from March and 320 million euros designated for the earthquake from December become available for infrastructure reconstruction as

soon as possible. This clearly could not cover all the damage reparations, but it greatly contributed to the complex and long-term reconstruction, as well as the revitalization of the earthquake-affected areas." - **Karlo Ressler** - one of the BUDG rapporteurs for EUSF

"As a sign of European solidarity, the EUSF makes an important contribution to reconstruction efforts after natural or public health disasters. However, due to climate change extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts, will continue to intensify and multiply. Therefore, combating climate change, investing in preventive measures and creating resilient societies and Green competitive economies has to be a priority for the EU." - **Henrike Hahn** – one of the BUDG rapporteurs for EUSF

See related EP press releases: [03-09-2019](#) - [27-11-2019](#) - [18-06-2020](#) - [24-11-2020](#) - [18-05-2021](#) - [14-12-2021](#) - [14-12-2022](#) - [04-10-2023](#)

3.8. Building Policy



It may seem surprising to see building policy as one of the recurring items discussed in the Committee on Budgets. However, it makes a lot of sense when thinking about the cost of any construction project, rent, renovation plans, etc. This is why it is enshrined in the Financial Regulation that any building project with significant financial implications for the

budget must be submitted to the budgetary authority, therefore to the European Parliament, for approval.

Building policy is subject to three possible procedures. Each year, a working document is provided by institutions to inform Parliament on their building policy and possible futures plans. In case a specific project is launched, the institution in charge is required to follow two steps. Firstly, the early warning procedure, allowing an institution to inform Parliament of any building project likely to have significant financial implications for the budget. Secondly, the prior approval procedure, to obtain the consent of parliament before concluding any contracts.

Building policy is both a technical and sometimes heavily political topic to deal with and requires a continuous follow-up. Hence the Committee's decision to appoint Standing Rapporteurs to deal with them. During the 9th term, two Standing Rapporteurs fulfilled this role; Fabienne Keller (Renew, France) was in charge of building policy during the first half term and was followed by Olivier Chastel (Renew, Belgium) in the second half-term. In total, they dealt with [95](#) projects.

The institutions and bodies having the largest number of buildings in their portfolio are the European Parliament itself, the European Commission and the European External Action Service.

Debates can get delicate when it comes to buildings. Whether it is the location of a building which raises concerns, the major amounts associated to a project or other contextual elements, all files have their peculiarities. Yet, it is an essential duty of the Committee and a mission at the core of the role of the budgetary authority.

*"Having buildings adapted to the challenges of our time, whether in terms of environment, security or image in the various European capitals and outside Europe, while respecting available budgets, contributes to the smooth running of Parliament, the dissemination of its values and the respect for its staff. Building Policy enjoys a substantial budget of over EUR 500 million for all institutions. Building projects deserve to be treated with the utmost transparency and require an in-depth analysis in order to put EU taxpayers' money to the best use possible. During my term as Standing Rapporteur, I have appreciated the professionalism and efficiency of DG INLO, the OIB, the EEAS and of the agencies' representatives as well as of the BUDG secretariat throughout all the projects submitted to us." - **Olivier Chastel** - Standing Rapporteur for buildings from 2022-2024*

*"The addition of a new building in Strasbourg for the European Parliament, named in homage to Simone Veil, is a great victory for a Europe that is close to its citizens. It will provide better accommodation for Members, assistants and civil servants, and will be better adapted to the reality of parliamentary work during a plenary session." - **Fabienne Keller** - Standing Rapporteur for buildings from 2019-2021*

3.9. Decentralised Agencies



Over a period of 40 years, the 'decentralised' EU agencies have played an increasingly important role in the implementation of European policies. Yet, one may wonder why agencies, with the very different tasks they each perform, belong in the mandate of the Committee on Budgets. But given that in 2024, the 36 agencies stood for more than 12.000

staff and related expenditure, it becomes evident that they are a focal point of the budgetary procedure. For this reason, Niclas Herbst (EPP, Germany) was appointed as a standing rapporteur throughout the term for the agencies.

At the budgetary trilogues, the budgetary authority is informed of the financial consequences of any Commission proposal to establish a new agency or to extend the tasks of an existing one. Once there is a political agreement on the proposal, the financial consequences are endorsed in a subsequent trilogue.

Since 2021, almost 60 of these proposals have been examined or endorsed at a budgetary trilogue.

However, during the term, it became clear that such a frame was limited since it happened either too early before the discussion between the co-legislators had started or too late, meaning after the political agreement. This is why, the Committee started to request Rule 56+ association for any agency file so as to ensure that budgetary implications were properly taken into account and that due consideration was given to the financing and the governance of the agency in the run up to Parliament's mandate as well as during the legislative trilogues.

Among other successes, such involvement enabled Parliament to defeat an attempt from the Commission to undermine the autonomy of a newly created agency as well as the prerogative of the Parliament as one of the arms of the budgetary authority. Starting with the Anti-Money Laundering (AMLA) proposal, the Commission proposed entrusting Commission representatives in the Management Board with veto rights on budgetary matters. One of the consequences would be that the budgetary and staff requests from the agency in the budgetary procedure would always be aligned with the MFF envelope instead of reflecting the operational needs of the agency. This would prevent the budgetary authority from identifying space for reinforcements during the annual budgetary procedure in the absence of any discrepancies between the request of the agency and the Draft Budget. After long lasting discussion in the AMLA trilogue, the standing rapporteur for agencies obtained the removal of the veto right before the closure of the trilogue on December 12 at 1.12 am. This win has set an extremely useful precedent to fight veto rights on budgetary matters in all subsequent proposal of the Commission including the Child Sexual abuse Centre (CSAM), European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the Customs Authority, still under negotiation.

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs took the position of the Committee on Budgets seriously because it was focused on aspects where the Committee could add value through its cross-cutting role on agency files and expertise on the mechanics of the annual budgetary procedure.

"Just as the EU decentralized agencies harmonize expertise, our budget must harmonize resources for a united, resilient future" - **Niclas Herbst** - Standing Rapporteur for the Agencies

3.10. Fisheries Agreements



The European Union (EU) has signed several fisheries partnership agreements and protocols for their implementation. Sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPA) with non-EU countries are negotiated and concluded by the Commission on behalf of the EU. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides for in Article 43 (3)

that “the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, shall adopt measures on [...] the fixing and allocation of fishing opportunities”. The entry into force of the decision by the Council for approval of a SFPA requires the consent of Parliament.

The Parliament’s committee on Fisheries, PECH, is responsible for fisheries agreements in accordance with Annex VI of the Parliament’s Rules of Procedure. Given the budgetary implications of a SFPA, the committee on Budgets, BUDG, contributes with an opinion to the procedure in PECH.

The budgetary statement which accompanies a SFPA sets out the amount to be made available each year from the EU budget for support measures in the country concerned in exchange for fishing rights for EU vessels in the country’s exclusive economic zone. Those measures focus on resource conservation, environmental sustainability and the partner country’s own sustainable fisheries policy. At the same time, a clause on upholding human rights has been included in all protocols to fisheries agreements.

During the 9th term of Parliament, BUDG contributed to fisheries agreements with the following countries: Cook Islands, Gabon, Greenland, Kiribati, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles.

Currently, SFPA are in preparation (for renewal) with Cabo Verde, Cote d’Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau, and budgetary appropriations have already been reserved for their entry into force.

“I prioritise sustainability over increased fishing opportunities for EU vessels in third countries. Our aim must be to prevent overexploitation of resources, environmental degradation and human rights abuses. At least with the EU fleets, we can have some control over certain of these issues and that is why I consent to the ratification – or renewal – of a number of such agreements and protocols. All SFPAs must be science based, focus on resource preservation and support for local fishers, while directing EU funding towards enhancing monitoring and control measures in partner countries. We must also avoid loopholes, like the reflagging of EU vessels in third countries.” – Francisco Guerreiro – one of the BUDG rapporteurs

3.11. European Investment Bank annual report



The EIB as the EU public bank and as the only international financial institution entirely owned by Member States, is fully guided by EU policies and subject to EU legal standards. Its goal is to support social and economic recovery and to make targeted investments needed to achieve the Union's objectives; Parliament pays special attention in all different policies

and procedures to the important role of the European Investment Bank (EIB).

To scrutiny of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank is a task under the responsibility of the Committee on Budgets. the BUDG coordinators appointed at the beginning of the 9th term a standing rapporteur for the annual report on the European Investment Bank (EIB). David Cormand (Greens/EFA, France) maintained this role during the whole 5 years. The shadows of the other political groups also remained the same during the mandate: Angelika Winzig (EPP, Austria), Eero Heinäluoma (S&D, Finland), Charles Goerens (Renew, Luxembourg), Johan Van Overtveldt (ECR, Belgium), Dimitrios Papadimoulis (The Left, Greece) and Joachim Kuhs (ID, Germany). Overall, three reports and two opinions were discussed and adopted in BUDG.

In line with the decision of the Conference of Presidents in the 8th term, the committee on Budgets shares the EIB scrutiny role with the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, with each Committee being in the lead of an annual report every second year, with the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs associated.

The annual activities start as soon as the EIB operational plan is published which is usually at the end of January. The EIB plan includes orientations of performance and summarises the major priorities and activities of the Group. This scope is traditionally also matched by the BUDG or ECON reports, which cover all of the EIB's financial activities.

"In the wake of the 2019 European elections and the following the launch of the Green Deal, I became the Parliament's standing rapporteur on the activities of the EIB, to work on its transformation into the European Climate Bank. A great deal of progress has been made: the end of support to gas, a target of 50% of loans earmarked for climate, the alignment of the bank's activities with the Paris Agreement, etc.

I have proposed other areas for improvement, such as ending the financing of major road or air traffic infrastructures, better monitoring of funds passing through financial intermediaries, and taking into account the preservation of biodiversity or animal welfare, because the ecological transition is not just about climate change: it must take into account all of the planetary limits.

The EIB is the world's largest public investment bank. Its transformation into a climate bank requires a consistent and coherent strategy. It cannot be a kind of financial

"catch-all" that is called upon indiscriminately depending on the circumstances or whims of the moment.

This principle must continue to guide the EIB in the years ahead." – **David Cormand** – BUDG standing rapporteur

See related EP press releases: [28-02-2024](#)

3.12. Multiannual Financial Framework 2021–2027

From the agreement...



The adoption of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021–2027 was the result of intense work over about three years, starting with Parliament's early contributions to the process back in early 2018. The Commission put forward the proposals for the MFF in May 2018, following which Parliament swiftly adopted an interim report with detailed

amendments, including on figures.

