

Courtesy translation

Summary of the statement by the Committee on Finance FiU: 17 Reflection paper on the future of EU finances

The Committee has examined the Commission's reflection paper on the future of EU finances (COM (2017) 358) and proposes that the Riksdag file the statement. The reflection paper is part of a wider discussion on the future of the EU.

In summary, the Committee views the forthcoming negotiations on the next multiannual financial framework as an opportunity for further modernisation of the EU budget. A reprioritisation in favour of measures with a clear European added value that promote economic innovation should lead these efforts. The EU budget should not be financed by giving the EU taxation rights.

The Statement contains one explanatory reservation from the Sweden Democrats.

The examined document

Reflection paper on the future of EU finances FiU17 (COM (2017) 358)

The position of the Committee

In line with its previous positions, the Committee on Finance would like to start by stressing the importance of achieving the greatest possible efficiency and economic restraint in budget-related issues within the EU, and the importance of both the union and member states becoming better and faster at delivering in accordance with joint decisions.

Sweden should also continue to work towards an efficient and restrained budget policy within the EU, which involves a cost-effective use of EU funds and strict budgetary discipline. The restrictive fundamental Swedish position in relation to EU budget policy has a solid footing in the Riksdag. The Government has received support for the line it is to take ahead of negotiations on the next multiannual financial framework. These positions also apply in relation to the current reflection paper.

In the Committee's view, the expenditure ceiling in the multiannual financial framework should be stabilised in real terms and be lower than 1 per cent of the EU 27's GNI. When the UK's contribution disappears, the budget will have to be reduced proportionately. There will also be a need in the future to even out differences between the contributions of member states to the budget in order to avoid disproportionately large net contributions. Joint measures such as security, migration, competitiveness, research and adapting to climate change should be prioritised, while expenditure on agricultural policy and cohesion policy should be significantly reduced. Member states that do not take responsibility for migration policy should not be able to gain access to support from the EU in the same way as they can today. There needs to be improved scrutiny of whether EU funds are being used in a correct and efficient way.

The Committee on Finance, which shares the view contained in the Committee on Taxation's opinion 2017/18:SkU6y, would particularly like to highlight the income side of the EU's

budget. The current system governing own resources is largely fit for purpose. Rebates are a way of creating a fair system for funding joint commitments and should thus be safeguarded. The Committee is strongly opposed to the idea of the EU budget being financed by various taxes. The EU should therefore not be given taxation rights.

In summary, the Committee views the forthcoming negotiations on the next multiannual financial framework as an opportunity for further modernisation of the EU budget. A reprioritisation in favour of measures with a clear European added value that promote economic innovation should lead these efforts. The EU budget should not be financed by giving the EU taxation rights.

Along with what is stated above, the Committee proposes that the Riksdag file the statement.