

CONCORD's analysis of BUDG amendments to the EP own-initiative report "Next MFF: preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020"

CONCORD Europe, the European NGO confederation for relief and development, through which 28 national associations, 21 international networks and 3 associate members represent more than 2,600 European NGOs has analysed the BUDG opinion and the proposed amendments based on [CONCORD position: Making the case for strong EU development cooperation budget in the next Multiannual Financial Framework](#). The outcomes of the analysis of compromised amendments we support and do not support will hopefully be useful for you as the MFF is discussed in upcoming meetings.

1/ COMPROMISE AMENDMENTS - ANALYSIS

- **COMP on para 4**
 - CONCORD particularly supports the inclusion therein of the language contained in **AM 57** which adds democracy, non-discrimination, gender equality and rule of law to the framework the MFF should build on. However, we believe that incorporating the reference to the fundamental values enshrined in Lisbon Treaty Article 2 would make it stronger.
 - We support the inclusion of "fighting climate change" taken from **AM 58** and, from the same AM58, we would suggest adding the reference to "protecting a healthy environment".
 - We suggest incorporating **AM 64** language on the promotion of peace and the EU as global partner.
 - We also suggest including **AM 65**, which calls on the promotion of the well-being of people, social progress, social cohesion, social justice and protection, fair competition, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations.
- We support **COMP on para 5** for adding persistent poverty, social exclusion as well as environmental degradation and biodiversity loss to the list of cross-border challenges the EU budget needs to respond to. We suggest:
 - Adding "forced" to migration (AM 80) to COMP on para 5, as migration per se is not a crisis nor a challenge. What is challenging, and needs to be addressed, are all the factors that leave people with no other choice than to move.
- We also support the **COMP on a new para 5a.** for pointing out that the EU must deliver on its commitment to be a frontrunner in implementing the SDGs and for underlining that the next MFF must be aligned with the SDGs. We suggest:
 - To strengthen the language on SDGs, and hold the EC to account, we believe that the obligation to align the EU's budgetary framework with the SDGs (AM 69) should be added to this compromise.
- We welcome **COMP on para 44** as it rejects the assessment of the relevance of EU policies on the sole criteria of short term economic gain.
- We support **COMP on para 50** which calls for further standardization and simplification of procedures and programming. We believe that, as suggested in **AM 273**, this should be applied across all funding instruments.
- We support **COMP on new para 53a** on the fact that trust funds, if set up, should not change the original objective of EU financing instrument, and should be subjected to parliamentary scrutiny,

as well as **COMP on para 54** which stresses that off-budget operations should be of limited duration and must prove their additionality and added value.

- We support **COMP on para 60** on financial instruments which should not replace existing public funding schemes and should comply with domestic and international commitments.
- We welcome **COMP on para 69** which adds achieving SDGs to FP9 goals.
- We support **COMP F on para 80** on fighting climate change and environmental degradation, the importance of dedicating funding to address these challenges and confirm EU's leadership and ability in living up to its international commitments.
- We support **COMP on para 88** which calls for a values-based foreign policy which namely supports the sustainable development of partners countries, poverty eradication and crisis response. In addition, we suggest:
 - To make of SDGs the guiding principles of all external spending (AM 600).
 - To add poverty to challenges the world is confronted with and stress the importance of respecting development effectiveness principles (AM 603).
 - To stress the universality of Agenda 2030, to add a reference to EU's obligation to ensure Policy Coherence for sustainable Development and the call to support policies and funding which are consistent and not detrimental to partner countries' efforts in achieving sustainable development. We also suggest adding the language on environmental degradation (not only climate change) to the list of challenges (**AM 601**).
- We support **COMP on para 89** which calls for an increase of the budgets for external action and humanitarian aid, and the avoidance of gaps between commitment and payments. We suggest:
 - In order to give weight to EU's commitment within the framework of Agenda 2030 to 'leave no one behind', to add language on addressing the most pressing needs of people and communities who face the multifaceted challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, poverty and inequalities, including gender inequality (AM 615).
- We support **COMP on para 89a** which recalls EU's sustainable development and Policy Coherence for Development commitments, as well as international commitment to allocate 0.7 % of GDP to ODA by 2030, including 0.2 % of ODA to Least Developed Countries and 20% of the EU's ODA to social inclusion and human development. However,
 - We believe that this compromise should be strengthened as it does not properly reflect the important language of **AM 615** in relation to:
 - The need for increasing the current benchmark for climate relevant spending in external instruments, ensuring a balance between adaptation and mitigation funding.
 - The commitment to mainstream climate and environment in EU external financing.These are essential elements for the fulfilment of international commitments under the Paris Agreement and to ensure integrated approaches to Sustainable Development are pursued in EU's external action, in line with the SDGs and the European Consensus on Development.
 - We recommend including important language from **AM 221** on the commitments to promote gender mainstreaming and to preserve the integrity of the mandates of development and humanitarian aid.
 - We suggest adding language from **AM 620** on the special attention that needs to be paid to sexual violence against women, girls and LGBTI in conflict situations.