At the start of this term, Members gave overwhelming backing to the interim report as Parliament's mandate. They also repeatedly asked the Commission to revise its initial proposals to factor in the new political commitments from Commission President von der Leyen (e.g. a tripling of the Erasmus+ budget made in her July 2019 statement to Parliament), and to address the fallout of the COVID-19 crisis.

Following the revised Commission proposals in May 2020, which included a proposal for the Recovery Instrument (NextGeneration EU), Member States finally reached a compromise on 21 July. After weeks of intense negotiation, a political agreement was reached on 10 November between Parliament's negotiating team and the Council Presidency. The overall agreement was unprecedented in terms of size since it covered both the 2021–2027 MFF and the Recovery Instrument, totalling EUR 1.8 trillion.

Parliament negotiators secured significant improvements:

- EUR 16 billion in reinforcements, including EUR 15 billion for nine MFF flagship programmes with strong EU-added value (Horizon Europe, EU4health, InvestEU, Erasmus+ etc.);
- Oversight of the budgetary authority over the use of Next Generation EU funds and new mechanisms under Article 122 TFEU, ensuring democratic accountability;
- Improved design and implementation of methodologies for tracking 30% climate spending target in the MFF and Next Generation EU, a new MFF

biodiversity spending target of 7.5% from 2024 and 10% in 2026 and 2027, and for measuring gender-related expenditure.

...to the revision

Then, in December 2022, Parliament called for an overhaul of the current MFF, arguing that, in particular following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the context in which the MFF had been agreed had changed beyond recognition. Parliament called on the Commission to bring forward its planned review and to revise the MFF with a focus on addressing the manifold consequences of the war against Ukraine, endowing the Union with sufficient capacity to respond to unforeseen circumstances and correcting structural shortcomings in the EU budget that posed a risk to long-term investment programmes – in particular the spiralling repayment costs of Next Generation EU, fuelled by interest rate hikes.

The Commission presented its proposals in June 2023, and Parliament worked swiftly to adopt its interim report in early October. The Member States only reached a unanimous agreement on 1 February 2024. A political agreement was then reached between Parliament and Council on 6 February, paving the way for medium-term structural support to Ukraine and a significant strengthening of the long-term budget for the remainder of the 2021-2027 MFF period.

"We welcome the agreement on a revised Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027, aiming to secure a robust budget until the end of 2027, enabling Union citizens to benefit from uninterrupted and effective implementation of EU policies over the long term. In response to unforeseen crises, notably Russian aggression against Ukraine, a EUR 50 billion support package was crucial for addressing Ukraine's immediate needs and aiding in its recovery. Moreover, structural improvements to the EU budget were essential to accommodate increased NGEU debt costs, migration challenges, and to enhance flexibility, ensuring swift responses to unexpected events."

- **Jan Olbrycht** - MFF co-rapporteur

"Back in 2020, we managed to secure an ambitious deal on the MFF, which included significant increases requested by the Parliament. We then managed to meaningfully revise the MFF to take into account new circumstances and react to new needs. This revision not only provides more aid to Ukrainians from the EU budget, but also reinforces our ability to respond to the demands of EU citizens. We have serious challenges ahead, and even if we would have liked an even more ambitious and comprehensive revision, the MFF revision agreement provides the Union with more capacity than before to respond. We have taken a first step in strengthening EU Strategic Autonomy, and we have more means to address migration – including through the new Migration Pact – as well as increased resources for Humanitarian Aid. The fight does not end there: we need to be vigilant and make sure that the Union's post-2027 MFF is large enough to promote investment and ensure sustainable prosperity for all. A new investment capacity is needed after NGEU. The Union's multiannual budget is key in ensuring the achievement of our political objectives and needs to be endowed with sufficient resources – including new and genuine own resources- to be able to make a real difference in people's lives." - **Margarida Marques**
- MFF co-rapporteur

See related EP press releases: [10-12-2019](#) - [07-02-2020](#) - [12-02-2020](#) - [19-02-2020](#) - [21-02-2020](#) - [02-04-2020](#) - [12-05-2020](#) - [13-05-2020](#) - [19-05-2020](#) - [27-05-2020](#) - [27-04-2020](#) - [30-06-2020](#) - [10-07-2020](#) - [15-07-2020](#) - [21-07-2020](#) - [23-07-2020](#) - [23-07-2020](#) - [27-08-2020](#) - [11-09-2020](#) - [18-09-2020](#) - [25-09-2020](#) - [28-09-2020](#) - [05-10-2020](#) - [08-10-2020](#) - [14-10-2020](#) - [21-10-2020](#) - [28-10-2020](#) - [10-11-2020](#) - [11-11-2020](#) - [11-11-2020](#) - [16-12-2020](#) - [16-12-2020](#) - [31-08-2022](#) - [15-12-2022](#) - [20-06-2023](#) - [03-10-2023](#) - [15-12-2023](#) - [01-02-2024](#) - [06-02-2024](#) - [27-02-2024](#)

3.13. Own resources and NextGenEU



The EU has a well-functioning own resources system. Its fiscal sufficiency and 'fair' distribution key are ensured by the Gross National Income-based own resource. Nevertheless, the present system has also been analysed to be overly reliant on national contributions, an insufficient level of genuine own resources and a weak link to EU policies and competences. In

recent years, the institutions have identified multiple options for improving the present system of financing the EU budget.

The European Parliament, and the Committee on Budgets during the 9th term in particular, have had a persistent interest in the reform of the own resources. Traditionally, the Parliament has called for additional genuine resources to replace the predominant GNI- and VAT- contributions (constituting up to 75-85% of budget income), as they are perceived by member states as costs for national budgets which must to be kept under strict control. Together with the notorious 'national pre-allocations' on the expenditure side, they also fuelled the 'juste-retour' rationale which, in the analysis of many any observer, has prevented the EU budget from focussing more on EU public goods and investments under direct management.

More recently, the Commission, following the recommendations of the high level 'Monti Group', proposed an ambitious diversification of the revenue side through the introduction of a basket of new own resources more closely linked to EU sectoral policies. The plastic levy or the ETS- and corporate tax-based own resources are cases in point. This new approach was to yield added-value in terms of policy steering, economic resilience and fiscal integration.

The EP has become an 'own resources player' in its role as co-legislator for the ETS directive and the CBAM regulation.

In 2019/2020, the own resources dossier gained unexpected relevance, prominence and visibility when it became the legal keystone of the NGEU architecture in the wake of the Corona crisis. The higher own resources ceiling, anchored in the own resources decision, underpins the EU's creditworthiness as

it embarked on the unprecedented initiative to tackle the looming mega recession with a counter-cyclical, de facto deficit spending offensive. The 'headroom' under the own resources ceiling served as a guarantee and backstop for the bazooka-sized EU bond issuance under the EU Recovery Plan. The ensuing interest- and debt repayment costs for the EU budget were to be covered by the proceeds of new own resources.

With such a radically novel starting point for the 2021–2027 financial programming period and the 2019–2024 legislative period, the BUDG Committee – and the own resources rapporteurs as part of the MFF Negotiating team – found themselves in a position of manifest responsibility.

The MFF negotiators managed to interlink the decision-making on the MFF with the NGEU borrowing scheme and the own resources decision. By strategically making the EP consent to the financial framework regulation contingent to certain concessions in the own resources area, the BUDG negotiators exerted significant influence and obtained some concessions from the Council that are normally beyond the reach of a consultation procedure under Article 311 or a Council Article 122 'solidarity' regulation.

First and foremost among these achievements is the roadmap for the introduction of new own resources in the IIA. It set the stage for a series of legislative proposals and non-legislative initiatives and the BUDG committee contributed prolifically to the decision-making procedures:

- It issued consultative opinions to react to the Commission legislative proposals and amending proposals.
- It replied to Commission questionnaires about the implementing and making available rules.
- It co-organised one Own resources regular dialogue per semester with all Council presidencies and thus made certain that the own resources did not disappear from the interinstitutional agenda.
- It held three NGEU meetings per year, scrutinising the EU borrowing and bond issuances including in times of high inflation and rising interest rates; it identified risks and proposed budgetary solutions.

The Own Initiative Report on own resources of May 2023 was the EP's most substantive and conceptually ambitious contribution to the own resources debate to date. Not only did it assess and appraise the numerous Commission proposals for reforming the revenue side. It also comprised some innovative ideas in the areas of tax-based own resources and explored option for statistics-based national contributions that could provide fiscal incentives for Member States to pursue reforms in areas of high political priority, such as environmental protection or gender equality.

The slow progress in the Council, when it comes to forging the necessary unanimity for reforming the own resources, and the reluctance of many Member States to follow-up concretely on the commitment of the roadmap has frustrated the advocates of new own resources in all institutions.

For this term, the friends of own resources will have to content themselves with partial progress and can take credit for keeping the own resources issue on the table. More than that: what used to be a topic for specialised lawyers and fiscal experts, has become the talk of the town. Own resources are increasingly evoked in multiple different contexts beyond the budget procedure:

- sectoral legislation such as ETS, CBAM, corporate taxation;
- NGEU repayments and covering the repayment costs;
- the European Semester and the reform of fiscal rules;
- the OECD debates on international taxation
- EU enlargement, and many others

While the impact and benefits of new own resources should not be overestimated, it is certainly a step forward that the revenue side of the EU budget has become an integral part of the debate about the future of Europe. The 2019–2024 BUDG Committee has done its share to get so far.

“New own resources are crucial to provide the EU budget with the means to repay our common debt and meet the major challenges of our times. During this mandate, we have initiated this revolution for our EU public finances, building solid and ambitious majorities in the European Parliament, and enriching the public debate with innovative proposals! Europe will move forward by reforming its finances!” - **Valerie Hayer** - co-rapporteur

See related EP press releases: [16-09-2020](#) - [10-03-2021](#) - [25-03-2021](#) - [08-06-2021](#) - [31-08-2021](#) - [22-12-2021](#) - [20-04-2022](#) - [26-10-2022](#) - [10-05-2023](#) - [10-05-2023](#) - [20-06-2023](#) - [09-11-2023](#)

3.14. Financial regulation



The Commission proposed a recast of the Financial Regulation to align the text with the MFF package, to maintain a single rulebook governing the expenditure of the Union, to take account of lessons learned from the pandemic and to better protect the EU's financial interests, through a stronger early detection and exclusion system (EDES) and a single integrated

IT system, in particular for data-mining and risk-scoring.

Parliament's position was the result of work carried out jointly by the BUDG and CONT Committees, led by Mr Ušakovs (S&D, Latvia) for BUDG and Ms Hohlmeier (EPP, Germany) for CONT.

