



2021/0227(BUD)

2.9.2021

AMENDMENTS

1 - 70

Draft opinion

Urmas Paet

(PE695.195v01-00)

Draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022 -
General Introduction - Total expenditure - General statement of revenue -
Statement of revenue and expenditure by section
(2021/0227(BUD))

Amendment 1
David Lega

Draft opinion
Paragraph -1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

-1. Insists that the budget for the Common Foreign and Security Policy should focus on priority areas, both geographically and thematically, and on areas where EU action can bring most added value;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Notes that the majority of external action spending is concentrated under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe) and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) and insists on supporting agreed priorities under those external financing instruments, including those decided during the NDICI-Global Europe high level geopolitical dialogue;

3. Notes that the majority of external action spending is concentrated under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe) and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) and insists on supporting agreed priorities under those external financing instruments, including those decided during the NDICI-Global Europe high level geopolitical dialogue; ***reiterates its previous demand for a differentiated budget nomenclature for the new external financing instruments, notably by including at least one budget line for each third country receiving significant amounts of EU assistance; stresses that in the context of a more streamlined set of instruments, the budget structure needs to be sufficiently detailed to allow Parliament to carry out its budgetary functions effectively and fulfil its***

oversight role;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes that the majority of external action spending is concentrated under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe) and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) and insists on supporting agreed priorities under those external financing instruments, including those decided during the NDICI-Global Europe high level geopolitical dialogue;

Amendment

3. Notes that the majority of external action spending is concentrated under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe) and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) and insists on supporting agreed priorities under those external financing instruments, including those decided during the NDICI-Global Europe high level geopolitical dialogue; ***calls for a more ambitious budget in the human rights components of the instrument, in order to address the increasing challenges to human rights in the world, which face unprecedented pressure further compounded by the COVID-19 crisis;***

Or. en

Amendment 4
Jérôme Rivière, Thierry Mariani

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. ***Notes that the majority of external action*** spending ***is*** concentrated under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe) ***and*** Instrument for Pre-Accession

Amendment

3. ***Deplores the exorbitant and unprecedented level of*** spending concentrated under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe), ***amounting to***

Assistance (IPA III) *and insists on supporting agreed priorities under those external financing instruments, including those decided during the NDICI-Global Europe high level geopolitical dialogue;*

EUR 89.4 billion for the years 2021-2027, as well as the sums devoted at the same time to the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III), totalling EUR 14.2 billion; considers such instruments to constitute a challenge to the independence of the Member States in terms of external policy; calls for a halt to all new accession procedures as a matter of principle;

Or. fr

Amendment 5
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Emphasises that at a time when external challenges and matters of international politics are gaining importance and are dominating international politics, we must ensure that the external dimension of the EU Budget is appropriately funded and prepared to respond without delay to current, emerging as well as future challenges;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Ernest Urtasun
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Stresses the urgent need to increase NDICI funds available for the thematic programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention and Rapid Response by 50% compared to the

spending on such measures within the context of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) during 2020;

Or. en

Amendment 7

Urmaz Paet, Petras Auštrevičius, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Nathalie Loiseau

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. *Recalls the need to implement strict conditionality in regard to financial support for EU's partner countries and neighbourhood in cases of human rights violations;*

Or. en

Amendment 8

Ernest Urtasun

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. *Stresses that the humanitarian aid budget for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries should be strongly increased to support and protect vulnerable Afghans and their families, including Internally Displaced People and refugees, and to enhance resettlement; demands that, unless the respect for human rights and especially the rights of women and girls can be guaranteed, development assistance to the Afghan regime remains suspended and is redirected towards independent development and humanitarian organisations in line with EU external action objectives;*

Amendment 9

Urmaz Paet, Hilde Vautmans, Petras Auštrevičius, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Nathalie Loiseau

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Welcomes the increased contribution from NDICI and IPA III to Erasmus+, enabling increased mobility of students from the pre-accession countries;

Or. en

Amendment 10

Sunčana Glavak

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. Emphasises the need to increase funding for Western Balkan countries and the countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood to support reforms and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis;

4. Emphasises the need to increase funding for Western Balkan countries and the countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood to support reforms and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, **but also to support areas such as media freedom, the fight against corruption and organised crime, human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups, and reforms of the political, legal and economic systems;**

Or. hr

Amendment 11

Evin Incir

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Emphasises the need to increase funding for Western Balkan countries and the countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood to support reforms and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis;

Amendment

4. Emphasises the need to increase funding for Western Balkan countries and the countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood to support reforms, ***including the empowerment and protection of women and girls, LGBTQI people, indigenous people and minorities***, and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis;

Or. en

Amendment 12

Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Emphasises the need to increase funding for Western Balkan countries and the countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood to support reforms and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis;

Amendment

4. Emphasises the need to increase funding for Western Balkan countries and the countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood to support reforms, ***support all the sustainability objectives of the Green Deal, including the energy transition***, and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis ***and its long-term economic consequences***;

Or. en

Amendment 13

Jérôme Rivière, Thierry Mariani

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. ***Emphasises the need to increase funding for*** Western Balkan countries ***and***

Amendment

4. ***Considers that the amounts allocated to the*** Western Balkan countries

the countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood to support reforms and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis;

under the MFF 2021-2027, amounting to EUR 9 billion, are particularly high and have done nothing to dissuade the recipient countries from stepping up their relations with external powers;

Or. fr

Amendment 14

Petras Auštrevičius, Bart Groothuis, Frédérique Ries, Nicolae Ștefănuță, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Hilde Vautmans, Nathalie Loiseau

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Emphasises the need to increase funding for Western Balkan countries and the countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood to support reforms and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis;

Amendment

4. Emphasises the need to increase funding for Western Balkan countries and the countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood to support ***comprehensive political and socio-economic*** reforms and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis;

Or. en

Amendment 15

Ernest Urtasun

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. On Palestine, emphasizes the need to increase funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in light of the crucial role it plays in protecting and ensuring the essential needs of Palestine refugees as well as contributing to their human development; takes good note of the recent findings of the EU-funded external study of Palestinian textbooks, which largely

disproves allegations of widespread incitement to hatred and violence; takes good note of the Commission's vigilance on this matter; calls on the Commission to ensure that its funding to the Palestinian Authority counters the negative trends and growing inter-Palestinian division, contributes to promoting pluralism and accountability and supports Palestinian civil society;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Believes that to ensure cross-cutting implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, the EU and its bodies should mainstream YPS in policymaking, programming, funding, and monitoring; calls for the creation and opening up of existing dedicated funding instruments for YPS initiatives that are flexible and accessible to all youth, including those who face multiple forms of marginalisation;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Points to the numerous challenges in the EU's neighbouring regions to the East and South and emphasises the need

to ensure adequate funding for crucial areas such as democracy support, civil society and the rule of law; calls in particular for continued support to Belarusian human rights and democracy activists;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Manu Pineda, Marisa Matias, Mick Wallace

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Calls for increased funding to UNRWA in order to allow the Agency to fulfil its mandate and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of vital services such as health and education to millions of Palestine refugees;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Ernest Urtasun
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 b. On Israel, insists on the need to ensure that EU bilateral assistance to Israel complies with international and EU law; calls on the Commission to strengthen its assistance to Israeli civil society, notably to those advocating for equal rights and documenting human rights violations and to enhance EU assistance to Palestinian rights and livelihoods in Israel, in the annexed territories and in the isolated enclaves;

