

**STATEMENT DURING THE PLENARY SESSION OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
ON THE GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2010**

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For 2010, we need budget harnessing effectively all European policies to get EU economy out of the crisis while at the same time preserve our long term objectives and commitments, which is sustainable growth and economic and social cohesion as well as our obligations vis-à-vis external world, including candidates countries.

In draft budget, the Council has cut automatically 36 lines on administrative expenditures, among others accompanying the preaccession IPA instrument. The argument used -i.e. low absorption is not justified as the necessary framework for implementation of IPA could only be completed in July 2009, with the conferral of management powers for decentralised management (equivalent to compliance assessment for Structural Funds), marking the starting point for the effective implementation of the programmes;

From 2010 onwards the European Commission must appraise and approve a significant number of large projects for which it will need to employ significant numbers of external short-term technical expertise. 2010 will also be the year when the effective implementation of operations will start, requiring the performance of ex-ante controls by the Commission on extensive numbers of tenders and contracts. The cuts in budget mean that the sound financial management of pre-accession assistance is put in real danger with all its political dimension.

We should remain open to react positively to the request from the European Commission to restore the PDB level in this respect.