Parliament strongly supported the Commission proposal and went further in many instances. Key priorities for Parliament included including Union values in the article on budgetary principles, tracking and mainstreaming of EU policies, particularly the social dimension, greater transparency, a full extension of EDES

in shared management and a beefed-up single IT system, with a view to improving the quality and interoperability of data on recipients of Union funding and on those ultimately benefitting, directly or indirectly, from Union funding.

Parliament also introduced a series of amendments to parts of the Financial Regulation not covered by the recast. The Council took a very strict line on these points and was only willing to consider them if the Commission recommended to take them on board.

Negotiations with the Council were difficult, largely because the Council took the opposite view to Parliament on most of the big issues. For example, it was wholly against extending EDES to shared management and was concerned that the single IT system would lead to considerable administrative burden for Member States. Moreover, negotiations were carried out quickly, with a view to closing them during the Spanish Presidency, so that the agreement could be adopted before the European Parliament elections.

In the end, Parliament was successful on several important items, in particular on Union values and the tracking and mainstreaming of EU policies. The final text also includes simplified procedures that take account of lessons learned during the pandemic. These will make life easier for beneficiaries.

Parliament also managed to ensure that EDES will be extended into shared management and RRF-style programmes, but only for programmes in the next MFF. The same will apply to provision of access to data on the recipients of funds and their beneficial owners and certain of the transparency measures. This was done to avoid changing the rules during programme implementation. The single IT system will be the subject of a readiness assessment, to be presented by the Commission by the end of 2027.

“Through the revised Financial Regulation, we send a clear message: whoever fails to comply with rule of law conditionality will face consequences. We do not give money to those who do not respect our values and fundamental rights. Also, it is as simple as that: Businesses will have to respect social rights of its workers. Grey economies and abuse of employees won't receive any EU financing in future.” **Nils Ušakovs** – BUDG Rapporteur

See related EP press releases: [24-11-2021](#)

3.15. InvestEU



InvestEU was designed as the investment plan for the Union for the period 2021-2027, bringing together a range of financial instruments that were being used to support investment in Europe in the previous multiannual financial framework. In particular, it built on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), often known as the “Juncker Plan”.

The legislative process began with BUDG and ECON in the lead, in the previous parliamentary term, with the original proposal made by the Commission in 2018 and Parliament’s position adopted in early 2019. Then Covid-19 struck, and the Commission issued a new proposal, which took over some of the ideas coming from Parliament’s reading, raising the budget – albeit most of the resources would come from NGEU – and introducing a new window for strategic investments, as part of its broader response to the pandemic. At the same time, the Commission also proposed a Solvency Support Instrument as a new window in an extended EFSI.

Parliament was a strong supporter of the original proposal and welcomed the revision, in particular the increased resources and the new window. Nonetheless, Parliament recognised the risk of having too great a part of the budget coming from NGEU – which needed to be committed and spent in accordance with the tight NGEU deadlines – and increased the amount coming from the MFF proper.

However, in its decision on the MFF, the European Council eliminated the Solvency Support Instrument and reduced the amount allocated to InvestEU, while at the same time ensuring a more balanced division between the amount coming from NGEU and the amount coming from the MFF.

Fortunately, InvestEU was one of Parliament’s priorities in the MFF negotiations. In large part thanks to the BUDG rapporteur, José Manuel Fernandes (EPP, Portugal), Parliament was successful in achieving an extra EUR 1 billion in 2018 prices for the programme, as part of the final MFF deal, through the so-called programme-specific adjustment laid down in Article 5 of the MFF Regulation.

Nonetheless, Parliament could not retain the window for strategic investments, which the European Council had opposed, while managing to maintain references to support for strategic investments. The final text also included the possibility of capital support provision for SMEs, which were particularly badly affected by the pandemic.

Since the adoption of the final text, Parliament has kept a close eye on its implementation. Mr Lamassoure, a former BUDG Chair, was appointed as Parliament’s observer on the Steering Board, the main governance body. BUDG

and ECON also hold an annual exchange of views with the Chair of the Steering Board.

"InvestEU brings together all the financial instruments of the EU budget and it is an important tool for economic growth, job creation, entrepreneurship and social, economic, and territorial cohesion to the European Union. InvestEU is flexible and open, which allows Member States to be programmers rather than mere users of funds. In the negotiations, we managed to get InvestEU to be used for the capitalization of SMEs: an urgency given the consequences of the pandemic. This is an opportunity to create, for example, a national instrument to support the solvency of companies and promote investments. InvestEU is an excellent opportunity for the Member States and cannot be lost" - **José Manuel Fernandes** - BUDG Rapporteur

See related EP press releases: [29-10-2020](#) - [08-12-2020](#) - [06-03-2023](#)

3.16. Public Sector Loan Facility



This is another legislative file in joint committee procedure together with the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. It is the third pillar of the Just Transition Mechanism, which is part of the European Green Deal to achieve EU climate neutrality by 2050. The Facility combines grants financed from the Union budget with loans granted on preferential terms by

financial partners such as the European Investment Bank (EIB). The intention is to create preferential lending conditions to support investments of public sector entities in the territories most negatively affected by the climate transition that do not generate sufficient revenue to be financially viable.

Although the joint committee adopted the report already on 16 October 2020 and on 21 October 2020 the plenary confirmed the mandate to enter negotiations with the Council, negotiations only started in 2021. It was mostly due to time constraints explained by other and more pressing files in negotiations for both Council and Parliament. Agreement with the Council was reached after six trilogues and was confirmed on 5 May 2021 by Coreper and on 24 June 2021 by the plenary.

Due to, among other reasons, delay in the approval of territorial just transition plans and overlap with other EU and national funding sources, a slow uptake of the Facility can be [observed](#), including the advisory support.

"The objective of the facility is creating preferential lending conditions for projects that do not generate sufficient revenue to be financially viable. It remains to be seen what the final absorption of this Facility will be. However, given the broad support in Council and the involvement of the EIB as main finance partner, there is confidence regarding its added-value and its success." - **Johan Van Overtveldt** - BUDG Rapporteur

See related EP press releases: [26-04-2021](#) - [24-06-2021](#)

3.17. Rule of law conditionality for the protection of the EU budget



In May 2018, the Commission presented its proposal for a Regulation on the protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States as part of its package on the MFF 2021-2027. Based on the proposal, the Commission could apply protective measures against a Member State if it attests 'generalised deficiencies as

regards the rule of law', including the suspension or reduction of EU funds or prohibition from entering into legal commitments. These deficiencies could be risks for judicial independence, the failure to prevent, correct and sanction arbitrary or unlawful decisions by public authorities, or limited availability or effectiveness of legal remedies. While Council could veto the measures with qualified majority, Parliament should not have a say.

Within BUDG and CONT, Members appointed Eider Gardiazabal Rubial (S&D, Spain) and Petri Sarvamaa (EPP, Finland) as co-rapporteurs. The EP moved fast and adopted its mandate in January 2019 but trilogues only started on 12 October 2020, since the Council guidelines from the July 2020 European Council (EUCO) were only adopted in September.

The partial political agreement reached on 5 November 2020 was initially blocked by Hungary, Poland and Slovenia. Eventually, a solution was found at the EUCO in December 2020: the conclusions mentioned the Member States' right to introduce an action for annulment before the Court of Justice (ECJ) and the Commission would not propose measures or finalise its guidelines on the application of the law before an ECJ ruling. Although the EP complained about this way of proceeding (EUCO is not a co-legislator), it finally adopted the pre-agreed text, which remained unchanged and the law entered into force on 1 January 2021.

Although the final act only gives the EP a scrutiny role, the EP succeeded in shortening the timeframe between the detection of deficiencies and the adoption of measures, in extending the application to systemic breaches of fundamental values and ensuring that measures target offenders rather than final beneficiaries, such as students, companies or NGOs.

The EP has taken its scrutiny role seriously from the start. Following repeated calls on the Commission to implement the law, the EP submitted an action against the Commission for failure to apply the Regulation to the ECJ in October 2021. Then, the actions of Hungary and Poland for annulment lodged in February 2021 were still pending but the ECJ ultimately dismissed them in February 2022.

In March 2022, the EP called on the Commission to immediately apply the Regulation. In April, the Commission transmitted a written notification to Hungary. Although the Commissioner appeared before BUDG/CONT, the information flow from the Commission to the EP was deemed insufficient by the EP.

On 22 December 2022, the Council adopted measures against Hungary, leading to the suspension of EUR 6.3 bn. in cohesion funds, which is EUR 1.2 bn. less than proposed by the Commission. Several BUDG/CONT meetings with the Commissioner have taken place since. In December 2023, the Commission reviewed the decision against Hungary but found that no sufficient progress was made to lift the measures.

"The adoption of this regulation is an historic turning point that secures a link between EU funds and respect for the principles of rule of law in the Member States by allowing the EU to reduce or suspend its payments to governments that disrespect EU values while protecting the final beneficiaries from being punished for the wrongdoings of their authorities. For us it was crucial that final beneficiaries won't be punished for wrongdoings of their governments and that they continue receiving funds that have been promised to them and that they rely on, even after the conditionality mechanism has been triggered. We can proudly say that we achieved a strong system that will guarantee their protection. European citizens expect us to guarantee the sound financial management of the EU budget and the mechanism does exactly that." - **Eider Gardiazabal Rubial** - BUDG Rapporteur

See related EP press releases: [05-10-2020](#) - [12-10-2020](#) - [27-10-2020](#) - [29-10-2020](#) - [05-11-2020](#) - [17-12-2020](#) - [11-03-2021](#) - [10-06-2021](#) - [08-07-2021](#) - [10-09-2021](#) - [09-12-2021](#) - [16-02-2022](#) - [16-02-2022](#) - [10-03-2022](#) - [19-09-2022](#) - [16-11-2022](#) - [17-11-2022](#) - [23-01-2024](#)

3.18. The Recovery and Resilience Facility



In the midst of probably the biggest crisis since World War II, as entire economic sectors were in stand-by, hospitals in constant emergency and people confined, the European Parliament asked in its [resolution](#) of 17 April 2020 for 'a massive recovery and reconstruction package for investment to support the European economy after the crisis' and on 15 [May](#) 2020 for

a 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'.

The Commission responded with the EU recovery package and at its heart, the RRF. A EUR 750 billion instrument, built up for reasons of expediency on the latest text discussed by the co-legislators on the [proposal](#) establishing a Reform

Support Programme. A much smaller programme to help Member States to implement their delayed country specific reforms.