deplores the continued destruction and confiscation of EU-funded humanitarian assistance in the West Bank; notes that according to EU sources, Israeli authorities demolished or seized 97 122 structures in 2020 at a loss of EUR 300,000, that had been built with EU or Member States' funds; is concerned by the lack of resolve of the EEAS and the Commission, as highlighted by the European Court of Auditors, to secure compensation from the Israeli authorities, as requested by the European Parliament in its resolution of September 2018; requests the Commission to deduct in the next draft budget under which EU-Israel programmes are funded the amount corresponding to the cost of demolished EU-funded projects;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 b. Reiterates its firm believe that in countries of specific strategic interest for the EU, particularly the accession countries and the associated countries of the Eastern Partnership, a closer link between the European Parliament and the respective national parliament should be established, and therefore calls for adequate funding to ensure the required level of parliamentary cooperation;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Ernest Urtasun
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 c. Considers that the human rights situation in Egypt requires a revision of the Commission's budget support operations and requires the prioritisation of EU aid to primarily supporting democratic actors and civil society; calls for more transparency on all forms of financial support or training provided by the EU, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Bank to Egypt;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Jérôme Rivière, Thierry Mariani

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. Welcomes stronger conditionality related to democracy, human rights and rule of law under the modernised IPA III; calls on dedicated budget lines for Turkey under IPA III, which should support Turkish civil society;

5. Condemns the particularly large amounts to be earmarked for Turkey under the MFF 2021-2027, amounting to EUR 5 billion; condemns the vague and changing nature of the conditionality criteria; notes that Turkey, in stepping up its acts of aggression and provocation against a number of Member States of the European Union, is failing to respect the said criteria in any way; calls for a halt to the process of Turkish accession, along with an end to all payments to Turkey, under both IPA III and the 2016 agreement on migrants;

Or. fr

Amendment 23

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes stronger conditionality related to democracy, human rights and rule of law under the modernised IPA III; calls on dedicated budget lines for Turkey under IPA III, which should support Turkish civil society;

Amendment

5. Welcomes stronger conditionality related to democracy, human rights and rule of law under the modernised IPA III; calls on dedicated budget lines for Turkey ***and the Western Balkan countries*** under IPA III, which should support Turkish civil society ***and areas such as media freedom, the fight against corruption and organised crime, human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups, and reforms of the political, legal and economic systems in the Western Balkan countries;***

Or. hr

Amendment 24
Anna Bonfrisco, Susanna Ceccardi, Marco Zanni, Jaak Madison

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. ***Welcomes stronger*** conditionality related to democracy, human rights and rule of law under the modernised IPA III; ***calls on dedicated budget lines for Turkey under IPA III, which should*** support Turkish civil society;

Amendment

5. ***Notes*** conditionality related to democracy, human rights and rule of law under the modernised IPA III; ***however regrets that this instrument is still used to support Turkey, a country that does not respect several of the basic principles of freedom and democracy and that has increased its aggressive behaviour, not only in the Mediterranean area, becoming a real threat for many EU Member States;***

Or. en

Amendment 25

Ernest Urtasun
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes stronger conditionality related to democracy, human rights and rule of law under the modernised IPA III; calls ***on dedicated budget lines for Turkey under IPA III, which should support*** Turkish civil society;

Amendment

5. Welcomes stronger conditionality related to democracy, human rights and rule of law under the modernised IPA III; calls ***for sufficient funding for*** Turkish civil society ***under IPA III; reminds that all the funding under IPA III, including the Western Balkan Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) needs to be in line with the targets of the Paris Agreement and EU decarbonisation goals;***

Or. en

Amendment 26
Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes stronger conditionality related to democracy, human rights and rule of law under the modernised IPA III; calls on dedicated budget lines for Turkey under IPA III, ***which should*** support Turkish civil society;

Amendment

5. Welcomes stronger conditionality related to democracy, human rights and rule of law under the modernised IPA III; calls on dedicated budget lines for Turkey under IPA III, ***introducing more stringent conditionalities and monitoring mechanisms to prevent and sanction abuse, support Turkish civil society and prevent misuse of EU funds by the Turkish government;***

Or. en

Amendment 27
Evin Incir

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes stronger conditionality related to democracy, human rights and rule of law under the modernised IPA III; calls on dedicated budget lines for Turkey under IPA III, which should support Turkish civil society;

