Wednesday 13 September 2017

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Draft amending budget No 3/2017: budgetary resources of the Youth Employment Initiative; establishing plans of ACER and SESAR2

European Parliament resolution of 13 September 2017 on the Council position on Draft amending budget No 3/2017 of the European Union for the financial year 2017 increasing the budgetary resources of the Youth Employment Initiative to pursue the reduction of youth unemployment across the European Union and updating the staff establishment plans of the decentralised agency ACER and the joint undertaking SESAR2 (11812/2017–C8-0303/2017 — 2017/2078(BUD))

(2018/C 337/38)

The European Parliament,

— having regard to Article 314 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

— having regard to Article 106a of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

— having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 ([1]), and in particular Article 41 thereof,

— having regard to the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2017, as definitively adopted on 1 December 2016 ([2]),

— having regard to Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 ([3]) (MFF Regulation),

— having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management ([4]),

— having regard to the Special Report 5/2017 of the European Court of Auditors 'Youth unemployment — have EU policies made a difference? An assessment of the Youth Guarantee and the Youth Employment Initiative',

— having regard to Council Decision 2014/335/EU, Euratom of 26 May 2014 on the system of own resources of the European Union ([5]),

— having regard to Draft amending budget No 3/2017, which the Commission adopted on 30 May 2017 (COM(2017)0288),

— having regard to the position on Draft amending budget No 3/2017 which the Council adopted on 4 September 2017 and forwarded to Parliament on the same day (11812/2017 — C8-0303/2017),

— having regard to Rules 88 and 91 of its Rules of Procedure,

— having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A8-0282/2017),

([1]) OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.
([2]) OJ L 51, 28.2.2017.
([3]) OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.
([4]) OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.
([5]) OJ L 168, 7.6.2014, p. 105.

A. whereas Draft amending budget No 3/2017 relates to the provision of EUR 500 million of additional commitment appropriations to the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) as agreed by the European Parliament and the Council in their agreement on the budget 2017, as well as to an amendment of the establishment plans of the decentralised agency ACER and the joint undertaking SESAR2, without incurring any changes to the overall budget or the total number of posts;

B. whereas the European Parliament and the Council invited the Commission to propose an amending budget in 2017 in order to provide EUR 500 million for the YEI in 2017 financed by the Global Margin for Commitments, as soon as the technical adjustment provided for in Article 6 of the MFF Regulation is adopted;

C. whereas, following the adoption of the technical adjustment, the Commission consequently proposes to amend the Union budget for 2017 and increase Article 04 02 64 'Youth Employment Initiative';

D. whereas in the context of the mid-term revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the European Parliament and the Council have agreed on a top-up of EUR 1,2 billion for the YEI for the years 2017-2020 and the European Parliament underlined in its statement linked to the mid-term MFF revision that that limit is of political nature without any legal implications;

E. whereas in the context of the mid-term revision of the MFF, the Commission also underlined in its statement, that consideration should be given to increase the funding for YEI beyond the amount of EUR 1,2 billion agreed by using margins available under the Global Margin for Commitments in accordance with Article 14 of the MFF Regulation;

F. whereas the requirement for the 2017 reclassification exercise is necessary for both the decentralised agency ACER and the joint undertaking SESAR2;

1. Stresses as a matter of priority the urgent need to further increase Union's financial commitment in the fight against the youth unemployment through additional funding for the YEI;

2. Regrets the delay, due to the blockage and late approval by the Council of the mid-term MFF revision, in the modification of the Union budget for 2017 to increase the YEI as agreed during the 2017 annual budgetary procedure;

3. Takes note of Draft amending budget No 3/2017, as submitted by the Commission;

4. Calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure swift reprogramming of the relevant operational programmes in order to ensure that the whole additional YEI envelope of EUR 500 million is fully and efficiently committed by the end of 2017; furthermore, calls on Member States to perform gap assessments and market analyses prior to setting up the schemes in order to optimise the benefits of the YEI;

5. Takes note of the modifications of the establishment plans of the decentralised agency ACER and of the joint undertaking SESAR2; notes that those modifications do not change the total number of posts and that they can be financed within the bodies' annual budget for this year; agrees that the reclassification of the AD15 post for the joint undertaking SESAR2 is *ad personam* and will expire at the end of the mandate of the current Executive Director;

6. Approves the Council position on Draft amending budget No 3/2017;

7. Instructs its President to declare that Amending budget No 3/2017 has been definitively adopted and arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;

8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Court of Auditors and the national parliaments.