



**2017/2136(DEC)**

2.3.2018

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016, Section III - Commission and executive agencies  
(2017/2136(DEC))

Rapporteur: Alain Cadec

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Fisheries calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Takes note of the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors on the annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2016; takes note of the 2016 Annual Report by the Court of Auditors (the 'Court'); takes note of the 2016 Annual Activity Report of DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE);
2. Notes that the favourable trend in budgetary management in recent years has been maintained and that the Court has no particular remarks to make on DG MARE's 2016 activity report;
3. Urges the Court, in its future reports, to present a separate error rate for fisheries and maritime affairs to eliminate the distortions that result from including other areas under the same heading; notes that maritime affairs and fisheries are not covered in sufficient detail in the Court's annual report and that a proper evaluation of financial management in those areas is therefore difficult;
4. Highlights the fact that the overall error rate recorded by the Court in its report is down on that of the previous year and urges the Commission to continue the reductive trend;
5. Congratulates the Commission on the particularly high rate of implementation of Section III, Title 11 of the 2016 budget (Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) in respect of both commitment appropriations (99,2%) and payment appropriations (94,7%); points out that under Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, budgetary resources are broken down in accordance with their area of allocation, and that it would therefore be appropriate for the Commission, in its report, to detail the rate of implementation according to budgetary lines;
6. Takes note of the reservation expressed in DG MARE's activity report, affecting eight Member States, with regard to the detection of ineligible expenditure under the European Fisheries Fund (EFF);
7. Encourages DG MARE's efforts in controlling jointly managed appropriations, and particularly its measures with regard to the EFF and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF);
8. Notes that the figure for risk of loss of funds is EUR 5,9 million and that the Commission has taken the requisite measures to evaluate the 2017 expenditure and, if necessary, to recover monies allocated;
9. Notes that the level of implementation of the 2014-2020 EMFF, three years after its adoption on 15 May 2014, remains unsatisfactory, as by September 2017 only 1,7% of the EUR 5,7 billion available as jointly managed funding had been used; notes that the rate of take-up of the EMFF is a matter for the Member States; points out that under Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, budgetary resources are broken down in

accordance with their area of allocation, and that it would therefore be appropriate for the Commission, in its report, to detail the rate of implementation according to budgetary lines;

- 10 Considers it necessary to provide all possible support for the Member States with a view to ensuring proper and full use of EMFF resources, with high implementation rates, in line with their respective priorities and needs, in particular as regards the sustainable development of the fisheries sector;
11. Proposes, on the basis of the data available, to grant discharge to the Commission in respect of its expenditure in the areas of maritime affairs and fisheries for the financial year 2016.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Date adopted</b>   | 27.2.2018  |
| <b>Result of final vote</b>                                     | +: 16<br>-: 4<br>0: 2  |
| <b>Members present for the final vote</b>                       | Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Alain Cadec, David Coburn, Linnéa Engström, João Ferreira, Sylvie Goddyn, Mike Hookem, Carlos Iturgaiz, Werner Kuhn, António Marinho e Pinto, Gabriel Mato, Norica Nicolai, Liadh Ní Riada, Ulrike Rodust, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Remo Sernagiotto, Ricardo Serrão Santos, Isabelle Thomas, Ruža Tomašić, Peter van Dalen, Jarosław Wałęsa |
| <b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>                   | Norbert Erdős, Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez   |
| <b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b> | Liliana Rodrigues  |

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

| 16   | +   |
|------|---|
| ALDE | António Marinho e Pinto, Norica Nicolai   |
| ECR  | Peter van Dalen, Remo Sernagiotto, Ruža Tomašić   |
| PPE  | Alain Cadec, Norbert Erdős, Carlos Iturgaiz, Werner Kuhn, Gabriel Mato, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Jarosław Wałęsa |
| S&D  | Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Liliana Rodrigues, Ulrike Rodust, Isabelle Thomas                                |

| 4         | -                         |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| EFDD      | David Coburn, Mike Hookem |
| ENF       | Sylvie Goddyn             |
| VERTS/ALE | Linnéa Engström           |

| 2       | 0                             |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| GUE/NGL | João Ferreira, Liadh Ní Riada |

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention