

E.U. BUDGET

PATRIOTS
FOR **EUROPE FOUNDATION**

ALL
THE THINGS THE EUROPEAN UNION
SHOULD NEVER HAVE FUNDED

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Parliament, member of ID Foundation, and
Committee on Budgets coordinator*

ALL THE THINGS THE EUROPEAN UNION SHOULD NEVER HAVE FUNDED

(COST ASSESSMENT AFTER 18 MONTHS IN
OFFICE)

by Hélène Laporte, member of the European
Parliament, member of PFE Foundation, and
Committee on Budgets coordinator.

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Editorial by Hélène Laporte

Our aim is to stop unnecessary spending. In my capacity as Committee on Budgets coordinator, since the beginning of my mandate as a member of the European Parliament, I have discovered a significant number of programmes that have no added value, or that extend beyond the scope of the EU's missions, and are generally characterised by the misdirection or misuse of European money. Suggesting ways to save money by analysing the merits of each fund is part of my legislative work, which consists in submitting multiple amendments, and publicly denouncing examples of mismanagement.

This booklet highlights several cost-assessed examples of the European Union's negligence with regard to its finances, which represent only a portion of the savings that could be made, given the wide range of areas concerned, such as Erasmus+ or the defence sector.



TURKEY

This taboo subject within the EU is long overdue and must be exposed to public view: the restitution by Turkey of the funds paid out under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. This recovery could be based on two legal grounds.

Firstly, it is highly unlikely Turkey will ever become a member of the EU due to the complete interruption of negotiations since 2019, and to its pan-Islamic and Neo-Ottoman policy in the Balkans, the Middle East and Central Asia, which is at odds with European interests.

Financial contributions to Turkey are not justified, given its lack of EU membership. Secondly, the funds have been poorly used owing to negligence resulting in a lack of results.

This is the conclusion of the European Court of Auditors' special report n° 7/2018, which states that the funds spent have barely addressed a range of basic needs, such as the fight against major corruption or organised crime.

All in all, Turkey has received almost **€44 billion** through the various programmes and agreements. This is a colossal amount considering that Turkey has regularly shown itself to be hostile towards us.

At the very least, the EU could have suspended the payment of these funds under Regulation 1085/2006 due to the manifest failure to respect the principles of democracy and human rights. The European Commission will also have to explain the handling of the majority of the funds entrusted to the Turkish authorities, raising the risk of poor and opaque management.

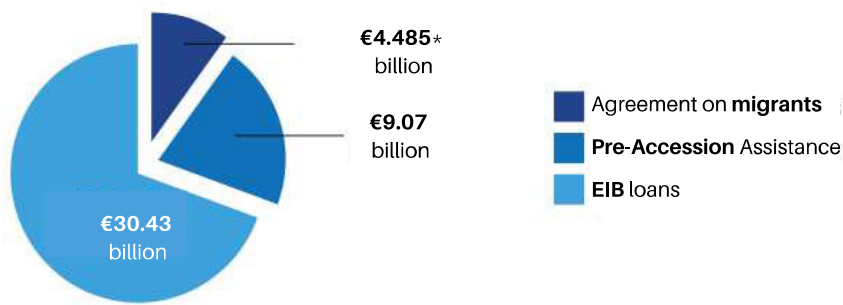
On closer inspection, a further provocation is that €400 million over the year 2020 were intended to grant cash transfers to more than 1.7 million migrants! The negotiations with Turkey are a political and financial failure for the EU, which has spent lavishly on a country that does not respect our fundamental values. The EU must hold Turkey to account instead of threatening to impose pseudo-sanctions.

Document 1 - EU funding programmes for Turkey

Agreement on migrants *	Pre-Accession Assistance	EIB loans
2016/2017: €2 billion	2007/2013: €4.49 billion	Cumulative: €30.43 billion
2018/2019: €2 billion	2014/2020: €4.58 billion	
2020: €485 million		

Source: The European Commission

Document 2 - Distribution of EU programmes for Turkey



* planned figures



THE AMIF

Migration policy management consists in a succession of failures for the EU although considerable resources, both human and financial, are deployed to protect European borders and send migrants back to their countries of origin.