Parliament welcomed the proposal and embraced with full dedication its responsibility to negotiate as thoroughly and as quickly as possible this incredibly complex file. In joint committee procedure between the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and under full CoViD-19 sanitary rules, the file can be seen as one of the most challenging experiences of this legislative term. First, to agree on a joint draft report between the three co-rapporteurs from three different political groups, then to find stable compromises in joint committee on the more than 2300 amendments. Trying to bridge major differences on the scope, the enabling conditions, funding mechanism, the requirements on Member States, the governance structure, Macroeconomic conditionality and other elements with the shadows, then to vote in Committee and immediately prepare for interinstitutional negotiations where on several issues the positions were quite distant. Following nine trilogues and numerous interinstitutional meetings, agreement was found by the co-legislators at the end of 2020 and the Regulation was adopted in February 2021.

The European Parliament during negotiations managed to:

- improve the scope and objectives in line with EU priorities;
- establish a Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard by way of a delegated act to display the progress of the implementation of RRP;
- add a methodology to track expenditure to meet a climate target of at least 37% of allocations, and a digital target of 20% of allocations, as well as reporting on social expenditure;
- agree on additional assessment criteria of RRP, including compliance with the 'Do-No-Significant-Harm' principle;
- ensure Parliament's improved and timely access to information;
- introduce a Recovery and Resilience Dialogue with the Commission every two months;
- have a wording on Macroeconomic conditionality that better ensures the spirit of the agreement in the Common Provisions Regulation;
- add the contribution of RRF to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in the objectives and considering social aspects in assessment at the same level as economic aspects;
- have Member States explain how RRP are expected to contribute to equal opportunities for all, the promotion of equality and tackling discrimination between women and men and the mainstreaming of these objectives;
- avoid, unless for duly justified cases, that RRP substitute recurring national budgetary expenditure and impose respect of the principle of additionality of the Union funding;
- ensure that the RRF is subject to a discharge, separately in the Annual Management and Performance Report;

- enforce Member States to provide comparable information on how funds are being used and allow their use to be properly checked.

Scrutiny activities of the European Parliament

As co-legislator, the European Parliament defined how RRF funds can be spent. By exercising their control function, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs have a key role in overseeing the RRF implementation, from the evaluation of the national plans to the assessment of payment requests by Member States. The European Parliament monitors the implementation of national plans and verifies that the RRF delivers results through regular exchanges (Recovery and Resilience Dialogues, Recovery and Resilience Facility Working Group) with oral and written questions to the European Commission, resolutions, commissioning or producing research papers. In addition, the European Parliament also holds the European Commission politically accountable for the implementation of the RRF through the discharge procedure.

A dedicated European Parliament RRF [website](#) protocols the scrutiny activities of the European Parliament since the adoption of the RRF. In particular, the Members of BUDG and ECON and the RRF working group Members have access to additional information pursuant to Article 25 (2) of the RRF Regulation, which are mostly not sensitive or confidential but which are prepared by the Commission services aiming at informing the Members of the European Parliament only. Information is also shared with the Parliament through the [Informal expert group](#) on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

RepowerEU

As a response to the Russian war on Ukraine and the resulting energy crisis and as [requested](#) by Parliament, the Commission proposed targeted amendments to the RRF Regulation with a view to adding in the national Recovery and Resilience Plans ("RRPs") dedicated chapters including new reforms and investments to deliver on the REPowerEU objectives. The file was negotiated in almost the same EP constellation in four trilogues and agreed in 1st Reading in plenary on 14 February 2023.

"The Recovery & Resilience Facility that we have approved is a double win both in the short term because it has mitigated the social impact of the COVID crisis and in the long term because it will allow EU to make a major step towards the green and the digital transition. It is the opportunity that Member States needed to take advantage of to progress in digitalization and climate change mitigation leaving no one behind. With this regulation we finally have achieved what was a long-standing demand from EP." - **Eider Gardiazabal Rubial** - BUDG Rapporteur

See related EP press releases: [15-05-2020](#) - [09-11-2020](#) - [12-11-2020](#) - [13-11-2020](#) - [18-12-2020](#) - [10-02-2021](#) - [10-05-2021](#) - [20-05-2021](#) - [10-06-2021](#) - [31-08-2021](#) - [06-10-2021](#) - [15-12-2021](#) - [08-03-2022](#) - [16-03-2022](#) - [03-05-2022](#) - [23-06-2022](#) - [20-07-2022](#) - [13-09-2022](#) - [10-11-2022](#) - [14-12-2022](#) - [07-02-2023](#) - [14-02-2023](#) - [17-04-2023](#) - [10-07-2023](#)

3.19. Technical Support Instrument



In May 2020, the European Commission proposed to establish the Technical Support Instrument (TSI), a stand-alone instrument to succeed the 2017–2020 Structural Reform Support Programme and to be implemented from 2021 to 2027. The proposal was submitted in the context of the pandemic and was an integral part of the Commission’s response to it. Its aim was to assist

efforts to implement necessary reforms for economic and social recovery, resilience and convergence in Member States by allowing for (sub)national authorities to make requests for technical support to the Commission.

To negotiate this file, the BUDG co-rapporteur for the text, Alexandra Geese (Greens/EFA, Germany), was accompanied by her ECON colleagues Dragoş Pîslaru (Renew, Romania) and Othmar Karas (EPP, Austria), under a joint committee procedure. While interinstitutional negotiations were as complex as for any file but overall productive, due to the parallel horizontal negotiations on the MFF, final negotiations on the TSI had to be resumed only after the former were concluded, which made it hard for co-rapporteurs to progress swiftly here.

The important elements obtained by Parliament during the negotiations over the course of October 2020 included:

- a duty for the Commission to organise additional dedicated calls in response to specific emerging Member State needs, including, as a matter of priority, for the recovery and resilience plans;
- a single online public repository with final studies or reports financed under the instrument, yet with the possibility for Member States concerned to request, where justified, not to disclose such documents without their prior agreement;
- a performance reporting system and an effective, efficient and timely data collection, disaggregated by gender where relevant and feasible;
- a definition of technical support that includes measures that help national authorities with national recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

On 19 January 2021, the Parliament adopted the compromise text at first reading. The final act was signed on 10 February.

Given that the TSI allows supported entities to manage EU funds indirectly, scrutinizing the implementation was a priority of the Parliament. This is also a role provided for in the regulation itself. This includes inviting the Commissioner

in charge for a yearly exchange of views to discuss the annual report and implementation of the programme, receiving cooperation and support plans from the Commission and participating in the expert group on public administration and governance as an observer.

"Working on the TSI was a great experience. We had the chance to introduce modern needs expressed by regional administrations. Many wanted to know how to tackle topics like gender budgeting – crucial for giving women the chance to participate in the labour market according to their wishes – or how to calculate CO2 budgets on a local level to contribute to the fight against climate change. Thanks to the flexibility of the instrument this could be successfully achieved, giving authorities on the ground a European added-value." – **Alexandra Geese** – BUDG Rapporteur

See related EP press releases: [15-12-2020](#)

3.20. Ukraine facility



In June 2023, the Commission proposed the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), which included the creation of the Ukraine Facility and the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP). The Ukraine Facility proposal aims to support Ukraine, its recovery and its path to EU accession, allocating up to EUR 50 billion from 2024 to 2027 in the context of the Russian war of aggression. Due to the intersections between the MFF and the

rest, the three files were considered a package to be processed simultaneously. On 13 July, the Ukraine Facility was referred to the AFET Committee and to the BUDG Committee under rule 58, Joint Committee procedure, while the Conference of Presidents (COP) entrusted BUDG with a coordination role on the package as a whole.

Due to the geopolitical situation, it was of the utmost importance that the file was co-decided at a record speed to ensure that Ukraine had enough resources to survive the invasion. The original calendar expected to adopt the Regulation by December 2023 to avoid funding gaps. The draft report was therefore drafted within days, at a record-breaking speed, and finally adopted, with a large majority, at the AFET/BUDG meeting on 05 October 2023.

Unfortunately, the Council failed to agree on a mandate, risking funding for Ukraine. Member States finally adopted a partial mandate on 10 January 2024, forecasting the final outcome of the MFF negotiations, which took place on 1 February 2024. The final MFF agreement included the EUR 50 billion for the Ukraine Facility.

Trilogues started on 15 January, and after four trilogues and a dozen technical meetings, a final agreement was reached late at night on 5 February. Negotiations were complex for several reasons. First, the timeline was highly compressed due to the political context. Moreover, the European Council (EUCO) established some aspects in their conclusions, namely on governance, which the European Parliament and the European Commission highly opposed. However, the Council did not agree to change any of the lines established by the EUCO. Still, the final agreement included critical improvements to the proposal, such as:

- Enhanced transparency and information flow for the European Parliament;
- Increased democratic oversight in Ukraine by empowering the Verkhovna Rada;
- Boosted transparency through systematic engagement with Ukraine's civil society and the disclosure of recipients of EU funds;
- Enabled the potential utilization of frozen Russian assets to fund grants under the Facility;
- Simplified the EU financial support structure for Ukraine;
- Support of systematic deoligarchization measures;
- Reinforced control, audit, and investigation rights for the European Court of Auditors, the European Public Prosecutor's Office, and Ukrainian entities;
- Enhanced the role of Ukraine's regions and municipalities, including earmarked funds;
- Allocated funds for environmental initiatives and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

"The EU stands with the people of Ukraine. We are first donor of non-military support to Ukraine. With this Facility, the EU proves its support by helping UA cover its financing needs so that the country may continue to deliver important public services (schools, hospitals, pensions and social security) to its citizens, mobilise investments in its private sector for economic recovery and reconstruction and continue working on the reforms required for future EU membership." - **Eider Gardiazabal Rubial** - BUDG Rapporteur

See related EP press releases: [17-10-2023](#) - [06-02-2024](#) - [27-02-2024](#)

3.21. Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform



In June 2023, the Commission proposed the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) as part of the mid-term revision of the MFF. It aimed to boost the manufacturing and development of critical and emerging strategic technologies and address shortages in labour and relevant skills in order to strengthen the sovereignty and security of the Union, to reduce

strategic dependencies and to accelerate the green and digital transition.

The proposal was tied with the MFF package but also with the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) and the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), negotiated in parallel. Hence, the EP applied the joint committee procedure with BUDG and ITRE in the lead and with four associated committees, while BUDG was assigned a coordinating role for the MFF package.

In a complicated context, the co-Rapporteurs José Manuel Fernandes (EPP, Portugal) and Christian Ehler (EPP, Germany) delivered a report in record time, on 17 October. Their mandate for trilogues sought to better align STEP with NZIA and CRMA, to increase fresh funding to EUR 13 billion and to use other funding sources. Moreover, transparency and accountability were strengthened.