Amendment

5. Welcomes stronger conditionality related to democracy, human rights and rule of law under the modernised IPA III; calls on dedicated budget lines for Turkey under IPA III, which should support Turkish civil society ***and people-to-people contacts***;

Or. en

Amendment 28

Ernest Urtasun

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Recalls the important role played by Turkey in welcoming refugees from Syria; takes the view that the EU should continue to give the necessary support to Syrian and other refugees and host communities in Turkey by means of a mix of longer-term, predictable, fully transparent, and rapidly deployable funding under instruments established for the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF) and potential contributions from the Member States as external assigned revenue, taking into account all financial instruments provided under the Financial Regulation; stresses that, any flexible funding mechanism established in the framework of the NDICI-Global Europe should comply with the thematic spending targets defined in the Regulation; insists on the need to ensure that the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework is accompanied by a robust human rights framework for the identification, implementation and monitoring of future

migration cooperation programmes; calls for a fully-fledged human rights impact assessment of the EU-Turkey Statement and underlines the importance of both parties' compliance with fundamental rights as part of its implementation;

Or. en

Amendment 29

Urmaz Paet, Petras Auštrevičius, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Nathalie Loiseau

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Notes that from 2022 onwards the activities funded by the EU Trust Funds will be largely programmed and implemented through NDICI-Global Europe; insists on full involvement of the Parliament in decisions including contributions to the EU Trust Funds from the Union budget; insists on ensuring that the FRT funding will not come at the expense of the newly adopted financing instruments IPA III and NDICI-Global Europe (including the cushion); advocates for the funding of any such initiative through fresh appropriations;

Or. en

Amendment 30

Nathalie Loiseau, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Urmaz Paet, Malik Azmani, Michal Šimečka, Javier Nart, Petras Auštrevičius, Bart Groothuis

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Reaffirms that the EU must continue to provide effective and monitored aid to Syrian refugees in

Turkey, ensuring that its funds are directly and in full transparency channelled to non-governmental organisations; insists that the European Parliament will be fully informed about the types of expenditure financed and the channels used to reach all beneficiaries;

Or. en

Amendment 31
Evin Incir

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Recognizes the essential role played by UNRWA as unique provider of vital services for millions of Palestine refugees in the Middle East and calls for an increase in the EU financial contribution to the Agency, as an investment towards security, stability and development in the region and beyond;

Or. en

Amendment 32
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Highlights the EU's global support efforts for refugees and calls for continued financial support in this field, including a continuation of financing for Syrian refugees via a successor programme of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRT);

Or. en

Amendment 33

Evin Incir

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 b. Reiterates that any successor to the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRT) shall not be financed at the detriment of the newly adopted financing instruments such as IPA III and NDICI-Global Europe; requests that any successor of the FRT shall be financed by fresh appropriations and if necessary by contribution from the Member States; underlines that the European Parliament must be fully involved in the decision-making process for the establishment of any FRT successor in full respect of the role of the budgetary authority;

Or. en

Amendment 34

Evin Incir

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

Amendment

6. Emphasises that the protection and promotion of human rights globally continues to be of core interest for external actions of the Union;

6. Emphasises that the protection and promotion of **democracy and** human rights globally continues to be of core interest for external actions of the Union; **underlines the importance of strengthening the budget for election observation missions, given their role in consolidating democratic institutions and bringing stability in fragile countries, as well as to reinforce the budget for the preservation of human rights and the support to civil society organisations including the ones committed to women and girls**

empowerment;

Or. en

Amendment 35

David Lega

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Emphasises that the protection and promotion of human rights globally continues to be of core interest for external actions of the Union;

Amendment

6. Emphasises that the protection and promotion of human rights globally continues to be of core interest for external actions of the Union; ***highlights that the EU should strictly refrain from budget support as a modality to provide assistance in countries that grossly fail to meet international standards in the field of human rights and democracy, or that fail to demonstrate their commitment to fighting corruption; highlights the importance of election observation missions, notably by local civil society groups, and calls for an appropriate level of funding;***

