

Reasoned opinion from the Riksdag

The Riksdag has examined the Commission's amended proposal for a Council decision on the System of Own Resources of the European Union (COM(2020) 445).

5 With regard to the EU budget and negotiations about the coming
multiannual financial framework, the Riksdag has on a number of occasions
maintained that Sweden will continue to work for an efficient and restrictive
budget policy within the EU, which entails cost-effective use of EU funds and
strict budget discipline. The Swedish restrictive fundamental position on the
10 EU's budget policy has broad support in the Riksdag. In the opinion of the
Riksdag, the EU's economic measures in response to COVID-19, including
measures to support recovery, should be temporary, well-targeted,
proportional and budget restrictive. In as far as it is possible, the support
should be based on existing instruments and forms of financing, and not on
15 new own resources. It should also be targeted at the parts of the EU with the
greatest need, and which have been worst affected – economically and socially
– by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Riksdag notes that the EU budget has previously, on occasion, been
used to borrow funds for further lending within the framework of various
20 mechanisms. However, borrowing has never previously occurred in order to
finance operating expenditure in the EU budget. The current proposal entails
significant borrowing for the purpose of financing substantial increases in EU
programmes. It cannot be considered to be clarified that the borrowed funds
will primarily be used to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The
25 Riksdag therefore considers that the measures are far too extensive to achieve
the objectives of the proposal. Furthermore, the Riksdag considers that there
is no clear justification as to why this type of borrowing would be better dealt
with at Union level than at national level.

In this context, the Riksdag would also like to bring to mind that, when
30 considering the Commission's original proposal for a Council decision on the
System of Own Resources in June 2018, the Riksdag considered that the
proposal was not compliant with the principle of subsidiarity (Statement
2017/18:FiU51).

In view of this, the Committee considers that the Commission's amended
35 proposal for a Council decision on the System of Own Resources of the
European Union cannot be considered compliant with the principle of
subsidiarity.