Procedure file

Basic information

CNS - Consultation procedure
Decision
System of own resources of the European Union
Repealing Decision 2014/335/EU, Euratom 2011/0183(CNS)
Subject
8.70.01 Financing of the budget, own resources
Legislative priorities
Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027

Awaiting Parliament's vote

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible
BUDD Budgets

Rapporteur
FERNANDES José Manuel
Appointed
10/10/2019

HAYER Valérie
Shadow rapporteur

GUALMINI Elisabetta
LAPORTE Hélène
CORMAND David
ZILE Roberts
OMARJEE Younous
PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios

Former committee responsible
BUDD Budgets

PPE LEWANDOWSKI Janusz
Appointed
16/05/2018

ALDE DEPREZ Gérard
Rapporteur for opinion
The committee decided not to give an opinion.

INTA International Trade

CONT Budgetary Control

06/07/2020
### Key events

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<td>Initial legislative proposal published</td>
<td>COM(2018)0325</td>
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<td>Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading/single reading</td>
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### Forecasts

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### Technical information

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## 2018/0135(CNS) - 09/10/2018 Court of Auditors: opinion, report

Opinion No 5/2018 of the Court of Auditors.

The financing system for the EU budget has not been significantly reformed since 1988. The Commission has proposed changing this financing system for the future budget under the 2021-2027 Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) by:

- reforming existing own resources, which will make up 87 % of EU revenue: keeping TOR but with lower rate of collection costs, maintaining the GNI-based own resource and simplifying the own resource based on VAT;
- introducing a basket of three new own resources, which together will make up 12 % of EU revenue: one based on the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB), one based on the European Union (EU) Emissions Trading System (ETS) and one based on plastic packaging waste that is not recycled;
- phasing out the corrections that exist in the current system;
- increasing the ceilings for own resources to overcome the impact of Brexit and the integration of European Development Fund (EDF) into the EU budget, as well as to cover financial liabilities linked to loans or financial facilities guaranteed from the EU budget.

### Assessment

The proposed new EU financing system took on board a number of the key principles of the reform, but not all and the financing system...
After having assessed the Commission’s proposals, the Court of Auditors considers that:

- the proposed reduction of the collection costs rate for TOR is not justified by means of a study providing reliable estimates of the costs incurred by customs authorities in collecting duties;
- the proposed simplified VAT-based own resource includes assumptions on standard-rated transactions that do not adhere to some of the calculation steps described by the Commission;
- the application of the own resource based on the CCCTB is subject to the Directive on this tax being adopted by the Council and transposed in the Member States. It will be at the earliest phased in several years after the start of the new MFF;
- the EU ETS is an important tool for implementing the EU’s policies on climate and the environment. However, the proposed own resource based on the EU ETS does not create an additional incentive for Member States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, it is not a stable resource since the auction prices of the emission allowances are highly volatile;
- the plastic packaging waste-based own resource provides an incentive for Member States to increase plastics recycling. There is a need to improve the quality of data used to calculate this own resource;
- the phasing-out of corrections is a step forward in implementing a more transparent and less complex system. According to the Commissions proposal, corrections will end in 2026;
- there may be restrictions on audit powers in respect of those based on the CCCTB and plastic packaging waste. There is a risk this may affect auditability and thus accountability.

Recommendations

The Court of Auditors recommended that the legislative bodies should ask the Commission to take the following measures as soon as possible:

1. Review the legislative proposals as regards the new own resources. The Commission should:
   (i) carefully assess the likelihood of applying the CCCTB-based own resource during the next MFF,
   (ii) clarify in its proposal that the EU ETS-based own resource does not create an additional incentive for Member States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and analyse the impact of this resources volatility,
   (iii) carefully consider how the amounts expected to be collected through the plastic packaging waste-based own resource may decrease due to changes in the behaviour of households and economic operators.

2. Reconsider the proposal for the simplified VAT-based own resource and, should it decide to keep it, modify the proposal.

The European Commission has presented an amended proposal for a Council Decision on the system of the European Union's own resources in view of the need for a comprehensive, bold and sustained response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak.

BACKGROUND: the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a widespread and severe public health crisis with profound implications for citizens, societies and economies around the world. It poses major and unprecedented challenges to the economic and financial systems of Member States.

According to the Commission’s spring economic forecasts, the EU GDP is forecast to contract by about 7.5% this year, far deeper than during the global financial crisis in 2009, and to rebound by only 6% in 2021 while the EU unemployment rate is set to rise to 9% in 2020, with a risk of rising poverty and inequality.

In response to this emergency situation, Member States have adopted exceptional financial measures which have a considerable impact on their public finances. However, as its effects are not symmetrical across Member States, the crisis risks widening disparities within the Union and could result in lasting damage to the EU’s economic tissue unless it is met with a commensurate short and medium term policy response at the level of the Union.

The Union has acted swiftly to provide a powerful and coordinated collective response to the social and economic consequences of the crisis, within the limits of the current multiannual financial framework which expires in 2020. However, financial resources on an exceptional scale are needed to address the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis without increasing the pressure on Member States’ finances.

The Commission therefore considers it urgent to provide additional financial capacity immediately available to support recovery and resilience throughout the Union.

CONTENT: the Commission’s amended proposal aims to allow the mobilisation of part of the funds needed to support the recovery through borrowing on capital markets. These borrowings would be repaid when the Union returns to a positive growth path.

Empowerment of the Commission to borrow funds on capital markets

Under the amended proposal, the Commission shall be empowered, on an exceptional basis, to temporarily borrow on behalf of the Union up to a maximum of EUR 750 billion on the capital markets at 2018 prices. This amount shall be used only for expenditure up to EUR 500 billion and for loans up to EUR 250 billion to address the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis.

The proceeds of the borrowing operations shall be allocated to the European Union Instrument for Recovery. This instrument shall make it possible to finance the various policies covered by the EU Recovery Plan. The support shall be limited in duration and the bulk of the funding shall be provided immediately after the pandemic.

Repayment of funds borrowed to provide non-repayable support shall be financed from the EU budget. Borrowed funds that are provided as loans to Member States shall be repaid from sums received from the beneficiary Member States.
The EU budget shall start making the required repayments of the funds borrowed on capital markets from 2028 onwards. All liabilities of the Unions incurred by the proposed act shall be fully repaid by 2058. The repayment shall be organised according to the principle of sound financial management with a view to achieving a steady and predictable reduction of liabilities during the overall period.

Repayments to be made by the budget should start in 2028, while all liabilities incurred by this exceptional and temporary empowerment to borrow funds should be fully repaid by 31 December 2058.

The amounts due by the Union in a given year for the repayment of the principal shall not exceed 7.5% of the maximum amount borrowed for expenditure.

Raising the own resources ceilings

In order to preserve a sufficient margin under the Own Resources Decision ceilings for the Union to cover all of its financial obligations and contingent liabilities falling due in any given year, the Own Resources Decision ceiling should be increased to a level of 1.40% of the sum of the Member States' Gross National Income at market prices for appropriations for payments and of 1.46% for the appropriations for commitments.

In addition, the ceilings of the own resources decision should be adjusted upwards, on a temporary basis, by 0.6 percentage points. This additional allocation may only be used to meet financial obligations and contingent liabilities arising from the exceptional and temporary empowerment to borrow funds.