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*Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety  
The Chair*

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xx.09.2024  
SD/MR/cs  
D(2024)

Mr Johan Van Overtveldt  
Chair  
Committee on Budgets  
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2025-  
all sections (2024/0176(BUD))

Dear Chair,

Dear Mr Van Overtveldt,

The coordinators of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) decided on 24 July 2024 that ENVI would provide an opinion on the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2025 - all sections (2024/0176(BUD)) in the form of a letter. Therefore, as both ENVI Chair and Standing Rapporteur for the Budget, let me provide you with ENVI's contribution in the form of resolution paragraphs, which was adopted by ENVI at its meeting<sup>1</sup> of 12 September 2024 and which I kindly request will be taken into account by your committee:

- underlines that the 2025 Union budget incorporates the impacts of the mid-term revision of the expenditure ceilings in the multiannual financial framework (MFF) which took place in February 2024, reflecting the challenges that the Union needs to address, among which the imminent climate emergency, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, migratory pressures and their root causes, responding to the crisis in the Middle East and reinforcing our capacity to respond to natural disasters;

- calls to ensure the necessary human and financial resources for the fast implementation of the legislation adopted in the last legislative cycle in the areas of climate, environment, food safety and health, and focusing on a range of key priorities, such as climate mitigation and adaptation, just transition and circular economy;

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<sup>1</sup> The following were present for the final vote: XX (Chair), XY (Vice-Chair), XZ (Vice-Chair), MEPs

- stresses the importance of strengthening the Union's role on the international arena by increasing the funding for the Union's actions tackling environment protection and climate change globally;
- reminds that the European Green Deal is a growth strategy and that its implementation policies should complement and support the Union's competitiveness through the appropriate funding;
- recalls that over the course of the 2021-2027 period, the EU is set to spend at least 30% of its budget on climate-relevant objectives; welcomes the fact that the 2025 draft budget outperforms this objective, with 33,5% dedicated to climate mainstreaming;
- recalls that biodiversity should be mainstreamed in EU programmes to allocate at least 7,5% of annual spending to biodiversity objectives in 2024 and 10% in both 2026 and 2027; regrets that these objectives will not be met, since biodiversity mainstreaming amounts to 7,3% of the budget in 2024, and to 7,8% in 2026 and 7,9% in 2027; therefore, calls the Commission and other involved actors to ensure that remedial measures are put rapidly in place to reach the biodiversity mainstreaming targets;
- notes that the commitments under the Environmental and Climate Action policy cluster in Heading 3 'Natural Resources and Environment' are planned to decrease by EUR 7,1 million, while the payments will increase by EUR 28,3 million between 2024 and 2025; considers, given the Union objective of climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest, that the budget devoted to this cluster should be increased;
- reminds that the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) was designed to support a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and build resilience against future shocks, notably by supporting the green and digital transition; consequently, Member States are called to devote at least 37 % of their total expenditure to investments and reforms in support of climate objectives;
- emphasises the need to allocate sufficient funding for each individual budget line that contributes to the achievement of the green transition, with a particular focus on sustainability, climate change and biodiversity conservation;
- stresses that the LIFE programme, which supports the protection of nature and biodiversity, the protection and quality improvement of the Union's air and water, and the transition towards an energy efficient, renewable energy-based, circular, climate neutral and climate resilient economy, requires an increase of its budget;
- underlines the importance of the financial means in the Just Transition Fund to support those regions and sectors that are most affected by the Union's transition away from fossil fuels;
- welcomes the approach of the Commission to start the preparatory activities of the new Social Climate Fund (SCF), established to mitigate the social impacts on vulnerable groups in the Union arising from the extension of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to buildings, road transport and additional types of fuels; notes that part of the revenues from the auctioning of emission allowances in ETS2 will supply the SCF;
- welcomes the allocation of funding for the set-up of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) that addresses the risk of carbon leakage, ensuring that domestic production and imports are subject to similar levels of carbon pricing, and encourages producers

in third countries to adopt decarbonisation technologies;

- strongly regrets the redeployment from the EU4Health programme of 1 billion EUR over the 2025-2027 period, agreed during the MFF mid-term revision, of which EUR 189 million in 2025; calls on the Commission, Member States and other involved actors to find practical modalities to compensate this cut and increase the EU4Health's funding via different channels;

- regrets the cuts of EUR 37 million (commitments) and EUR 154,9 million (payments) in the budget lines for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (RescEU), especially considering the need to ensure appropriate financing for this instrument in tackling ever worsening extreme weather conditions in the Union;

- welcomes the increase of resources to the European agencies under ENVI's remit, such as the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) as a mean to ensure that they can fully carry out their important functions in European policymaking in response to the challenges the Union has been facing; stresses the need for sufficient funding in the long term to enable their proper and effective functioning;

- deplores the cuts made by the Council on various lines affecting actions falling under the ENVI Committee remit, such as cluster "Health", ECHA, support expenditures for the EU4Health and LIFE programmes as well as lines regarding nature and biodiversity, circular economy and quality of life, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and clean energy transition; and

- reiterates the importance of ensuring an enhanced EU own resources system which is capable of meeting the challenges and contributing to the Union's health, environment and climate goals.

I have sent a similar letter to Mr Victor Negrescu, general rapporteur for the 2025 budget.

Yours sincerely,

Antonio Decaro

**ANNEX: ENTITIES OR PERSONS  
FROM WHOM THE RAPPOREUR FOR THE OPINION HAS RECEIVED INPUT**

The Chair in his capacity as rapporteur for the opinion declares under his exclusive responsibility that he did not receive input from any entity or person to be mentioned in this Annex pursuant to Article 8 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure.