

# Draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022

AGRI opinion

Rapporteur: Pina Picierno

## Draft compromise amendments

### CA n°1 - paragraph 1

In: 2 (EPP); 3 (Greens); 4 and 5 (ECR); 6 (Renew); 7 and 8 (S&D)
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Covered:
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To be voted separately: 1 (Greens); 9 (EPP); 10 (Renew); 11 (Greens)
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#### *Text proposed by the Rapporteur*

1. Highlights the importance of transitional common agricultural policy (CAP) measures to bridge the gap to the new legal basis for a strong contribution to the European Green Deal; points at the possible strong repercussions of the negotiated compromises on the budget structure; welcomes the reinforcement of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) by EUR 5,7 billion from Next Generation EU (NGEU) in 2022; highlights that NGEU support is not only essential to the recovery of farmers and rural areas from the impact of the pandemic, but also crucial to the Union's ambitious environmental targets;

#### *Amendments*

1. ***Recalls that under the common agricultural policy (CAP) transitional rules, the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) measures will continue in 2022 under the rules of the 2014-2020 framework until the implementation of the reformed CAP in 2023 [7]; highlights the importance of transitional CAP measures to bridge the gap to the new legal basis while contributing to the achievement of the European Green Deal objectives [6], guaranteeing a smooth and harmonious transition to the new provisions [2], giving legal certainty to the agricultural sector [5] and safeguarding the legal framework for funding and the economic stability of European farms [4]; draws attention to the need to bring the 2014-2020 programmes progressively to a successful closure with the final payments on outstanding commitments [7]; welcomes the reinforcement of the EAFRD by EUR 5,7 billion from Next Generation EU (NGEU) in 2022; recalls that NGEU funds will be available as external assigned revenue not subject to the annual budget procedure [8]; highlights that NGEU support to local actors [5] is not only essential to the recovery of farmers and rural areas from the impact of the pandemic, but***

also crucial to the Union's ambitious environmental targets, *the resilience of the agricultural system in achieving the new strategic biodiversity and 'farm to fork' objectives [2] as well as the objectives of the Long-Term Vision for the Development of Rural Areas in the first phase of its implementation [4]; highlights therefore the need for a strong EAFRD and swift operation of the NGEU funds in 2022, taking into account Union commitments from that new recovery instrument [3];*

## CA n°2 - paragraph 2

In: 12 (Greens); 13 (ECR); 15 (S&D); 17 (EPP)
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Covered:
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To be voted separately: 14 (EPP); 16 (Greens)
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### *Text proposed by the Rapporteur*

2. Highlights the contribution of the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and EAFRD to the Union objective of mainstreaming climate and biodiversity in the budget 2021-2027; highlights the preliminary estimates showing that their contribution to climate mainstreaming reaches over 20 % of the Union target while their contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming represents over 60 % of the Union objective, thus compensating for programmes which do not contribute to those goals;

### *Amendments*

2. *Takes note of the EUR 54 117 million in commitments and EUR 55 859 million in payments for agriculture; takes note of the Council's mandate and the absence of further cuts to the Commission's draft budget; nonetheless calls for an increase of the budget considering the amount of challenges that the agri-food sector has faced this year and still need to tackle in 2022 [15]; welcomes the fact that Heading 3 - natural resources and environment - is to provide around half the total budget resources earmarked for combating climate change in the period 2021-2027; stresses that appropriations under this heading are earmarked for investments in a sustainable agricultural and maritime sector, seeking to ensure safe and high quality food supplies through the adoption of updated agricultural and maritime policy objectives [17]; highlights the need for a strong [12] contribution of the EAGF and EAFRD to a range of development objectives including [13] the mainstreaming of climate and the protection of [13] biodiversity in the budget 2021-2027; highlights the preliminary*

estimates showing that the EAGF and EAFRD contribution to climate mainstreaming reaches over 20 % of the Union target while their contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming represents over 60 % of the Union objective, thus *estimated to compensate [12]* for programmes which do not contribute to those goals; *stresses, however, the need for these estimates to be confirmed by accurate tracking of expenditure; recalls the Union responsibility to track its biodiversity-related expenditure to fulfil its reporting obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity; stresses that a transparent, comprehensive and meaningful tracking methodology should be adopted swiftly, and adapted if necessary during the MFF mid-term revision, for both climate-related spending and biodiversity-related spending; highlights that a year 2022 without adequate climate and biodiversity spending and reliable tracking risks impeding the achievement of these targets throughout the next MFF [12];*

### CA n°3 - paragraph 3

In: 18 (Renew); 19 (S&D)
Covered:
To be voted separately: 20 (ECR)

#### *Text proposed by the Rapporteur*

3. Questions the cost-benefit analysis of the current crisis reserve which has remained unused despite several demands for support during the COVID-19 pandemic;

#### *Amendments*

3. Questions the cost-benefit analysis of the current crisis reserve which has remained unused despite several demands for support during the COVID-19 pandemic; *reiterates its request to use this reserve in case of possible new markets disruption or sectorial crisis linked to the still ongoing COVID-19 pandemic [19]; welcomes the political agreement to improve the crisis reserve as reached in the framework of the CAP reform but regrets it has not incorporated more*

*ambitious proposals supported by the European Parliament [18];*

#### CA n°4 - paragraph 4

In: 21 (EPP); 22 (ECR); 23 and 26 (Renew)
Covered:
To be voted separately: 29 (Greens); 25 and 28 (ECR); 27 (EPP)

##### *Text proposed by the Rapporteur*

4. Recalls that the COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised the strategic role that agriculture plays in avoiding a food crisis by providing safe, high-quality food at affordable prices; Insists that some of the COVID-19 crisis measures supporting agricultural sectors need to be continued in 2022 to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic;

##### *Amendments*

4. Recalls that the COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised the strategic role that *the CAP [23]* plays in avoiding a food crisis by *ensuring [23]* safe, high-quality, *nutritious and varied [21]* food at affordable prices; *welcomes the slight increase in demand and appropriations for agricultural market interventions in the 2022 budget over the 2021 budget [21];* insists that some of the COVID-19 crisis measures supporting agricultural sectors need to be continued *and provided with additional funds [22]* in 2022 to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic *and to steadily reinvigorate rural communities so as to guarantee medium and long-term food security [21]; asks the European commission to implement in the budgetary year 2022 exceptional measures to help farmers overcome the Covid-19 crisis, which has strongly hit some agricultural sectors, including flowers, wine, cheese and some meat producers and to do so in coherence with long term health and environmental goals of the Farm to Fork; is of the opinion that the EU should dedicate for that purpose the margin of 340 million euro that will remain after assigned revenues [26];*

#### CA n°5 - paragraph 5

In: 30 and 31(ECR); 32 (EPP)
Covered:

To be voted separately: 33 and 37 (Renew); 34 (S&D); 35 and 36 (Greens)
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*Text proposed by the Rapporteur*

5. Stresses the necessity to allocate a significant share of the Horizon Europe funds to the agri-food sector to support research and innovation in food, agriculture and rural development in order to accommodate the ambitions of the European Green Deal; urges the Commission to ensure that the results reach farm level; recalls the importance of proper advisory services for farmers to integrate state-of-the-art technologies and improve the sector's competitiveness and sustainability.

*Amendments*

5. Stresses the necessity to allocate a significant share of the Horizon Europe funds to the agri-food sector to support research and innovation in food, agriculture, **bioeconomy [32]** and rural development in order to **improve agricultural productivity and [30]** accommodate the ambitions of the European Green Deal; urges the Commission to ensure that the results reach farm level; **calls on the Commission to implement the multi-actor approach in the Horizon Europe programme in an effective and practical manner, so that farmers can hold an appropriate role in these programmes and can be involved in the process of design, implementation and dissemination throughout the life of the project [30];** recalls the importance of proper **and accessible [30]** advisory services for farmers to integrate state-of-the-art technologies **and practices [30], including cultivation and breeding methods [32],** and improve the sector's competitiveness and sustainability; **stresses the need to maintain efforts for a geographical balance between all Member States as regards access to Horizon Europe funding [31];**

**CA n°6 - paragraph 6**

In: 24 (Greens); 38 (Renew)
Covered:
To be voted separately:

*Text proposed by the Rapporteur*

*Amendment*

6. **Stresses that future food sovereignty relies significantly on generational renewal in the agricultural sector; calls on the Member States to strengthen existing support measures for young farmers in 2022 in view of the lack of generational renewal in farming, which**

*is currently one of European agriculture's biggest challenges; calls on the Council and Commission to maintain at least levels of support for young farmers in the General Budget 2022; stresses the need to facilitate access to land and farm succession as a key prerequisite to enable young and new farmers to enter the sector[24]; therefore rejects the reduction of 5 million euros proposed in the draft budget for the young farmers' payments [38].*