Unfortunately, discussions in the Council were much slower and fell hostage to the deadlock on the MFF revision. After the European Council (EUCO) failed to agree at the summit of 15 December 2023, the Council adopted a partial mandate on the STEP on 10 January 2024. Consistent with the discussions on the MFF revision, the Council only reinforced the European Defence Fund (EUR 1.5 billion) and despite providing very little funding, aimed to widen the scope of the STEP.

Trilogues eventually started on 15 January 2024 on all files of the MFF package, with the declared aim of both co-legislators to make as much progress as possible until the informal EUCO of 1 February 2024. However, the Belgian Presidency initially allocated very little time for the STEP compared to the Ukraine Facility. Very little progress was made, so the EP insisted that it would only vote on the Ukraine Facility together with the STEP and the consent on the MFF revision. Hence, the Presidency finally agreed to devote more time to STEP. Still, a large number of issues remained to be solved at the final trilogue of 6 February 2024.

With a provisional agreement reached in the early morning on 7 February 2024, the Parliament managed to ensure that the STEP would be limited to the development and manufacturing of deep tech innovation and digital technologies, clean tech and resource efficient technologies and biotechnologies. The co-rapporteurs also made sure that the role of the

Commission in implementation was clarified, that cohesion policy funds were put to the best use possible while safeguarding cohesion priorities, that STEP projects could be considered in calls under the Innovation Fund and that reporting, evaluation and monitoring of the implementation are strengthened, also to allow the STEP to serve as a testbed for a future Sovereignty Fund. In line with the agreement on the MFF revision, only EUR 1.5 billion in fresh money was agreed upon.

"The EU urgently needs to strengthen its competitiveness and strategic autonomy. We need to invest in innovative technologies using existing programmes, financial instruments and funds. STEP is a key element for that. With STEP, we make sure that there are synergies between funding opportunities whilst also reducing bureaucracy to facilitate access to the different funds. The Sovereignty Seal that is awarded to "STEP projects" will give visibility to projects made in Europe and from innovative sectors that contribute to the EU's strategic autonomy. With the Seal, project promoters can take advantage of better financing opportunities. During the negotiations, one of our great victories was securing a 100% co-financing rate for cohesion policy funds. Now, we call on the national authorities to be selective and criterious when choosing those projects that will be essential for the autonomy of the EU" - **José Manuel Fernandes** - BUDG Rapporteur

See related EP press releases: [17-10-2023](#) - [07-02-2024](#) - [27-02-2024](#)

3.22. Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans



In November 2023, the Commission proposed a regulation establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans. Designed as a complement to pre-accession financial assistance, the proposal aimed at establishing a facility to match the Union's political objectives with financial leverage, in line with the Union's commitment towards the

Western Balkans in their paths to EU accession.

On 18 January, the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans was referred to the AFET Committee and to the BUDG Committee under rule 58, Joint Committee procedure. Following immense pressure from the Commission and Council to conclude before the end of the term, the Co-rapporteurs (Tonino Picula, AFET and Karlo Ressler, BUDG) agreed to speed up work on this file. The draft report was drafted under very tight deadlines and finally adopted, with a large majority, at the AFET/BUDG meeting on 11 March 2024 and the decision to enter in interinstitutional relations was confirmed on 14 March 2024 by the Plenary.

Trilogues started on 14 March 2024, and after 3 trilogues and a high number of technical meetings, a final agreement was reached on 4 April 2024. Negotiations

were complex for several reasons. First, the timeline was highly compressed due to the calendar, with the legislative term coming to an end. Second, governance was the key issue in the negotiations.

From the start of the negotiations, the EP insisted that the governance arrangements respect the letter and the spirit of the joint declaration on the Ukraine Facility, which clearly states that the Ukraine Facility is exceptional and should not set a precedent. However, Council requested the use of Council Implementing Decisions for the adoption and amendment of reform agendas and for all payments under the Facility, whereas Parliament had requested delegated acts. At the last trilogue on April 4, Parliament successfully managed to object to the use of the Council Implementing Decisions, arguing these would undermine Parliament's legislative and budgetary prerogatives. As part of the provisional agreement, it was agreed to fall back on Commission implementing decisions for both the adoption of reform agendas, with a reinforced comitology procedure, as well as for payments.

Further key improvements secured by Parliament include:

- alignment with CFSP policy, both as part of the objectives and national reform agendas, including restrictive measures (an important point for countries such as Serbia which do not align with EU sanctions on Russia, in which case the corresponding share of funding could be withheld);
- Better transparency on final recipients (new article 27), including, for the first time, a clear definition, comprising contractors and sub-contractors that receive more than 50 000 euro, to be published by each beneficiary country on a single web portal;
- a new scoreboard for the Facility to display progress in the implementation of the reform agendas;
- A dedicated dialogue with the Commission to ensure parliamentary scrutiny, as part of the existing IPA III High Level Dialogue;
- Strengthened complementarity with IPA III as the main instrument for pre-accession assistance, including through increased reporting and monitoring obligations for the Commission;
- More detailed provisions on the protection of the EU's financial interests, including stronger focus on combating fraud, anti-corruption and conflict of interests;
- A Joint Declaration with Council to review the budgetary nomenclature of the Facility with the aim of including one line per beneficiary country, so as to increase transparency, in the context of the 2025 budgetary procedure. The Commission opposed this declaration, issuing its own unilateral declaration in disagreement, which does not respect Parliament's powers as budgetary authority. According to the Financial Regulation, it is the Parliament's and the Council's prerogative to establish the budgetary nomenclature, whereas the Commission's role is to implement the budget.

The provisional agreement remains to be endorsed by the April II plenary.

“The Growth Plan for six Western Balkan countries worth EUR 6 billion can be a real game changer. It is a political encouragement towards the accession process, while speeding up real structural and institutional reforms, including alignment with EU's Common Foreign & Security and the visa policy. Following the historic opening of accession talks with Bosnia and Herzegovina, this is one more important instrument that will bring these countries closer to the EU” - **Karlo Ressler** - BUDG Rapporteur

4. Scrutiny, oversight and fact-finding activities of the Committee

As already clear from the articles of chapter 3, scrutiny and oversight is a core element of the Committee when deciding on the budget, when overlooking and deciding on its implementation (DABs and transfers), when assessing the (rather few) delegated acts BUDG had on RRF, Financial regulation and InvestEU, during our annual meeting with the agency network or when scrutinising the Commission, other institutions and Member States in their financial implementation of the programmes.

The regular exchanges and Q&A sessions with the Commission in full committee, in working groups or by written exchanges, the presentation of new aspects and discussion on BUDG-relevant topics by external experts in public hearings, the further analysis provided in briefing notes and studies, the fact finding missions - all these activities were undertaken during the 9th term to sharpen the understanding of Members and to fulfil the Parliament's scrutiny power vis-à-vis the Commission.

4.1. Confirmation hearings of Commissioners-Designate



Rules for the election of the Commission are laid down in the Rules of Procedure. Following the election of the President of the Commission, the President-elect allocates the portfolios to the Commissioners-designate. Based on the mission letters received, the Conference of Presidents (COP) decides, following a recommendation of the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC), on the organisation of hearings of the Commissioners-designate, as regards the calendar and the committees involved in the hearings.

Parliament exercises its scrutiny power by holding confirmation hearings with the proposed candidates in order to ascertain whether their skills and their qualifications match the posts proposed to them. Parliament needs to approve the proposed members of the Commission as a body. Each Commissioner-designate is invited before the committee responsible for her or his subject

matter. Following each hearing, the responsible committees meet in camera to prepare their evaluation of the candidate's expertise and performance. The evaluation of the outcome of hearings is carried out by the CCC and is subsequently sent to the COP. The COP finally declares the hearings closed and finalises the evaluation. The Parliament then casts its votes about the Commission as whole in plenary session.

In the case of portfolios within the remit of more than one committee, the hearing is to be organised in a joint committee format. This has been the case as in the past for the Commissioner-designate in charge of Budget and Administration, Johannes Hahn, where BUDG and CONT were associated. Given that the portfolio also covers Human Resources, the JURI committee was also associated for the [hearing](#).

The Committee on Budgets was on the other hand associated for the hearing of Executive Vice-President-designate Valdis Dombrovskis (An Economy that Works for People), the hearing of Commissioner-designate Paolo Gentiloni (Economy) and the hearing of Commissioner-designate Elisa Ferreira (Cohesion and Reforms).

The [hearings](#) of Commissioners-designate and evaluation meetings took place between 30 September and 8 October 2019 and, as three of the candidates were withdrawn, there were additional hearings on Thursday 14 November. Parliament gave therefore its consent to the appointment of the President, the Vice-President for external relations (High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy) and the other Members of the Commission, as a body, for the term of office running to 31 October 2024 only on 27 November.

4.2. Missions and ad hoc delegations

For the missions and ad hoc delegations, the Committee on Budgets had, the clear objective was to analyse and investigate how the EU Budget works on the ground or to understand the most pressing needs in terms of EU financial support in the visited places or to have in-depth exchanges with decision makers and stakeholders about selected priorities for our BUDG committee.

Be it that traditionally BUDG does not do missions in the 2nd half of the year when the work on the budgetary procedure peaks, be it the pre- election recess period or the Covid-related sanitary rules missions took place only in 2022 and 2023.

Here below all the missions of the 9th term, including links to the full mission reports.


Ad hoc delegation to Senegal	21-25 February 2022	MISSION REPORT
Mission to Turkey	23-25 May 2022	MISSION REPORT
Mission to Lisbon and Braga (Portugal)	18-20 July 2022	MISSION REPORT
Mission to Moldova	21-23 February 2023	MISSION REPORT
Ad hoc delegation to Washington D.C (USA)	15-19 May 2023	MISSION REPORT
Ad hoc delegation to Maputo and Beira (Mozambique)	23-28 July 2023	MISSION REPORT

4.3. Public hearings

Committees organise public hearings with experts, where this is considered essential to its work on a particular subject. Public hearings allow MEPs to hear from experts and hold discussions on the key issues.

For the same reasons as for missions (cf. 4.2), hearings took place only in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Here below all the hearings of the 9th term, including links to the agenda, related documents and hearing`s recording.