- In **COMP on para 89b**, we welcome the fact that the possible continuation of the EIP should build on its evaluation. However, we believe that the language should be strengthened by:
 - Including safeguards (from **AM 624 to para 90**) on the extension of the External Investment Plan based on its evaluation demonstrating its development additionality and human rights, social and environmental impact.
 - Integrating important language from **AM 634** (to para 90) on the fact that private sector engagement shall abide by strong transparency and accountability standards, bringing in measurable and additional development impact (not only financial additionality) with solid social, environmental and human rights safeguards in place.

We also believe that migration should be replaced by “forced displacement”. The focus should be on addressing the root causes of forced displacement (for instance instability, conflict, inequality, structural poverty, poor governance, climate change and inadequate disaster responses).
- **COMP on para 89c on CSOs and HRDs:**
 - We welcome the expression of support to human rights defenders and CSOs.
 - We also support **AM 622**, which suggests a new para 89c and calls for an increased allocation for humanitarian aid.
- **COMP on para 90: CONCORD strongly objects the merger** of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace with European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. They have distinctive mandates, objectives, and modalities and while we agree that, in order to preserve their specificities, they should be kept outside of a streamline instrument, we do not think that they should be merged. We suggest:
 - To remove the language which suggest the possibility of such a merger.
 - To focus this COMP on:
 - The principles that need to be respected when re-shaping the architecture of external instruments (as per **AM 624** namely: enhanced coherence, respect development effectiveness).
 - Ensuring that the new architecture doesn't jeopardize aid predictability (**AM 632**) and on maintaining a separate humanitarian assistance instrument and a substantial humanitarian aid reserve (AM 633).
- We support **COMP on para 90a** which stresses that flexibility should not be achieved at the expense of long-term policy objectives and the predictability of long-term funding, parliamentary scrutiny and consultations with partner countries and civil society. This language is coherent both with **AM 613 and 625**, which we support. We suggest:
 - Adding the specific precautions and requirements of AM 625 (namely democracy, human rights and the rule of law, support to civil society, conflict resolution, fragile states, development policy, etc.)
- Finally, in relation to para 90, we urge you to include in the COMP the language contained below:
 - **AM 627** which supports the principle that EU ODA, in relation to migration, should be oriented towards responding to the root causes of forced displacement and enhancing development outcomes, not stemming migration. We also support this AM for its rejection of the conditionality of aid, in line of the EP's long-standing position.
 - **AM 635** for its strong support to CSOs as development actors in their own right, and for their full and free involvement in political dialogue as well as in programming and implementation across EU cooperation instruments.

2/ INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

Additional important issues that CONCORD supports

- In the recitals, we support reflecting EU's commitments in relation to fighting climate change (**AM 21**) and gender equality and mainstreaming (**AM 27**).
- In para 2 and 3, we support recalling the EU's international commitments in relation to implementing the Paris agreement and environmental protection (**AM 35 and 40**) and the SDGs and to gender mainstreaming (**AM 40**). We also support gender budgeting as means of gender mainstreaming (**AM 47**).
- To para 9, **AM 118** for its focus on conflict prevention and human rights peace and for actions in the areas of defence should not divert resources away from ODA's core objective of poverty eradication. We also support **AM 128** which calls for an increase of the overall resources of the MFF (new para 9a). In the same line, we support **AM 149** which demands the guarantee that the EU budget will not decrease compared the current MFF ceilings (para 10).
- To para 66, we support **AM 327** which calls for at least 50% of climate-related spending in the next MFF and **AM 328** which rejects defence-related spending from EU budget, as well as fossil fuel infrastructures.
- A new para 87a, as per **AM 596** which calls on increasing the development budget to implement SDGs.
- A new para 88a, as per **AM 611** on EU added value to address gender inequality and as policy objective in the budget titles.
- A new para 88c, as per **AM 614** which supports maintaining a dedicated EIDHR without any decrease in funding.
- To para 91, **AM 637** which points out that activities in the field of security, peace and stability should be funded through additional resources and **AM 638** on the need to protect people from gender-based and interpersonal violence.

Amendments that CONCORD strongly disagrees with:

- **AM 72** on putting external and cohesion policies back to back, as decisions on the added value of each of these policies should be independent from each other.
- **AM 79** which portrays the fact of securing our external borders as a response to the crisis to cross-borders challenges.
- **AM 120**, as EU's migration policy should not have as sole objective to stem migration
- **AM 142, 153, 206, 209, 224, 235, 280** as they put into question EU values and the ability to act externally driven by those values.
- **AM 580** which suggests that actions related to security and migration should be 'included by design' to many internal, as well as in external relations instruments. In the remit of external action, this would not be consistent with TEU art. 208 and development effectiveness. And, as it comes to forced displacement, it is a multi-faceted problem, that cannot be addressed by a specific migration instrument.
- **AM 630 and 631** for calling on the expansion of private sector engagement in external policies, including the EIP, without ensuring that sufficient safeguards are in place in terms of development additionality, and human rights, labor and environmental standards.

Finally, while CONCORD's remit is external action, in the context of shrinking space for civil society worldwide, we also support all the AM that encourage the next MFF to scale up its support to civil society in Europe. CSOs are a cornerstone of well-functioning democracies and are decisive actors in EU's endeavour to shape a sustainable and values-driven future, in Europe, and abroad.

CONCORD

European NGO confederation for relief and development