Document 1 - AMIF: the example of Greece and Italy

PROGRAMME	Greece	Italy	TOTAL
2014/2020: Emergency aid	€703 million	€122 million	€825 million
2014/2020: AMIF	€328 million	€394 million	€722 million
TOTAL:	€1,031 billion	€516 million	€1,547 billion

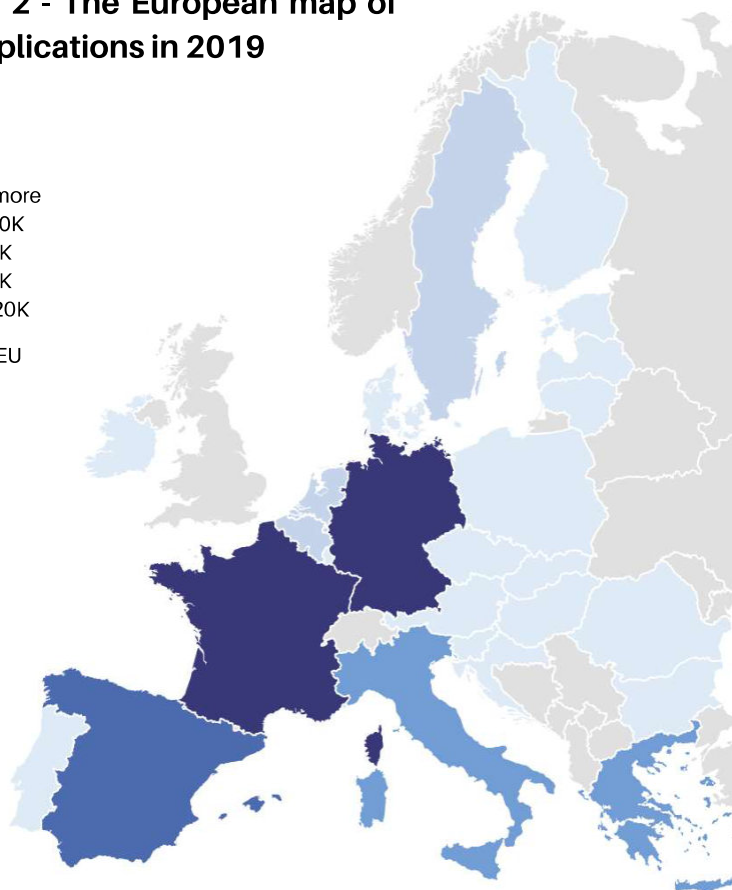
Source: *The European Court of Auditors*

For each relocated migrant, the Commission paid €500 on behalf of the AMIF to Greece and Italy to cover travel costs, and €6,000 to the host member state for hospitality expenses. This amounts to a total of €225.6 million for all relocated migrants. Yet how to explain that the migrants relocated during this period represented only 4% of all asylum seekers who arrived in Italy and 22% of those who arrived in Greece? How to explain that the return rate of third country nationals ordered to leave the EU was around 40% in 2018 and only 20% in Greece and Italy?

We questioned the European Commission, which confirmed the ineffective use of tools and insufficient cooperation with third countries: "Insufficient return rates persist due to the ineffective application or use of existing return and readmission tools and instruments at EU and national level, as well as insufficient cooperation on readmission by the main countries of origin. Prospects for improvement depend both on better cooperation with third countries, and on the efficiency of member states in implementing returns." For the next Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021/2027, actions related to migration and border management are expected to reach a staggering €22.7 billion, which includes €8.7 billion for the AMIF and €5.1 billion for Frontex activities.

This is a threefold failure for EU institutions: a failure on the part of its decentralised agency Frontex and its inability to effectively control borders, a failure on the part of the European External Action Service (EEAS) which is supposed to cooperate with third countries to promote the migrants' return policy, and the Commission's failure to reach agreements with third countries whose effectiveness in terms of migration policies is negligible.

Document 2 - The European map of asylum applications in 2019



Source: Eurostat



EXTERNAL AID

The general public knows very little about the European Union's external aid, and for good reason. The EU spends considerable sums of money around the world with the unstated aim of promoting its values.

The EU's two stated objectives, namely preparing candidate countries for accession and cooperating towards development, are to be reviewed due to a lack of results.

The initial objective is a failure, as shown by the example of Turkey, but the case of the Western Balkans is equally reprehensible. The second objective groups together several instruments, some of which have no added value (see table) and are implemented in regions of the world where the EU has no vocation to intervene. For example, the European Neighbourhood Instrument has established partnerships with countries as geographically and culturally distant as Algeria and Libya.

€11.7 billion - The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance is a fund to help the states concerned get used to receiving EU funds. It is a transitional fund for which many countries have received money.

Document 1 - External aid budget programmes

Programme	Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014/2020	Observations
Development Cooperation Instrument	€19.6 billion	Integrating developing countries into the global economy: is this the EU's role?
European Neighbourhood Policy	€15.4 billion	Building a space of shared values: a fund to be scrapped
Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance	€11.7 billion	The example of Turkey is typical of the failure of this instrument
Partnership Instrument	€0.954 billion	Cooperation within the framework of Horizon 2020 (research)
Stability Instrument	€2.3 billion	Crisis prevention and response
European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights	€1.3 billion	Instrument without any added value that serves to disseminate Brussels' human rights values
Humanitarian aid	€5.3 billion	Behind the laudable objectives, this is EU interference
Macro-financial assistance	€0.548 billion	An instrument that restores the balance of payments: its relevance remains to be demonstrated

The European External Action Service (EEAS) is the EU mastermind when it comes to defining the policy framework with third countries.

