



2015/2154(DEC)

7.3.2016

AMENDMENT 1 - 367

Draft report
Martina Dlabajová
(PE569.795v01-00)

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the
European Union for the financial year 2014, Section III – Commission and
executive agencies
2015/2154(DEC)

Amendment 1
Petri Sarvamaa

Proposal for a decision 1
Citation 9 a (new)

Proposal for a decision

Amendment

- having regard to the Communication from the Commission of 8 October 2015 to the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors on Protection of the EU budget to end 2014 (COM(2015) 503 final),

Or. en

Amendment 2
Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Ryszard Czarnecki, Beata Gosiewska, Raffaele Fitto

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

Amendment

1. Grants the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014 / Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014;

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014/Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014;

Or. it

Amendment 4

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Proposal for a decision 2

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014/Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Or. it

Amendment 5

Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Ryszard Czarnecki, Beata Gosiewska, Raffaele Fitto

Proposal for a decision 2

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Education, Audiovisual and

Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014/Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Proposal for a decision 3
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Director of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (formerly the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014/Postpones*** its decision on granting the Director of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (formerly the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (formerly the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Or. it

Amendment 7
Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Ryszard Czarnecki, Beata Gosiewska, Raffaele Fitto

Proposal for a decision 3
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Director of the Executive***

Amendment

1. ***Postpones*** its decision on granting the

Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (formerly the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014/Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (formerly the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Director of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (formerly the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 8

Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Ryszard Czarnecki, Beata Gosiewska, Raffaele Fitto

Proposal for a decision 4

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Director of the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (formerly the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014/Postpones*** its decision on granting the Director of the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (formerly the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

1. ***Postpones*** its decision on granting the Director of the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (formerly the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 9

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Proposal for a decision 4

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

Amendment

1. Grants the Director of the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (formerly the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014/Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (formerly the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (formerly the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Or. it

Amendment 10

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Proposal for a decision 5

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

Amendment

1. Grants the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014/Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Or. it

Amendment 11

Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Ryszard Czarnecki, Beata Gosiewska, Raffaele Fitto

Proposal for a decision 5

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

Amendment

1. ***Grants the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014/Postpones*** its decision on granting the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

1. ***Postpones*** its decision on granting the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 12

Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Ryszard Czarnecki, Beata Gosiewska, Raffaele Fitto

Proposal for a decision 6

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

Amendment

1. ***Grants the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in relation to the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014/Postpones*** its decision on granting the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

1. ***Postpones*** its decision on granting the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 13

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Proposal for a decision 6

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

Amendment

1. ***Grants the Director of the Research***

1. **Postpones** its decision on granting the

Executive Agency discharge in relation to the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year

2014/Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Or. it

Amendment 14

Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Ryszard Czarnecki, Beata Gosiewska, Raffaele Fitto

Proposal for a decision 7

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (formerly the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year

2014/Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (formerly the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (formerly the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 15

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Proposal for a decision 7

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (formerly

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Innovation and Networks

the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year

2014/Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (formerly the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Executive Agency (formerly the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014;

Or. it

Amendment 16

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Proposal for a decision 8

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Approves the closure of the accounts of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year

2014/Postpones the closure of the accounts of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

1. Postpones the closure of the accounts of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014;

Or. it

Amendment 17

Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Ryszard Czarnecki, Beata Gosiewska, Raffaele Fitto

Proposal for a decision 8

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Approves the closure of the accounts of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year

2014/Postpones the closure of the accounts of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

1. **Postpones** the closure of the accounts of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014;

Amendment 18
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Recital D – point f

Motion for a resolution

(f) approach the discharge process from the perspective of the close relationship between the Union budget and the new Union macroeconomic policy paradigm⁷⁶ ;

⁷⁶ Europe 2020 Strategy; European Semester; Six-Pack, Two-Pack; Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) among others; close compliance with the CSRs as a benchmark for effective EU Budget's expenditure allocation could be the way.

Amendment

(f) approach the discharge process from the perspective of the close relationship between the Union budget and the new Union macroeconomic policy paradigm⁷⁶ ***keeping in mind the genuine aim of the Union budget to contribute to achievement of Union sectoral policies goals ;***

⁷⁶ Europe 2020 Strategy; European Semester; Six-Pack, Two-Pack; Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) among others; close compliance with the CSRs as a benchmark for effective EU Budget's expenditure allocation could be the way.

Amendment 19
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Recital D – point f

Motion for a resolution

(f) approach the discharge process from the perspective of the close relationship between the Union budget and the new Union macroeconomic policy paradigm⁷⁶;

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Amendment

(f) approach the discharge process from the perspective of the close relationship between the Union budget and the new Union macroeconomic policy paradigm⁷⁶; ***this should at all events take account of anomalies as regards both deficit and excessive surplus;***

⁷⁶ Europe 2020 Strategy; European Semester; Six-Pack, Two-Pack; Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) among others; close compliance with the CSRs as a benchmark for effective EU Budget's expenditure allocation could be the way.

⁷⁶ Europe 2020 Strategy; European Semester; Six-Pack, Two-Pack; Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) among others; close compliance with the CSRs as a benchmark for effective EU Budget's expenditure allocation could be the way.

Or. es

Amendment 20
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Recital E – point b

Motion for a resolution

(b) integrated and place-based approach and synergies - programmes and projects should bring not only their own results and benefits, but the results and benefits should complement those of other programmes and projects through synergies while respecting the *subsidiary* principle; synergies should be achieved within a given territorial area; for that system to function, it is important to create a management matrix to create appropriate conditions for integrated projects;

Amendment

(b) integrated and place-based approach and synergies - programmes and projects should bring not only their own results and benefits, but the results and benefits should complement those of other programmes and projects through synergies while respecting the *subsidiarity and proportionality* principle; synergies should be achieved within a given territorial area; for that system to function, it is important to create a management matrix to create appropriate conditions for integrated projects;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Recital E – point c

Motion for a resolution

(c) conditionalities and performance reserve - sound financial management principles are based on the fact that Union funding is allocated in appropriate national

Amendment

(c) conditionalities and performance reserve - sound financial management principles are based on the fact that Union funding is allocated in appropriate national

fiscal, macroeconomic and institutional circumstances that serve as a precondition for funding itself; on the other hand, as a bonus for good performers, a performance reserve has been introduced;

fiscal, macroeconomic and institutional circumstances that serve as a precondition for funding itself, ***whereby account should be taken of anomalies as regards both deficit and excessive surplus***; on the other hand, as a bonus for good performers, a performance reserve has been introduced;

Or. es

Amendment 22

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Recital E a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ea. whereas the Commission is the ultimate responsible for the implementation of the Union budget while the Member States have to sincerely cooperate with the Commission to ensure that the appropriations are used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management; whereas Member States, especially under shared management of funds, have a special responsibility for implementing the Union budget;

Or. en

Amendment 23

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Recital E b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Eb. whereas it is crucial that, under shared management of funds, the data

communicated by the Member States are fair and accurate; whereas it is crucial that Member States understand their own responsibility for the management of the Union funds under shared management;

Or. en

Amendment 24
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. *Underlines that in the past the discharge procedure primarily verified the legality and regularity of financial transactions;* believes *however* that it is *of equal importance* to verify whether the results achieved by projects and programmes match the intended objectives;

Amendment

3. Believes that it is *important* to verify whether the results achieved by projects and programmes match the intended objectives;

Or. en

Amendment 25
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Underlines that in the past the discharge procedure primarily verified the legality and regularity of financial transactions; believes *however* that *it is of equal importance* to *verify* whether the results achieved by projects and programmes match the intended objectives;

Amendment

3. Underlines that in the past the discharge procedure primarily verified the legality and regularity of financial transactions; believes, *in the context of the Commission initiative 'An EU Budget Focused on Results'*, that *more emphasis should also be given in future, beyond the above verifications*, to *examining* whether the results achieved by projects and programmes match the intended objectives;

Or. de

Amendment 26
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Notes that the discharge *document prefers to adopt a consensual approach, seeking to provide an objective and balanced description of particular stakeholders' views; in addition, the discharge* strives to create a common approach to the particular elements of Union budgetary policy, especially those that have been newly introduced, namely the performance aspects and the aspects related to the preventive and corrective capacity of supervisory and control systems;

Amendment

4. Notes that the discharge strives to create a common approach to the particular elements of Union budgetary policy, especially those that have been newly introduced, namely the performance aspects and the aspects related to the preventive and corrective capacity of supervisory and control systems;

Or. en

Amendment 27
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

4a. Considering that a result-oriented budget requires strong, solid and commonly agreed indicators; notes however that these indicators still need to be agreed with the co-legislators, the Commission and through extensive consultation with Member authorities together with stakeholders . Welcomes in this sense the establishment of the inter institutional working group on performance of result - oriented budget that has only recently started its works; encourages all parties involved to speed

Amendment

up its works while ensuring that a high quality set of indicators is agreed.

Or. en

Amendment 28
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5. Underlines that the main objective of the Union budget is to benefit Union citizens and, in parallel, to protect the Union's financial interests; the benefits consist in support oriented towards development and current priorities compatible with the economic policy context and economic performance; the protection of Union financial interests requires the correct utilisation of expenditures in line with rules and without errors or fraud. The discharge approach should contribute to reaching a balance between these elements;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 29
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5. Underlines that the main objective of the Union budget is to benefit Union citizens and, in parallel, to protect the Union's financial interests; the benefits consist in support oriented towards development and current priorities compatible with the economic policy context and economic

5. Underlines that the main objective of the Union budget is to benefit Union citizens and, in parallel, to protect the Union's financial interests ***and comply with the obligations and objectives laid down in the Treaties***; the benefits consist in support oriented towards development and current

performance; the protection of Union financial interests requires the correct utilisation of expenditures in line with rules and without errors or fraud. The discharge approach should contribute to reaching a balance between these elements;

priorities compatible with the economic policy context and economic performance, ***also taking into account the necessary flexibility to cope with new situations that may arise and with emergencies***; the protection of Union financial interests requires the correct utilisation of expenditures in line with rules and without errors or fraud. The discharge approach should contribute to reaching a balance between these elements;

Or. es

Amendment 30
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5a. Further underlines the Commission's obligation to ensure the correct application of Union law pursuant Article 17 (1) TEU and asks the Court of Auditors to prepare a special report on whether the Commission has made good use of its powers in supporting and controlling Member States when implementing Union law;

Or. en

Amendment 31
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6. Notes that the key principle for the 2014 Commission discharge is the soundness of financial flows and real

deleted

programmes and projects behind them, in light of an assessment of the optimal utilisation of Union funds in all respects;

Or. en

Amendment 32
Andrey Novakov

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. Is aware that the move to an increased level of performance auditing cannot be done in a single step, *as it is only once the basic legal acts and the budget are drafted with the intention to align policy objectives with qualitative indicators or to produce measurable results that performance audits can move forward;*

Amendment

8. Is aware that the move to an increased level of performance auditing cannot be done in a single step *to align policy objectives with qualitative indicators; notes, however, that the new result orientation and performance data to be reported by the Member States will increase and national and Commission audits will confirm its reliability;*

Or. en

Amendment 33
Bas Belder

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

9a. Urges the Commission to investigate before 1 July the extent to which thematic concentration can contribute to simplification of the rules and reduction of regulatory pressure and inspection pressure; calls on the budgetary authority to put thematic concentration into practice by taking it as a guiding principle when drafting the budget and formulating budget priorities;

Amendment 34
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10a. Points out, nevertheless, that the objectives and the budget for results must be geared to the objectives laid down in the Treaties, the Europe 2020 Strategy and sectoral and cohesion policies and must be sufficiently flexible so that it can be adapted to emergency situations that may arise, such as the economic crisis and/or the refugee crisis;

Or. es

Amendment 35
Georgi Pirinski, Miroslav Poche

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10a. Notes that 2014 was a zero year of absorption for some programmes, funds and instruments of the 2014-2020 MFF due to the late adoption of the relevant regulations and the resulting late approval of secondary legislation and programming documents;

Or. en

Amendment 36
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10a. Recalls that the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework is the first to make fewer budgetary means available than its predecessors and that pressure on the payment ceilings is much greater than in previous multiannual financial frameworks;

Or. en

Amendment 37
Andrey Novakov

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 12

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

12. Stresses that the architecture of the Europe 2020 Strategy is extremely complex (comprising five headline targets, seven flagships initiatives and 11 thematic objectives for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs)); ***regrets that those various tools are not designed to translate the political objectives of the strategy into practical operational objectives;***

12. Stresses that the architecture of the Europe 2020 Strategy is extremely complex (comprising five headline targets, seven flagships initiatives and 11 thematic objectives for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs)); ***notes, however, that 11 thematic objectives were defined in the CPR to translate the Europe 2020 objectives into operational objectives within ESIF programmes;***

Or. en

Amendment 38
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 12

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

12. Stresses that the architecture of the

12. Stresses that the architecture of the

Europe 2020 Strategy is extremely complex (comprising five headline targets, seven flagships initiatives and 11 thematic objectives for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs)); regrets that those various tools are not designed to translate the political objectives of the strategy into practical operational objectives;

Europe 2020 Strategy is extremely complex (comprising five headline targets, seven flagships initiatives and 11 thematic objectives for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs)); regrets that those various tools are not designed to translate the political objectives of the strategy into practical operational objectives, *especially in the means of synergetic effects*;

Or. en

Amendment 39
Andrey Novakov

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

15. *Deplores the fact that high-level Europe 2020 Strategy targets are not systematically translated into operational objectives in partnership agreements and programmes and that current legislation does not require the European Agricultural Funds for Regional Development (EAFRD) and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to be structured around thematic objectives;*

Amendment

15. *Notes the Commission position on the role of the Europe 2020 targets and that it does not view it appropriate that they are to be systematically translated into operational objectives in partnership agreements in view of the very different development paths in the Member States; that the Europe 2020 targets were transposed into the 11 thematic objectives by the co legislator; notes that current legislation does not require the European Agricultural Funds for Regional Development (EAFRD) and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to be structured around thematic objectives;*

Or. en

Amendment 40
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

15. Deplores the fact that high-level Europe 2020 Strategy targets are not systematically translated into operational objectives in partnership agreements and programmes and that current legislation does not require the European Agricultural Funds for Regional Development (EAFRD) and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to be structured around thematic objectives;

Amendment

15. Deplores the fact that high-level Europe 2020 Strategy targets are not systematically translated into operational objectives in partnership agreements and programmes and *notes* that current legislation does not require the European Agricultural Funds for Regional Development (EAFRD) and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to be structured around thematic objectives;

Or. en

Amendment 41
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

15. Deplores the fact that high-level Europe 2020 Strategy targets are not systematically translated into operational objectives in partnership agreements and programmes and that current legislation does not require the European Agricultural Funds for *Regional* Development (EAFRD) and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to be structured around thematic objectives;

Amendment

15. Deplores the fact that high-level Europe 2020 Strategy targets are not systematically translated into operational objectives in partnership agreements and programmes and that current legislation does not require the European Agricultural Funds for *Rural* Development (EAFRD) and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to be structured around thematic objectives;

Or. en

Amendment 42
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15 a (new)

15a. Points out, as acknowledged by the Commission in its replies to the remarks made by the Court of Auditors^{1a}, that the Union's objectives are defined in the treaties and have to be pursued and respected (e.g. the common agricultural policy), and within this framework, the EU budget is allocated to the various activities and aligned as much as possible with the changing headline EU priorities (i.e. Lisbon strategy, Europe 2020 strategy);

^{1a} 2014 Annual Report of the Court of Auditors, point 3.5.

Or. es

Amendment 43
Andrey Novakov

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16

16. **Regrets** that the potential benefits from achieving synergies between the five ESIFs by placing them under one umbrella of regulatory and management framework and one partnership agreement per Member State have not yet been realised and that different rules continue to apply at fund and thus at programme level; stresses that only carefully considered partnership agreements and programmes should be adopted in order to ensure an effective implementation of ESIFs;

16. **Notes** that the potential benefits from achieving synergies between the five ESIFs by placing them under one umbrella of regulatory and management framework and one partnership agreement per Member State have not yet been **fully** realised and that different rules continue to apply at fund and thus at programme level; stresses that only carefully considered partnership agreements and programmes should be adopted in order to ensure an effective implementation of ESIFs;

Or. en

Amendment 44
Andrey Novakov

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. ***Fears*** that the Commission ***will not be able*** to report consistently on the thematic objectives for all five ESIFs and hence on the contribution of these funds to the Europe 2020 Strategy;

Amendment

17. ***Expects*** that the Commission ***reports on the contribution of the Union budget to the achievement of EU2020 objectives; agrees that it is a challenging task*** to report consistently on the thematic objectives for all five ESIFs and hence on the contribution of these funds to the Europe 2020 Strategy; ***Notes that the Commission must bring forward in 2017 the first strategic report on the contribution to the Europe 2020 Strategy;***

Or. en

Amendment 45
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. ***Fears that*** the Commission ***will not be able*** to report consistently on the thematic objectives for all five ESIFs and hence on the contribution of these funds to the Europe 2020 Strategy;

Amendment

17. ***Calls upon*** the Commission to report consistently on the thematic objectives for all five ESIFs and hence on the contribution of these funds to the Europe 2020 Strategy;

Or. en

Amendment 46
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

17a. Underlines however that 3/4 of Structural funds projects achieved their policy goals entirely or in parts and that only in 2% of the cases none of the objectives set up in the OP or on the grant agreement were attained.

Or. en

Amendment 47
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

17a. Observes that the Court has focused mainly on analysing consistency of Member States' Partnership Agreements with the Europe 2020 Strategy targets as a prerequisite for better performance; asks the Court to present information in its next annual report about translation of the Europe 2020 Strategy targets into expected achievements under other programmes and funds directly managed by the Commission;

Or. en

Amendment 48
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18 – point a

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(a) Member States are not required to include common indicators in their programmes, with the exception of Youth

(a) Member States are not required to include common indicators in their programmes, with the exception of ***the***

Employment Initiative and EAFRD;

Youth Employment Initiative and EAFRD
*and results-based assessments do not form
part of the initial control stage in the
Member States;*

Or. it

Amendment 49
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18 – point b

Motion for a resolution

(b) except for two funds (the European *Rural* Development Fund (ERDF)) and the Cohesion Fund (CF), common indicators are not shared between different funds;

Amendment

(b) except for two funds (the European *Regional* Development Fund (ERDF)) and the Cohesion Fund (CF), common indicators are not shared between different funds;

Or. en

Amendment 50
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18 – point c

Motion for a resolution

*(c) true result indicators do not exist for
all five ESIFs;*

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 51
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18 – point d a (new)

da) the Commission continues to have limited capacity for performance monitoring and evaluation;

Or. it

Amendment 52

Georgi Pirinski, Miroslav Poche, Cristian Sorin Ivan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. ***Regrets*** that according to the Court, there are inherent weaknesses in the performance framework of the common provisions regulation on ***structural funds***⁷⁹, as poor results do not lead to the loss of the performance reserve for Member States and as the financial sanctions available to the Commission are limited;

⁷⁹ Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and laying down general provisions on the ERDF, ESF, CF, EAFRD and EMFF and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

Amendment

19. ***Takes note*** that according to the Court, there are inherent weaknesses in the performance framework of the common provisions regulation on ***ESIF***⁷⁹, as poor results do not lead to the loss of the performance reserve for Member States and as the financial sanctions available to the Commission are limited; ***however, considers that before asking for sanctions a better system for performance measurement should be in place and potential sanctions should be preceded by a process of assisting Member States to improve performance;***

⁷⁹ Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and laying down general provisions on the ERDF, ESF, CF, EAFRD and EMFF and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

Amendment 53
Andrey Novakov

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. **Regrets** that according to the Court, there are ***inherent weaknesses*** in the performance framework of the common provisions regulation on structural funds⁷⁹, ***as poor results do not lead to*** the loss of the performance reserve ***for Member States*** and as the financial sanctions available to the Commission are limited;

⁷⁹ Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and laying down general provisions on the ERDF, ESF, CF, EAFRD and EMFF and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

Amendment

19. **Notes** that according to the Court, there are ***limitations*** in the performance framework of the common provisions regulation on structural funds⁷⁹, ***only clearly measurable output indicators and milestones are considered for the allocation of*** the loss of the performance reserve and as the financial sanctions available to the Commission are limited ***by the legislation agreed***;

⁷⁹ Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and laying down general provisions on the ERDF, ESF, CF, EAFRD and EMFF and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

Or. en

Amendment 54
Bas Belder

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

19a. Calls on the Commission to make fuller use of the scope afforded by existing legislation with regard to the performance reserve so as genuinely to create a financial incentive to improve financial management in practice; calls furthermore for greater use to be made of the performance reserve as an instrument to increase the element which is conditional on performance when the legislation is next revised^{1a};

^{1a} *Court's annual report for 2014, point 3.65.*

Or. nl

Amendment 55
Andrey Novakov

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21 – introductory part

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

21. Requests that the Commission consider making proposals with a view to:

21. Requests that the Commission consider making proposals ***for the preparation of the post 2020 MFF the earliest possible*** with a view to:

Or. en

Amendment 56
Bart Staes
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21 – point a

Motion for a resolution

(a) better aligning the Europe 2020 Strategy and *the MFF*;

Amendment

(a) better aligning the *MFF to the* Europe 2020 strategy and *proposing its revision if needed to better match the Europe2020 Strategy*;

Or. en

Amendment 57
Andrey Novakov

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 22 – introductory part

Motion for a resolution

22. Asks the Commission to propose to the legislator that:

Amendment

22. Asks the Commission to propose to the legislator *for the preparation of the post 2020 MFF* that:

Or. en

Amendment 58
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 22 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

22a. Asks the Commission to include in the next evaluation reports provided for in article 318 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union an analysis of the efficiency, the effectiveness and the results achieved in terms of growth and jobs by the investment plan of EUR 315 Billion announced by the President of the Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, on 26 November 2014 in the plenary session of the Parliament;

Or. en

Amendment 59
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 23 – table – column 1 – row 2

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Chapter
Competitiveness

Chapter
Competitiveness, **Research, Education,
Transport, Other Programmes**

Or. en

Amendment 60
Bart Staes
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

24. Regrets that a lack of reliability of the first-level checks performed by the Member States in shared management and weaknesses in excluding ineligible land from the Landfill Parcel Identification System (LPIS) still persist;

24. Regrets that a lack of reliability of the first-level checks performed by the Member States in shared management and weaknesses in excluding ineligible land from the Landfill Parcel Identification System (LPIS) still persist; ***points out that according to the Court's annual report for 2014 both the shared management areas and all other operational expenditure (which is mostly directly managed by the Commission) have an estimated error rate of 4,6%;***

Or. en

Amendment 61
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

24. Regrets that a lack of reliability of the first-level checks performed by the Member States in shared management and weaknesses in excluding ineligible land from the **Landfill** Parcel Identification System (LPIS) still persist;

Amendment

24. Regrets that a lack of reliability of the first-level checks performed by the Member States in shared management and weaknesses in excluding ineligible land from the **Land** Parcel Identification System (LPIS) still persist; **notes however that considerable remedial work had been carried out;**

Or. en

Amendment 62

Verónica Lope Fontagné

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 25 – point b

Motion for a resolution

(b) publishing not only the national declarations but also the annual summaries and management declarations, as "confidential documents" where applicable, in order to give more insight into and achieve a real improvement in financial management;

Amendment

(b) publishing, **where they have voluntarily decided to present them**, not only the national declarations but also the annual summaries and management declarations, as "confidential documents" where applicable, in order to give more insight into and achieve a real improvement in financial management;

Or. es

Amendment 63

Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 25 – point b

Motion for a resolution

(b) publishing not only the national declarations but also the annual summaries and management declarations, as "confidential documents" where applicable,

Amendment

(b) publishing not only the national declarations but also the annual summaries and management declarations, as "confidential documents" where applicable,

in order to give more insight into and achieve a real improvement in financial management;

in order to give more insight into and achieve a real improvement in financial management; ***however it is still not clear the effectiveness of these measures considering the differences Member's State structures and the political accountability of the different national authorities.***

Or. en

Amendment 64
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 26 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

26a. Stresses that from the point of view of the Parliament it is unsatisfactory when adversarial procedures end in "the Commission and the Court conclude differently"; calls therefore on both institution to avoid such an outcome;

Or. en

Amendment 65
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 27

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

27. Requests ***a commitment from the Commission to prevent*** recurrent errors;

27. Requests ***an action plan from the Commission with a calendar and objectives to strengthen the prevention of these*** recurrent errors;

Or. es

Amendment 66
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 30 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

30a. Reminds the Commission that the Parliament has a zero-tolerance approach to errors;

Or. en

Amendment 67
Bart Staes
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

33. Notes **with concern** that if the corrective measures taken by the Member States and the Commission had not been applied to the payments audited by the Court, the overall estimated level of error would have been 5,5% rather than 4,4%;

33. Notes that if the corrective measures taken by the Member States and the Commission had not been applied to the payments audited by the Court, the overall estimated level of error would have been 5,5% rather than 4,4%; **urges therefore the Commission, authorities in the Member States or independent auditors to use all information available to prevent, detect and correct possible errors;**

Or. en

Amendment 68
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 34

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

34. **Stresses** that for the operational

34. Shares the Court of Auditors' concern

expenditure the estimated level of error for spending under shared management with the Member States **amounts** to 4,6 % (2013: 4,9 %) **and for** the other forms of operational spending where the Commission has a leading role, **it is also** 4,6 % (2013: 3,7 %);

and surprise that, for **the first time in a long while, in** the operational expenditure the estimated level of error for spending under shared management with the Member States **has been reduced** to 4,6 % (2013: 4,9 %), **equalling the level of error in** the other forms of operational spending where the Commission has a leading role **and which have soared to** 4,6 % (2013: 3,7 %);

Or. es

Amendment 69

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 34

Motion for a resolution

34. Stresses that for the operational expenditure the estimated level of error for spending under shared management with the Member States amounts to 4,6 % (2013: 4,9%) **and** for the other forms of operational spending where the Commission has a leading role, **it is also** 4,6% (2013: 3,7%);

Amendment

34. Stresses that for the operational expenditure the estimated level of error for spending under shared management with the Member States amounts to 4,6 % (2013: 4,9%) **which remains at an very high level; is worried that** for the other forms of operational spending where the Commission has a leading role, **the estimated level of error has rocketed up to** 4,6% (2013: 3,7%);

Or. en

Amendment 70

Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 38

Motion for a resolution

38. Notes the fact that for 12 Commission DGs, the estimated corrective capacity is higher than the estimated amount at risk,

Amendment

38. Notes the fact that for 12 Commission DGs, the estimated corrective capacity is higher than the estimated amount at risk;

which reflects the multi-annual nature of corrective systems;

Or. en

Amendment 71
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 38 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

38a. Calls on the Commission to revise the method to calculate the corrective capacity in time for the 2015 discharge procedure;

Or. en

Amendment 72
Georgi Pirinski, C t lin Sorin Ivan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 39

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

39. Remarks that whenever the Commission has evidence of reduced absorption capacity in Member States, the **DG** should assess all flexibility provisions of the MFF Regulation instead;

39. Remarks that whenever the Commission has evidence of reduced absorption capacity in Member States, the **Commission** should assess all flexibility provisions of the MFF Regulation instead ***while undertaking corresponding actions only after proposing measures for overcoming insufficient absorption capacity;***

Or. en

Amendment 73
C t lin Sorin Ivan, Dan Nica

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 39

Motion for a resolution

39. Remarks that whenever the Commission has evidence of reduced absorption capacity in Member States, the DG should assess all flexibility provisions of the MFF Regulation instead;

Amendment

39. Remarks that whenever the Commission has evidence of reduced absorption capacity in Member States, the DG should assess all flexibility provisions of the MFF Regulation instead, ***in order to support the implementation rate for those Member States with higher transfers of the commitments from 2014 to 2015 as part of MFF technical adjustment agreed in 2015;***

Or. en

Amendment 74
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 42

Motion for a resolution

42. Calls on the Commission to apply strictly Article 32(5) of the new Financial Regulation if the level of error is persistently high, and consequently to identify the weaknesses in the control systems, analyse the costs and benefits of possible corrective measures and take or propose appropriate action in terms of simplification, improvement of control systems and redesign of programmes or delivery systems ***when appropriate data is available;***

Amendment

42. Calls on the Commission to apply strictly Article 32(5) of the new Financial Regulation if the level of error is persistently high, and consequently to identify the weaknesses in the control systems, analyse the costs and benefits of possible corrective measures and take or propose appropriate action in terms of simplification, improvement of control systems and redesign of programmes or delivery systems ***before the mid-term review of the 2014-2020;***

;

Or. en

Amendment 75
Bart Staes
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 43

Motion for a resolution

43. Underscores the Court's observation that if the Commission, authorities in the Member States or independent audits had made use of all information available to them, they should have prevented, detected, or corrected a significant proportion of the errors before these were made;

Amendment

43. Underscores the Court's observation that if the Commission, authorities in the Member States or independent audits had made use of all information available to them, they should have prevented, detected, or corrected a significant proportion of the errors before these were made; ***points out that using all information available might have reduced the level of error by 3,3 percentage points for both expenditure under regional and urban policy (6.1 %) and for rural development, environment, climate action and fisheries (6.2 %); stresses that using all information available might have reduced the level of error by 2,8 percentage points for competitiveness for growth and jobs, directly managed by the Commission;***

Or. en

Amendment 76
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 43

Motion for a resolution

43. Underscores the Court's observation that if the Commission, authorities in the Member States or independent audits had made use of all information available to them, they should have prevented, detected, or corrected a significant proportion of the errors before these were made;

Amendment

43. Underscores the Court's observation that if the Commission, authorities in the Member States or independent audits had made use of all information available to them, they should have prevented, detected, or corrected a significant proportion of the errors before these were made, ***and expresses concern at the fact that the Commission has admitted it takes at least ten years to correct errors;***

Or. it

Amendment 77
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 44

Motion for a resolution

44. Notes that ***along with progress in the identification of results, 2014 has brought about*** a change in methodological approaches, ***but that*** a clear and transparent survey of the 2014 Union budget contribution to ***macroeconomic indicators, compliance with the criteria defined for fiscal discipline and macroeconomic balance are still missing; considers that finding*** connections with the Europe 2020 Strategy ***is, however, undoubtedly a step in the right direction;***

Amendment

44. Notes that ***in 2014 new emphasis was laid on results oriented budgeting and analysis accompanied with*** a change in methodological approaches; ***in this context underlines the need for*** a clear and transparent survey of the 2014 Union budget contribution to ***results achieved in connections with the Europe 2020 Strategy and sectorial policy objectives;***

Or. en

Amendment 78
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 45 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

45a. Endorses the reservations issued by the Director-General of DG REGIO in its annual activity report concerning the ERDF/Cohesion Fund management and control systems for the 2007-2013 programming period in 12 Member States (77 programmes) and ETC programmes; is of the opinion that those reservations demonstrate that the control procedures put in place in the Commission and the Member States cannot give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of all the underlying transactions in the corresponding policy

Amendment

areas;

Or. en

Amendment 79
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 45 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

45b. Endorses the reservations issued by the Director-General of DG AGRI in its annual activity report;

ABB02 – Expenditure on Market Measures: EUR 77,7 million at risk; 4 aid schemes in 7 Member States (8 elements of reservation): Austria, France (for two aid measures), Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Romania and the United Kingdom;

ABB03 – Direct payments: EUR 831,6 million at risk; 15 paying agencies, comprising 6 Member States: Spain (10 paying agencies), France, UK (RPA-England), Greece, Hungary and Portugal;

ABB04 – Rural development expenditure: EUR 532,5 million at risk; 28 paying agencies, comprising 16 Member States: Bulgaria, Germany (3 paying agencies), Denmark, Spain (6 paying agencies), France (2 paying agencies), UK (2 paying agencies), Hungary, Greece, Italy (4 paying agencies), Lithuania, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Sweden;

ABB05 – IPARD expenditure for Turkey: EUR 5,07 million at risk;

is of the opinion that those reservations demonstrate that the control procedures put in place in the Commission and the Member States cannot give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of all the underlying

transactions in the corresponding policy areas;

Or. en

Amendment 80
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 45 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

45c. Endorses the reservations issued by the Director-General of DG EMPL in its annual activity report; notes that its annual activity report contains a reservation relating to payments made for the 2007-2013 programming period for an amount at risk of EUR 169,4 million in 2014; Management and control systems for 36 specific ESF Operational Programmes in Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom for the programming period 2007-2013; is of the opinion that those reservations demonstrate that the control procedures put in place in the Commission and the Member States cannot give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of all the underlying transactions in the corresponding policy areas;

Or. en

Amendment 81
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 45 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

45d. Requests the director general of DG DEVCO to provide a more risk differentiated assurance in his annual activity report and to subsequently direct more of their control resources towards areas covered by specific reservations;

Or. en

Amendment 82
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 45 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

45e. Calls on the Council to adopt a more vigilant position on the discharge and welcomes the critical stance taken by Sweden and the United Kingdom asking the Commission and the Court to:

- focus on areas and recipients with high risk of errors instead of adding more controls for all;

- focus on ex-ante controls rather than ex-post controls;

- urging Member States authorities to make better use of the available information to prevent, detect and correct errors before declaring expenditure to the Commission;

- preserve the unanimously agreed payment ceilings, in particular by maintaining fiscal discipline in relation to commitments, effectively de-committing unused appropriations in order to make room for new priorities and programmes, increasing transparency by providing long-term forecasts, ensuring a balance between commitments and payments and reducing excessive cash balances in

financial instruments, given that more than €14 bn in unutilised funds remains locked within such instruments, which could be used for more urgent needs and priorities.

Or. en

Amendment 83
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 46 – point a

Motion for a resolution

(a) priorities include a balanced approach between traditional methods and a strengthened focus on performance and results;

Amendment

(a) priorities include a balanced approach between traditional methods and a strengthened focus on performance and results, *taking account in every case of the obligations arising from the Treaties, the sectoral policies and the flexibility necessary to deal with unforeseen events;*

Or. es

Amendment 84
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 46 – point c

Motion for a resolution

(c) appreciates a strengthened linkage of the Union budget with key Union policy strategies and concepts (as the Europe 2020 Strategy);

Amendment

(c) appreciates a strengthened linkage of the Union budget with key Union policy strategies and concepts (as the Europe 2020 Strategy) *and their correlation with key sectorial policies;*

Or. en

Amendment 85
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 46 – point e a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(ea) regrets the significant increase in errors in operational expenditure directly managed by the Commission, which have risen to a point where they now match the level of error for spending under shared management with the Member States for the first time;

Or. es

Amendment 86
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 48

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

48. Underlines that the level of error rate does not mean a case of fraud, inefficiency, or waste, but an estimate of financial flows that should not have been paid out as they were not used in line with rules and regulations;

48. Underlines that the level of error rate does not ***necessarily*** mean a case of fraud, inefficiency, or waste, but an estimate of financial flows that should not have been paid out as they were not used in line with rules and regulations; ***emphasizes, however, that the sharp increase of serious errors in the context of public procurement procedures is a matter of grave concern, as Member States have had years of experience with the existing procurement rules, and if they already face difficulties with these rules, this does not bode well for when they have to adapt national legislation and procedures to the new directives on procurement and concessions;***

Or. en

Amendment 87
Martina Dlabajová, Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 48

Motion for a resolution

48. Underlines that the level of error rate does not mean a case of fraud, inefficiency, or waste, but an estimate of financial flows that should not have been paid out as they were not used in line with rules and regulations;

Amendment

48. Underlines that the level of error rate does not mean a case of fraud, inefficiency, or waste, but an estimate of financial flows that should not have been paid out as they were not used in line with rules and regulations; ***recognizes that the error rate is not well understood by European citizens and asks the Court in this context to launch a debate with the Commission with a view to identifying potential methodological shortcomings and agreeing on common standards in reporting the error rate;***

Or. en

Amendment 88
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 48 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

48a. Shares the view that, as stated by the President of the Court in the presentation of the annual report in the Parliament, geography is not the root cause of the errors.

Or. en

Amendment 89
Georgi Pirinski, Cătălin Sorin Ivan, Miroslav Poche

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 49 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

49a. Draws attention in this regard that implementation of the 2014 Union budget was exercised under differing regulatory framework due to the fact that in that year there were two frameworks in force respectively for 2007-2013 and 2014-2020;

Or. en

Amendment 90
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 50

Motion for a resolution

50. Points out that it is correct and substantial to distinguish between different types of error rate related to the different types of Union budgetary expenditure as those are allocated under different criteria and therefore it is very difficult to compare them;

Amendment

50. Points out **therefore** that it is correct and substantial to distinguish between different types of error rate related to the different types of Union budgetary expenditure as those are allocated under different criteria and therefore it is very difficult to compare them;

Or. en

Amendment 91
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 51

Motion for a resolution

51. Notes that in its effort to support a reinforced performance culture, the Court's 2014 annual report pays strong attention to Union budget performance issues as it tested as a pilot the real complementarity between Union funding and the Europe

Amendment

51. Notes that in its effort to support a reinforced performance culture, the Court's 2014 annual report pays strong attention to Union budget performance issues as it tested as a pilot the real complementarity between Union funding and the Europe

2020 Strategy; notes that the Court underlined and identified a low and weak interconnection between partnership agreements/operational programmes and the Europe 2020 Strategy;

2020 Strategy; notes that the Court underlined and identified a low and weak interconnection between partnership agreements/operational programmes and the Europe 2020 Strategy; ***however, draws attention that such complementarity should be considered within the overall context of the fund-specific missions pursuant to their Treaty-based objectives, including economic, social and territorial cohesion;***

Or. en

Amendment 92
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 51 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

51a. Expresses concern at the rate of absorption of funds in Member States, which varies between 50% and 92%; calls on the Commission to present a thorough analysis of why it is some regions still exhibit low rates of absorption and to assess specific ways of remedying the structural problems underlying those imbalances;

Or. it

Amendment 93
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 52

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

52. Appreciates the innovative nature of the Court's 2014 annual report which included a results- and performance- based

52. Appreciates the innovative nature of the Court's 2014 annual report which included a results- and performance- based

approach, assessing the application and orientation of Union budget interventions against the Europe 2020 Strategy priorities; considers that *this* concept should be applied in the coming years, when drafting country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the context of the European Semester;

approach, assessing the application and orientation of Union budget interventions against the Europe 2020 Strategy priorities; considers that *the concept of results- and performance- based approach* should be applied in the coming years, when drafting Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) in the context of the European Semester;

Or. en

Amendment 94
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 56

Motion for a resolution

56. Recommends a continuation of the process of simplification of both procedures and budgetary content leading to a reduction of excessive administrative burdens and to limitations on gold-plating in particular Member States; stresses that the process of simplification should not lead to deregulation; welcomes the existence of the high-level group created by Commission and is expecting results;

Amendment

56. Recommends a continuation of the process of simplification of both procedures and budgetary content leading to a reduction of excessive administrative burdens and to limitations on gold-plating in particular Member States; stresses that the process of simplification should not lead to deregulation *and should not mean forgetting about control mechanisms and procedures i.e. ex-ante audits*; welcomes the existence of the high-level group created by Commission and is expecting results;

Or. en

Amendment 95
Georgi Pirinski, Miroslav Poche

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 56

Motion for a resolution

56. Recommends a continuation of the

Amendment

56. Recommends a continuation of the

process of simplification of both procedures and budgetary content leading to a reduction of excessive administrative burdens and to limitations on gold-plating in particular Member States; stresses that the process of simplification should not lead to deregulation; welcomes the existence of the high-level group created by Commission and is expecting results;

process of simplification of both procedures and budgetary content leading to a reduction of excessive administrative burdens and to limitations on gold-plating in particular Member States; stresses that the process of simplification should not lead to deregulation; ***underlines that simplification should not cause overly frequent changes in the regulatory framework, leading to additional burdens for administration and beneficiaries, thus undermining intended positive developments of simplification***; welcomes the existence of the high-level group created by Commission and is expecting results;

Or. en

Amendment 96
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 57 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

57a. Calls on the Commission to improve communication and cooperation between actors involved in budget planning, implementation and discharge, and with the wider public, by aligning expectations, sharing experiences on implementation and reporting on the attainment of results.