Or. en

Amendment 36

Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Emphasises that the protection and promotion of human rights globally continues to be of core interest for external actions ***of the Union;***

Amendment

6. Emphasises that the protection and promotion of human rights ***and democracy*** globally continues to be of core interest for ***the European Union*** external actions; ***calls for increased funding for Electoral Observation Missions and stresses their fundamental role as strong deterrents to electoral fraud and violence while also***

contributing in improving future elections, fostering peace and development and supporting democracy;

Or. en

Amendment 37
Peter van Dalen

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Emphasises that the protection and promotion of human rights globally continues to be of core interest for external actions of the Union;

Amendment

6. Emphasises that the protection and promotion of human rights globally continues to be of core interest for external actions of the Union; ***stresses in this connection the importance of adequate funding and support for the recently appointed Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion and belief outside the EU;***

Or. nl

Amendment 38
Petras Auštrevičius, Bart Groothuis, Frédérique Ries, Nicolae Ștefănuță, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Hilde Vautmans, Nathalie Loiseau

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Emphasises that the protection and promotion of human rights globally continues to be of core interest for external actions of the Union;

Amendment

6. Emphasises that the protection and promotion of human rights globally continues to be of core interest for external actions of the Union; ***encourages a thorough application of the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime (EU Magnitsky Act) and extension of its scope to acts of corruption;***

Or. en

Amendment 39
Ernest Urtasun
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. *Calls for greater transparency regarding human rights-related provisions in financing agreements and a clarification of the mechanism and criteria for the suspension of such agreements in the event of a breach of human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law and in serious cases of corruption; calls on the Commission to strictly refrain from using budget support to third countries' governments as an operational modality in countries witnessing widespread violations of human rights and repression of HRDs;*

Or. en

Amendment 40
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. *At a time where democracy is more and more under threat around the world, reiterates its support for funding dedicated to elections observation missions, including local observers, and calls for an appropriate level of funding; underlines that the need for democracy and election support, including EOMs, was further amplified by the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences;*

Or. en

Amendment 41

Urmas Paet, Hilde Vautmans, Petras Auštrevičius, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Nathalie Loiseau

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. Insists that all funding for the civil society organisations in Afghanistan will be allocated directly to these organisations without using the Taliban government as an intermediary; calls for special attention to be focussed on the support of women and children in Afghanistan;

Or. en

Amendment 42

Urmas Paet, Petras Auštrevičius, Nicolae Ștefănuță

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 b. Insists that the room for external action expenditure given by the MFF ceiling for Heading 6 'Neighbourhood and the world' and the rules for the mobilisation of the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve must be fully utilised; reiterates that the balance between the resources assigned to the different external action instruments through the respective regulations must be preserved; emphasises that the future funding for the needs of the Syrian refugees was not factored in the MFF or NDICI-Global Europe discussion and it should therefore not be borne by the programmed instruments; furthermore, as the expected Syrian refugees package is not responding to a new crisis or unforeseen needs, stresses that any funding from the emergency cushion of

NDICI-Global Europe towards this should be limited; calls instead on Member States to make available additional "fresh funds" for this package;

Or. en

Amendment 43
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 b. *While condemning any attack against religious minorities, in particular Christians, around the world, emphasises that adequate funding for actions to protect persecuted minorities must be available, and in this regard further underlines its support for the office of the EU Special Representative on the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the EU;*

Or. en

Amendment 44
Ernest Urtasun
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 b. *Calls for the EU to take particular care to assess and prevent any violation linked to the Union's own projects and funding in third countries, including by creating a complaints mechanism for individuals or groups whose rights may have been violated by EU activities in these countries;*

Amendment 45
Özlem Demirel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

7. Highlights the importance of ***building a strong common security and defence policy) and enhancing cooperation in defence and security matters through the European Defence Fund, a key contributor to the Union's strategic autonomy;***

Amendment

7. Highlights the importance of ***a paradigm shift in EU foreign policy, with the Union as a strong civilian actor promoting peaceful conflict resolution, advancing cooperation on arms control and nuclear disarmament, strengthening poverty reduction, fair trade and balanced economic relations; recalls the disastrous results of the interventionist, geopolitical and military approach as seen in Afghanistan and Mali; objects to further EU militarization and the continued setting up of a Military Union and the on-going support of the defence and armament industry; stresses that the setting-up of the European Defence Fund violates the provisions laid down in Article 41(2) TEU;***

Or. en

Amendment 46
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

7. Highlights the importance of building a strong common security and defence policy) and enhancing cooperation in defence and security matters through the European Defence Fund, a key contributor to the Union's strategic autonomy;

Amendment

7. Highlights the importance of building a strong common security and defence policy) and enhancing cooperation in defence and security matters through the European Defence Fund, a key contributor to the Union's strategic autonomy; ***expects that the upcoming EU Strategic Compass,***

and its resulting conclusions, will also result in further increases of spending on defence related initiatives in order to respond to the multiple ongoing challenges and lead to a more geostrategic EU that is able to defend its interests and take over more responsibilities, in partnership with the US and NATO, in particular in the European neighbourhood;

Or. en

Amendment 47

Ernest Urtasun

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

7. Highlights the importance of building a strong common security and defence policy) and enhancing cooperation in defence and security matters through the European Defence Fund, **a key contributor** to the Union's strategic autonomy;

Amendment

7. Highlights the importance of building a strong **European** Common Security and Defence Policy (**CSDP**) and enhancing cooperation in defence and security matters through **various instruments such as PESCO, CARD, and the European Defence Fund, which shall contribute** to the Union's strategic autonomy **and its ability to decide and act autonomously if needed; stresses the importance of civilian CSDP missions and calls on the Member States to commit sufficient personnel within short time frames;**

Or. en

Amendment 48

Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

7. Highlights the importance of building a strong common security and defence policy) and enhancing cooperation in defence and security matters through the European Defence Fund, a key contributor to the Union's strategic autonomy;

Amendment

7. Highlights the importance of building a strong common security and defence policy) and enhancing cooperation in defence and security matters through the European Defence Fund, a key contributor to the Union's strategic autonomy ***and technological sovereignty***;

Or. en

Amendment 49

Jérôme Rivière, Thierry Mariani

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

7. ***Highlights the importance of building a strong common security and defence policy) and enhancing cooperation in defence and security matters through the European Defence Fund, a key contributor to the Union's strategic autonomy***;

Amendment

7. ***Stresses that a genuine European security and defence cooperation policy can only result from cross-border cooperation projects and warns against any plans to impose qualified majority voting in this area***;

Or. fr

Amendment 50

Bart Groothuis, Nathalie Loiseau, Petras Auštrevičius, Dragoș Tudorache, Urmas Paet, Nicolae Ștefănuță

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

7 a. Emphasises that optic fibre cables are the central nervous system of the global internet, as 97% of all internet traffic travels through these cables; Underlines that although these cables are a central and indispensable part of the critical infrastructure of the EU and thus

Amendment

of great geopolitical importance, they have recently been the subject of foreign spying operations; believes that the EU should prioritize the security and protection of these cables; calls for the EU to set up an EU optic fibre cables security program, that includes research, coordination, policy-making, the tracking of incidents and the training of coast guards;

Or. en

Amendment 51

Nathalie Loiseau, Petras Auštrevičius, Urmas Paet, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Frédérique Ries, Bernard Guetta, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Hilde Vautmans

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 a. Calls on the Bureau to draw up a translation of key foreign policy resolutions adopted under Rule 54 (own-initiative reports) into the non-Union official languages of the United Nations (namely Arabic, Chinese and Russian), as well as country-specific resolutions adopted under Rules 132 (resolution accompanying Commission/VPHR statements) and 144 (urgency resolution) into the official language of the country concerned, with a view to enhancing the impact and outreach of the Parliament's foreign affairs activities, and calls on the budgetary authority to ensure that sufficient appropriations are made available for that purpose;