This is why we submitted several amendments to the 2021 budget deleting several EEAS budget lines.



OTHER FUNDS

Numerous funds linked to new bodies, or to useless or non-value-added programmes are also to be noted, but the list is far from exhaustive.

Other programmes are a danger to our national sovereignty, such as the new European Defence Fund. The EU's ever-growing decentralised agencies, with an annual budget of more than €4 billion, need to be reassessed. The Erasmus+ programme (in 2014, the Erasmus programme was renamed Erasmus+) is being given an unjustified increase considering the possibility of actually studying or doing an internship in a participating country has been considerably reduced since 2020 due to the pandemic.

But there are also other measures, the relevance of which remains to be demonstrated: the European Public Prosecutor's Office, the European Agency for Fundamental Rights, the European External Action Service, the European Defence Industrial Development Programme, and the Committee of the Regions.

€731 million - Among the many other useless funds, there is for example the European External Action Service, which failed to prove its effectiveness during the COVID-19 crisis. €731 million were paid out in 2020.

The European Public Prosecutor's Office

The European Public Prosecutor's Office is an institution that began its work late in 2020, as a result of the EU regulation in 2017. Since 2019: €14,804,597 have been devoted to preparing the work of this institution.

Its budget for 2021 will be €37.7 million. That is already more than €52 million, although it has yet to start operating. Moreover, as criminal jurisdiction is exclusively reserved for member states, we believe that this new European body should be abolished.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Launched in 2007, this agency advises member states and EU institutions on how to promote fundamental interests. For example, it has conducted a survey on Romani and Traveller populations in order to promote their integration and inclusion. It has also done a survey on migrants and their descendants, and created an online database on Islamophobia. Its overall cost is around €23 million per year on average.

An agency that has no added value, employs 105 people, and allows Brussels to spread its so-called human rights values.

Erasmus +

The Erasmus+ programme initially aims to give students, interns, staff and more generally young people under the age of 30, with or without a diploma, the opportunity to spend time abroad to further their skills.

Yet how to explain the exponential increase in its budget when travelling conditions within the European Union were restricted in the year 2021, at the very least? For the period 2014-2020, this represents a budget of €14.774 billion. For the period 2021-2027, it is estimated at €21.2 billion. Yet according to the November 2020 note on the institution's official website: "in application of the governmental measures related to the COVID-19 epidemic, all incoming and outgoing Erasmus+ mobilities must be postponed until further notice".

The European External Action Service

The European External Action Service cost €731.076 million in 2020. Created in 2011, it aims to ensure the diplomacy of the European Union. This diplomacy, which runs parallel to that of the member states, has a rather vague scope of action: consolidating peace, providing humanitarian and development aid, responding to crises, etc.

Yet given the fiasco attached to the management of the COVID-19 pandemic and European intervention, surely this agency has already proved the pointlessness of this branch?

The European Defence Industrial Development Programme

This is a new fund, the financing of which began in 2019 (€243,250,000 in 2019 and €254,500,000 in 2020). €7 billion are expected to be devoted to the MFF budget for 2021-2027. Half a billion euros were required for its preparation (the preparatory action on defence research which started in 2017: €40 million in 2018, €25 million in 2017, etc.).

These funds are intended for research into innovative defence products. What is the added value of this programme? When it comes to Rafale aircrafts, helicopters, aircraft carriers, France is among the leading countries in the defence industry. This is the first step towards a transfer of military sovereignty in favour of the European Union, although this competence should remain exclusive to the nations, and France in particular, which is the largest military power in the Union.

The European Committee of the Regions

In 2020 €101.8 million were allocated to the Committee of the Regions. It represents the regions and local authorities of the European Union, and issues opinions on new legislation that has an impact on regions and cities. Created in 1994, it has 329 members and 329 alternates. With an annual budget of €96 million, its cumulative cost is now €2.496 billion.

Yet what is the added value of this committee? How do we appreciate its scope?

The final word

The fight we are relentlessly waging is all the more necessary as the ID Group is the leading opposition force in the European Parliament. We are fighting on your behalf, because it is our money that fuels the European budget. It is worth remembering that France will contribute the colossal sum of almost €27 billion to the European budget in 2021, that is a €5 billion increase compared to last year.

My dear friends, you can count on me to pursue the fight against the European Union's scandalous wastefulness, as precarity continues to grow in our country.

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PATRIOTS

FOR EUROPE FOUNDATION

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