

## **Funding for Peace updates**

**11th April 2025**

### **MFF updates**

#### **European Parliament**

##### **DEVE**

On March 31, the Committee on Development (DEVE) voted on their opinion, in the form of amendments, on the Committee on Budgets' (BUDG) INI report on the next MFF. In the lead up to the vote there was a tussle in the Committee as the European People's Party (EPP) aligned with the Patriots for Europe and European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) on a large number of compromise amendments they tabled.

The subsequent opinion passed with 13 votes in favour and 12 against, with all ECR compromise amendments approved. As a result, Rapporteur Charles Goerens (Renew) withdrew his name from the report. Renew plan on resubmitting all of their amendments in the plenary vote in May and to ask for a roll call vote on each amendment.

The resulting opinion is heavily focused on migration, with references to "illegal migration", repeated stressing of the need for development aid to address the root causes of migration and prevent displacement, and an amendment which argues that surges in migration are "undermining the sovereignty of Member States as well as respect for human dignity and the rule of law". Unsurprisingly, many amendments underline the Union's geoeconomic interests, promoting partnership with developing countries which have "high economic development potential" and stating that EU development cooperation should refocus on "key priorities like infrastructure for healthcare, education and renewable energy", in other words, the Global Gateway (GG) priorities. The reference in the original draft opinion to the underfunding of external action under the current MFF was amended in order to state "external action in the current MFF has not worked in an adequate way despite the funding from Member States and that the budget allocations have not been able to respond to external action priorities because of inadequate financial administration".

On a more positive note, some strong amendments from Renew, the Greens and S&D remain. The opinion strongly opposes the proposed merger of external financial instruments. There are multiple calls for increased oversight and transparency of Global Gateway and for the Commission to provide "clear and reliable evidence of impact at an early stage" of GG initiatives. Amendments highlight the potential debt burden for partner countries associated with blending mechanisms and guarantees and stress that there should be a balance between traditional development and Global Gateway.

In terms of peace and conflict prevention, there are several references to human-centred approaches to security and to human security and calls to strengthen conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding, including funding the integration of the WPS agenda in EU security and defence. There is also a call for dedicated funding for gender-related actions within CSDP missions, including for Gender Advisor posts in civilian missions.

## **BUDG**

Attached are the compromise amendments for the BUDG INI report, finalised on 10 April, which have apparently been concluded between the EPP, S&D, Renew and the Greens.

Unfortunately, under these compromises, the vast majority of positive amendments from the AFET and DEVE opinions, including the amendments taken directly from EPLO's MFF statement, fall. The primary additions to the section on external action and enlargement focus on humanitarian aid and the US retreat from foreign assistance. However, there have been some additional references added on conflict prevention.

The vote on the INI report in BUDG is due to take place on April 23.

If you have further intel on the MFF negotiations, please do not hesitate to reach out to me so that it can be shared through the working group.

## **Vacancy- Policy Officer**

EPLO is currently seeking a Policy Officer to lead its work on the EU's funding mechanisms for external action relating to peace and conflict prevention, and to contribute to the implementation of the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) project.

For more information, please see the vacancy notice [here](#). Please share it among your networks.

## **Attached documents**

EPLO Working Group Call Funding for Peacebuilding 21 March 2025 – [LINK](#)

Contribution EU public consultation on MFF – [LINK](#)

MFF Proposal image – [LINK](#)

Amendements de Compromis sur le CFP – [LINK](#)