Or. en

Amendment 52

Michael Gahler

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 a. *Underlines the need to draw the necessary lessons from the international engagement to fight terrorism and advance freedom, human rights and civil liberties in Afghanistan; reiterates the need to ensure appropriate funding to address the possible additional migration movements originating from Afghanistan, in particular in the region itself in order to ensure humane and adequate support both for the people seeking shelter, as well as the host countries;*

Or. en

Amendment 53

Urmas Paet, Hilde Vautmans, Petras Auštrevičius, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Bart Groothuis, Nathalie Loiseau

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 a. *Calls on strengthening support for fighting disinformation and challenges linked to EU's work against foreign interference; calls for ensuring appropriate funding and mandates for the EEAS units and projects dealing with this issues; calls for a creation of a Far East Task Force to tackle threats coming from the far east and south east Asia region;*

Or. en

Amendment 54

Ernest Urtasun

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 a. *Underlines the importance to regularly evaluate all EU security assistance measures (civilian CSDP and IcSP/NDICI) and to readjust certain missions, operations, and measures with a view on incorporating a meaningful human security approach, which takes into account the real security needs of the local population;*

Or. en

Amendment 55

Urmas Paet, Hilde Vautmans, Petras Auštrevičius, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Nathalie Loiseau

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 b. *Acknowledges the need to reinforce the EEAS in order to allow it to fulfil its functions under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime; calls for adequate funding for additional staff in order to ensure carrying out the tasks under this new EU foreign policy tool;*

Or. en

Amendment 56

Urmas Paet, Petras Auštrevičius, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Nathalie Loiseau

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 c. *Rejects the Council's cuts to the administrative budget of the European External Action Service; calls on the Rapporteur for the Committee on Budgets for section X to restore the draft budget*

on all lines cut by the Council in section X;

Or. en

Amendment 57

Bart Groothuis, Nathalie Loiseau, Petras Auštrevičius, Dragoș Tudorache, Urmas Paet, Nicolae Ștefănuță

Draft opinion

Paragraph 8 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

8 a. Stresses the importance of the protection of the EU against foreign interference and influence, notably through hybrid attacks and disinformation, and the key role the EEAS plays therein; recalls that the European Court of Auditors has concluded that the EEAS needs a broader mandate to tackle the surge in hybrid attacks in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and new emerging threats, accompanied with sufficient funding; calls the European Commission to meet those demands and calls for the creation of a dedicated Far East Task Force, to deal with the specific threats coming from the far east and south east Asia region;

Or. en

Amendment 58

Ernest Urtasun

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 8 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

8 a. Stresses the need for sufficient funding to facilitate the planning and implementation of the EU's global

connectivity agenda; emphasises the importance of including concrete connectivity projects and investments in the programming process for the 2021-2027 MFF;

Or. en

Amendment 59
Ernest Urtasun
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 8 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

8 b. Highlights the importance of an increase in funding for including and streamlining the fight against malicious interference and disinformation within the EU policy approach, EU external action and EU countermeasures; emphasises the relevance of coordination among EU institutions and sufficient funding for a structure that serves as a focal point for civil society organisations, research organisations and other relevant actors; stresses the need for the EEAS StratCom Task Forces to have a stable funding source and for an increase of funding to address emerging challenges of foreign interference, especially from China; welcomes in this regard the recent ECA Special Report on Disinformation affecting the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 60
Urmas Paet, Hilde Vautmans, Petras Auštrevičius, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Nathalie Loiseau

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9

Draft opinion

9. Stresses the responsibility of the Union to support the protection of the Arctic and its local communities.

Amendment

9. ***Underlines the importance of connecting the Common Foreign and Security Policy to the EU Arctic Policy and stresses the responsibility of the Union to support the protection of the Arctic and its local communities.***

Or. en

Amendment 61

David Lega

Draft opinion

Paragraph 9 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 a. Calls for further funding for strategic communication actions to counter malicious interference, including foreign disinformation, espionage, and propaganda, which are increasingly used to undermine the democratic order in the Union and in countries in the Union's vicinity; calls for the European External Action Service (EEAS) to further strengthen its capacities to counter disinformation, hybrid warfare, propaganda and espionage, including the creation of dedicated StratCom Task Forces on interference emanating from China and the Middle East, in particular from Iran, and providing them with further necessary financial and human resources;

Or. en

Amendment 62

Ernest Urtasun

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 9 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 a. Urges the EEAS to adopt and implement without further delay its self-standing implementation provisions on outside activities and assignments, which create a sui generis legal basis for Heads of Delegations to better protect the image and reputation of the EU as a whole, as announced in the written answers provided to the Committee on Budgetary Control in the context of the 2019 discharge;

Or. en

**Amendment 63
Michael Gahler**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 a. Repeats its previous statements about the threats related to cyber security as well as the spreading of fake news, in this context highlights the need for the EU Budget to better address and respond to these key challenges on a horizontal level, including in particular at the headquarters of the EU as well as its delegations around the world;

Or. en

**Amendment 64
Urmas Paet, Hilde Vautmans, Petras Auštrevičius, Nicolae Ștefănuță**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 a. Welcomes an ambitious external

Gender Action Plan (GAP III), calls for adequate financial resources for its implementation;

Or. en

Amendment 65
Ernest Urtasun
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 b. Stresses the need for proper and measurable indicators and a specific methodology, as well as regular monitoring, to analyse the impact of the EU budget on gender equality and effectively implement gender budgeting in EU external action; emphasises the need for a specific increase in the budget to ensure the presence of dedicated gender advisers in each EEAS Directorate, EU delegations and CSDP missions and operations, and to implement mandatory trainings on gender equality across the EEAS, EU Delegations and CSDP missions and operations, including on harassment;

Or. en

Amendment 66
David Lega

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 b. Stresses the need to improve the visibility and communication concerning EU aid and Union financing in third countries, particularly candidate and

partner countries; calls upon the Commission to put greater focus on dissemination of the successfully implemented projects, and their positive impact and benefits in order to strengthen the impact of funding and enhance EU public diplomacy;

Or. en

Amendment 67
David Lega, Lukas Mandl, Miriam Lexmann

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 c. Welcomes the statement of the European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, Olivér Várhelyi, on the Commission's firm commitment to fighting anti-semitism and engaging with the Palestinian Authority and the UNRWA to promote quality education for Palestinian children and ensure full adherence to UNESCO standards of peace, tolerance, co-existence, and non-violence in Palestinian textbooks; agrees with the stance that the conditionality of EU financial assistance in the educational sector needs to be duly considered; insists that the Commission must guarantee that no Union funds are allocated or linked to any form of terrorism and/or religious and political radicalisation;

Or. en

Amendment 68
Ernest Urtasun
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 c. *Calls on the EEAS to create a special adviser position on gender equality and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, as well as a special advisor position on diversity and inclusion, each with their own sufficient resources and amount of staff;*

Or. en

Amendment 69

Ernest Urtasun

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 9 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 d. *Notes that NDICI-Global Europe foresees mid-term and final evaluations and the detailed annual reporting by Commission to Parliament and Council on the ongoing activities, results delivered, effectiveness, as well as progress towards the thematic targets and objectives of the Regulation; calls on the Commission to develop and implement a precise methodology for tracking the thematic targets, in particular on climate, biodiversity, gender equality, as well as migration and forced displacement, to ensure transparency, proper accountability and enable the Parliament to effectively fulfil its scrutiny role as one of the budgetary authorities;*

Or. en

Amendment 70

Ernest Urtasun

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 e. Reiterates the importance it attaches to the translation of key foreign policy resolutions and urgency resolutions into the non-EU official languages of the United Nations (namely Arabic, Chinese and Russian) and into the official language of the country concerned, with a view to enhancing the impact and outreach of the European Parliament's foreign affairs activities, and calls on the budgetary authority to ensure that sufficient appropriations are made available for that purpose.

Or. en