

The draft budget for the European Union for 2009

On Thursday 17 July 2008, the Council of the European Union brought together the budget ministers to adopt the draft budget of the European Communities for the year 2009.

The draft budget allows for 114.97 billion euros in payment appropriations (PA: cash payments to beneficiaries), and 133.93 billion euros in commitment appropriations (CA: judicial commitments allowing payments to be made).

The 2009 draft budget reflects the priorities of the European Union (growth and competitiveness, cohesion, solidarity with third countries) and those of the French Presidency (energy/climate, migration policies, adapting the CAP in the context of the 'CAP Health Check').

- Priority is given to policies for sustainable growth and employment. In all, 60 billion euros by way of CA and 44.5 billion euros by way of PA will be assigned to growth and employment.

As such, 11.1 billion euros by way of CA will finance areas such as research, innovation, education, transport networks, energy, Galileo, etc. Investments in the context of the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development (FPRD) will increase from 9.8 %, in particular to encourage co-operation in the field of research in Europe.

Moreover, credits in respect of the cohesion policy amount to 48.4 billion euros in CA, which represents a rise of 2.5 % in relation to 2008, mainly justified by the solidarity effort made in favour of convergence states (the Member States that joined in 2004 and 2007) as well as Spain, Greece, and Portugal. In 2009, more than 50 % of credits under this policy will be given over to structural measures in favour of those countries (Member States that joined in 2004 and 2007).

- Heading 2 ('The Conservation and Management of Natural Resources') is the second highest item of expenditure in the EU in terms of CA (57.1 billion euros), but it remains the largest in terms of PA (54.3 billion euros). This section includes expenses relating to the Common Agricultural Policy, rural development measures, the Common Fisheries Policy, and expenses for the environment.

Appropriations linked with the priorities of the French Presidency, and concerning energy policy as well as climate policy, are in the region of 2.3 billion euros and 13 billion euros, spread under the various headings of the European budget.

- Heading 3 ('Citizenship, liberty, security, and justice') is worth 1.4 billion euros in CA and 1.2 billion euros in PA. Appropriations given over to Frontex, the agency in charge of managing operational co-operation at the external borders of the EU have been fully preserved, in accordance with the priorities defined by the French Presidency with regard to immigration. Funds allocated to solidarity and to managing migration flows are of the order of 1 207.7 million euros in PA.

- A budget of 7.5 billion euros in CA and 7.2 billion euros in PA is assigned to heading 4 ('The European Union as a World Partner') to confront the global challenges that arise beyond the frontiers of the EU.

In order to meet the needs arising from measures taken in the Near East and in the Balkans, 160 million euros have been set in reserve for CA, of which 100 million euros are for Palestine and 60 million euros are for Kosovo.

- Institutional administrative expenditure has risen by 3.8 %.

This expenditure stands at 7.5 billion euros in CA and PA, in order to deal with the creation of posts linked with the enlargement of 2007 and the 8 % increase in pension contributions.