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## **The priorities of the EU budget for 2009**

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## The priorities of the EU budget for 2009

**Abstract:** *The priorities of the EU budget for 2009 are: economic growth, employment, climate, strengthening security and safety of European citizens, the social dimension of the EU. Divided into areas, the EU provides for sustainable development, regional education and research 45.9 billion for natural resources 52.58 billion euros for EU citizenship, justice and home affairs 1.3 billion, and for expenses Board 7.64 billion.*

Almost half the budget of the EU in 2009, meaning 60 billion, will be oriented towards research, innovation, employment and regional development programs, combining short-term measures and long to respond as quickly and efficiently the current economic crisis.

Thus, the 60 billion euros of the total budget of the European Union (EU) from 133.8 billion euros, will be used to increase the competitiveness of Member States. The budget will be 2.5% higher than in 2008 and will represent 1.03% of gross national income (GNI) of the Member States of the Community block.

The payments of this year will climb by 0.3% over 2008, up from 116.1 billion, representing 0.89% of GNI in the EU.

The research budget was increased by 11% for innovation and 22%, the EU aims to reduce the effects of the crisis, but also to move towards an economy based on less carbon. According to the European Commission, the funds reserved for agriculture remained stable, exceeding 40 billion euros, while spending on the environment and rural development will increase by 2.9%. Also, the EU will contribute 600 million to fund one billion euros by which the poor are helped to cope with rising prices of food. Parliament has failed to ensure that financial support amounting to one billion euros for the period 2008-2010, at the meeting of the annual budgetary conciliation. The funds will come from three sources of funding, namely: the flexibility, the reserve for emergency aid (Emergency Aid Reserve - EAR) and the redistribution of some funds from the section "Foreign Relations" of the general budget of the Union.

The funds made available to developing countries by adopting the regulation should be an additional and should not affect the development assistance in other sectors, stressed MEPs.

Economic growth and employment, the fight against climate change and enhancing safety and security of EU citizens and the social dimension of the Union, are priorities of the European Parliament on the EU budget for 2009.

### **1. Economic growth and employment**

Members of Parliament were "dismayed by additional reductions imposed by the Council on the budget lines to support the Lisbon Strategy", stressing that the objectives of growth and employment is just the foundation of the Lisbon Strategy, but that The Commission has already reduced the Preliminary Draft Budget (PDB) several budget appropriations from the previous year.

### **2. Climate change**

This priority is not sufficiently well reflected in the PDB and, therefore, is to grant a greater importance of this key policy. According europarlimentary should be serious efforts to increase and concentration of adequate financial resources to encourage the European Union in its role as a leader in addressing the consequences of climate change. In this respect, MEPs proposed allocating credit only on the field within a specific budget lines, bringing into question and establish a "climate fund".

### **3. Security of EU citizens**

Members stressed the importance of continuity in funding through the EU budget for the management of legal immigration and integration of third countries, while combating illegal immigration and strengthening border protection.

### **4. EU global player**

MEPs argue that significant redistribution of funds under this heading, conducted by the Council, is a clear indication of serious deficit of resources available in the ceiling of the financial framework. The funds available do not allow, as now, the European Union to assume the role of a global partner.

Parliament will continue to include support for the peace process in Palestine and Kosovo among its key priorities will remain unchanged and that should be allocated sufficient resources to the EU budget.

The report underlines the desire of the European Parliament to support Georgia in a long and costly process of reconstruction and to participate actively in finding an appropriate financial solutions, as specified in the resolution of 3 September 2008, on the situation in Georgia.

### **5. Developing an "EU identity"**

The European Parliament has expressed regret for the lack of consistency and coherence that can be found regularly in the policy applied by the General Directorates of the Commission. Ruling is also in favor of developing an "identity of the EU" to be consistent, recognized and used in all communication activities. Daniel Daianu stressed the importance of simplifying procedures to access funds, in the debate in Strasbourg on the draft EU budget for the year 2009. "The EU is discussed at a time of growing anxiety about the economic crisis which includes Member States. That crisis led the Commission, Council and European Parliament to reflect on how the resources of the Community budget can combat the economic decline. Considerable acceleration of payments of structural funds for new member states is a necessity in these new circumstances, and the Commission to simplify procedures in this regard is more than welcome. But the intent must be translated into concrete deeds, and the EU budget should be prepared for a situation in which additional appropriations are necessary - as the report rightly points. This really depends on the simplification of procedures" eurodeputy Daianu said. He also stated that "For the new Member States outside the euro area, the operating space for the use of budgetary incentives from their own resources is much reduced because of financial crisis, and to restrict credit will dominate international markets in 2009. Therefore, funds, and any other forms of community support in what can be called "quality improvements are particularly needed to combat a severe economic decline in new member states."

"The contributors would favor reducing payments from the EU structural funds by taking into account the diversion to other destinations. But not to steal their own sheets. If the new Member States will be victims of this crisis than would their intrinsic weaknesses, the effects would be negative for the whole Union, concluded Daianu, member of the budgets of the European Parliament.

In conclusion, we can say that almost half the budget of the EU in 2009, meaning 60 billion, will be oriented towards research, innovation, employment and regional development programs, combining short-term measures and long to respond as quickly and efficiently current economic crisis.

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