



Citizen-Centered Budget



People's
Budget

Posted by: People's Budget



The mid-term revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020

Vote Breakdown



446

For



181

Against



60

Abstain



29

Absent

314 votes required to pass.

In its [resolution from October 2016](#), the Parliament called for a “coherent and sustainable EU budget for the remaining years of the current perspective” and highlighted “the need for an EU budget that is more transparent and accessible for European citizens, in order that they may regain trust in the European project.” ([Votewatch data](#))

Key developments

Calls for a better EU budget

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Inadequate progress towards a sustainable budget

However, as Committees draw their attention to the next EU Budget cycle post 2020, there have been disappointing first signals from the Parliament.

However, as Committees draw their attention to the next EU Budget cycle post 2020, there have been disappointing first signals from the Parliament. The current passage of the Own Initiative Report on the Future of Cohesion Policy, which represents one-third of the EU budget, shows a lack of support from members of the REGI Committee on key positions advanced by the Green party and called for by civil society actors. Alarming, even amendments calling for an exclusion of fossil fuels from EU spending post 2020 did not survive the compromise amendments. Our elected representatives must do better.

Sustainable finance and the Juncker Plan

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The Parliament's performance on sustainable finance is also revealed by its work on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is the cornerstone of the Investment Plan for Europe (also known as the 'Juncker Plan.' In 2015, the European Parliament took part in the co-decision process to set up EFSI. The Committees on Budget and Economic Affairs were in charge of steering the process, and despite managing to improve the accountability and transparency of the EFSI Regulation when compared to the Commission's proposal, it fell drastically short of aligning it with the EU's climate change goals. As one example, the Parliament refused to take onboard the suggestion of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee, also demanded by several NGOs, to earmark a portion of EFSI funds for energy efficiency projects. It also refused to support civil society actors demands to exclude support for fossil fuel infrastructure.

Towards 2019

The new Peoples Budget campaign, gathering across Europe, calls for a rethink of the EU Budget, to ensure it is fully inline with the sustainable development goals, to ensure that it innovates in how it empowers and involves EU citizens in EU spending decisions to build the sustainable economy of well-being.



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development goals, to ensure that it innovates in how it empowers and involves EU citizens in EU spending decisions to build the sustainable economy of well-being. By directing EU spending to catalyse this transformation, and no longer allowing bad spending that harms citizens or their environment, the EU Budget can make a powerful contribution to reconnecting citizens to the European project, and to a shared conception of progress.

We will be calling on members of the European Parliament to ensure the European Commission's proposal in 2018 and following legislative process beginning in 2019 delivers an EU budget that works for citizens and their environment.

WHAT WE WANT:

- 1. Involve the people.** The future EU budget must innovate in how it involves and empowers citizens, communities and local authorities in EU spending to build a brighter future for Europe. This can help improve transparency and accountability.
- 2. Strengthen European values.** The future EU budget should increasingly support core European values like democracy and participation, social and environmental justice, cultural diversity, solidarity and sustainability, respect for the rule of law and human rights.
- 3. Look after the vulnerable.** The future EU budget must do more for those people that the 'growth jobs and competitiveness' story left behind.
- 4. Write a new economy strategy for the Union - with sustainable well-being, not merely GDP, at its heart.**
- 5. Bring EU Funds closer to citizens.** Make benefits of EU funded programmes more accessible to households, communities and progressive local authorities of any size. Stop favoring huge companies and large farmers.
- 6. Prevent bad and wasteful spending.** All EU spending and lending should benefit the people in an equitable fashion in the final instance, rather than corporate profit. Investments should meet environmental and social

returns where possible, and certainly should not do harm.

7. **Safeguard the future.** The EU budget must do more to stop environmental degradation. It must be brought in line with the Paris Agreement on climate and with other environmental objectives.

8. **Allow nature to deliver ecosystem services.** These are the very foundation of our society and economy.

For more information, see also our [online press briefing](#) about the Peoples Budget to advance a 6th Scenario for Europe.