Or. en

Amendment 97
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 57 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

57b. Calls on the Commission to consider using tools such as social media, surveys and focus groups to measure public awareness and assess ways to improve their communications strategy in future regarding the results of the projects to the citizens;

Or. en

Amendment 98
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 57 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

57c. Welcomes the new inter-institutional working group on Performance in order to reach a common understanding of performance-based and results-oriented budgeting principles;

Or. en

Amendment 99
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 61 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

61a. Calls urgently for clarification as to how much money was paid from European Funds to media undertakings in each Member State, and to which undertakings, whether to make these Funds better known or for other reasons;

Or. de

Amendment 100

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 62

Motion for a resolution

62. *Notes* that a large responsibility for correct allocation of the Union budget lies with the Member States, as 76% of expenditures are spent under shared management;

Amendment

62. ***Reminds*** that a large responsibility for correct allocation of the Union budget lies with the Member States, as 76% of expenditures are spent under shared management; ***therefore stresses that Member States have an important responsibility on implementing correctly and lawfully the Union budget when they are responsible for the management of the Union funds***

Or. en

Amendment 101

Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 62

Motion for a resolution

62. Notes that a large responsibility for correct allocation of the Union budget lies with the Member States, as 76 % of expenditures are spent under shared management;

Amendment

62. Notes that a large responsibility for correct allocation of the Union budget ***also*** lies with the Member States, as 76 % of expenditures are spent under shared management;

Or. es

Amendment 102

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 64

Motion for a resolution

64. Underlines that the better the Member States strive to fulfil the national and quantified Europe 2020 Strategy targets, the more Union budgetary spending can be targeted, and the more those targets will reflect the real Union economic, social, territorial and environmental needs, the better the Union will ensure an environment for sound financial management; in this context, recommends the creation of a permanent platform composed of the Commission *and* national governments' representations, including the PERM-REPs;

Amendment

64. Underlines that the better the Member States strive to fulfil the national and quantified Europe 2020 Strategy targets, the more Union budgetary spending can be targeted, and the more those targets will reflect the real Union economic, social, territorial and environmental needs, the better the Union will ensure an environment for sound financial management; in this context, recommends the creation of a permanent platform composed of the Commission, national governments' representations, including the PERM-REPs, *and regional governments*;

Or. en

Amendment 103
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 64

Motion for a resolution

64. Underlines that the better the Member States strive to fulfil the national and quantified Europe 2020 Strategy targets, the more Union budgetary spending can be targeted, and the more those targets will reflect the real Union economic, social, territorial and environmental needs, the better the Union will ensure an environment for sound financial management; in this context, recommends the creation of a permanent platform composed of the Commission and national governments' representations, *including the PERM-REPs*;

Amendment

64. Underlines that the better the Member States strive to fulfil the national and quantified Europe 2020 Strategy targets, the more Union budgetary spending can be targeted, and the more those targets will reflect the real Union economic, social, territorial and environmental needs, the better the Union will ensure an environment for sound financial management; in this context, recommends the creation of a permanent platform composed of the Commission and national governments' representations *and regional authorities*;

Or. es

Amendment 104

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 65

Motion for a resolution

65. Shares the Court's finding that the Commission, national authorities and independent auditors must use all the relevant information available to prevent, or detect and correct errors before reimbursement;

Amendment

65. Shares the Court's finding that the Commission, national authorities and independent auditors must use all the relevant information available to prevent, or detect and correct errors before reimbursement; ***firmly states that when data are available there should be no reason for the Commission, the national authorities and the independent auditors not to take the appropriate measures to prevent, detect and correct errors;***

Or. en

Amendment 105

Martina Dlabajová, Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 65 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

65a. Calls on the Court to develop a system, together with national audit authorities, which will allow the Court to evaluate the follow-up Member States have given to its recommendations;

Or. en

Amendment 106

Andrey Novakov

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 66

Motion for a resolution

66. Calls on the Commission to provide guidance to the Member States so that partnership agreements and OPs *transpose more* fully the Europe 2020 Strategy and also *implement* the concept of common result indicators *as proposed in the Court's 2014 annual report*;

Amendment

66. Calls on the Commission to provide *more* guidance to the Member States so that partnership agreements and OPs *implement* fully the Europe 2020 Strategy and also *consider whether* the concept of common result indicators *is a viable option*;

Or. en

Amendment 107
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 66 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

66a. Deems useful that the Parliament and the Council find together a way how to address the issue of Member States' spending under the shared management;

Or. en

Amendment 108
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 66 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

66a. Endorses the inclusion of Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) in partnership agreements;

Or. en

Amendment 109
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 66 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

66a. Urges the Commission to strengthen the negotiations with the Member States regarding the necessity of publishing national declarations and annual summaries;

Or. en

Amendment 110
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
New subheading after paragraph 66 and paragraph 66 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

66a. Financial corrections and recoveries

Is concerned that for the financial corrections implemented in 2014 (as compared to Union payments received) some Member States laid three times above the average percentage of 2,3 % (Slovakia 8,7%, Czech Republic 8,1%, Greece 4,7%);

Notes that for the 2007 - 2013 programming period, EUR 209 million of financial corrections under ESF has been confirmed and EUR 156 million implemented, out of which EUR 95 million were confirmed in 2014; remarks that Member States with the highest level of corrections are Spain (EUR 56 million), Romania (EUR 43 million); Poland (EUR 32 million) and France (EUR 20 million);

States that the cumulative amounts corrected for cohesion policy in 2007 - 2013 represent 0,9% of the budget

allocations; shares the Commission's view that financial corrections for the 2007-2013 period are expected to continue to increase in the coming years as its programmes start to close;

Notes that for ERDF/CF programmes, the Commission has imposed around EUR 2 billion of financial corrections cumulatively since the beginning of the 2007-2013 programming period, which includes EUR 782 million of financial corrections applied by the Member States before or at the same time of declaring the expenditure to the Commission; observes with concern that the main Member States concerned are Czech Republic (EUR 719 million), Hungary (EUR 298 million), Greece (EUR 257 million), Spain (EUR 237 million), Slovakia (EUR 152 million), Romania (EUR 146 million) and Italy (EUR 105 million);

Notes that for ESF, the Member States with the highest level of cumulative financial correction figures are Romania (EUR 355 million), Spain (EUR 213 million) and Poland (EUR 152 million);

Or. en

Amendment 111
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 66 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

66b. Considers financial corrections and recoveries effective means to protect the Union's budget; regrets however that due to the legal framework for protecting Union financial interests, the complexity of the related procedures and the number of control layers involved in many areas, errors can only be corrected several years after they have occurred;

Amendment 112

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 68

Motion for a resolution

68. Recommends that the Commission fit all reporting arrangements into a single coherent system to protect the financial interests of the Union, thereby making the fight against fraud and corruption more effective; recalls the importance of a coherent legislation inside the Union to efficiently fight against organised crime operating at a transnational level;

Amendment

68. Recommends that the Commission fit all reporting arrangements into a single coherent system to protect the financial interests of the Union, thereby making the fight against fraud and corruption more effective; recalls the importance of a coherent legislation inside the Union to efficiently fight against organised crime operating at a transnational level; ***expresses concern at the lack of targeted national legislation on combating organised crime in many northern European countries and calls on the Commission to provide for extending the anti-mafia certification requirement to all procurement procedures involving EU funding;***

Or. it

Amendment 113

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 68 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

68a. Points out that transparency is the most effective instrument for combating abuse and fraud; calls on the Commission to improve legislation in this regard, making it compulsory to publish data relating to all the beneficiaries of EU funding, including data on subcontracts;

Amendment 114
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari, Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 68 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

68a. Urges the Commission to join the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS No. 173) of the Council of Europe and speeding up the negotiations on the participation of the Union in the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), in order to contribute to more co-ordinated anti-corruption policies in Europe;

Or. en

Amendment 115
Zigmantas Bal ytis

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 68 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

68a. Calls on the Commission to assume full responsibility for the recovery of funds unduly paid into the Union's budget and to establish uniform reporting principles in all Member States with a view to ensuring comparable, reliable and adequate data collection;

Or. It

Amendment 116
Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 69

69. Welcomes the Commission's statement in its 2014 Annual Protection of Financial Interest Report (PIF), which reminds that both the PIF directive and the European Public Prosecutor's Office regulation (EPPO regulation) "would complement and strengthen the legal framework and would considerably reinforce the fight against fraud"; reiterates its views that there is an urgent need to adopt the PIF Directive, with VAT included in its scope and with a clear definition of PIF offences, minimum rules for maximum applicable imprisonment penalties, and minimum rules on the statute of limitations as soon as possible; recalls the Taricco Case, in which the Court of Justice of the European Union draws attention to the fact that VAT fraud is indeed included in the 1995 PIF Convention's definition of PIF fraud; calls on the Commission to clarify the relations between Eurojust, the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and to examine the possibility of a stronger integrated approach of these agencies in order to make investigations more effective⁸³ ;

deleted

⁸³ See COM(2013)0534 - 2013/0255(APP), point 29.

Or. en

Amendment 117
Tamás Deutsch

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 69 a (new)

69a. *Welcomes the Commission's decision to increase transparency by improving its system of expert groups, particularly as regards the procedure for selecting experts, through the development of a new conflict-of-interest policy for experts appointed in a personal capacity, implying the possibility for Parliament to exercise direct control over such appointments; takes note of the requirement for experts to be registered in the transparency register where relevant; urges the Commission, however, to take into account the recommendations both of the European Ombudsman concerning the composition of the expert groups and of the study 'Composition of the Commission's expert groups and the status of the register of expert groups' when drafting amendments to the current horizontal rules governing expert groups, in order to create a more systematic and transparent approach; requests that the Commission engage in a dialogue with Parliament before the rules are formally adopted, especially in relation to the upcoming report of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Legal Affairs on this matter; encourages the European agencies to consider reforms in a similar sense;*

Or. en

Amendment 118
Tamás Deutsch

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 69 b (new)

69b. *Considers the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) to be a key actor in the*

fight against corruption and therefore believes that it is of the utmost importance that this institution work effectively and independently; recommends, in accordance with the OLAF Regulation, that the OLAF Supervisory Committee be given access to the information needed for effective execution of its mandate with regard to oversight of OLAF activities and that it be given budgetary independence;

Or. en

Amendment 119

Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari, Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 70

Motion for a resolution

70. Stresses that Member States are not following up alleged cases of fraud affecting the financial interests of the Union as submitted to them by OLAF; calls on the Commission to take appropriate measures and on OLAF to continue to support the Member States in improving their performance in the prevention and detection of fraud against European funds;

Amendment

70. Stresses that Member States are not following up alleged cases of fraud affecting the financial interests of the Union as submitted to them by OLAF; calls on the Commission to take appropriate measures and on OLAF to continue *and accelerate its analysis of the reasons why Member States do not follow up alleged cases, to provide the Parliament with its findings in this respect and to continue* to support the Member States in improving their performance in the prevention and detection of fraud against European funds;

Or. en

Amendment 120

Verónica Lope Fontagné

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 71

Motion for a resolution

71. Invites the Commission to develop a system of strict indicators and *easily applicable* uniform criteria *based on the requirements set out in the Stockholm Programme to measure the level of corruption in the Member States and evaluate the Member States' anti-corruption policies*; is concerned about the reliability and quality of data coming from the Member States; calls on the Commission, therefore, to work closely with Member States to guarantee comprehensive, exact and reliable data keeping in mind the goal of full implementation of the Single Audit Scheme; *invites the Commission to work out a corruption index to categorise Member States*;

Amendment

71. Invites the Commission to develop a system of strict indicators and uniform criteria; is concerned about the reliability and quality of data coming from the Member States; calls on the Commission, therefore, to work closely with Member States to guarantee comprehensive, exact and reliable data keeping in mind the goal of full implementation of the Single Audit Scheme;

Or. es

Amendment 121
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 71

Motion for a resolution

71. Invites the Commission to develop a system of strict indicators and easily applicable uniform criteria based on the requirements set out in the Stockholm Programme to measure the level of corruption in the Member States and evaluate the Member States' anti-corruption policies; is concerned about the reliability and quality of data coming from the Member States; calls on the Commission, therefore, to work closely with Member States to guarantee comprehensive, exact and reliable data keeping in mind the goal of full implementation of the Single Audit

Amendment

71. Invites the Commission to develop a system of strict indicators and easily applicable uniform criteria based on the requirements set out in the Stockholm Programme to measure the level of corruption in the Member States and evaluate the Member States' anti-corruption policies; is concerned about the reliability and quality of data coming from the Member States; calls on the Commission, therefore, to work closely with Member States to guarantee comprehensive, exact and reliable data keeping in mind the goal of full implementation of the Single Audit

Scheme; invites the Commission to work out a corruption *index to categorise* Member States;

Scheme; invites the Commission to work out a *public directory of cases of* corruption *in the* Member States *in the area of protection of Union financial interests, which should include national, regional and local authorities, financial intermediaries, beneficiaries of European funds, etc.*;

Or. es

Amendment 122

Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 71

Motion for a resolution

71. Invites the Commission to develop a system of strict indicators and easily applicable uniform criteria based on the requirements set out in the Stockholm Programme to measure the level of corruption in the Member States and evaluate the Member States' anti-corruption policies; is concerned about the reliability and quality of data coming from the Member States; calls on the Commission, therefore, to work closely with Member States to guarantee comprehensive, exact and reliable data keeping in mind the goal of full implementation of the Single Audit Scheme; invites the Commission to work out a corruption index to categorise Member States;

Amendment

71. Invites the Commission to develop a system of strict indicators and easily applicable uniform criteria based on the requirements set out in the Stockholm Programme to measure the level of corruption in the Member States and evaluate the Member States' anti-corruption policies; is concerned about the reliability and quality of data coming from the Member States; calls on the Commission, therefore, to work closely with Member States to guarantee comprehensive, exact and reliable data keeping in mind the goal of full implementation of the Single Audit Scheme; invites the Commission to work out a corruption index to categorise Member States *based on the effectiveness of their anti-corruption policies*;

Or. en

Amendment 123

Tamás Deutsch

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 71 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

71a. Reiterates its request that the Commission report biannually to Parliament and to the Council on the implementation by the Union institutions of their internal anti-corruption policies, and is looking forward to reading the next report in early 2016; asks the Commission to add a chapter on the performance of the Union institutions in fighting corruption and is of the opinion that the Commission's future anti-corruption reports should always cover all the Union institutions and bodies;

Or. en

Amendment 124

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 71 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

71a. Expresses concern about the data provided by Eurodad on money laundering, in which Luxembourg and Germany rank top for the risk of money laundering; regards it as essential that the Member States should transpose in full the EU directive on money laundering and introduce a public register of the ownership of companies, including trusts;

Or. it

Amendment 125

Bas Belder

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 71 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

71a. Observes that inspection pressure for ultimate beneficiaries would be reduced by a single audit, such that European inspections need not be performed separately but would build on national inspections; considers, however, that such a sharing of responsibility would be possible only if national inspections are adequate and the Member States and the Commission reach satisfactory agreements on the principles and interpretations; calls on the Commission to be proactive about this by issuing guidelines;

Or. nl

**Amendment 126
Tamás Deutsch**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 72 a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

72a. Considers the Commission's first biennial anti-corruption report to be a promising attempt to better understand corruption in all its dimensions, to develop effective responses with a view to tackling it, and to pave the way for enhanced accountability of the public sphere to Union citizens; reaffirms, in this context, the importance of the Union's zero-tolerance policy on fraud, corruption and collusion; considers it regrettable, however, that this report did not include the anti-corruption policies of the Union institutions themselves;

Or. en

Amendment 127
Tamás Deutsch

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 72 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

72b. Demands that in its second anti-corruption report, at the latest, the Commission carries out further analysis at the level of both the Union institutions and the Member States of the environment in which policies are implemented, in order to identify inherent critical factors, vulnerable areas and risk factors conducive to corruption;

Or. en

Amendment 128
Tamás Deutsch

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 72 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

72c. Calls upon the Commission to fulfil without delay its reporting obligations under the UN Convention against Corruption;

Or. en

Amendment 129
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 73 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

73a. Notes however that the percentage of serious errors by Member States in public

procurement was significantly reduced from 45 per cent in 2013 in the regional policy area to 25 per cent of all qualified errors for the combined policy area economic, social and territorial cohesion in 2014.

Or. en

Amendment 130
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 77

Motion for a resolution

77. Notes that *a total of* about EUR 142.5 billion *in 2014 represent* almost 2 % of total public expenditure in Union Member States, or 1 % of Union GDP;

Amendment

77. Notes that *in 2014 expenditure rose to* about EUR 142.5 billion, *equivalent to EUR 285 per citizen, which represents* almost 2 % of total public expenditure in Union Member States, or 1 % of Union GDP;

Or. es

Amendment 131
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 80

Motion for a resolution

80. Notes the Court's recommendation to the Commission to submit a legislative proposal to amend the applicable regulation concerning the extension of the eligibility period for FEI under *shared management* and of the Commission's reply thereto;

Amendment

80. Notes the Court's recommendation to the Commission to submit a legislative proposal to amend the applicable regulation concerning the extension of the eligibility period for FEI under *Regulation (EC) 1083/2006* and of the Commission's reply thereto;

Or. en

Amendment 132

Cristian Sorin Ivan, Dan Nica, Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 81

Motion for a resolution

81. **Requests that** the Commission **considers** in its budgetary and financial management the capacity constraints in **certain** Member States in order to avoid the under-utilisation of funds and to increase the absorption rates, especially in the area of the ESIFs;

Amendment

81. **Calls upon** the Commission **that following the Court's recommendation, to consider** in its budgetary and financial management the capacity constraints in **some** Member States, in order to avoid the under-utilisation of funds and to increase the absorption rates, especially in the area of the ESIFs; **while acknowledging the actions taken so far, such as the setup of the Task Force for Better Implementation, which has already generated improvements;**

Or. en

Amendment 133

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 83 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

83a. Is of the opinion that the MFF mid-term revision, to be presented by the Commission by the end of 2016, is the first and best opportunity to structurally tackle the high level of RAL; urges the Commission to come up with a proposal to revise the MFF regulation in order to fix, among other matters, the RAL;

Or. en

Amendment 134

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 85

Motion for a resolution

85. Points out that despite the level of payments continuing to be higher than the MFF ceiling, use of the contingency margin unpaid payments claims rose by EUR 1,4 billion to EUR 25,8 billion;

Amendment

85. Points out that despite the level of payments continuing to be higher than the MFF ceiling, use of the contingency margin unpaid payments claims rose by EUR 1,4 billion to EUR 25,8 billion;
Stresses the importance of fully respecting the joint statement on a payment plan 2015-2016 agreed between Parliament, Council and Commission, following the shared commitment to reduce the backlog of outstanding payment claims for the 2007-2013 cohesion programmes to around EUR 2 billion by the end of 2016; takes the view that in de facto terms this state of affairs constitutes a breach of Article 310 TFEU, which states that the revenue and expenditure shown in the budget must be in balance;

Or. it

Amendment 135
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 85

Motion for a resolution

85. ***Points out*** that despite the level of payments continuing to be higher than the MFF ceiling, use of the contingency margin unpaid payments claims rose by EUR 1,4 billion to EUR 25,8 billion;

Amendment

85. ***Regrets*** that despite the level of payments continuing to be higher than the MFF ceiling, use of the contingency margin unpaid payments claims rose by EUR 1,4 billion to EUR 25,8 billion;

Or. es

Amendment 136
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 87

Motion for a resolution

87. Points out in particular that by the end of 2014, payments to Member States for the multiannual ESIFs for 2007-2013 had reached EUR 309,5 billion; i.e. 77% of the EUR 403 billion for all the operational programmes, where five Member States account for more than the half of the unused commitments of multiannual ESIFs;

Amendment

87. Points out in particular that by the end of 2014, payments to Member States for the multiannual ESIFs for 2007-2013^{84a} had reached EUR 309,5 billion; i.e. 77% of the EUR 403 billion for all the operational programmes, where five Member States account for more than the half of the unused commitments of multiannual ESIFs;

^{84a} *the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), source ECA AR 2014;*

Or. en

Amendment 137
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 87

Motion for a resolution

87. Points out in particular that by the end of 2014, payments to Member States for the multiannual ESIFs for 2007-2013 had reached EUR 309,5 billion; i.e. 77% of the EUR 403 billion for all the operational programmes, where five Member States account for more than the half of the unused commitments of multiannual ESIFs;

Amendment

87. Points out in particular that by the end of 2014, payments to Member States for the multiannual ESIFs for 2007-2013 had reached EUR 309,5 billion; i.e. 77% of the EUR 403 billion for all the operational programmes, where five Member States, **namely Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania** account for more than the half of the unused commitments of multiannual ESIFs;

Or. en

Amendment 138
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 88

Motion for a resolution

88. Regrets that the backlog in the absorption of multiannual funds is significant and may create a real problem for some Member States⁸⁵;

⁸⁵ Absorption rate ranges from 50% to 92% in the Member States.

Amendment

88. Regrets that the backlog in the absorption of multiannual funds is significant and may create a real problem for some Member States⁸⁵; ***supports and recognises, in this connection, the usefulness of applying flexibility options, given the delays in launching all the programmes;***

⁸⁵ Absorption rate ranges from 50% to 92% in the Member States.