Title	Date
 <p>PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS Wednesday 17.03.2021 - 13:45-16:15 JÓZSEF ANTALL BUILDING – ROOM 602 CONTACT & REGISTRATION: budg_secretariat@europarl.europa.eu</p> <p>Linking EU budget revenue and policy objectives: <i>How can new own resources contribute to the green and digital priorities</i></p> <p>Chaired by: Johan Van Oortveldt Photos © Adobe Stock</p>	<p>Public hearing on "Financing the EU budget: new own resources and possible other revenue"</p> <p>17 March 2021</p> <p>Hearing documents Recording of the hearing</p>

	<p>Public Hearing on The Implementation and Financing of COVAX: Successes, Challenges and Lessons for the Future</p> <p>Hearing documents Recording of the hearing</p>	<p>17 May 2022</p>
	<p>Public hearing on "Social and Biodiversity tracking methodologies for the EU budget and EU policies"</p> <p>Hearing documents Recording of the hearing</p>	<p>21 June 2022</p>

 <p>PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS Tuesday 28.03.2023 – 14:30-17:00 JOZSEF ANTALL BUILDING – ROOM 4Q1 CONTACT AND REGISTRATION: budg-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu</p> <p>EU external action and crisis response: is the EU budget fit for purpose?</p>	<p>Public Hearing on 'EU external action and crisis response: is the EU budget fit for purpose?'</p> <p>Hearing documents Recording of the hearing</p>	<p>28 March 2023</p>
 <p>PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS Wednesday 26.04.2023 – 09:00-12:00 ALTERIO SPINELLI BUILDING – ROOM 3G3 CONTACT AND REGISTRATION: budg-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu</p> <p>Financial impact of the war in Ukraine: current and future challenges for the EU Budget</p>	<p>Public Hearing on 'Financial impact of the war in Ukraine: current and future challenges for the EU Budget'</p> <p>Hearing documents Recording of the hearing</p>	<p>26 April 2023</p>
 <p>PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS COMMITTEE ON BUDGETARY CONTROL Tuesday 27.06.2023 – 15:00-17:00 PAUL-HENRI SPAAK BUILDING – ROOM 5B1 CONTACT AND REGISTRATION: CJ13-SECRETARIAT@EUROPARL.EUROPA.EU</p> <p>PERSONNEL AND OTHER RESOURCES AT EU AGENCIES, BODIES AND JOINT UNDERTAKINGS</p>	<p>Public hearing on "Personnel and other resources at EU Agencies, Bodies and Joint Undertakings"</p> <p>Hearing documents Recording of the hearing</p>	<p>27 June 2023</p>

 <p>PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS Wednesday 28.06.2023 – 14:30-16:30 SPINELLI BUILDING – ROOM 3G3 CONTACT AND REGISTRATION: budg-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu</p> <p>2021-2027 EU financial assistance to Africa and Latin America</p> <p>Chaired by: Johan Van Overtveldt</p>	<p>Public hearing on "2021-2027 EU financial assistance to Africa and Latin America"</p> <p>Hearing documents Recording of the hearing</p>	<p>28 June 2023</p>
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4.4. Policy department, studies and workshops

For the collection and analysis of expertise and background information related to its ongoing or planned activities, the BUDG Committee can count on the support of Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs.

Briefings and studies can be requested via the Coordinators and can be produced either internally or through external experts. The Policy Department selects the appropriate format of the expertise to be provided on the basis of the substance of the request.

Cooperation with the Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs was excellent throughout the term. Most of the expertise provided was directly linked either to the preparation of reports by our Committee Members or to missions or/and ad-hoc delegations.

Title	Date
Studies and Briefings	2019-2024
Workshops	2019-2024

5. Annex

5.1. BUDG Committee Members

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/budg/home/members>

5.2. Bureau

Chair: Johan VAN OVERTVELDT (ECR, Belgium)

1st vice-chair: Janusz LEWANDOWSKI (EPP, Poland)

2nd vice-chair: Olivier CHASTEL (Renew, Belgium)

3rd vice-chair: Margarida MARQUES (S&D, Portugal)

4th vice-chair: Niclas HERBST (EPP, Germany)

5.3. Coordinators

José Manuel FERNANDES (EPP, Portugal – until April 2024)

Karlo RESSLER (EPP, Croatia – since April 2024)

Eider GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL (S&D, Spain)

Valérie HAYER (Renew, France – until February 2024)

Moritz KÖRNER (Renew, Germany – since February 2024)

Rasmus ANDRESEN (Greens/EFA, Germany)

Hélène LAPORTE (ID, France – until August 2022)

Joachim KUHS (ID, Germany – since October 2022)

Bogdan RZOŃCA (ECR, Poland)

Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS (The Left, Greece)

5.4. Members

The committee was composed of 41 **full Members** distributed by political groups as follows:

EPP: 11

S&D: 9

Renew: 6

Greens/EFA: 4

ECR: 3

ID: 2

The Left: 2

NI: 3

Rasmus ANDRESEN

Pietro BARTOLO

David CORMAND

Katalin CSEH

Andor DELI

Pascal DURAND

Eider GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL

Alexandra GEESE

Vlad GHEORGHE

Valentino GRANT

Andrzej HALICKI

Camilla LAURETI

Silvia MODIG

Siegfried MUREȘAN

Victor NEGRESCU

Lefteris NIKOLAOU-ALAVANOS

Andrey NOVAKOV

Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS

Karlo RESSLER

Rafał ROMANOWSKI

Bogdan RZOŃCA

Teófilo SANTOS

Eero HEINÄLUOMA
Monika HOHLMEIER
Hervé JUVIN
Fabienne KELLER
Moritz KÖRNER
Joachim KUHS
Pierre LARROUTOUROU

Eleni STAVROU
Nicolae ȘTEFĂNUȚĂ
Nils TORVALDS
Nils UŠAKOVS
Rainer WIELAND
Angelika WINZIG

Further, the committee was composed of 37 **substitute Members**:

Anna-Michelle ASIMAKOPOULOU
Tiziana BEGHIN
Robert BIEDROŃ
Damian BOESELAGER
Udo BULLMANN
Ana COLLADO JIMÉNEZ
Maria Angela DANZI
Ilan DE BASSO
Martina DLABAJOVÁ
Herbert DORFMANN
Jonás FERNÁNDEZ
Jens GEIER
Charles GOERENS
Elisabetta GUALMINI
Francisco GUERREIRO
András GYÜRK
Henrike HAHN
Mircea-Gheorghe HAVA
Valérie HAYER

Martin HOJSÍK
Jeroen LENAERS
Peter LIESE
Claudiu MANDA
Eric MINARDI
Jan OLBRYCHT
Younous OMARJEE
Mauri PEKKARINEN
Stanislav POLČÁK
Eva Maria POPTCHEVA
Alfred SANT
Petri SARVAMAA
Aušra SEIBUTYTĖ
Grzegorz TOBISZOWSKI
Monika VANA
Jörgen WARBORN
Marco ZANNI
Roberts ZĪLE

5.5. Former members of this term

Matteo ADINOLFI
Clotilde ARMAND
Gunnar BECK
Erik BERGKVIST
Anna BONFRISCO
Jonathan BULLOCK
Lefteris CHRISTOFOROU
Rosa D'AMATO
Paolo DE CASTRO
Karima DELLI
Tamás DEUTSCH
Dinesh DHAMIJA
Derk Jan EPPINK
José Manuel FERNANDES

Luis GARICANO
Matteo GAZZINI
Esteban GONZÁLEZ PONS
Ben HABIB
John HOWARTH
Adam JARUBAS
Eva KAILI
Petros KOKKALIS
Mislav KOLAKUŠIĆ
Zbigniew KUŹMIUK
Georgios KYRTSOS
Ioannis LAGOS
Hélène LAPORTE

5.6. BUDG Secretariat

The items contained in the activity report are drafted by the [BUDG secretariat](#) of the European Parliament and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. Images used are under the licenses from Adobe Stock, European Union.

Committee on Budgets Head of Secretariat: Elisa Daffarra
budg-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu
BUDG Committee Webpage

5.7. Files 2019 - 2024

9th term Budgetary 2019 procedure

Procedure	Rapporteur(s)	Type	Title
2019/2021(BUD)	Howarth	DAB	Amending budget 1/2019: surplus of the financial year 2018
2019/2022(BUD)	Howarth	DAB	Amending budget 2/2019: Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+
2019/2024(BUD)	Howarth	DAB	Amending budget 3/2019: assistance to Romania, Italy and Austria
2019/2037(BUD)	Howarth	DAB/Own resources	Amending budget 4/2019: reduction of commitment and payment appropriations in line with updated needs of expenditure and update of revenue (own resources)
2019/2147(BUD)	Howarth	DAB/Own resources	Amending budget 5/2019: adjustments of administrative appropriations of EU institutions in line with the latest information available and update of revenue (own resources)
2019/2036(BUD)	Rzońca	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: technical assistance

2019/2114(BUD)	Fernandes	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the retail trade sector in Belgium
2019/2023(BUD)	Mureşan	EUSF	Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Romania, Italy and Austria
2019/2137(BUD)	Kaili	EUSF	Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Greece
2019/2026(BUD)	Hohlmeier	FLEX	Mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument: challenges of migration, refugee inflows and security threats
2019/2039(BUD)	Howarth	FLEX	Flexibility Instrument: adjustments to the amounts mobilised for 2019 to be used for migration, refugee inflows and security threats

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Budgetary 2020 procedure

Procedure	Rapporteur(s)	Type	Title
2019/2028(BUD)	Hohlmeier – Gardiazabal Rubial		2020 general budget: all sections
2020/0297(BUD)	Hohlmeier	DAB	Amending budget 8/2020: mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Croatia and Poland in relation to a natural disaster and to provide for the payment of advances to Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal and Spain in relation to a public health emergency
2020/0298(BUD)	Hohlmeier	DAB	Amending budget 9/2020: increase of payment appropriations in line with updated forecasts of expenditure and other adjustments to expenditure and revenue

2020/1997(BUD)	Hohlmeier	DAB	Amending budget 6/2020: increase of payment appropriations for the Emergency Support Instrument to finance the COVID-19 vaccines strategy and for the impact of the Corona Response Investment Initiative Plus
2020/2055(BUD)		DAB	Amending budget 2/2020: providing emergency support to Member States and further reinforcement of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism/rescEU to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak
2020/2061(BUD)	Hohlmeier	DAB	Amending budget 3/2020: surplus of the financial year 2019
2020/2069(BUD)	Hohlmeier	DAB	Amending budget 4/2020: mobilising the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria
2020/2092(BUD)	Hohlmeier	DAB	Amending budget 5/2020: continuation of the support to refugees and host communities in response to the Syria crisis in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey
2020/2093(BUD)	Hohlmeier	DAB	Amending budget 6/2020: recovery plan for Europe
2020/1999(BUD)	Hohlmeier	DAB/Own resources	Amending budget 7/2020: update of revenue (own resources)
2020/1996(BUD)	Hayer	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the shipbuilding ancillary sectors in Spain
2020/2062(BUD)	Negrescu	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: technical assistance
2019/2027(BUD)	Hohlmeier	EUSF	Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund: payment of advances in the general budget for 2020

2020/0299(BUD)	Chastel	EUSF	Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Croatia and Poland in relation to a natural disaster and payment of advances to Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal and Spain in relation to a public health emergency
2020/2068(BUD)	Fernandes	EUSF	Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria
2020/2053(BUD)	Hohlmeier	Flex	Mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument: migration, refugee inflows and security threats; immediate measures in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak; reinforcement of the European Public Prosecutor's Office
2020/2057(BUD)		Flex	Mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2020: providing emergency assistance to Member States and further reinforcing the Union Civil Protection Mechanism/rescEU in response to the COVID-19 outbreak
2020/2052(BUD)	Hohlmeier	DAB	Amending budget 1/2020: assistance to Greece in response to increased migration pressure; immediate measures in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak; support to post-earthquake reconstruction in Albania; other adjustments
2020/2056(BUD)		Contingency	Mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument: migration, refugee inflows and security threats; immediate measures in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak; reinforcement of the European Public Prosecutor's Office
2020/2094(BUD)	Hohlmeier	Contingency	Mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2020: continuation of humanitarian support to refugees in Turkey

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Budgetary 2021 Procedure

Procedure	Rapporteur(s)	Type	Title
2020/1998(BUD)	Larroutou		2021 general budget: all sections
2019/2213(BUD)	Larroutou		Guidelines for the 2021 budget - Section III
2019/2214(BUD)	Chastel		2021 budget: estimates of revenue and expenditure, Section I – European Parliament
2020/0371(BUD)	Larroutou - Chastel		New General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021
2021/0022(BUD)	Larroutou	DAB	Amending budget 3/2021: Brexit Adjustment Reserve
2021/0078(BUD)	Larroutou	DAB	Amending budget 1/2021: financing the COVID-19 response and including refinements and updates related to the final adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework
2021/0102(BUD)	Larroutou	DAB	Amending budget 2/2021: surplus of the financial year 2020
2021/0226(BUD)	Larroutou	DAB	Amending budget 5/2021: humanitarian support to refugees in Turkey
2021/0326(BUD)	Larroutou	DAB	Amending budget 6/2021: additional vaccines doses to low and lower-middle income countries, UCPM reinforcement and other adjustments to expenditure and revenue
2021/0193(BUD)	Larroutou	DAB/Own resources	Amending budget 4/2021: update of revenue; revised forecast of own resources and other revenue
2021/0076(BUD)	Fernandes	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the tourism sector in Estonia
2021/0107(BUD)	Geier	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the metal manufacturing industry in Germany

2021/0109(BUD)	Chastel	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the air transport services in Belgium
2021/0115(BUD)	Vana	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the air transport sector in the Netherlands
2021/0116(BUD)	Heinäluoma	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the air transport sector in Finland
2021/0316(BUD)	Gardiazabal-Rubial	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in metal products manufacturing in Spain
2021/0337(BUD)	Lewandowski	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in warehousing and support activities for transportation in Italy
2021/0338(BUD)	Lewandowski	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the air transport sector in Italy
2021/0356(BUD)	González Pons	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the automotive industry in Spain
2021/0363(BUD)	Hayer	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the air transport industry in France
2021/0077(BUD)	Gardiazabal Rubial	EUSF	Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Greece and France in relation to natural disasters and to Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain in relation to a public health emergency
2021/0359(BUD)	Ressler	EUSF	Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Croatia

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Budgetary 2022 procedure

Procedure	Rapporteur(s)	Type	Title
2021/0227(BUD)	Ressler / Boeselager		2022 draft general budget: all sections
2020/2264(BUI)	Boeselager		2022 budget: estimates of revenue and expenditure, Section I – European Parliament
2020/2265(BUI)	Ressler		Guidelines for the 2022 Budget - Section III
2022/0018(BUD)	Ressler	DAB	Draft amending budget no 1 to the general budget 2022 – Adjustment of the multiannual financial framework in accordance with Article 7 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027
2022/0119(BUD)	Ressler	DAB	Draft amending budget no 2 to the general budget 2022: surplus of the financial year 2021
2022/0126(BUD)	Ressler	DAB	Draft amending budget no 3 to the general budget 2022 financing reception costs of people fleeing Ukraine
2022/0318(BUD)	Ressler	DAB	Draft amending budget no 5 to the general budget 2022 – Additional measures to address the consequences of the Russian war in Ukraine – Union Civil Protection Mechanism reinforcement – Reduction in payment appropriations and update of revenues – Other adjustments and technical updates
2022/0211(BUD)	Ressler	DAB/Own resources	Draft amending budget no 4 to the general budget 2022 update of revenue (own resources) and other technical adjustments
2022/0010(BUD)	Vana	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund - EGF/2021/006 ES/Cataluña automotive - Spain

2022/0015(BUD)	Fernandes	EGF	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF/2022/000 TA 2022 – Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission)
2022/0023(BUD)	Gardiazabal Rubial	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund – EGF/2021/007 FR/Selecta – France
2022/0143(BUD)	Keller	EGF	EGF/2022/001 FR/Air France
2022/0170(BUD)	Rzońca	EGF	EGF/2021/008 EL – Attica electrical equipment manufacturing
2022/0337(BUD)	Hahn	EUSF	Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Luxembourg, Spain and Greece further to natural disasters that took place in these countries in the course of 2021

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Budgetary 2023 procedure

Procedure	Rapporteur(s)	Type	Title
2022/0212(BUD)	Ștefănuță / Herbst		2023 general budget: all sections
2021/2226(BUI)	Ștefănuță		Guidelines for the 2023 Budget – Section III
2021/2227(BUI)	Herbst		2023 budget: estimates of revenue and expenditure, Section I – European Parliament

2023/0080(BUD)	Keller	DAB	Amending budget 1/2023: technical adjustments stemming from the political agreements reached on several legislative proposals, including with respect to REPowerEU, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the Union Secure Connectivity programme
2023/0103(BUD)	Keller	DAB	Amending budget 2/2023: surplus of the financial year 2022
2023/0367(BUD)	Keller	DAB	Amending budget 4/2023: reduction in payment appropriations; other adjustments and technical updates
2023/0240(BUD)	Keller	DAB/Own resources	Amending budget 3/2023: update of revenue (own resources) and other technical adjustments including the set-up and financing for 2023 of the new defence industrial reinforcement instrument and of the European chips act
2023/0031(BUD)	Chastel	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in warehousing and support activities for transportation in Belgium
2023/0068(BUD)	Gardiazabal Rubial	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the metal sector in Spain
2023/0106(BUD)	Vana	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: application EGF/2023/000 TA 2023 – Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission
2023/0152(BUD)	Stavrou	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in warehousing and support activities for transportation in Belgium
2023/0352(BUD)	Sarvamaa	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the retail trade sector in Belgium

2023/0297(BUD)	Cseh	EUSF	Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Romania and Italy in relation to natural disasters in 2022 and to Türkiye in relation to the earthquakes in February 2023
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Budgetary 2024 procedure

Procedure	Rapporteur(s)	Type	Title
2022/2185(BUI)	Ušakovs		2024 budget: estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2024, Section I – European Parliament
2023/0264(BUD)	Mureşan / Ušakovs		2024 general budget: all sections
2023/2037(BUI)	Van Overtveldt		Impact on the 2024 EU budget of increasing European Union Recovery Instrument borrowing costs
2024/0056(BUD)	Mureşan	DAB	Draft amending budget 1/2024: amendments required due to the MFF revision
2024/0089(BUD)		DAB	Draft amending budget 2/2024: surplus of the financial year 2023
2024/0090(BUD)	Mureşan	DAB	Draft amending budget 3/2024: reinforcing the European Public Prosecutor's Office following the accession of Poland and the expected participation of Sweden
2024/0003(BUD)	Marques	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: technical assistance
2024/0044(BUD)	Lewandowski	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the food industry in Denmark
2024/0049(BUD)	Geier	EGF	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the metal sector in Germany

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Budgetary 2025 procedure

Procedure	Rapporteur(s)	Type	Title
2023/2220(BUI)	Negrescu		Guidelines for the 2025 Budget - Section III
2023/2221(BUI)	Asimakopoulou		2025 budget: estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2025, Section I – European Parliament

Decentralised Agencies

Procedure	Rapporteur(s)	Type	Title
2020/0320(COD)	Herbst	opinion	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
2020/0349(COD)	Herbst	opinion	Strengthening Europol's mandate: cooperation with private parties, processing of personal data, and support for research and innovation
2021/0240(COD)	Herbst	opinion	Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA)
2022/0009(COD)	Herbst	opinion	European Union Drugs Agency
2022/0085(COD)	Ušakovs	opinion	High common level of cybersecurity at the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Union
2022/0132A(COD)	Van Overtveldt	opinion	Schengen area: digitalisation of the visa procedure
2022/0155(COD)	Herbst	opinion	Combating child sexual abuse online
2022/0417(COD)	Van Overtveldt	opinion	Fees and charges payable to the European Medicines Agency
2023/0076(COD)	Van Overtveldt	opinion	Wholesale energy market: Union's protection against market manipulation

2023/0131(COD)	Van Overtveldt	opinion	Authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human use and governing rules for the European Medicines Agency
2023/0156(COD)	Fernandes	opinion	Establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority
2023/0163(COD)	Herbst	opinion	European Maritime Safety Agency
2023/0438(COD)	Van Overtveldt	opinion	Enhancing police cooperation in relation to the prevention, detection and investigation of migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings; enhancing Europol's support to preventing and combating such crimes
2023/0453(COD)	Van Overtveldt	opinion	Common data platform on chemicals, establishing a monitoring and outlook framework for chemicals
2023/0454(COD)	Van Overtveldt	opinion	Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment: re-attribution of scientific and technical tasks to the European Chemicals Agency
2023/0455(COD)	Van Overtveldt	opinion	Chemicals: re-attribution of scientific and technical tasks and improving cooperation among Union agencies

Fisheries agreements

Procedure	Rapporteur(s)	Type	Title
2019/0173(NLE)	Fernandes	opinion	EU/São Tomé and Príncipe Fisheries Partnership Agreement 2019–2024. Protocol
2019/0210(NLE)	Guerreiro	opinion	EC/Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution. Extension of the Protocol

2019/0226(NLE)	De Castro	opinion	EU/Senegal Fisheries Partnership Agreement: implementation of the Agreement. Protocol
2020/0002(NLE)	Christoforou	opinion	EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol (2020-2026)
2020/0274(NLE)	Rzońca	opinion	EC/Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement: extension of the Protocol
2020/0275(NLE)	Hayer	opinion	EU/Cook Islands Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement: extension of the implementation Protocol
2021/0037(NLE)	Gualmini	opinion	EU/Greenland/Denmark Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol
2021/0127(NLE)	Fernandes	opinion	EC/Gabon Fisheries Partnership Agreement: Implementation Protocol
2021/0300(NLE)	Gardiazabal Rubial	opinion	EU/Mauritania Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementing Protocol
2021/0312(NLE)	Herbst	opinion	EU/Cook Islands Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement: implementation of the Agreement 2021-2024. Protocol
2022/0014(NLE)	Gheorghe	opinion	EU/Mauritius Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution 2017-2021. Extension of the Protocol
2022/0249(NLE)	Guerreiro	opinion	EU/Mauritius Fisheries Partnership Agreement: implementing the Agreement (2022-2026). Protocol
2023/0117(NLE)	Papadimoulis	opinion	EU/Madagascar Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementing Protocol (2023-2027)
2023/0147(NLE)	Herbst	opinion	EC/Kiribati Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2023-2028). Implementation Protocol

European Investment Bank annual report

Procedure	Rapporteur(s)	Type	Title
2019/2126(INI)	Cormand	report	Financial activities of the European Investment Bank - annual report 2019
2020/2124(INI)	Cormand	opinion	Financial Activities of the European Investment Bank - annual report 2020
2021/2203(INI)	Cormand	report	Financial Activities of the European Investment Bank - annual report 2021
2022/2062(INI)	Cormand	opinion	Financial Activities of the European Investment Bank - annual report 2022
2023/2229(INI)	Cormand	report	Financial activities of the European Investment Bank - annual report 2023

Multiannual Financial Framework

Procedure	Rapporteur(s)	Type	Title
2018/0166(APP)	Olbrycht / Marques	report	Multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027
2020/0055(APP)		report	Multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020
2020/0109(APP)		report	Multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020
2020/2051(INL)	Olbrycht / Marques	report	A safety net to protect the beneficiaries of EU programmes: setting up an MFF contingency plan
2021/0429(APP)	Olbrycht / Marques	report	Multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027
2021/0429R(APP)	Olbrycht / Marques	report	Interim report on the 2021 proposal for a revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework

2022/0369(APP)		report	Multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027
2022/2046(INI)	Olbrycht / Marques	report	Upscaling the 2021–2027 Multiannual Financial Framework: a resilient EU budget fit for new challenges
2023/0201(APP)	Olbrycht / Marques	report	Multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027
2023/0201M(APP)	Olbrycht / Marques	report	Report on consent to the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021–2027
2023/0201R(APP)	Olbrycht / Marques	report	Interim report on the proposal for a mid-term revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021–2027

Own resources and Next GenerationEU

Procedure	Rapporteur(s)	Type	Title
2018/0131(NLE)	Fernandes/ Hayer	OR report	Making available the own resources based on the common consolidated corporate tax base, on the European Union emissions trading system and on plastic packaging waste that is not recycled, and measures to meet cash requirements
2018/0133(NLE)	Fernandes/ Hayer	OR report	Collection of own resources accruing from value added tax
2020/2043(INI)	Gualmini	OR opinion	Towards a WTO-compatible EU carbon border adjustment mechanism
2021/0191(COD)	Fernandes	NGEU opinion	European green bonds
2021/0211A(COD)	Fernandes/ Hayer	OR opinion	Revision of the EU Emissions Trading System

2021/0214(COD)	Fernandes/ Hayer	OR opinion	Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
2021/0161(NLE)	Fernandes/ Hayer	OR report	Predictability for Member States and procedures for dispute resolution when making available the traditional, VAT and GNI based own resources
2021/2076(INI)	Fernandes/ Hayer	NGEU opinion	The borrowing strategy to finance Next Generation EU, the Union's Recovery instrument
2022/0167(COD)	Gheorghe	OR opinion	Asset recovery and confiscation
2022/0370(COD)		NGEU report	Establishment of a diversified funding strategy as a general borrowing method
2022/0398(COD)	Gheorghe	OR opinion	Definition of criminal offences and penalties for the violation of Union restrictive measures
2022/0071(NLE)	Hayer	OR report	Methods and procedure for making available own resources based on the Emissions Trading System, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and reallocated profits and on the measures to meet cash requirements
2022/0072(APP)	Fernandes/ Hayer	OR report	Implementing measures for new own resources of the European Union
2022/2172(INI)	Fernandes/ Hayer	OR report	Own Resources: A new start for EU finances. A new start for Europe
2023/0137(CNS)	Van Overtveldt	OR opinion	Excessive deficit procedure: speeding up and clarifying the implementation
2023/0321(CNS)	Van Overtveldt	OR opinion	Business in Europe: Framework for Income Taxation (BEFIT)

InvestEU

Procedure	Co-Rapporteurs	Type	Title
2020/0108(COD)	BUDG - Fernandes ECON - Tinagli	report	InvestEU Programme
2021/2627(DEA)		Delegated act	Investment guidelines for the InvestEU Fund
2021/2815(DEA)		Delegated act	Additional elements and detailed rules for the InvestEU Scoreboard

Recovery and Resilience Facility

Procedure	Co-Rapporteurs	Type	Title
2020/0104(COD)	BUDG - Gardiazabal Rubial ECON - Mureşan/ Pîslaru	report	Recovery and Resilience Facility
2021/2251(INI)	BUDG - Gardiazabal Rubial ECON - Mureşan/ Pîslaru	report	Implementation report on the Recovery and Resilience Facility
2021/2900(DEA)		Delegated act	Common indicators and the detailed elements of the recovery and resilience scoreboard
2021/2901(DEA)		Delegated act	Recovery and Resilience Facility by defining a methodology for reporting social expenditure
2022/0164(COD)	BUDG - Gardiazabal Rubial ECON - Mureşan/ Pîslaru	report	REPowerEU chapters in recovery and resilience plans

Technical Support Instrument

Procedure	Co-Rapporteurs	Type	Title
2020/0103(COD)	BUDG - Geese ECON - Karas / Pîslaru	report	Technical Support Instrument

Rule of law conditionality for the protection of the EU budget

Procedure	Co-Rapporteurs	Type	Title
2018/0136(COD)	BUDG - Gardiazabal Rubial CONT - Sarvamaa	report	Protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States
2021/2071(INI)	BUDG - Gardiazabal Rubial CONT - Sarvamaa	report	The creation of guidelines for the application of the general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget
2021/2180(INI)	Gardiazabal Rubial	opinion	The Commission's 2021 Rule of Law report

Public Sector Loan Facility

Procedure	Co-Rapporteurs	Type	Title
2020/0100(COD)	BUDG - Van Overtveldt ECON- Hahn	report	Public sector loan facility under the Just Transition Mechanism

Financial regulation

Procedure	Co-Rapporteurs	Type	Title
2020/2868(DEA)		Delegated act	Detailed conditions for the calculation of the effective provisioning rate of the common provisioning fund
2021/2162(INI)	BUDG -Ušakovs CONT – Hohlmeier	report	The revision of the Financial Regulation in view of the entry into force of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework
2022/0125(COD)	BUDG -Ušakovs CONT – Hohlmeier	report	Amendments to the Financial Regulation
2022/0162(COD)	BUDG -Ušakovs CONT – Hohlmeier	report	Amendments to the Financial Regulation. Recast

Ukraine Facility

Procedure	Co-Rapporteurs	Type	Title
2023/0200(COD)	BUDG - Gardiazabal Rubial AFET – Gahler	report	Establishing the Ukraine Facility

Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform

Procedure	Co-Rapporteurs	Type	Title
2023/0199(COD)	BUDG -Fernandes ITRE – Ehler	report	Establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP')

Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans

Procedure	Co-Rapporteurs	Type	Title
2023/0397(COD)	BUDG -Ressler AFET – Picula	report	Establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans

Other procedures

Procedure	Rapporteur	Type	Title
2020/0101(COD)	Ressler	opinion	Exceptional additional resources and implementing arrangements under the Investment for growth and jobs goal to provide assistance for fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy (REACT-EU)
2020/0102(COD)	Ștefănuță	opinion	Programme for the Union's action in the field of health for the period 2021-2027 ("EU4Health Programme")
2020/0343(COD)	Van Overtveldt	report	Authorising the Commission to vote in favour of the capital increase of the European Investment Fund
2020/0142(APP)	Van Overtveldt	report	Measures necessary for the implementation of the Protocol, annexed to the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel
2020/0143(NLE)	Van Overtveldt	report	Managing the assets of the ECSC in liquidation and of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel: multiannual financial guidelines

2020/2045(INI)	BUDG - Lewandowski DEVE - Hölvényi, AFET - Zver	report	Implementation report on the EU Trust Funds and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey
2020/2058(INI)	BUDG - Mureşan ECON - Tang	report	Sustainable Europe Investment Plan - How to finance the Green Deal
2020/2127(INI)	Biedroń	opinion	The effectiveness of Member States' use of EU Solidarity Fund money in cases of natural disasters
2020/2244(INI)	Ušakovs	opinion	European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021
2020/2916(RSP)	Van Overtveldt		EU Pledge for Afghanistan at 2020 Geneva Conference
2021/0206(COD)	Marques	opinion	Social Climate Fund
2021/0375(COD)	Ušakovs	opinion	Statute and funding of European political parties and foundations
2021/2003(INI)	Geese	opinion	The EU Gender Action Plan III
2021/2004(INI)	Marques	opinion	European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021
2021/2252(INI)	Winzig	opinion	The future European Financial Architecture for Development
2021/2255(INI)	Olbrycht	opinion	The New European Bauhaus
2022/0032(COD)	Ressler	opinion	Chips Act
2022/0039(COD)	Fernandes	opinion	Union Secure Connectivity Programme 2023–2027
2022/0066(COD)	Geese	opinion	Combating violence against women and domestic violence
2022/0219(COD)	Ressler	opinion	European Defence Industry Reinforcement through common Procurement Act (EDIRPA)

2022/0278(COD)	Van Overtveldt	opinion	Single Market emergency instrument
2022/2006(INI)	Marques	opinion	European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Sustainable Growth Survey 2022
2022/2051(INL)	Ušakovs	opinion	Proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties
2022/2146(INI)	Van Overtveldt	opinion	Further reform of corporate taxation rules
2022/2147(INI)	Fernandes	opinion	Assessment of the new communication of the European Commission on Outermost Regions
2022/2188(INI)	Van Overtveldt	opinion	Implementation report on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement
2023/0034(COD)	Van Overtveldt	opinion	Macro-financial assistance to North Macedonia
2023/2123(INI)	Jarubas	opinion	European Hydrogen Bank
2023/2063(INI)	Marques	opinion	European Semester for economic policy coordination 2024