

DCO Internationaal en Ruimtelijk
vaste commissie voor Europese Zaken

To the Chairwoman of the Special Committee on the
policy challenges and budgetary resources for a
sustainable European Union after 2013

Date: 2 February 2011
Re: Contribution to activities by the SURE Policy Challenges Committee regarding Financial Perspectives.
Our reference: 11-EU-B-004

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Dear Ms Haug,

Thank you for your letter of 17 November 2010 in which you invited us to provide input for your activities regarding the priorities of the European Parliament for the Multiannual Financial Framework after 2013. The Dutch House of Representatives was very interested to be informed of the activities of the European Parliament Committee for Policy Challenges (SURE).

The Dutch House of Representatives is following the debate on Financial Perspectives with great interest and is eagerly anticipating the presentation of the relevant legislative proposals by the European Commission. The Dutch House of Representatives will use these proposals to review the negotiation process, acting in its role as the democratically elected auditor of the Dutch government.

The Dutch House of Representatives feels that the Financial Perspectives are of such political importance that it is planning to hold a parliamentary reservation immediately following publication of the legislative proposals. By using this instrument, the Dutch House of Representatives is reinforcing its supervisory powers with respect to the Dutch government's commitment to European decision-making.

In advance of the publication of the Financial Perspectives and the response of the Dutch government to these, the Dutch House of Representatives would like to take this opportunity to apprise you of its substantive views regarding the revenue and spending of the European Union as follows:

Tweede Kamer
der Staten-Generaal
Plein 2
Den Haag

Postbus 20018
2500 EA Den Haag

Tel: +31 70 318 20 24
Fax: +31 70 318 34 35

E-mail: cie.eu@tweedekamer.nl

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Revenue

The Dutch House of Representatives supports the view of the Dutch government that the contributions from the Member States to the European Union need to be made more fair and transparent. Preference is given to using a fixed percentage of the Gross National Income as resource to finance the EU budget. Using the GNI as the basis for contributions is simple and transparent and also ensures a fair distribution of contributions across the Member States, namely based on the size of the Member States' economies.

Furthermore, the present maximum for the own resources should not be raised.

Expenditure

Regarding expenditure, the next Financial Perspectives will have to adjust to the new budgetary reality in the European Union. As a consequence, economies will have to be made in the next EU budgets in order to finance new priorities. Furthermore, European spending needs to have clear added value with respect to private initiatives and national policy.

Yours sincerely,

G. Verburg
Chair of the Standing Committee on European Affairs