Or. es

Amendment 139
Bart Staes
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point a

Motion for a resolution

(a) the largest proportion is still contributed by Member States depending on their gross national income (GNI), in 2014 this contribution amounted to EUR 94,9 billion;

Amendment

(a) the largest proportion is still contributed by Member States depending on their gross national income (GNI) ***which contradicts the letter and the spirit of the Treaty,*** in 2014 this contribution amounted to EUR 94,9 billion;

Or. en

Amendment 140
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 91

Motion for a resolution

91. Underlines that a GNI parameter is a key factor behind the revenue issue of the Union budget and stresses that a correct and objective measure of that is therefore a key issue, the only serious one regarding the revenue topic under the current Union budget's architecture and that it is very important to have reliable and flexible databases for calculating Member States' contributions;

Amendment

91. Underlines that, ***until changes are made to the Union's own-resources system***, a GNI parameter is a key factor behind the revenue issue of the Union budget and stresses that a correct and objective measure of that is therefore a key issue, the only serious one regarding the revenue topic under the current Union budget's architecture and that it is very important to have reliable and flexible databases for calculating Member States' contributions;

Or. es

Amendment 141
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 95

Motion for a resolution

95. ***Points out*** that the VAT gap and the estimated losses on VAT collection amounted to EUR 168 billion in 2013; is concerned that the new system of accountability for VAT as an own resource could not totally achieve its goal of simplification and stresses the need to improve EUROFISC to facilitate the exchange of information and help combat irregularities and frauds;

Amendment

95. ***Deplores the fact*** that the VAT gap and the estimated losses on VAT collection amounted to EUR 168 billion in 2013; is concerned that the new system of accountability for VAT as an own resource could not totally achieve its goal of simplification and stresses the need to improve EUROFISC to facilitate the exchange of information and help combat irregularities and frauds;

Or. es

Amendment 142
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 95

Motion for a resolution

95. Points out that the VAT gap and the estimated losses on VAT collection amounted to EUR 168 billion in 2013; is concerned that the new system of accountability for VAT as an own resource could not totally achieve its goal of simplification and stresses the **need to improve** EUROFISC to facilitate the exchange of information and help combat irregularities and frauds;

Amendment

95. **Considers that VAT fraud, and in particular the so-called carousel or missing trader fraud, distorts competition and deprives national budgets from significant resources and is detrimental to the Union budget;** points out that the VAT gap and the estimated losses on VAT collection amounted to EUR 168 billion in 2013; **notes, that the current VAT system remains fragmented and creates significant administrative burdens, especially for SMEs and online companies;** is concerned that the new system of accountability for VAT as an own resource could not totally achieve its goal of simplification and stresses the **responsibility of Member States to address the weaknesses in EUROFISC and better coordinate their policies on reverse charges,** to facilitate the exchange of information and help combat irregularities and frauds; **asks the Commission to propose legislative amendments enabling effective cross-checks between customs and tax data and to focus its monitoring of Member States on improving the timeliness of their replies to information requests and the reliability of the VAT Information Exchange System;**

Or. en

Amendment 143
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 95

Motion for a resolution

95. Points out that the VAT gap and the estimated losses on VAT collection

Amendment

95. Points out that the VAT gap and the estimated losses on VAT collection

amounted to EUR 168 billion in 2013; is concerned that the new system of accountability for VAT as an own resource could not totally achieve its goal of simplification and stresses the need to improve EUROFISC to facilitate the exchange of information and help combat irregularities and frauds;

amounted to EUR 168 billion in 2013; is concerned that the new system of accountability for VAT as an own resource could not totally achieve its goal of simplification and stresses the need to improve EUROFISC to facilitate the exchange of information and help combat irregularities and frauds; *notes with concern the fact that the Commission does not have data on VAT fraud and carousel fraud; points out that in 2012 some EUR 177 billion in VAT revenue was lost as a result of breaches of the rules and failures to recover sums due, a sum equal to 16% of the VAT revenue of 26 Member States for that year;*

Or. it

Amendment 144
Bas Belder

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 96

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

96. Asks the Commission to provide analysis regarding the future of Union funding evaluating the adequacy of the own resource base, instruments that would strengthen the own resource base, a possible restructuring of the revenue side and the relevance of the Union budget/EU GDP ratio;

deleted

Or. nl

Amendment 145
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 96

Motion for a resolution

96. Asks the Commission to provide analysis regarding the future of Union funding evaluating the adequacy of the own resource base, ***instruments that would strengthen the own resource base, a possible restructuring of the revenue side and the relevance of the Union budget/EU GDP ratio;***

Amendment

96. Asks the Commission to provide analysis regarding the future of Union funding evaluating the adequacy of the own resource base;

Or. en

Amendment 146

Bas Belder

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 97

Motion for a resolution

97. Regrets that proposals put forward by the Commission in 2013 to introduce a common Union revision policy are still outstanding, with no further action having been taken by the Commission despite the fact that 19 Member States indicated that they would at least partly align themselves with the Union revision policy by September 2014;

Amendment

deleted

Or. nl

Amendment 147

Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 97 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

97a. Is pleased at the establishment of the High-Level Group on own Resources chaired by Mario Monti; welcomes the

Amendment

first evaluation report that it submitted at the end of 2014 and agrees that the system has gradually become dominated by national contributions, with a leftover portion of independent, genuinely European own resources; considers that the current system of own resources should move forward from the current national debate on net contributors and recipients, which is remote from the EU's citizens, towards a system that is recognisably in the general interest of the Union and its policies.

Or. es

Amendment 148

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 101 – point d a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

da) extend the risk assessment capacity of Eurofisc to cover the VIES system (transnational VAT information exchange system);

Or. it

Amendment 149

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 103

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

103. *Notes* that the structure of the Court's annual report follows, for the first time, the headings of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) which entered into force on 1 January 2014; in 2013 the

103. *Welcomes* that the structure of the Court's annual report follows, for the first time, the headings of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) which entered into force on 1 January 2014; in 2013 the

chapter was called "Research and other internal policies"; this policy change limits the comparability of the Court's findings with those of previous years;

chapter was called "Research and other internal policies"; this policy change limits the comparability of the Court's findings with those of previous years;

Or. en

Amendment 150

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 105

Motion for a resolution

105. Is aware that the heading 1a. of the MFF includes spending in favour of improving research and innovation, enhancing education systems and promoting employment, ensuring a digital single market, promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, modernising the transport sector and improving the business environment, especially for SMEs;

Amendment

105. ***Reminds that the Heading 1a has been sharply reduced during the MFF negotiation (- 24 % compare to the initial Commission's proposal)***; is aware that the heading 1a. of the MFF includes spending in favour of improving research and innovation, enhancing education systems and promoting employment, ensuring a digital single market, promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, modernising the transport sector and improving the business environment, especially for SMEs;

Or. en

Amendment 151

Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 109

Motion for a resolution

109. Is pleased that the Commission was able to meet most targets of the key performance indicators (KPI); doubts however, that the target of investing, by 2020, 3% of the Union GDP in research

Amendment

109. Is pleased that the Commission was able to meet most targets of the key performance indicators (KPI); doubts however, that the target of investing, by 2020, 3% of the Union GDP in research

and development can be met; calls on all Member States to rise to the challenge;

and development can be met; calls on all Member States to rise to the challenge; *the situation seems to be particularly difficult for Croatia, Finland, Luxembourg Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden;*

Or. en

Amendment 152

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 109

Motion for a resolution

109. Is pleased that the Commission was able to meet most targets of the key performance indicators (KPI); doubts however, that the target of investing, by 2020, 3% of the Union GDP in research and development can be met; calls on all Member States to rise to the challenge;

Amendment

109. Is pleased that the Commission was able to meet most targets of the key performance indicators (KPI); doubts however, that the target of investing, by 2020, 3% of the Union GDP in research and development can be met; calls on all Member States to rise to the challenge; *calls upon the Commission to draw the necessary conclusion for the forthcoming mid-term revision of the MFF to be presented by the end of 2016;*

Or. en

Amendment 153

Inés Ayala Sender, Isabelle Thomas

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 112 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

112a. Recalls that 'Societal Challenge 6 (SC6)', in particular, the social sciences and humanities, was a priority of Parliament which it introduced during the development of Horizon 2020; recalls the importance of this component in the

domains in which the Union is facing particular challenges, such as tackling unemployment, radicalisation, terrorism, supporting migrants, economic and monetary governance, and the fight against inequality; is concerned, therefore, that during the implementation phase of the programme, the social sciences and humanities have been downgraded as a priority through the loss of their dedicated leadership and the reduction in their commitment appropriations by 40% at a time when the overall envelope for Horizon 2020 under the 2014-2020 MFF has increased;

Or. fr

Amendment 154
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 114

Motion for a resolution

114. Calls on beneficiaries to make maximum use of audit certificates, as audit certificates reduce error rates by 50 % compared with uncertified cost claims; welcomes in this context all the guidance, seminars, templates and the list of the most common errors which the Commission put at the disposal of beneficiaries and audit bodies;

Amendment

114. Calls on beneficiaries to make maximum use of audit certificates, as audit certificates reduce error rates by 50 % compared with uncertified cost claims; ***considers, however, that the error rate found by external audits should be substantially improved given the highly specialised support received from the Commission;*** welcomes in this context all the guidance, seminars, templates and the list of the most common errors which the Commission put at the disposal of beneficiaries and audit bodies, ***but calls on the Commission to take more incisive measures to ensure that external audit certificates more accurately reflect the error rate;***

Or. es

Amendment 155
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 117 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

117a. Reiterates its concern about the systematic delays in the ITER programme which questions its efficiency and effectiveness; is deeply worried by the over costs, which have impacted upon the cost-effectiveness of the programme and put other Union programmes in jeopardy, mainly in the research policy area; recalls with much regret the meeting organised in the Parliament on 11 November during which merely a future action plan was announced but not presented; is troubled by the Commission replies of 3 December 2015 pointing out that the ITER Council of November 2015 decided that the "(...) assumptions underlying the proposed project's schedule cannot be considered to be fully realistic and that the associated IO costs appear excessive, in particular in relation to staffing requests. Further iterations are needed with the Domestic Agencies (in particular F4E) to ensure the reliability, stability and cost sustainability of the schedule proposal over the long term. (...) For this reason, the ITER Council decided at this last meeting to carry out a high level independent assessment on the result of the work presented by the ITER Organization, covering both technical and resource matters. This assessment should be available before the ITER Council of June 2016, (...)" ; considers progress to be highly unsatisfactory;

Or. en

Amendment 156
Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 118

Motion for a resolution

118. **Observes** that the Court analysed 166 transactions out of which 79 were affected by error; notes that based on 53 quantified errors the estimated level of error is 5,6%;

Amendment

118. **Is deeply concerned** that the Court analysed 166 transactions out of which 79 were affected by error; notes that based on 53 quantified errors the estimated level of error is 5,6%;

Or. en

Amendment 157
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 119 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

119a. Considers it intolerable that the error rate for FP7 has not improved on FP6, and that, according to the statements by the Director-General of DG RTD it will be even worse; takes the view the error rate for FP7 should have improved given the greater experience acquired in project management;

deplores that dramatic rise in the error rate in the area of 'competitiveness for growth and employment' in 2014 only serves to highlight the sound management of the programme in recent years;

Or. es

Amendment 158
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 119 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

119b. Deplores that the area of expenditure 'competitiveness for growth and employment' saw the steepest rise in error rates in the EU between 2013 and 2014;

Or. es

Amendment 159
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 121 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

121a. Takes note that the director general of Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, as in previous years, has issued a horizontal reservation concerning the rate of the residual error within cost claims in the FP7, implemented directly by DG RTD, and in the payments to the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking, as the estimated residual risk is 3%; the estimated impact is EUR 111,39 million;

Or. en

Amendment 160
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 121 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

121b. Acknowledges that certain parts of FP7 expenditure were not covered by a reserve where there was evidence that the risks (and so the residual error rates) are

significantly lower than for all expenditure; within RTD this applies to expenditure given to Fusion for Energy Joint Undertaking, Clean Sky and Fusion Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking; outside DG RTD this also applies to expenditure by the Research Executive Agency under the Marie Curie programme, and all expenditure from the European Research Council Executive Agency;

Or. en

Amendment 161
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 121 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

121c. Concludes that, whereas the horizontal reservation may be legally necessary, such a reservation sheds a negative light on the Commission's financial management, in particular as the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation can give full assurance of 97% of this expenditure;

Or. en

Amendment 162
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 122 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

122a. Deplores the recent press reports casting doubt on DG RTD's ability to protect the financial interests of the Union in an effective manner; calls on the

Commission to clarify the circumstances that have been well documented in the media and point to a clear case of maladministration and unequivocal damage to the EU's financial interests and reputation; calls on the Ombudsman to open an investigation into the matter;

Or. es

Amendment 163
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 122 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

122b. Deplores the fact that the simplification has done away with ex-ante audits (there is now no ex-ante certification for spending of over EUR 375 000, for instance), giving rise to cumulative mistakes that lead to a widespread, ever growing error rate that seems unlikely to be reduced in the case of Horizon 2020, given the increase in bodies responsible for managing expenses in relation to FP7;

Or. es

Amendment 164
Georgi Pirinski, Martina Dlabajová, Miroslav Poche

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 124 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

124a. Welcomes the positive outcomes estimated by the High-level Expert Group carrying out the ex-post evaluation of FP7, namely: that the programme created directly over 1,3 million job years

(through projects funded over a period of 10 years) and indirectly 4 million job years over a period of 25 years; that each euro spent by FP7 generated approximately 11 euros of direct and indirect economic effects through innovations, new technologies and products and that its financial contribution to SMEs exceeded the target of 15% and reached 17% (5 billion euro);

Or. en

Amendment 165
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Subheading after paragraph 125

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Financial *engineering* instruments

Financial instruments

Or. en

Amendment 166
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 126

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

126. Notes that especially for Horizon 2020, very advanced innovative *FEI* represent one of the key areas for practical implementation;

126. Notes that especially for Horizon 2020, very advanced innovative *FI* represent one of the key areas for practical implementation; *welcomes in this regard the launch in 2014 of a new range of products under "InnovFin - EU finance for Innovators" as a joint initiative launched by the European Investment Bank Group (EIB and EIF) in cooperation with the Commission;*

Or. en

Amendment 167
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 126 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

126a. Notes with concern the increasing trend towards financing European funds and programmes via financial instruments, with the justification of involving the private sector, but which entails the risk of losing the ability to oversee and protect the financial interests of the Union and passes on the risk of losses to all EU citizens;

Or. es

Amendment 168
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 126 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

126a. Asks the Commission to present information in future discharge procedures about the implementation of the InnovFin which covers the Union budget share taking part in this FI;

Or. en

Amendment 169
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 126 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

126b. Points out that certain sectors and policy fields, such as railway infrastructure or theoretical or basic research, are less suited to financing via financial instruments, and thus risk being excluded from the scope of EU activities;

Or. es

Amendment 170

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

New subheading after paragraph 128

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

ITER

Or. en

Amendment 171

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 128 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128a. Reiterates its concern about the systematic delays in the ITER programme which questions its efficiency and effectiveness; is deeply worried by the over costs, which have impacted upon the cost-effectiveness of the programme and put other Union programmes in jeopardy, mainly in the research policy area; recalls with much regret the meeting organised in the Parliament on 11 November during which merely a future action plan was announced but not presented; is troubled by the Commission replies of 3 December

2015 pointing out that the ITER Council of November 2015 decided that the "(...) assumptions underlying the proposed project's schedule cannot be considered to be fully realistic and that the associated IO costs appear excessive, in particular in relation to staffing requests. Further iterations are needed with the Domestic Agencies (in particular F4E) to ensure the reliability, stability and cost sustainability of the schedule proposal over the long term. (...) For this reason, the ITER Council decided at this last meeting to carry out a high level independent assessment on the result of the work presented by the ITER Organization, covering both technical and resource matters. This assessment should be available before the ITER Council of June 2016, (...)" ; considers progress to be highly unsatisfactory;

Or. en

Amendment 172
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 128 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128b. Calls on the Directorate General for Research and Innovation to publish, in the respective annual activity reports, its contribution to the Commission's country specific recommendations in a comprehensive and detailed way as these recommendations could demonstrate how the directorate general facilitates Member States' progress towards the EU 2020 objectives;

Or. en

Amendment 173

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 128 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128c. Asks the Commission to transmit to the Parliament the action plan presented to the ITER Council in November;

Or. en

Amendment 174

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 128 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128d. Insists to receive from the Commission, by June 2016, an update on a long term project schedule and associated costs for ITER in preparation of budgetary decisions for the following year; recalls that for 2016 payment appropriation at a level of almost EUR 475 million have been set aside for ITER;

Or. en

Amendment 175

Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 131 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

131a. Is concerned that the radical simplification of the Horizon 2020 programme carried out with the aim of reducing error rates could cause the

eligible costs of EU funding to exceed levels that cast doubt on the added value of EU action;

Or. es

Amendment 176
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 132

Motion for a resolution

132. Notes that the Commission launched a stakeholder consultation on additional simplifications that should be introduced in Horizon 2020; requests information on how additional simplifications will be implemented;

Amendment

132. Notes that the Commission launched a stakeholder consultation on additional simplifications that should be introduced in Horizon 2020; requests information on how additional simplifications will be implemented, *and urges the Commission not to let this simplification increase the level of reimbursement of costs unjustifiably; calls on the Commission to extend this initiative and look into the possibility of applying a fixed-rate reimbursement system for direct costs on other EU policies plagued by recurring error problems;*

Or. es

Amendment 177
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 132 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

132a. Emphasises that simplification and participation in Horizon 2020 should be also the guiding principle of the Annotated Grant Agreement; stresses that unlike FP7 internally invoiced costs need to be divided up and reported according to

different costs categories, including personnel costs, under Horizon 2020; calls therefore on the Commission to revise the annotations and allow internally invoiced costs to be eligible as other direct costs without splitting into cost categories and without time records for services;

Or. en

Amendment 178

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 133

Motion for a resolution

133. *Notes* that the structure of the Court's Annual report follows, for the first time, the headings of the MFF which entered into force on 1 January 2014; in 2013 the Court's annual report contained two distinct chapters: one on "Regional policy, transport and energy" and the other one on "Employment and social affairs"; considers that this policy change limits the comparability of the Court's findings with those of previous years;

Amendment

133. *Welcomes* that the structure of the Court's annual report follows, for the first time, the headings of the MFF which entered into force on 1 January 2014; in 2013 the Court's annual report contained two distinct chapters: one on "Regional policy, transport and energy" and the other one on "Employment and social affairs"; considers that this policy change limits the comparability of the Court's findings with those of previous years;

Or. en

Amendment 179

Verónica Lope Fontagné

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 136

Motion for a resolution

136. Points out that the ESF supports investments in human capital and actions aimed at improving the adaptability of

Amendment

136. Points out that the ESF supports investments in human capital and actions aimed at improving the adaptability of

workers and enterprises to the changes in working patterns, increasing access to employment, reinforcing the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons and strengthening the capacity and efficiency of administrations and public services;

workers and enterprises to the changes in working patterns, increasing access to employment, reinforcing the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons and strengthening the capacity and efficiency of administrations and public services, ***despite the existence of performance indicators, the results of ESF investments are, therefore, more difficult to quantify;***

Or. es

Amendment 180

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 138

Motion for a resolution

138. Notes that in the area of regional and urban policy, the four most important KPI include: number of jobs created, number of enterprises cooperating with supported research institutions, number of enterprises receiving report and additional capacity of renewable energy production; whereas global achievements reported in Member States' implementation reports progressed on average by 29% compared to the previous year, not all targets will be met due to the economic crisis, according to the Commission;

Amendment

138. Notes that in the area of regional and urban policy, the four most important KPI include: number of jobs created, number of enterprises cooperating with supported research institutions, number of enterprises receiving report and additional capacity of renewable energy production; whereas global achievements reported in Member States' implementation reports progressed on average by 29% compared to the previous year, not all targets will be met due to the economic crisis, according to the Commission; ***calls upon the Commission to draw the necessary conclusion for the forthcoming mid-term revision of the MFF to be presented by the end of 2016;***

Or. en

Amendment 181

Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 139

Motion for a resolution

139. Welcomes **DG REGIO**'s efforts to further enhance the contribution of cohesion policy to Union economic governance screening all the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreements and operational programmes so as to ensure that that the relevant CSRs adopted by the end of June 2014 were adequately reflected in Member States' development and competitiveness strategies;

Amendment

139. Welcomes **the Commission's** efforts to further enhance the contribution of cohesion policy to Union economic governance screening all the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreements and operational programmes so as to ensure that that the relevant CSRs adopted by the end of June 2014 were adequately reflected in Member States' development and competitiveness strategies;

Or. en

Amendment 182
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 140

Motion for a resolution

140. Notes that by the end of 2015, on average 89% of funds were used with some Member States trailing behind;

Amendment

140. Notes that by the end of 2015, on average 89% of funds **for 2007-2013 programming period** were used with some Member States trailing behind;

Or. en

Amendment 183
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 140

Motion for a resolution

140. Notes that by the end of 2015, on average 89% of funds were used **with some Member States** trailing behind;

Amendment

140. Notes that by the end of 2015 on average 89% of funds were used **(absorption rate) with Italy (79%), Romania (70%) and Croatia (59%)** trailing behind;

Or. en

Amendment 184
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 140

Motion for a resolution

140. Notes that by the end of 2015, on average 89% of funds were used *with some Member States* trailing behind;

Amendment

140. Notes that by the end of 2015, on average 89% of funds were used (*absorption rate*) **with Italy (79%), Romania (70%) and Croatia (59%)** trailing behind;

Or. en

Amendment 185
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 142

Motion for a resolution

142. Attaches particular importance to the Youth Guarantee; notes therefore with satisfaction that 110,300 unemployed young people participated in actions financed by the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) in 2014; EUR 1,3 billion are already allocated to projects on the ground; in this context is grateful for the guidance provided in the Court's Special Report 3/2015 and the Commission's constructive reaction to the findings; however stresses that in some Member States there still are some difficulties in *ensuring the functioning of the payment under the Youth Guarantee* and the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI);

Amendment

142. Attaches particular importance to the Youth Guarantee; notes therefore with satisfaction that 110,300 unemployed young people participated in actions financed by the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) in 2014; EUR 1,3 billion are already allocated to projects on the ground; in this context is grateful for the guidance provided in the Court's Special Report 3/2015 and the Commission's constructive reaction to the findings; however stresses that in some Member States there still are some difficulties in *implementing the Youth Guarantee and in ensuring a sufficient project pipeline* for the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI);

Or. en

Amendment 186
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 142 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

142a. Expresses concern at the fact that in Italy payments to trainees are not being made or made only subject to unacceptable delays; calls on the Commission to monitor the situation and to draw up a specific action plan for those Member States in which this problem is occurring;

Or. it

Amendment 187
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 144

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

144. Shares the Commission's opinion that unemployment rates (especially long-term unemployment) and the percentage of young persons not in employment, education or training (NEETs), are indications of mismatch in the labour market.

144. Shares the Commission's opinion that unemployment rates (especially long-term unemployment) and the percentage of young persons not in employment, education or training (NEETs), are indications of mismatch in the labour market. ***The five countries with the highest level of long-term unemployment (as share of active population) in the Union are Greece (19,5%), Spain (12,9%), Croatia (10,1%), Slovakia (9,3%) and Portugal (8,4%) against the Union average of 5,1%. The countries with the highest rate of NEETs are Cyprus (33,7%), Bulgaria (30,9%), Hungary (30,3%), Greece (30,0%) and Romania (26,9%) compared to an Union average of 16,37%;***

Or. en

Amendment 188

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 144

Motion for a resolution

144. Shares the Commission's opinion that unemployment rates (especially long-term unemployment) and the percentage of young persons not in employment, education or training (NEETs), are indications of mismatch in the labour market.

Amendment

144. Shares the Commission's opinion that unemployment rates (especially long-term unemployment) and the percentage of young persons not in employment, education or training (NEETs), are indications of mismatch in the labour market. ***The five countries with the highest level of long-term unemployment (as share of active population) in the Union are Greece (19,5%), Spain (12,9%), Croatia (10,1%), Slovakia (9,3%) and Portugal (8,4%) against the Union average of 5,1%. The countries with the highest rate of NEETs are Cyprus (33,7%), Bulgaria (30,9%), Hungary (30,3%), Greece (30,0%) and Romania (26,9%) compared to an Union average of 16,37%;***

Or. en

Amendment 189

Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 144

Motion for a resolution

144. Shares the Commission's opinion that unemployment rates (especially long-term unemployment) and the percentage of young persons not in employment, education or training (NEETs), are indications of mismatch in the labour market.

Amendment

144. Shares the Commission's opinion that unemployment rates (especially long-term unemployment) and the percentage of young persons not in employment, education or training (NEETs), are indications of mismatch in the labour market, ***as well as a lack of consumer demand and public investment due to excessive austerity policies;***

Amendment 190

Georgi Pirinski, Martina Dlabajová, Miroslav Poche, Cătălin Sorin Ivan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 144 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

144a. Welcomes the achievements from the implementation of 2007-2013 ERDF/CF programmes, illustrated by some core indicators annually reported by the Member States and results from preliminary assessment of latest available data showing that approximately 950 000 jobs were created, 36 000 enterprises cooperated with research institutions, more than 270 000 enterprises received support and the additional capacity of renewable energy production was more than 4 000 megawatt;

Or. en

Amendment 191

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 147 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

147a. Finds it frustrating that in 21 cases of quantifiable errors made by beneficiaries, national authorities had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct the errors before declaring the expenditure to the Commission; had all this information been used to correct errors, the estimated level of error for this chapter would have been 1,6 percentage points lower; in addition, the Court found that for 13 cases, the error that it detected was made by national authorities; these

errors contributed 1,7 percentage points to the estimated level of error; this situation, which remained unchanged for some years now, proves a lack of diligence;

Or. en

Amendment 192
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 147 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

147b. Stresses that under the ESF the most common types of eligibility issues detected are the following: expenditure declared outside the eligibility period (CZ, DE), overcharged salaries (DE, FI, PL, PT), costs not related to the project (NL, PL, PT), non-compliance with national eligibility rules (PL) and revenue not deducted (AT); the most common examples of failures to comply with public procurement rules are the following: unjustified direct award (DE, IT), unjustified direct award of additional works/services, unlawful exclusion of bidders, conflict of interest and discriminatory selection criteria (FI);

Or. en

Amendment 193
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 147 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

147c. Observes that the Court analysed 161 transactions in the regional and

urban area (101 concerned ERDF, 55 concerned CF and 5 concerned financial instruments) and 170 transactions of the ESF; 135 of 331 transactions were affected by errors; the Court estimates the error rate to be 5,7% (ERDF and CF error rate estimated to be 6,1%, ESF error rate estimated to be 3,7%);

Or. en

Amendment 194
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 148

Motion for a resolution

148. Calls on the Commission to create an effective tool to contribute to the improvement of the reliability of controlling and auditing activities provided by the national authorities; recalls the importance of extending transparency on data regarding the public procurement in order to improve accessibility and controls;

Amendment

148. Calls on the Commission to create an effective tool to contribute to the improvement of the reliability of controlling and auditing activities provided by the national authorities; recalls the importance of extending transparency on data regarding the public procurement in order to improve accessibility and controls, *by publishing details of contractors and their subcontractors;*

Or. it

Amendment 195
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 148 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

148a. Takes note that, according to all available audits results at end of November 2015, 90% of ERDF /Cohesion fund programmes management verifications are functioning well or

Amendment

subject to small improvements. Recalls that the root for errors done by Member State lie among other in complex management structures in some Member States and the loss of expertise consequence of high staff turnover or insufficient staff allocation due to budgetary constraints.

Or. en

Amendment 196
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 149

Motion for a resolution

149. Calls on the Commission to provide the Member States with a stronger incentives to boost the use of innovative financial instruments in their regional policy to a greater extent;

Amendment

149. Calls on the Commission to provide the Member States with a stronger incentives to boost the use of innovative financial instruments in their regional policy to a greater extent *but taking into consideration lessons learnt from the period 2007-2013 in order to avoid blocking funds in financial instruments;*

Or. en

Amendment 197
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 150

Motion for a resolution

150. Draws attention to the recommendations in the Court's Special Report 10/2015 "Efforts to address problems with public procurement in Union cohesion expenditure should be intensified" and welcomes the Commission's positive reaction to the

Amendment

150. Draws attention to the recommendations in the Court's Special Report 10/2015 "Efforts to address problems with public procurement in Union cohesion expenditure should be intensified" and welcomes the Commission's positive reaction to the

Court's findings;

Court's findings;

Or. en

Amendment 198

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 151

Motion for a resolution

151. Is pleased that the Commission published a document entitled "Public Procurement - Guidance for practitioners on the avoidance of the most common errors in projects funded by the European Structural and Investment Funds" in October 2015;

Amendment

151. Is pleased that the Commission published a document entitled "Public Procurement - Guidance for practitioners on the avoidance of the most common errors in projects funded by the European Structural and Investment Funds" in October 2015; *criticises, nonetheless, the fact that the main source of expenditure-related errors under the heading 'Economic, social and territorial cohesion' continues to be breaches of the rules on public procurement, which account for almost half the estimated error rate; points out that the serious breaches of the rules on public procurement include the direct award of additional contracts or additional works or services for which no justification is given, the illegal exclusion of bidders, conflicts of interest and discriminatory selection criteria; regards as essential a policy of complete transparency in respect of information concerning contractors and subcontractors, with a view to addressing errors and abuses of the rules;*

Or. it

Amendment 199

Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 152

Motion for a resolution

152. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has set up, in November 2014, a task force for better implementation in order to avoid de-commitment of funds;

Amendment

152. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has set up, in November 2014, a task force for better implementation **for Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy (South), Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia** in order to avoid de-commitment of funds;

Or. en

Amendment 200
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 152

Motion for a resolution

152. Welcomes **the fact** that the Commission has set up, in November 2014, a task force for better implementation in order to avoid de-commitment of funds;

Amendment

152. Welcomes that the Commission has set up, in November 2014, a Task Force for Better Implementation **for Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy (South), Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia** in order to avoid de-commitment of funds;

Or. en

Amendment 201
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 153

Motion for a resolution

153. Recalls that the legal framework for **ESIFs** 2014-2020 has also introduced ex ante conditionalities for the effective and efficient use of Union funds, which cover inter alia Member States' public procurement systems; **and that** in that

Amendment

153. Recalls that the legal framework for **European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)** 2014-2020 has also introduced ex ante conditionalities for the effective and efficient use of Union funds, which cover inter alia Member States'

context, actions plans have been adopted for 12 countries *and will be assessed by 2016; stresses that fulfilling the ex-ante conditionalities is a precondition for funding; remarks the fundamental role of the ex-ante assessments is to guarantee the better use of resources and asks for the necessary full transparency on the financing of infrastructural projects;*

public procurement systems; in that context, actions plans have been adopted for 12 countries (*Bulgaria, Czech republic, Greece, Hungary, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Slovakia*) *and will be assessed by 2016; recalls that fulfilling the ex-ante conditionalities is a precondition for funding;*

Or. en

Amendment 202

Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 153

Motion for a resolution

153. Recalls that the legal framework for ESIFs 2014-2020 has also introduced ex ante conditionalities for the effective and efficient use of Union funds, which cover inter alia Member States' public procurement systems; and that in that context, actions plans have been adopted for 12 countries and will be assessed by 2016; stresses that fulfilling the ex-ante conditionalities is a precondition for funding; remarks the fundamental role of the ex-ante assessments is to guarantee the better use of resources and asks for the necessary full transparency on the financing of infrastructural projects;

Amendment

153. Recalls that the legal framework for ESIFs 2014-2020 has also introduced ex ante conditionalities for the effective and efficient use of Union funds, which cover inter alia Member States' public procurement systems; and that in that context, actions plans have been adopted for 12 countries (*Bulgaria, Czech republic, Greece, Hungary, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Slovakia*) and will be assessed by 2016; stresses that fulfilling the ex-ante conditionalities is a precondition for funding; remarks the fundamental role of the ex-ante assessments is to guarantee the better use of resources and asks for the necessary full transparency on the financing of infrastructural projects;

Or. en

Amendment 203

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 153

Motion for a resolution

153. Recalls that the legal framework for ESIFs 2014-2020 has also introduced ex ante conditionalities for the effective and efficient use of Union funds, which cover inter alia Member States' public procurement systems; and that in that context, actions plans have been adopted for 12 countries and will be assessed by 2016; stresses that fulfilling the ex-ante conditionalities is a precondition for funding; remarks the fundamental role of the ex-ante assessments is to guarantee the better use of resources and asks for the necessary full transparency on the financing of infrastructural projects;

Amendment

153. Recalls that the legal framework for ESIFs 2014-2020 has also introduced ex ante conditionalities for the effective and efficient use of Union funds, which cover inter alia Member States' public procurement systems; and that in that context, actions plans have been adopted for 12 countries and will be assessed by 2016; stresses that fulfilling the ex-ante conditionalities is a precondition for funding; remarks the fundamental role of the ex-ante assessments is to guarantee the better use of resources and asks for the necessary full transparency on the financing of infrastructural projects, ***including publication of the ex ante and ex post assessments of the economic, environmental and social sustainability of projects;***

Or. it

Amendment 204

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 153 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

153a. Calls on the Commission to publish all the documents concerning the project to build the Lyon-Turin high-speed rail line and the funding arrangements for the project;

Or. it

Amendment 205

Georgi Pirinski, Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 155 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

155a. Takes note that in 2014 as a result of the strict supervision and interruption policy of DG REGIO and DG EMPL and growing number of action plans EUR 840 million of financial corrections were confirmed and EUR 854 million were implemented for ERDF/CF for all programming periods (decided in 2014 and in previous years), as well as that for ESF 2007-2013 period EUR 209 million of financial corrections were accepted/decided and EUR 155,9 million were implemented (decided in 2014 and in previous years);

Or. en

Amendment 206
Georgi Pirinski, Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 155 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

155b. Observes with satisfaction that in 2014 due to the Commission supervisory role certifying authorities applied financial correction for EUR 782 million before declaring expenditures to the Commission concerning ERDF/CF which has preserved the EU budget from payments of incorrect expenditures;

Or. en

Amendment 207
Andrey Novakov

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 156

Motion for a resolution

156. Is concerned that, according to the Court, the Europe 2020 Strategy is not systematically translated through thematic objectives into operational targets in partnership agreements and programmes; considers that results can only be meaningfully evaluated when thematic objectives and OP are aligned and performance indicators and benchmarks make it possible to measure progress;

Amendment

156. Is concerned that, according to the Court, the Europe 2020 Strategy is not systematically translated through thematic objectives into operational targets in partnership agreements and programmes; ***notes, however, that it is transposed into operational objectives at ESIF programme level through specific objectives aligned with the 11 thematic objectives***; considers that results can only be meaningfully evaluated when thematic objectives and OP are aligned and performance indicators and benchmarks make it possible to measure progress;

Or. en

Amendment 208
Martina Dlabajová, Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161

Motion for a resolution

161. Regrets that Member States have not yet fully embraced the simplified cost ***option*** (SCO) under the ESF; ***whereas the Commission expects the*** that under the programming period 2014-2020 on average 35% of ***cost*** will be claimed under the SCO;

Amendment

161. Regrets that Member States have not yet fully embraced the simplified cost ***options*** (SCO) under the ESF; ***welcomes the report "Simplified Cost Options in the European Social Fund" where DG EMPL expects*** that under the programming period 2014-2020 on average 35% of ***expenditure*** will be claimed under the SCO; ***supports DG EMPL's efforts to promote the use of SCO by Member States and urges the Member States to fully embrace the potential of SCO***;

Or. en

Amendment 209
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161

Motion for a resolution

161. Regrets that Member States have not yet fully embraced the simplified cost option (SCO) under the ESF; whereas the Commission expects the that under the programming period 2014-2020 on average 35% of cost will be claimed under the SCO;

Amendment

161. Regrets that Member States have not yet fully embraced the simplified cost option (SCO) under the ESF; whereas the Commission expects the that under the programming period 2014-2020 on average 35% of cost will be claimed under the SCO, *some Member States (Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden) will be significantly above, other Member States (Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia and Slovakia) will be significantly below;*

Or. en

Amendment 210
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161

Motion for a resolution

161. Regrets that Member States have not yet fully embraced the simplified cost option (SCO) under the ESF; whereas the Commission expects the that under the programming period 2014-2020 on average 35% of cost will be claimed under the SCO;

Amendment

161. Regrets that Member States have not yet fully embraced the Simplified Cost Option (SCO) under the ESF; whereas the Commission expects the that under the programming period 2014-2020 on average 35% of cost will be claimed under the SCO, *some Member States (Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden) will be significantly above, other Member States (Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia and Slovakia) will be significantly below;*

Or. en

Amendment 211
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 164 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

164a. Recalls that the implementation of 51 priority projects in Greece needed to be accelerated; furthermore, 14 projects - concerning, among other issues, the cadastre and the national registry - have been identified as "bottleneck" projects and run the risk of de-commitment; expects the Commission to update Parliament on the situation in the 2014 Commission discharge follow-up report;

Or. en

Amendment 212
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 164 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

164b. Recalls that the Czech Audit Office report OPTP/2014/SM/01 on the procurement procedure for the monitoring system for 2014-2020, which was filed with the Commission in April 2015, refers to unwarranted expenditure of over EUR 9 million; welcomes that the Commission has issued a letter of warning of possible interruption of payments and called on the Czech authorities to apply the adequate financial corrections; wishes to know how the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) assessed the situation;

Or. en

Amendment 213

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 164 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

164c. Is concerned by infringements of public procurement rules during the tendering procedure for IT monitoring systems during the financing periods 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 which also gave rise to suspicion of fraud; notes that these errors were discovered by the Czech audit authorities; fully supports the Commission's position that no payments should be made until the respective corrective measures were taken and the police investigation was completed;

Or. en

Amendment 214

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 164 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

164d. Considers that a former employee of the Czech Ministry of Regional Development and current staff member of Commissioner Crețu's private office should not follow Czech regional policy affairs, as such an assignment constitutes a potential conflict of interest;

Or. en

Amendment 215

Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 165

Motion for a resolution

165. *Observes* that the Court analysed 161 transactions in the regional and urban policy area and 170 transactions in the employment and social affairs policy out of which 135 were affected by errors (75 for the regional and urban policy area and 60 for the employment and social affairs policy area); notes that based on 25 quantified errors the estimated level of error is to be 6,1% for the regional and urban policy area and based on 28 quantified errors the estimated level of error is to be 3,7% for the employment and social affairs policy area, leading to a most likely error rate for cohesion as a whole at 5,7%;

Amendment

165. *Is alarmed* that the Court analysed 161 transactions in the regional and urban policy area and 170 transactions in the employment and social affairs policy out of which 135 were affected by errors (75 for the regional and urban policy area and 60 for the employment and social affairs policy area); notes that based on 25 quantified errors the estimated level of error is to be 6,1% for the regional and urban policy area and based on 28 quantified errors the estimated level of error is to be 3,7% for the employment and social affairs policy area, leading to a most likely error rate for cohesion as a whole at 5,7%;

Or. en

Amendment 216
C t lin Sorin Ivan, Dan Nica

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 166

Motion for a resolution

166. Finds it frustrating that in 21 cases of quantifiable errors made by beneficiaries, national authorities had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct the errors before declaring the expenditure to the Commission; and that, had all this information been used to correct errors, the estimated level of error for this chapter would have been 1,6 percentage points lower; notes in addition that the Court found that for 13 cases, the error that it detected was made by national authorities; these errors contributed 1,7 percentage points to the estimated level of error; *considers this situation, which has*

Amendment

166. Finds it frustrating that in 21 cases of quantifiable errors made by beneficiaries, national authorities had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct the errors before declaring the expenditure to the Commission; and that, had all this information been used to correct errors, the estimated level of error for this chapter would have been 1,6 percentage points lower; notes in addition that the Court found that for 13 cases, the error that it detected was made by national authorities; these errors contributed 1,7 percentage points to the estimated level of error; *invites the Commission to continue to*

*remained unchanged for some years now,
to prove a lack of diligence;*

*provide orientations, trainings and
technical assistance, upon member states
request.*

Or. en

Amendment 217
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 166 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

*166a. Criticises the fact that, as in
previous financial years, the error rate,
including as regards some requests for
final payment which had been the subject
of external audits and checks, highlights
the inadequate nature of the ex ante
checks in respect of the ESF; stresses that
errors involving non-compliance with the
rules on public procurement and a lack of
documents justifying expenditure account
for almost one-third of the estimated error
rate;*

Or. it

Amendment 218
Bas Belder

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 167 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

*167a. Urges the Commission to indicate
before 1 July what plans it has for
remedying this situation in order to
substantially improve financial
management at Member State level; is
firmly convinced that the discharge
should depend on the necessary progress
in this field;*

Amendment 219
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 168 – point b

Motion for a resolution

(b) in the employment and social affairs policy area (Employment): claiming ineligible cost, ineligible project or beneficiary, as well as cases of non-compliance with the rules on public procurement;

Amendment

(b) in the employment and social affairs policy area (Employment): claiming ineligible cost, ineligible project or beneficiary, as well as cases of non-compliance with the rules on public procurement; ***the most common types of eligibility issues detected are the following: expenditure declared outside the eligibility period (CZ, DE), overcharged salaries (DE, FI, PL, PT), costs not related to the project (NL, PL, PT), non-compliance with national eligibility rules (PL) and revenue not deducted (AT); the most common examples of failures to comply with public procurement rules are the following: unjustified direct award (DE, IT), unjustified direct award of additional works/services, unlawful exclusion of bidders, conflict of interest and discriminatory selection criteria (FI);***

Or. en

Amendment 220
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 168 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

168a. Deplores that, for years, errors of the same kind continue to be identified often in the same Member States; acknowledges that suspension and

interruptions of payments by the Commission ensures that corrective actions are carried out in cases where deficiencies were identified; calls on the Commission to step up monitoring of national and regional management and control systems in the light of this finding, and to ease monitoring in countries where management and control systems have proved reliable;

Or. en

Amendment 221
Georgi Pirinski, Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 168 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

168a. Points out that according to the figures provided in the 2014 annual activity report of DG Regional and Urban policy the risk of error as a weighted average of the estimation for each operational programme supported by the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund is below 1% in 9 Member States (in 2013 - in 6 Member States) and that only in 2 Member State this percentage is 4% or more (in 2013 - in 5 Member States);

Or. en

Amendment 222
Georgi Pirinski, Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 168 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

168b. Points out that according to the figures provided in the 2014 annual

activity report of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion the risk of error as a weighted average of the estimation for each operational programme supported by the European Social Fund is below 1% in 9 Member States as it was in 2013 and that this percentage is 4% or more in 6 Member States (7,9% highest) while in 2013 this percentage was above 4% in 5 Member States ((8,8% and 9,3% highest);

Or. en

Amendment 223
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 170

Motion for a resolution

170. Is of the opinion it would be helpful **to provide** a focused analysis of the national eligibility rules (for both the 2007 – 2013 and 2014 – 2020 periods) and on this basis to prepare guidance for Member States on the simplification and elimination of unnecessarily complex and complicated rules (gold-plating);

Amendment

170. Is of the opinion it would be helpful **that the Commission provides** a focused analysis of the national eligibility rules (for both the 2007 – 2013 and 2014 – 2020 periods) and on this basis to prepare guidance for Member States on the simplification and elimination of unnecessarily complex and complicated rules (gold-plating);

Or. en

Amendment 224
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 172 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

172a. Expresses concern regarding the checks carried out on funds for refugees, which are frequently allocated to the Member States in emergencies and in a

Amendment

manner not consistent with the rules in force; regards it as essential that the Commission should introduce more rigorous checks, not least with a view to ensuring that the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers are upheld;

Or. it

Amendment 225

Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 174

Motion for a resolution

174. Welcomes the fact that with respect to evidence of real policy results and achieved performance, the Court for the first time used a performance-based approach towards the complementarity of the Union budget with the Europe 2020 Strategy; considers this strategy *to be* very important for the headline economic indicator "GDP per cap", *but also for others*;

Amendment

174. Welcomes the fact that with respect to evidence of real policy results and achieved performance, the Court for the first time used a performance-based approach towards the complementarity of the Union budget with the Europe 2020 Strategy; considers *that the results achieved by implementation of* this strategy *by structural funds is* very important for the *Union wide* headline economic indicator "GDP per cap", *as well as for other indicators*;

Or. en

Amendment 226

Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 176 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

176a. Recalls that the implementation of 51 priority projects in Greece needed to be accelerated; furthermore, 14 projects - concerning, among other issues, the cadastre and the national registry - have

been identified as "bottleneck" projects and run the risk of de-commitment; expects the Commission to update Parliament on the situation in the 2014 Commission discharge follow-up report;

Or. en

Amendment 227
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 176 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

176b. Recalls that the Czech Audit Office report OPTP/2014/SM/01 on the procurement procedure for the monitoring system for 2014-2020, which was filed with the Commission in April 2015, refers to unwarranted expenditure of over EUR 9 million; welcomes that the Commission has issued a letter of warning of possible interruption of payments and called on the Czech authorities to apply the adequate financial corrections; wishes to know how the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) assessed the situation;

Or. en

Amendment 228
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 176 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

176c. Is concerned by infringements of public procurement rules during the tendering procedure for IT monitoring systems during the financing periods

2007-2013 and 2014-2020 which also gave rise to suspicion of fraud; notes that these errors were discovered by the Czech audit authorities; fully supports the Commission's position that no payments should be made until the respective corrective measures were taken and the police investigation was completed;

Or. en

Amendment 229
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 176 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

176d. Considers that a former employee of the Czech Ministry of Regional Development and current staff member of Commissioner Crețu's private office should not follow Czech regional policy affairs, as such an assignment constitutes a potential conflict of interest;

Or. en

Amendment 230
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 178

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

178. Notes that the average disbursement rate to final recipients of FEI was 47%;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 231
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 178

Motion for a resolution

178. *Notes* that the *average* disbursement rate *to final recipients of FEI* was 47%;

Amendment

178. *Is concerned by the Court's opinion - referring to the situation by end of September 2014 - that the overall disbursement rate as reported by the Commission is still too low to expect that all funds available will be used at least once; particular problems were noted for financial instruments in five Member States (Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, Romania, and Slovakia);*

Or. en

Amendment 232
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 179

Motion for a resolution

179. *Notes* that according to the recent and very comprehensive *report* that correctly evaluates the practice of FEI in cohesion policy in the 2007 – 2013 period, *the* advantages *outweigh possible* weaknesses; the analysis however shows that *penetration* among the Member States differs radically; calls on the Commission to analyse the main reasons behind such dramatic differences among Member States and to find an effective incentive for them to be more active *this field*;

Amendment

179. *Notes* that according to the recent and very comprehensive *study* that correctly evaluates the practice of FEI in cohesion policy in the 2007 – 2013 period, *FEI have many* advantages, *but still some* weaknesses *which should be overcome*; the analysis however shows that *their use* among the Member States differs radically; calls on the Commission to analyse the main reasons behind such dramatic differences among Member States and to find an effective incentive for them to be more active *in using FEI in those fields where they have proved to be successful*;

Or. en

Amendment 233
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 180

Motion for a resolution

180. Notes that there is a visible difference between the volume of financial sources put into the FEI and the amount redistributed to final recipients; is of the opinion that this could mean that some substantial amounts were only “parked” into FEI to avoid the risk of de-commitment; calls on the Commission to contribute to eliminating this negative feature of FEI *utilisation*;

Amendment

180. Notes that there is a visible difference between the volume of financial sources put into the FEI and the amount redistributed to final recipients; is of the opinion that this could mean that some substantial amounts were only “parked” into FEI to avoid the risk of de-commitment; calls on the Commission to contribute to eliminating this negative feature of FEI *utilization and considers the new provision for 2014-2020 for payment to F I in tranches as a positive step in this direction*;

Or. en

Amendment 234
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 182

Motion for a resolution

182. Notes that FEI could substantially contribute to efficiency, effectiveness and economy in ESIF utilisation as they are naturally focused to reach a result, or to generate performance; calls on the Commission also to reflect this kind of benefit in the Union budgetary expenditure policy *for that type of project, where appropriate for FEI*;

Amendment

182. Notes that FEI could substantially contribute to efficiency, effectiveness and economy in ESIF utilisation, *if they are wisely implemented*, as they are naturally focused to reach a result, or to generate performance; calls on the Commission also to reflect this kind of benefit in the Union budgetary expenditure policy;

Or. en

Amendment 235
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 187

Motion for a resolution

187. Welcomes the trend for simplification, **elimination** of gold-plating and improvement of shared management hand in hand with the new elements of cohesion policy for the 2014 – 2020 programming period, which seems to be a methodological best practice and which is reflected in many concrete steps like finding complementarity with the Investment Plan for Europe through a practical coexistence of ESIFs and the EFSI (European Fund for Strategic Investments), doubling the scope for FEI, providing targeted initiatives, for example for SMEs, creating task forces for better implementation, introducing thematic focus on smart growth and implementation of research and innovative strategies respecting the smart specialisation strategies, or cohesion policy contribution to relevant Union policies in the areas of digital economy, energy, social affairs among others;

Amendment

187. Welcomes the trend for simplification, **reduction** of gold-plating and improvement of shared management hand in hand with the new elements of cohesion policy for the 2014 – 2020 programming period, which seems to be a methodological best practice and which is reflected in many concrete steps like finding complementarity with the Investment Plan for Europe through a practical coexistence of ESIFs and the EFSI (European Fund for Strategic Investments), doubling the scope for FEI, providing targeted initiatives, for example for SMEs, creating task forces for better implementation, introducing thematic focus on smart growth and implementation of research and innovative strategies respecting the smart specialisation strategies, or cohesion policy contribution to relevant Union policies in the areas of digital economy, energy, social affairs among others;

Or. en

Amendment 236
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 187 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

187a. Welcomes the Commission for setting-up of a High Level group on simplification for beneficiaries to assist in identifying the obstacles and barriers to simplification and to find a way to address

Amendment

them. Calls the Commission to look at successful simplification procedures recognised by the Court i.e. Horizon 2020 and the simplification of indirect cost with flat rate reimbursements, in order to generalise this approach to other policy areas;

Or. en

Amendment 237
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 187 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

187b. Calls on the Commission to assess or review the possibility of extending the system of payment for entitlements, which leads to fewer errors than the cost reimbursement system – that is the cause of most errors – to other programmes.

Or. es

Amendment 238
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 189 – point a

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(a) have identified evidence on the impact of ERDF, ESF and CF interventions of the 2007 – 2013 period *to fulfil* the Europe 2020 Strategy *indicators*;

(a) have identified evidence on the impact of ERDF, ESF and CF interventions of the 2007 – 2013 period *for fulfilment of* the Europe 2020 Strategy *targets*;

Or. en

Amendment 239
Martina Dlabajová, Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 189 – point c

Motion for a resolution

(c) continue in its already started simplification process;

Amendment

(c) continue in its already started simplification process, ***including the promotion of SCO***;

Or. en

Amendment 240
Bart Staes
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 191

Motion for a resolution

191. ***Is of the opinion that*** the Commission ***must*** continue to rigorously address the weaknesses of "first level checks" in Member States, one of the most important sources of error;

Amendment

191. ***Urges*** the Commission ***to*** continue to rigorously address the weaknesses of "first level checks" in Member States, one of the most important sources of error;

Or. en

Amendment 241
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 191

Motion for a resolution

191. Is of the opinion that the Commission must continue to rigorously address the weaknesses of "first level checks" in Member States, ***one*** of the most important ***sources of error***;

Amendment

191. Is of the opinion that the Commission must continue to rigorously address the weaknesses of "first level checks" in Member States, ***as some*** of the most important ***errors are generated at this level***;

Amendment 242

Martina Dlabajová, Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 195

Motion for a resolution

195. Calls on DG REGIO and DG EMPL to publish, in their respective annual activity reports, their contributions to the *Commission's CSR in a comprehensive and detailed way*, as these recommendations should demonstrate how the DGs facilitate Member States' progress towards achieving the Europe 2020 Strategy objectives;

Amendment

195. Calls on DG REGIO and DG EMPL to publish, in their respective annual activity reports, their contributions to the *preparation of the Commission's CSRs and on how they support Member States for implementing them*, as these recommendations should demonstrate how the DGs facilitate Member States' progress towards achieving the Europe 2020 Strategy objectives;

Or. en

Amendment 243

Verónica Lope Fontagné

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 202

Motion for a resolution

202. Points out additionally that a more general problem is connected with the adequacy of support relative to real agricultural and rural needs;

Amendment

deleted

Or. es

Amendment 244

Verónica Lope Fontagné

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 203

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

203. Recommends that the Commission manage the Member States so as to address these problems and contribute to satisfactory decisions by them;

deleted

Or. es

Amendment 245
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 203

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

203. Recommends that the Commission *manage* the Member States so as to address these problems and contribute to satisfactory decisions by them;

203. Recommends that the Commission *guide* the Member States so as to address these problems and contribute to satisfactory decisions by them;

Or. en

Amendment 246
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 204 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

204a. Notes with satisfaction that the weaknesses in the LPIS had been addressed in all the Member States audited but deplores that some important weaknesses still persist in Greece, Spain and Italy; asks the Commission to use the reinforced instruments it has under the new CAP legislation where there are significant and persistent deficiencies in national systems;

Or. en

Amendment 247
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 205

Motion for a resolution

205. Notes with concern that an underestimation of the level of error reported for the financial year by a certifying body in the framework of a "reinforcement of assurance procedure"⁹¹ can happen; stresses that overall, for the 6 Member States which had opted for the voluntary application of this procedure, the Court found that the weaknesses in its implementation mostly render the reported levels of error unreliable;

⁹¹ See 2014 Court's annual report point 7.44 to 7.50.

Amendment

205. Notes with concern that an underestimation of the level of error reported for the financial year by a certifying body in the framework of a "reinforcement of assurance procedure"⁹¹ can happen; stresses that overall, for the 6 Member States which had opted for the voluntary application of this procedure, the Court found that the weaknesses in its implementation mostly render the reported levels of error unreliable, ***and that the Commission has to apply top-ups to the reported error rates;***

⁹¹ See 2014 Court's annual report point 7.44 to 7.50.

Or. en

Amendment 248
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 205 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

205a. Deeply regrets that the Greek certifying body significantly underestimated the level of error reported for financial year 2014 in the framework of the "reinforcement of assurance procedure" and stresses that overall for the 6 Member States which had opted for the voluntary application of this procedure(Greece, Bulgaria, Romania,

Italy, Luxemburg, United Kingdom), the Court found that with the exception of Luxembourg the weaknesses in its implementation render the reported levels of error unreliable;

Or. en

Amendment 249
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 206

Motion for a resolution

206. Regrets that the Court detected weaknesses in the control systems related to transactions in rural development of the five paying agencies it visited in 2014, in particular, in the checks related to eligibility conditions for environmental conditions, *to* the maximum size of companies and to public procurement procedure;

Amendment

206. Regrets that the Court detected weaknesses in the control systems related to transactions in rural development of the five paying agencies it visited in 2014: ***Ireland, Italy (Campania) Portugal, Romania and Sweden and***, in particular, in the checks related to eligibility conditions for environmental conditions, the maximum size of companies and to public procurement procedure;

Or. en

Amendment 250
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 207

Motion for a resolution

207. Deplores the fact that the majority of error types and system weaknesses ***detected by the Court*** were not addressed by the action ***plan that the Member States developed to reduce the level of error in rural development spending***;

Amendment

207. Deplores the fact that, ***in rural development***, the majority of error types and system weaknesses were not addressed by the action ***plans reviewed by the Court***;

Or. en

Amendment 251
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 209

Motion for a resolution

209. Considers with **deep** concern that conformity procedures **are** still too lengthy resulting in a significant backlog of **open files: 180 remaining file** at the end of 2014;

Amendment

209. Considers with concern that conformity procedures **were** still too lengthy **in 2014; points out that the 15% reduction in the backlog compared to end 2013 was not sufficient**, resulting in a significant backlog of **180 open files** at the end of 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 252
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 210 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

210a. Deplores the Courts' findings that EU support for rural infrastructure has achieved only limited value for money; regrets that the need for Union rural development funding was not always clearly justified and coordination with other funds weak and that the selection procedure did not systematically direct funding towards the most cost-effective projects; asks the Commission and the Member States to collect relevant and reliable data on the effectiveness and efficiency of the measures funded, in order to manage the spending by results;

Amendment

Or. en

Amendment 253
Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 211

Motion for a resolution

211. **Observes** that the Court analysed 183 transactions in EAGF involving market and direct support and 176 transactions in rural development, environment, climate action and fisheries, out of which 177 were affected by errors (93 for agriculture concerning market and direct support and 84 for rural development, environment, climate action and fisheries); notes that based on 88 quantified errors, the estimated level of error is to be 2,9% for EAGF market and direct support and that based on 41 quantified errors the estimated level of error is to be 6,2% for the rural development, environment, climate action and fisheries, leading to the most likely error rate for 'natural resources' as a whole being 3,6%; observes with satisfaction that the situation has improved, as without cross-compliance, the most likely error rate for 'natural resources' as a whole would be 3%;

Amendment

211. **Is deeply concerned** that the Court analysed 183 transactions in EAGF involving market and direct support and 176 transactions in rural development, environment, climate action and fisheries, out of which 177 were affected by errors (93 for agriculture concerning market and direct support and 84 for rural development, environment, climate action and fisheries); notes that based on 88 quantified errors, the estimated level of error is to be 2,9% for EAGF market and direct support and that based on 41 quantified errors the estimated level of error is to be 6,2% for the rural development, environment, climate action and fisheries, leading to the most likely error rate for 'natural resources' as a whole being 3,6%; observes with satisfaction that the situation has improved, as without cross-compliance, the most likely error rate for 'natural resources' as a whole would be 3%;

Or. en

Amendment 254
Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 212

Motion for a resolution

212. Finds it **frustrating** that in 26 cases of quantifiable errors in EAGF market and direct support made by beneficiaries, national authorities had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct

Amendment

212. Finds it **unacceptable** that in 26 cases of quantifiable errors in EAGF market and direct support made by beneficiaries, national authorities had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct

the errors before declaring the expenditure to the Commission; observes that had all this information been used to correct errors, the estimated level of error for this subchapter would have been 0,6 percentage points lower; notes in addition that the Court found that for 34 cases, the error that it detected was made by national authorities; and that these errors contributed 0,7 percentage points to the estimated level of error; that in 15 cases of quantifiable errors in rural development, environment, climate action and fisheries made by beneficiaries, national authorities had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct the errors before declaring the expenditure to the Commission; and that had all this information been used to correct errors, the estimated level of error for this subchapter would have been 3,3 percentage points lower; notes also that the Court found that for three cases, the error that it detected was made by national authorities; that these errors contributed 0.6 percentage points to the estimated level of error; considers that this situation, which has remained unchanged for some years now, proves a lack of diligence;

the errors before declaring the expenditure to the Commission; observes that had all this information been used to correct errors, the estimated level of error for this subchapter would have been 0,6 percentage points lower; notes in addition that the Court found that for 34 cases, the error that it detected was made by national authorities; and that these errors contributed 0,7 percentage points to the estimated level of error; that in 15 cases of quantifiable errors in rural development, environment, climate action and fisheries made by beneficiaries, national authorities had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct the errors before declaring the expenditure to the Commission; and that had all this information been used to correct errors, the estimated level of error for this subchapter would have been 3,3 percentage points lower; notes also that the Court found that for three cases, the error that it detected was made by national authorities; that these errors contributed 0.6 percentage points to the estimated level of error; considers that this situation, which has remained unchanged for some years now, proves a lack of diligence;

Or. en

Amendment 255
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 215

Motion for a resolution

215. Stresses that it is crucially important to have a reliable and *flexible* (up-to-date) LPIS, which should reduce errors;

Amendment

215. Stresses that it is crucially important to have a reliable and up-to-date LPIS, which should reduce errors;

Or. en

Amendment 256
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 217

Motion for a resolution

217. Stresses that while in 2014 the certification bodies gave a positive assessment on all EAGF-IACS statistics, the Commission *has* to correct upwards the error rates communicated by 17 out of 69 paying agencies with a residual error rate above 2%, of which five were above 5%⁹²; points out that overall, the reported error rate for CAP direct payments increased from 0,55% to 2,54% as a result of adjustments made by DG AGRI;

⁹² See Table: Annex 10- 3.2.8 on the DG AGRI annual activity report 2014.

Amendment

217. Stresses that while in 2014 the certification bodies gave a positive assessment on all EAGF-IACS *control* statistics *reported by the Member States*, the Commission *had* to correct upwards the error rates communicated by 17 out of 69 paying agencies with a residual error rate above 2%, of which five were above 5%⁹²; points out that overall, the reported error rate for CAP direct payments increased from 0,55% to 2,54% as a result of adjustments made by DG AGRI;

⁹² See Table: Annex 10- 3.2.8 on the DG AGRI annual activity report 2014.

Or. en

Amendment 257
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 217

Motion for a resolution

217. Stresses that while in 2014 the certification bodies gave a positive assessment on all EAGF-IACS statistics, the Commission has to correct upwards the error rates communicated by 17 out of 69 paying agencies with a residual error rate above 2%, of which five were above 5%⁹²; points out that overall, the reported error rate for CAP direct payments increased from 0,55% to 2,54% as a result of adjustments made by DG AGRI;

as a result of adjustments made by DG AGRI;

⁹² See Table: Annex 10- 3.2.8 on the DG AGRI annual activity report 2014.

⁹² See Table: Annex 10- 3.2.8 on the DG AGRI annual activity report 2014.

Or. en

Amendment 258
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 218

Motion for a resolution

218. Stresses that while in 2014 the certification bodies gave a positive assessment on 88% of the EAFRD statistics, the Commission *has* to correct upwards the error rates communicated by out 43 out of 72 paying agencies with an adjusted error rate above 2% (of which 14 were above 5%); points out that overall, the reported error rate for rural development payments increased from 1,52% to 5,09% as a result of adjustments made by DG AGRI;

Amendment

218. Stresses that while in 2014 the certification bodies gave a positive assessment on 88% of the EAFRD *control* statistics *reported by the Member States*, the Commission *had* to correct upwards the error rates communicated by out 43 out of 72 paying agencies with an adjusted error rate above 2% (of which 14 were above 5%); points out that overall, the reported error rate for rural development payments increased from 1,52% to 5,09% as a result of adjustments made by DG AGRI;

Or. en

Amendment 259
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 218

Motion for a resolution

218. Stresses that while in 2014 the certification bodies gave a positive assessment on 88% of the EAFRD statistics, the Commission has to correct upwards the error rates communicated by

Amendment

218. Stresses that while in 2014 the certification bodies gave a positive assessment on 88% of the EAFRD statistics, the Commission has to correct upwards the error rates communicated by

out 43 out of 72 paying agencies with an adjusted error rate above 2% (of which 14 were above 5%); points out that overall, the reported error rate for rural development payments increased from 1,52% to 5,09% as a result of adjustments made by DG AGRI;

out 43 out of 72 paying agencies with an adjusted error rate above 2% (of which 14 were above 5%): - **Bulgaria, Denmark, Spain (Andalucía and Valencia), France (ODARC and ASP), UK (England), Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Netherlands, Portugal and Romania** -; points out that overall, the reported error rate for rural development payments increased from 1,52% to 5,09% as a result of adjustments made by DG AGRI;

Or. en

Amendment 260
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 219

Motion for a resolution

219. Stresses that there is risk of underestimation of the adjusted error rate by the Commission, ***as the adjustments made relate only to the part of expenditure for which*** Commission's or Court's audit are available;

Amendment

219. Stresses that there is risk of underestimation of the adjusted error rate by the Commission ***at individual paying agency level, as the adjustments are made only when*** Commission's or Court's audit are available;

Or. en

Amendment 261
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 219 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

219a. Notes however that the Court considers the Commission's methodology to be a valid approach which can provide sufficient basis for reservations at the level of individual paying agencies;

Amendment

Amendment 262
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 221

Motion for a resolution

221. Notes that since the average financial corrections over the last three years for EAGF corresponds to 1,2% of the expenditure concerned and for EAFRD to 1%, the Commission has applied financial corrections covering slightly less than half of the level of the adjusted error rate for EAGF (2,6% in 2014) and one fifth for the EAFRD adjusted error rate (5,1% in 2014);

Amendment

221. Notes that since the average financial corrections over the last three years for EAGF corresponds to 1,2% of the expenditure concerned and for EAFRD to 1%, the Commission has applied financial corrections covering slightly less than half of the level of the adjusted error rate for EAGF (2,6% in 2014) and one fifth for the EAFRD adjusted error rate (5,1% in 2014); ***notes also that over the last three years, recoveries amounted to 0,3% of the expenditure for EAGF and 0,9% for EAFRD;***

Amendment 263
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 223

Motion for a resolution

223. ***Regrets in consequence that the declaration of assurance given by the Director General of DG AGRI is not based on data but on hopeful opinion;***

Amendment

223. ***Welcomes this intensive work by the Directorate-General to monitor and correct Member State authorities' data , as required by Article 66 of the Financial Regulation; points out that the weaknesses and corrections in the national systems thus revealed represent a substantial part of the data on which the declaration of assurance is based; calls on the Commission to further improve the data forming the basis for this declaration***

of assurance;

Or. de

Amendment 264

Georgi Pirinski, Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 223

Motion for a resolution

223. *Regrets in consequence* that the declaration of assurance given by the Director General of DG AGRI *is not based on data but on hopeful opinion;*

Amendment

223. *Notes* that the declaration of assurance given by the Director General of DG AGRI *includes three reservations in respect of 2014 expenditure in shared management with the Member States and one reservation in respect of indirect management concerning in total EUR 1 446,9 million (EUR 1 451,9 million in 2013); observes that the highest amount in risk in 2014 is under ABB03 - Direct payments;*

Or. en

Amendment 265

Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 227 – introductory part

Motion for a resolution

227. *Points out* that according to the annual activity report of DG AGRI⁹⁶, 44,7% of all Union farms are semi-subsistence farms, i.e. having an income of less than EUR 4.000 per year; notes also that according to the report on the distribution of direct aids to agricultural producers for the financial year 2014 adopted by the Commission on 15.12.2015:

Amendment

227. *Believes it is unsustainable* that according to the annual activity report of DG AGRI⁹⁶, 44,7% of all Union farms are semi-subsistence farms, i.e. having an income of less than EUR 4.000 per year; notes also that according to the report on the distribution of direct aids to agricultural producers for the financial year 2014 adopted by the Commission on 15.12.2015:

⁹⁶ Annual activity report of Director General of DG AGRI p17.

⁹⁶ Annual activity report of Director General of DG AGRI p17.

Or. en

Amendment 266
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 227 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

227a. Asks DG AGRI to report in its annual activity report 2015 on a broad mix of economic and environmental indicators giving a well-balanced overview of the state of Union agriculture and its broader context, to enable the co-legislators to better assess the performance of the CAP and engage in an informed reflection on its future orientation;

Or. en

Amendment 267
Ingeborg Gräble

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 228

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

228. Asks DG AGRI to adopt a new objective in its management plan accompanied with KPI targeting a fairer distribution of CAP support and to report on this in its annual activity report;

228. Asks DG AGRI to report on the trend in the distribution of agricultural income support in its annual report and in particular to give details of the effects of the new forms of support, such as the redistributive payment, introduced by the 2013 CAP reform;

Or. de

Amendment 268
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 228

Motion for a resolution

228. Asks DG AGRI to ***adopt a new objective in its management plan accompanied with KPI targeting a fairer distribution of CAP support and to report on this*** in its annual activity report;

Amendment

228. Asks DG AGRI to ***report on the*** distribution of CAP support in its annual activity report;

Or. en

Amendment 269
Georgi Pirinski, Martina Dlabajová, C t lin Sorin Ivan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 229 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

229a. Welcomes the results achieved by the 2007-2013 Rural Development policy implementation according to preliminary data (end 2014) referring to micro enterprises (73 300) and young farmers (164 000) supported as well as to innovation support for introduction of new products or technologies in 136 000 farms;

Or. en

Amendment 270
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 230 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

230a. Deeply regrets that the Greek

certifying body significantly underestimated the level of error reported for financial year 2014 in the framework of the 'reinforcement of assurance procedure'^{1a} and stresses that overall for the 6 Member States which had opted for the voluntary application of this procedure (Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, Luxemburg, United Kingdom), the Court found that with the exception of Luxemburg the weaknesses in its implementation render the reported levels of error unreliable;

^{1a} See 2014 ECA annual report point 7.44 to 7.50.

Or. en

Amendment 271
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 230 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

230b. Regrets that the Court detected weaknesses in the control systems related to transactions in rural development of the five paying agencies it visited in 2014: Ireland, Italy (Campania) Portugal, Romania and Sweden and, in particular, in the checks related to eligibility conditions for environmental conditions, the maximum size of companies and to public procurement procedure;

Or. en

Amendment 272
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 232

Motion for a resolution

232. Regrets that the Court detected grave deficiencies as to the revolving and leverage effects of the funding's facilities in rural development and concluded that FEI had been unsuccessful during the period 2007-2013⁹⁷ ;

⁹⁷ European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 5/2015 (2014 Discharge): Are financial instruments a successful and promising tool in rural development area.

Amendment

232. Regrets that the Court detected grave deficiencies as to the revolving and leverage effects of the funding's facilities in rural development and concluded that FEI had been unsuccessful during the period 2007-2013⁹⁷ ; ***requests that the Commission implements measurements to provide sufficient incentives for beneficiaries to allow for substantial added value;***

⁹⁷ European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 5/2015 (2014 Discharge): Are financial instruments a successful and promising tool in rural development area.

Or. en

Amendment 273
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 232 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

232a. Notes that the Commission has launched a conformity clearance procedure to get detailed and precise information on the risk of a conflict of interest concerning the State Agricultural Intervention Fund in the Czech Republic and stressed that failure to take the necessary measures to prevent a conflict of interest could ultimately require the Czech competent authority to withdraw the accreditation of the paying agency and/or could lead to the application of financial correction by the Commission; asks the Commission to proceed rapidly and to report to the Parliament on this

issue by June 2016; asks Olaf to report without delay to the Parliament on its decision to open or not a case;

Or. en

Amendment 274
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 232 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

232a. Notes that after the end of the eligibility period of FEI, resources returned to the funds from investments can be used by Member States and become national resources under the current legal framework; regrets that by this means resources initially linked to specific financial instruments can be eventually transferred to different sectors and individual undertakings; calls on the Commission to increase the incentive for Member States to spend these resources within the same sector;

Or. en

Amendment 275
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 233

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

233. Notes the Court's detailed analysis of whether Union support was targeted at clearly-defined *obstacles* reflecting identified structural and territorial needs and structural disadvantages; and that it also tested the performance criterion as part of targeting and selection; considers that *with respect to the performance*

233. Notes the Court's detailed analysis of whether Union support was targeted at clearly-defined *objectives* reflecting identified structural and territorial needs and structural disadvantages; and that it also tested the performance criterion as part of targeting and selection; considers that *the improved Common Monitoring*

approach, there is a very positive case for creating a set of specific indicators to measure progress, to be developed by DG AGRI;

and Evaluation Framework (CMEF) developed by DG AGRI, with respect to the performance approach, contains a set of specific indicators that will allow the Commission to measure and report on progress;

Or. en

Amendment 276
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 234 – point c

Motion for a resolution

(c) facilitate synergies in *this* area to eliminate its current heterogeneity;

Amendment

(c) facilitate synergies in *the natural resources* area to eliminate its current heterogeneity *of supportive actions*;

Or. en

Amendment 277
Bart Staes
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 234 – point c a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(c)a to report in details to Parliament on the implementation of the capping in CAP direct payments member state per member state;

Or. en

Amendment 278
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 235 – point a

Motion for a resolution

(a) the Commission consider *take into consideration the number of farmers as an element of key performance of DG AGRI with respect to "farmer income" and include a new objective of "a fairer distribution of CAP support" in its management plan, accompanied with a key performance indicator and reporting on this in its annual activity report;*

Amendment

(a) the Commission consider *reporting, in the annual activity report of DG AGRI, on the trend in the distribution of agricultural income support;*

Or. de

Amendment 279
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 235 – point a

Motion for a resolution

(a) the Commission consider *take into consideration the number of farmers as an element of key performance of DG AGRI with respect to "farmer income" and include a new objective of "a fairer distribution of CAP support" in its management plan, accompanied with a key performance indicator and reporting on this in its annual activity report;*

Amendment

(a) the Commission consider *reporting on the distribution of CAP support in its annual activity report;*

Or. en

Amendment 280
Petri Sarvamaa, Joachim Zeller

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 241

Motion for a resolution

241. Regrets that the external assistance

Amendment

deleted

management reports (EAMR) issued by the heads of Union delegations are not annexed to the annual activity reports of DG DEVCO and NEAR as is foreseen by Article 67.3 of the Financial Regulation;

(Duplication)

Or. en

Amendment 281
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 241 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

241a. Notes with concern that the overall performance of the EU delegation as measured by the key performance indicators utilised in the EAMR of 2014 has worsened compared to 2013;

Or. en

Amendment 282
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 241 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

241b. Notes with surprise that the delegations with the highest amount at risk as measured by key performance indicator 5: "timely implementation" and 6: "objective reached" differ from those listed as the worst performers and considers that it raises questions on the quality and seriousness of reporting of some delegations;

Or. en

Amendment 283
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 241 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

241c. Notes with deep concern that according to the EAMR on 2598 projects led by the EU delegations;

– 805 projects worth EUR 13,7 Billion (45,53% of the total amount) are delayed,

– 610 projects worth EUR 9,9 Billion (32,96%) will not reach the initially set objectives,

– 500 projects worth EUR 8,6 Billion (29%) are both delayed and will not reach their initially set objectives,

– 915 projects worth EUR 15 billion (50%) are either delayed or will not reach the initially set objectives,

– budget support actions account for almost one fifth of the projects with the worst problems;

Or. en

Amendment 284
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 241 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

241d. Regrets that project with implementation problems are less often visited by delegation staff than projects without problem;

Or. en

Amendment 285
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 241 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

241e. Recalls that its requested the Commission to present the measures taken in order to improve the performance of Union delegations as regards financial planning and resource allocations, financial administration and auditing and to provide the conclusions it has drawn from the EAMR with the EAMRs to Parliament;

Or. en

Amendment 286
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 241 f (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

241f. Insists that the Commission should in no way utilise the adversarial procedure as foreseen by article 163 of the financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union in order to delay or to block the adoption of a special report of the Court of auditors;

Or. en

Amendment 287
Joachim Zeller, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 243

Motion for a resolution

243. Considers the EAMR issued by the heads of Union delegations to be a useful internal management instrument to enable the Commission to identify early problems with projects and to address them even during the implementation; regrets that these reports are not annexed to the annual activity reports of DG DEVCO and NEAR as is foreseen by Article 67.3 of the Financial Regulation;

Amendment

243. Considers the EAMR issued by the heads of Union delegations to be a useful internal management instrument to enable the Commission to identify early problems with projects and to address them even during the implementation; regrets that these reports are not annexed to the annual activity reports of DG DEVCO and NEAR as is foreseen by Article 67.3 of the Financial Regulation; ***regrets that they are systematically considered as confidential whilst in accordance with Article 67 paragraph 3 of the Financial Regulation , "they shall be made available to the Parliament and the Council having due regard, where appropriate to their confidentiality"***;

Or. en

Amendment 288

Petri Sarvamaa, Joachim Zeller

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 244

Motion for a resolution

244. ***Notes*** that the overall performance of Union delegations in implementation of external assistance programs as measured by the KPI utilised in the EAMR of 2014 has worsened compared to 2013; notes however that these reports present an assessment of ongoing projects and that the performance is influenced by factors outside the control of the Union delegations, including quality of governance in beneficiary countries, security situation, political crises, commitment of implementing partners, etc.;

Amendment

244. ***Regrets*** that the overall performance of Union delegations in implementation of external assistance programs as measured by the KPI utilised in the EAMR of 2014 has worsened compared to 2013; notes however that these reports present an assessment of ongoing projects and that the performance is influenced by factors outside the control of the Union delegations, including quality of governance in beneficiary countries, security situation, political crises, commitment of implementing partners, etc.;

Or. en

Amendment 289
Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 244

Motion for a resolution

244. *Notes* that the overall performance of Union delegations in implementation of external assistance programs as measured by the KPI utilised in the EAMR of 2014 has worsened compared to 2013; notes however that these reports present an assessment of ongoing projects and that the performance is influenced by factors outside the control of the Union delegations, including quality of governance in beneficiary countries, security situation, political crises, commitment of implementing partners, etc.;

Amendment

244. *Deeply regrets* that the overall performance of Union delegations in implementation of external assistance programs as measured by the KPI utilised in the EAMR of 2014 has worsened compared to 2013; notes however that these reports present an assessment of ongoing projects and that the performance is influenced by factors outside the control of the Union delegations, including quality of governance in beneficiary countries, security situation, political crises, commitment of implementing partners, etc.;

Or. en

Amendment 290
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 244 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

244a. Acknowledges that the assessments derived from the EAMR reports provide only a snapshot of the situation of each project at the end of the year and that the actual impact of the identified difficulties can only be assessed by the end of the project.

Amendment

Or. en

Amendment 291
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 245 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

245a. Notes that only a very limited part of the ongoing projects were assessed as having serious problems justifying a red flag; welcomes the corrective actions foreseen which could still produce a positive outcome by the end of the implementation period.

Or. en

Amendment 292
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 246

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

246. Takes the view that heads of Union delegations should be clearly reminded of their duties during their recruitment and pre-posting in terms of management, their responsibility in the management assurance related to their delegation portfolios of operations (key management processes, control management, adequate understanding and assessment of the KPI), providing qualitative and exhaustive reporting in the context of the establishment of the annual activity report ***and urged not only to concentrate on the political component of their duties;***

246. Takes the view that heads of Union delegations should be clearly reminded of their duties during their recruitment and pre-posting in terms of management, their responsibility in the management assurance related to their delegation portfolios of operations (key management processes, control management, adequate understanding and assessment of the KPI), providing qualitative and exhaustive reporting in the context of the establishment of the annual activity report

Or. en

Amendment 293
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 246 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

246a. Expresses concern at the EU's management of external assistance in third countries; points out that every second euro is paid late (at the time of the last report, that affected 805 projects), every third euro failed to reach its intended target (affecting 610 projects) and that both of the failings apply to every fourth euro (affecting 500 projects); is concerned that with regard to budget support almost one fifth (18.5%) of the measures are late and fail to reach the objectives, and almost half of the EDF projects have the same implementation problems; is concerned that projects that are experiencing problems are visited less frequently than those without problems; asks the Commission to provide an up-to-date report on the state of these projects and calls on it to include Neighbourhood Policy aid programmes in this report;

Or. de

Amendment 294
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 248 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

248a. Welcomes that the Commission has increased the monitoring of Union funded projects in the Tindouf camps with a total of 24 monitoring missions carried out in 2015, and up to 2 weeks /month spent by Commission humanitarian staff in the camps. . Welcomes all efforts by the European Commission to ensure the most efficient use of Union funding in the

camps and acknowledges that there is no customs duty on humanitarian imports in the case of Tindouf.

Or. en

Amendment 295

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 250

Motion for a resolution

250. Finds it frustrating that in seven cases of quantifiable errors, the Commission had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct the errors before accepting the expenditure; notes that had all this information been used to correct errors, the estimated level of error for this chapter would have been 0,2 percentage points lower;

Amendment

250. *Welcomes the fact that the Court issued a specific error rate as to the expenditure directly managed by the Commission (the multi-donor and budget support transactions being excluded) and regrets that the error rate for those specific transactions has been quantified at 3,7%;* finds it frustrating that in seven cases of quantifiable errors, the Commission had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct the errors before accepting the expenditure; notes that had all this information been used to correct errors, the estimated level of error for this chapter would have been 0,2 percentage points lower;

Or. en

Amendment 296

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 253

Motion for a resolution

253. Points out that the budget support transactions examined by the Court were free from errors of legality and regularity;

Amendment

253. Points out that the budget support transactions examined by the Court were free from errors of legality and regularity; *takes the view, however, that the*

Commission should introduce consistent monitoring of funds allocated in the form of budget support, including systematic checks on compliance with the conditions governing eligibility for this type of support;

Or. it

Amendment 297
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 255 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

255a. Regards it as essential that suspension of pre-accession funding should be possible not only in cases where misuse of funds has been proven, but also in cases where pre-accession countries violate in any way the rights laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Or. it

Amendment 298
Tamás Deutsch

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 264 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

264a. Requests that all Union institutions and agencies implement Article 16 of the Staff Regulations by publishing, on an annual basis, information about senior officials who have left the Union administration, as well as a list of conflicts of interest; requests that the aforementioned independent structure assess the compatibility of post-Union

employment or the situation whereby civil servants and former Members of the Parliament move from the public to the private sector (the 'revolving door' issue) and the possibility of a conflict of interest, and define clear cooling-off periods, which should cover at least the period for which transitional allowances are granted,

Or. en

Amendment 299
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 264 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

264a. Points out that 5 former officials were employed as Special Advisors in 2014 and received remuneration in one case for example for 43 weeks in two other cases for 30 weeks; asks the Commission to provide further information on why the original contracts were not prolonged instead of paying the above mentioned former officials on a daily basis or if - at the same time pensions paid - were taken into account and how;

Or. en

Amendment 300
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 264 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

264b. Points out that through the increase in working hours from 37.5 to 40 hours a

week under the revision of the Staff Regulations the equivalent of approximately 2900 posts is gained and that this virtually offsets the staff cuts of 5% over several years agreed in the reform of the Staff Regulations; calls on the Commission to present a transparent report with annual indications of the planned reduction in posts and to take account of the increase in working time in this;

Or. de

Amendment 301
Tamás Deutsch

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 266 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

266a. Demands that all those Union institutions and agencies that have not yet done so urgently adopt internal rules on whistle-blowing and take a common approach to their obligations, focusing on the protection of whistle-blowers; requests special attention for the protection of whistle-blowers in the context of the Directive on the Protection of Trade Secrets; calls on the Commission to promote legislation on a minimum level of protection for whistle-blowers in the Union; calls on the institutions and agencies to amend the Staff Regulations to ensure that they not only formally oblige officials to report irregularities of all kinds but also lay down adequate protection for whistle-blowers; calls on the institutions and agencies to implement Article 22(c) of the Staff Regulations without delay;

Or. en

Amendment 302
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 266 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

266a. Expresses concern at the number of suicides among staff; takes the view that the Commission should carry out a thorough assessment of staff well-being, in an effort to halt the suicides;

Or. it

Amendment 303
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 267 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

267a. Notes that the level of sick leave at the Commission remains stable; welcomes the establishment of a psychosocial support group, that has seen the number of days of absence fall from 2200 in 2010 to 772 in 2014. is concerned, however, at the need to intervene in 868 cases, albeit with a degree of satisfaction of 95%;

Or. es

Amendment 304
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 267 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

267b. Takes note more than 250 staff members, not taken up in the new Cabinets, were reintegrated or hosted in

the DGs and that some 550 staff of the new Cabinets were welcomed in new Junker Commission;

Or. en

Amendment 305
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 267 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

267c. Expresses concern, therefore, at the extent to which the greater number of complex tasks and increasingly ambitious and urgent assignments carried out by the EU institutions in such areas as economic governance, the refugee crisis, foreign conflicts and external action, the terrorist threat – coupled with austerity measures and the reform of the European civil service for 2013-2017 – is undermining the motivation and individual and family well-being of staff working for the European institutions, with tragic outcomes in some cases;

Or. es

Amendment 306
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 267 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

267d. Notes that the reduction of 5% in staff numbers is making it extremely difficult to perform certain public services, placing an undue burden on certain areas of the administration; calls attention to the fact that these measures at

times jeopardise the quality of public services provided to European citizens; calls on the Commission to submit, as soon as possible, an action plan including, among other elements, an assessment of the indistinct horizontal distribution of job cuts among different departments and institutions and problems of filling certain positions given the decline in wages and working conditions, with a view to avoiding any possible weakening of the European civil service;

Or. es

Amendment 307

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 270

Motion for a resolution

270. Notes the strong attention of the public and the media *for* integrity issues, *implying* that well-functioning codes of conduct demand continuous attention; stresses that a code of conduct is only an effective preventative measure if properly applied and compliance systematically reviewed, not only in cases of incidents; *points out that a review of the code of conduct is needed by the end of 2017;*

Amendment

270. Notes the strong attention of the public and the media *on* integrity issues *and the need for strong ethics regulation in order to fulfil Articles 17 TEU and 245 TFEU; insists* that well-functioning codes of conduct demand continuous attention; stresses that a code of conduct is only an effective preventative measure if properly applied and *if* compliance *is* systematically reviewed, not only in cases of incidents.

Or. en

Amendment 308

Tamás Deutsch

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 270 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

270a. Encourages the Union institutions and agencies to better raise awareness of the conflict-of-interest policy among their officials, alongside ongoing awareness-raising activities and the inclusion of integrity and transparency as an obligatory item to be discussed during recruitment procedures and performance reviews; considers that a distinction should be made between elected representatives and public officials in the legislation on conflicts of interest; believes that there should also be such regulations in the Member States for public officials and civil servants involved in the administration and monitoring of Union subsidies; calls on the Commission to submit a draft legal basis on this matter;

Or. en

Amendment 309

Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 270 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

270a. Believes that the Commission should pro-actively disclose documents regarding the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Ethical Committee on post-term-of-office jobs of former Commissioners, editing the commercial or personal information in accordance with Regulation 1049/2001;

Or. en

Amendment 310
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 271

Motion for a resolution

271. Calls on the Commission to ***report on the current status of Member State's legislation concerning conflicts of interest and to present recommendations, considering that the same principles should apply to candidate members and members of the Commission;***

Amendment

271. Calls on the Commission to ***review the code of conduct for Commissioners by the end of 2017, including by defining what constitutes a "conflict of interest" as well as introducing criteria for assessing the compatibility of post-office employment and extending the cooling off period to three years for Commissioners;***

Or. en

Amendment 311
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 271

Motion for a resolution

271. Calls on the Commission to ***report on the current status of Member State's legislation concerning conflicts of interest and to present recommendations, considering that the same principles should apply to candidate members and members of the Commission;***

Amendment

271. Calls on the Commission to ***ask from Member States that they clearly indicate any potential conflicts of interests of their candidate member of the Commission and to explain how conflicts of interests are defined in their national legislation; in the case of diverging interpretations of conflicts of interests between national legislation and the rules the Commission applies itself in this regard, the latter interpretation should be followed by Member States;***

Or. en

Amendment 312
Tamás Deutsch

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 271 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

271a. Requests that the Commission pay particular attention in this regard to the prevention of conflicts of interest and corruptive practices in the case of decentralised agencies, which are particularly vulnerable considering the fact that they are relatively unknown to the public and are also located throughout the Union;

Or. en

Amendment 313

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 272

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

272. Points out that an important step with regard to conflicts of interest is to increase the transparency of the ad hoc ethical committee of the Commission ***which reviews*** situations of potential conflict; notes that only if the opinions of the ethical committee are published proactively, can the public hold the Commission accountable;

272. Points out that an important step with regard to conflicts of interest is to increase the transparency of the ***Commission President, the ad hoc ethical committee of the Commission and of the Secretariat General, when reviewing*** situations of potential conflict; notes that only if the opinions of the ethical committee are published proactively can the public hold the Commission accountable; ***reiterates the Parliament's recommendation that the ad hoc ethical committee be reformed to extend its powers and include independent experts;***

Or. en

Amendment 314

Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 272

Motion for a resolution

272. Points out that an important step with regard to conflicts of interest is to increase the transparency of the ad hoc ethical committee of the Commission which reviews situations of potential conflict; ***notes that only if*** the opinions of the ethical committee ***are published proactively, can*** the public hold the Commission accountable;

Amendment

272. Points out that an important step with regard to conflicts of interest is to increase the transparency of the ad hoc ethical committee of the Commission which reviews situations of potential conflict; ***calls upon the Commission to proactively publish*** the opinions of the ethical committee ***in accordance with Regulation 1049/2001 in order to let*** the public hold the Commission accountable ***for the decision made***;

Or. en

Amendment 315
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 272 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment 316
Bart Staes
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 272 a (new)

Amendment

272a. Estimates that the Code of Conduct for Commissioners should include a clearer task description of the Ad Hoc Ethical Committee, and include the requirement that the members of the Committee are independent experts;

Or. en

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

272a. Calls on the Commission to publish the declarations of interest in an open, machine-readable format.

Or. en

Amendment 317
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
New subheading after paragraph 272

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Conflicts of interest in shared management and in third countries in connection with the management of EU funds

Or. de

Amendment 318
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 272 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

272a. Points out that some Member States do not have laws on ministers that exclude the possibility of office-holders being sole or part-owners of businesses;

Or. de

Amendment 319
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 272 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

272b. Sees a serious conflict of interest in the possibility that businesses owned by EU office-holders may apply for EU funds or may receive such funds as subcontractors, while the owners and office-holders themselves bear responsibility for both the proper use of funds and for controlling their use;

Or. de

Amendment 320
Ingeborg Gräble

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 272 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

272c. Calls on the Commission to incorporate a clause in all future EU laws on payments to the effect that businesses owned by office-holders in the EU Member States and in third countries may not apply for or receive any EU funding;

Or. de

Amendment 321
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
New subheading after paragraph 272 and paragraph 272 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

272a. Transparency
Believes that all data on the implementation of the budget within the EU should be transparent and accountable through publication,

including the spending of Member States related to shared management;

Or. en

Amendment 322
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 272 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

272b. Emphasises the principle that the Commission on all levels should end contacts with unregistered lobbyists;

Or. en

Amendment 323
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 272 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

272c. Calls on the Commission to expand the recording of meeting data with lobbyists to everyone involved in the Union's policy-making process by requesting from their DG's regular reports on the meetings taking place within their respective services and by putting this information in an easily accessible manner on the Commission's website;

Or. en

Amendment 324
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 272 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

272d. Believes that the Commission should be obliged to record and disclose all input received from lobbyists/interest representatives on draft policies and laws as a 'legislative footprint'; suggests that this legislative footprint should contain detailed information about lobbyists who had a substantial effect on the Commission's proposals;

Or. en

Amendment 325
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 272 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

272e. Welcomes the publication of a list of senior officials leaving the Commission and calls on the Commission to include all members of the Cabinet in the definition of senior officials;

Or. en

Amendment 326
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
New subheading after paragraph 272 and paragraph 272 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

272a Expert Groups

Urges the Commission to follow up on the Ombudsman's recommendations against conflicts of interest in expert groups and to postpone the adoption of new horizontal rules, until the Parliament has

been able to express its opinion on the basis of the ongoing work on a joint CONT-JURI own initiative report;

Or. en

Amendment 327
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
New subheading after paragraph 272

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Immunity for EU staff in non-EU countries only

Or. de

Amendment 328
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 272 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

272a. Considers the immunity of EU staff from criminal proceedings in Member States, which dates back 64 years, to be a privilege that has long been obsolete; calls for this privilege under the Protocol to the Treaty to be confined to EU staff in countries outside the EU;

Or. de

Amendment 329
Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 275

Motion for a resolution

275. ***Points to*** the ongoing migration crisis and underlines the need to ***address it with a coherent Union solution***; notes the funds allocated to migration and external-border management in 2014 and asks the Court to consider preparing a ***quick*** special report on the effectiveness of these funds ***drawing conclusions to be reflected in the ongoing process of upgrading the Union migration and border control policy***;

Amendment

275. ***Is concerned about*** the ongoing migration crisis and underlines the need to ***improve coordination amongst Member States***; notes the funds allocated to migration and external-border management in 2014 and asks the Court to consider preparing a special report ***focusing*** on the effectiveness of these funds;

Or. en

Amendment 330
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 275

Motion for a resolution

275. Points to the ongoing migration crisis and underlines the need to address it with a coherent Union solution; notes the funds allocated to migration and external-border management in 2014 and asks the Court to consider preparing a quick special report on the effectiveness of these funds drawing conclusions to be reflected in the ongoing process of upgrading the Union migration and border control policy;

Amendment

275. Points to the ongoing migration crisis and underlines the need to address it with a coherent Union solution; notes the funds allocated to migration and external-border management in 2014, ***notes the recently adopted migration fund of 700 Million euro to be managed by NGOs, who find it insufficient considering the magnitude of the catastrophe*** and asks the Court to consider preparing a quick special report on the effectiveness of these funds drawing conclusions to be reflected in the ongoing process of upgrading the Union migration and border control policy;

Or. en

Amendment 331
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
New subheading after paragraph 275

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

International Management Group (IMG)

Or. en

Amendment 332
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 275 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

275a. Refers to paragraph 234 and 235 of the 2013 discharge report (P8_TA(2015)0118)); asks for an update about the ongoing cooperation with the International Management Group (IMG) and the Commission in particular about ongoing and new contracts and payments;

Or. en

Amendment 333
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
New subheading after paragraph 275

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Implementation problems in Greece

Or. de

Amendment 334
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 275 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

275a. Calls for clarification as to which unfinished Greek EU projects can no longer be funded after 31 December 2015; calls for clarification as to what is to happen with each of these projects now;

Or. de

**Amendment 335
Ingeborg Gräßle**

**Motion for a resolution
New subheading after paragraph 275**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Implementation problems in the Czech Republic

Or. de

**Amendment 336
Ingeborg Gräßle**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 275 a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

275a. Notes with concern the problems with procurement for Structural Fund expenditure monitoring systems in 2007-2013 and also in 2014-2020, and those involving the 'Stork's Nest Farm' project, and calls for clarification as to why these problems arise in every funding period, as well as on the current state of the fraud investigations and the recovery of irregularly obtained funds;

Or. de

Amendment 337
Ingeborg Gräble

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 275 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

275b. Demands proof that the former employee of the Czech Ministry of Regional Development who has moved to the office of the Commissioner for Regional Policy is not pursuing the regional policy interests of the Czech Republic there;

Or. de

Amendment 338
Ingeborg Gräble

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 276

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

276. Notes OLAF's effort to implement most of the recommendations of its supervisory committee¹⁰¹ (SC); notes that 2014 was the first year in which the SC has decided to follow-up on the recommendations previously issued; calls on OLAF and the SC to repeat this exercise on a yearly basis;

276. Notes OLAF's effort to implement most of the recommendations of its supervisory committee¹⁰¹ (SC); ***wishes to be informed, however, on whether the fundamental differences on whether respective recommendations have been implemented or not; expects in the Future that OLAF clearly states, where and in how far it deviates from the original recommendations issued by the SC;*** notes that 2014 was the first year in which the SC has decided to follow-up on the recommendations previously issued; calls on OLAF and the SC to repeat this exercise on a yearly basis;

¹⁰¹ See Follow up to the European Parliament resolution on the OLAF Supervisory Committee's annual report

¹⁰¹ See Follow up to the European Parliament resolution on the OLAF Supervisory Committee's annual report

2014, adopted by the Commission on 23 September 2015.

2014, adopted by the Commission on 23 September 2015.

Or. en

Amendment 339
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 276 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

276a. Urges OLAF to implement the recommendations on the direct participation of the Director General in investigations as Article 7(1) and (2) of regulation No. 883/2013 clearly stipulate that investigations are to be conducted by staff appointed by the Director General and not by the Director General himself as this may create situation with conflicting objectives;

Or. en

Amendment 340
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 276 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

276b. Expects OLAF to implement the recommendation of the Supervisory Committee to include the verification of any potential conflict of interest between the duties of a national expert and his participation in investigation activities in the respective case file;

Or. en

Amendment 341
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 276 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

276c. Is strongly convinced that the Supervisor Committee should be informed of all dismissed cases in which information has been transmitted to national judicial authorities, in accordance with Article 17(5) of Regulation No 883/2013, in order to protect the procedural guarantees of the persons concerned with the allegations; demands from OLAF to implement the Supervisory Committee's recommendation as soon as possible;

Or. en

Amendment 342
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 276 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

276d. Notes that OLAF closed in 2014 a total of 307 investigations and coordinate activities; in 147 of these investigations OLAF issued a recommendation which gives a follow-up rate of 47%; notes that in years prior to 2011 the rate was regularly above 50%; expects that OLAF undertakes measures to restore its effectiveness permanently by improving its selection procedure; is of the opinion that OLAF should reconsider recommendation No. 31 of the Supervisory Committee to increase its effectiveness;

Or. en

Amendment 343
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 277 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

277a. Expects from the Commission to waive the immunity of the Director General and all other OLAF employees concerned in order to enable the Belgium judicial authorities to investigate the possibly unlawful recording of a telephone conversations (scripted by OLAF) between a witness (instigated by OLAF to make the call) and a person concerned on the premises OLAF and under the assistance of OLAF investigators; is of the opinion that the Commission would by not waiving the immunity set precedence for detaching OLAF from any judicial control and grant absolution to any investigative measure used by the Office;

Or. en

Amendment 344
Petri Sarvamaa, Joachim Zeller

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 278

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

278. Is of the opinion that the SC should, as a matter of consistency with its mandate, have autonomous staff who are detached from the OLAF administration and enjoy financial autonomy; ***calls on OLAF to grant the SC access to documents that the SC deems necessary to fulfil its task in accordance with its remit within the legislative mandate;***

278. Emphasises that the SC should, as a matter of consistency with its mandate, have autonomous staff who are detached from the OLAF administration and enjoy financial autonomy; ***welcomes the Commission's ongoing efforts towards this end;***

Amendment 345
Petri Sarvamaa, Joachim Zeller

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 278 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

278a. Urges OLAF to grant the SC access to documents that the SC deems necessary to fulfil its task in accordance with its remit within the legislative mandate;

Or. en

Amendment 346
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari, Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 280 – subparagraph 2 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Urges OLAF to draw up Internal Rules on Whistleblowing in accordance with the new Staff Regulations 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 347
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 280 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

280a. Reminds that the Commission has received a request to waive the immunity of its staff from Belgian Courts; insists that the Commission has to fully

cooperate with the Belgian judicial authorities;

Or. en

Amendment 348
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 280 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

280a. States that in OLAF's annual report 2014 the investigative activities and results per sector are specified; requests OLAF to provide in the next annual report detailed information on the type of investigation and results in all sectors;

Or. en

Amendment 349
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 281

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

281. Regrets the delay in the Commission's assessment of tobacco agreements; calls on the Commission to provide this as soon as possible, outlining the results of the investments made using the money paid by tobacco companies under these agreements;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 350
Bart Staes
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 281

Motion for a resolution

281. *Regrets the delay in the Commission's assessment of tobacco agreements; calls on the Commission to provide this as soon as possible, outlining the results of the investments made using the money paid by tobacco companies under these agreements;*

Amendment

281. *Reminds that since May 2015, the Commission has promised to deliver its assessment of the agreement with PMI as soon as possible; stresses that the Commission postponed several times the publication of the assessment and that it was finally published on 23rd February 2016, one day before a Plenary debate on this issue in the Parliament; firmly believes that such delayed publication is considered by the Parliament to be a serious failure on the part of the Commission to meet its obligations of transparency, both to the Parliament and to citizens ; thus undermining the Parliament's capacity to express its view in a timely manner on this complex and delicate matter;*

Or. en

Amendment 351
Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 281

Motion for a resolution

281. *Regrets the delay in the Commission's assessment of tobacco agreements; calls on the Commission to provide this as soon as possible, outlining the results of the investments made using the money paid by tobacco companies under these agreements;*

Amendment

281. *Welcome's the Commission's report on the assessment on the PMI tobacco agreement; regrets, however, the timing of the delivery of the technical assessment;*

Or. en

Amendment 352
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 283

Motion for a resolution

283. Urges all the relevant Union institutions to implement Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC in accordance with the recommendations contained in the guidelines thereto; urges the Commission to publish immediately *the assessment agreements with tobacco companies and an impact assessment on the implementation of the WHO FCTC*;

Amendment

283. Urges all the relevant Union institutions to implement Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC *and Article 8.12 of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products* in accordance with the recommendations contained in the guidelines thereto; urges the Commission to publish immediately an impact assessment on the implementation of the WHO FCTC *and the Protocol*;

Or. en

Amendment 353
Bart Staes
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 283

Motion for a resolution

283. Urges all the relevant Union institutions to implement Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC in accordance with the recommendations contained in the guidelines thereto; urges the Commission to *publish immediately the assessment agreements with tobacco companies and an impact assessment on the implementation* of the *WHO FCTC*;

Amendment

283. Urges all the relevant Union institutions to implement Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC in accordance with the recommendations contained in the guidelines thereto; urges the Commission to *pursue prompt ratification of the FCTC Protocol and welcomes its commitment to invite Member states and third countries to ratify it; believes however that renewal of the agreement would send a damaging and counterproductive message to third countries that the EU has inappropriate interactions with the tobacco industry, although the Protocol clearly prohibits such interactions*;

Or. en

Amendment 354
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 283 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

283a. Urges the Commission not to have any negotiations with the Tobacco Industry on the renewal of the Agreements, until Parliament has had the opportunity to adopt its final position;

Or. en

Amendment 355
Bart Staes
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 283 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

283a. Expresses the belief that renewal of the PMI Agreement may not be compatible with the EU's obligations under Article 5.3 of the FCTC, which could cause reputational damage to the EU as a global leader on tobacco control;

Or. en

Amendment 356
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 283 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

283b. Asks the Commission to full betting

on the combinations of the Tobacco Directive 2014 and the WHO FCTC and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products which foresee track and trace provisions and introduce security features facilitating law enforcement, and are the best instruments to fight illicit trade in the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 357

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 283 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

283b. Emphasises that the PMI Agreement was an innovative instrument when first concluded in 2004 in tackling the illicit tobacco trade, but stresses that the market and regulatory environment have experienced substantial changes since that date; stresses that the agreement does not address important characteristics of the illicit tobacco trade today, particularly the high proportion of the trade now made up of "illicit whites"; is therefore of the opinion that all elements which are covered in the agreement with PMI will be covered in the new legal framework of the Tobacco Products Directive and the FCTC Protocol;

Or. en

Amendment 358

Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 283 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

283c. Reiterates therefore that the agreement with PMI should not be renewed, extended or renegotiated; and asks the Commission not to renew, extend or renegotiate the agreement beyond its current date of expiry;

Or. en

Amendment 359
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 285 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

285a. Notes that the Director-General for Human Resources and Security (DG HR) maintained her 'reputational reservation' in the 2014 Commission Synthesis report regarding the European schools and that the representative of the European Commission voted against granting discharge for the 2012 and 2013 European Schools accounts; regrets that the member state representatives are not taking the problems equally seriously;

Or. en

Amendment 360
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 285 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

285b. Recalls that the Parliament in its

2010 Commission discharge procedure had already questioned "the decision-making and financing structures of the Convention on the European Schools;" and had demanded that the Commission "explore with the Member States a revision of that Convention and to report by 31 December 2012 on the progress made"; notes that no progress report was ever received by Parliament;

Or. en

Amendment 361
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 287 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

287a. Notes that the size of the budget allocated to the European Schools is considerably larger than that received by all but 2 of the 32 agencies for which a separate discharge report is prepared; resolves that given the scale of the problem and in order to monitor progress and future developments more closely the discharge authority shall prepare a separate discharge report on the European schools with respect of financial year 2015 and subsequent years;

Or. en

Amendment 362
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 288 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

288a. Calls on the budgetary authority to

put into reserve parts of the Union budget contribution to European Schools, aiming primarily at the office of the secretary general, during the 2017 budget procedure unless sufficient progress has been achieved in implementing the Court's recommendations;

Or. en

Amendment 363

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

New subheading after paragraph 288

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Euronews

Or. en

Amendment 364

Jens Geier, Petra Kammerevert

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 288 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

288a. Notes that Euronews received EUR 18 million from the EU budget in 2014, even though the Commission is no Euronews shareholder, is concerned that Euronews' current governance structure might not allow full independence and autonomy from its international shareholders; calls on the Commission in its function as major financial contributor to ensure that Euronews respects the principles of sound financial management and all legal agreements with the Commission including the binding charter on editorial independence;

Amendment 365

Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 289 – point b

Motion for a resolution

(b) impact assessments are to be understood as an integral element of this;

Amendment

(b) impact **and risk** assessments are to be understood as an integral element of this;

Or. en

Amendment 366

Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 289 – point e

Motion for a resolution

(e) a greater effort to support the protection of financial interests **would be highly appreciated**;

Amendment

(e) a greater effort to support the protection of financial interests **is crucial**;

Or. en

Amendment 367

Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 290 – point b

Motion for a resolution

(b) shows that the performance test used with the Europe 2020 Strategy is a positive step in good direction, although its compatibility with the Union economic policy framework requires further development, including CSR with relevant

Amendment

(b) shows that the performance test used with the Europe 2020 Strategy is a positive step in good direction, although its compatibility with the Union economic policy framework requires further development, including CSR with relevant

macroeconomic indicators and regularly updated Union economic policy priorities;

macroeconomic indicators and regularly updated Union economic *and social* policy priorities;

Or. en