



2017/2136(DEC)

7.12.2017

AMENDMENTS

1 - 21

Draft opinion

Cristian Dan Preda

2016 discharge: EU general budget - Commission
(2017/2136(DEC))

Amendment 1
Jean-Luc Schaffhauser

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

Amendment

1. Takes positive note of the decrease in rate of material error in Heading 4 in the 2016 financial year compared to 2015 (from 2.8% to 2.1%), as estimated by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) in its annual report; fully supports all recommendations formulated by the ECA and urges the Commission to swiftly implement them;

deleted

Or. fr

Amendment 2
Jean-Luc Schaffhauser

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Underlines that, when excluding the budget support operations and the projects financed by several donors, the estimated level of error is significantly higher; stresses that the Commission could have reduced the estimated level of error by a further 0.7% if all information at their disposal would have been used;

deleted

Or. fr

Amendment 3
Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Underlines that, when excluding the budget support operations and the projects financed by several donors, the estimated level of error is significantly higher; stresses that the Commission could have reduced the estimated level of error by a further 0.7% if all information at their disposal would have been used;

Amendment

2. Underlines that, when excluding the budget support operations and the projects financed by several donors, the estimated level of error is significantly higher; stresses that the Commission could have reduced the estimated level of error by a further 0.7% if all information at their disposal would have been used; ***urges that budget support operations be accompanied by active measures to combat corruption;***

Or. it

Amendment 4

Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. ***Underlines*** that, when excluding the budget support operations and the projects financed by several donors, the estimated level of error is significantly higher; stresses that the Commission could have reduced the estimated level of error by a further 0.7% if all information at their disposal would have been used;

Amendment

2. ***Notes with concern*** that, when excluding the budget support operations and the projects financed by several donors, the estimated level of error is significantly higher; stresses that the Commission could have reduced the estimated level of error by a further 0.7% if all information at their disposal would have been used, ***and encourages the Commission to improve upon past progress by redoubling its efforts to reduce error;***

Or. en

Amendment 5

Jean-Luc Schaffhauser

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. *Emphasises that most of the errors (37%) are due to the absence of essential supporting documents; recalls the importance of improving grant supervision and calls on the Commission to take the necessary measures to that end;*

Amendment

deleted

Or. fr

Amendment 6
Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Emphasises that most of the errors (37%) are due to the absence of essential supporting documents; recalls the importance of improving grant supervision and calls on the Commission to take the necessary measures to that end;

Amendment

3. Emphasises that most of the errors (37%) are due to the absence of essential supporting documents; recalls the importance of improving grant supervision and *the technical assistance provided for this purpose*; calls on the Commission to take the necessary measures to that end;

Or. it

Amendment 7
Neena Gill

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. *Underlines that overall reporting on spending on migration and the refugee crisis needs to be more coherent and comprehensive; in this context is deeply*

concerned over the fact that the use of other financial mechanisms alongside the EU budget to deliver EU policies, such as trust funds and the Turkey Refugee Facility, risks to undermine accountability and transparency;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Cristian Dan Preda

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Notes with concern the *persisting deficiencies* in the *quality of expenditure verifications of* second Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA II), *carried out by the audit authorities in some candidate countries*; calls on DG NEAR to closely assist national authorities concerned in improving the training and recruitment of their staff, as well as their audit methodology, supervision and planning;

Amendment

4. Notes with concern the *weaknesses* in the *indirect management by audit authorities in some beneficiary countries of the* second Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA II); calls on DG NEAR to closely assist national authorities concerned *in overcoming the shortcomings and, more specifically*, in improving the training and recruitment of their staff, as well as their audit methodology, supervision and planning;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Jean-Luc Schaffhauser

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Notes with concern the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications of second Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA II), carried out by the audit authorities in some candidate countries;

Amendment

4. Notes with concern the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications of second Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA II), carried out by the audit authorities in some candidate countries;

calls on DG NEAR to closely assist national authorities concerned in improving the training and recruitment of their staff, as well as their audit methodology, supervision and planning;

calls for a general audit of pre-accession instruments and an accounting valuation by an impartial body of the consequences of policy decisions (economic sanctions, civil wars) prior to any further enlargement, during which time a funding moratorium will be declared;

Or. fr

Amendment 10
Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Notes with concern the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications of second Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA II), carried out by the audit authorities in some candidate countries; calls on DG NEAR to closely assist national authorities concerned in improving the training and recruitment of their staff, as well as their audit methodology, supervision and planning;

Amendment

4. Notes with concern the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications of second Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA II), carried out by the audit authorities *only* in some candidate countries; calls on DG NEAR to closely assist national authorities concerned in improving the training and recruitment of their staff, as well as their audit methodology, supervision and planning; *notes that historically IPA II has failed to meet quality expenditure checks where applied and that its value to the Member States and Union must be reassessed, with stricter controls put in place and a clear roadmap for defining its longer-term utility established;*

Or. en

Amendment 11
Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Notes with concern the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications of second Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA II), carried out by the audit authorities in some candidate countries; calls on DG NEAR to closely assist national authorities concerned in improving the training and recruitment of their staff, as well as their audit methodology, supervision and planning;

Amendment

4. Notes with concern the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications of second Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA II), carried out by the audit authorities in some candidate countries; calls on DG NEAR to closely assist national authorities concerned in improving the training and recruitment of their staff, as well as their audit methodology, supervision and planning; ***points out that the provision of pre-accession funds should be linked to progress in the receiving countries as regards compliance with the membership criteria, with particular regard to respect for human rights and the rule of law, in the spirit of 'more for more' and 'less for less'***;

Or. it

Amendment 12

Neena Gill

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Takes note of the Final Report on the External Evaluation of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights issued in June 2017; welcomes indications that election observation is contributing to the overall and specific objectives of the EIDHR; underscores the importance of ensuring continued support among local populations for EOMs; to this effect draws attention to the need to ensure cost effectiveness and introduce proportionality between the resources spent on EOMs and the follow up of its recommendations; calls on the Commission to consider proposals made

in the Final Report on the External Evaluation of the EIDHR to further strengthen the follow up of recommendations that result from election monitoring;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Jean-Luc Schaffhauser

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. While welcoming the progress achieved, notes that 4 out of 10 civilian missions under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) have not yet been recognised by the Commission as compliant with Article 60 of the Financial Regulation; urges the Commission to step up work in order to accredit all civilian CSDP missions, in line with the ECA's recommendation, allowing them to be entrusted with budget implementation tasks under indirect management.

deleted

Or. fr

Amendment 14
Sabine Lösing

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. While welcoming the progress achieved, notes that 4 out of 10 civilian missions under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) have not yet been recognised by the Commission as

5. Notes the progress achieved, notes that 4 out of 10 civilian missions under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) have not yet been recognised by the Commission as compliant with Article

compliant with Article 60 of the Financial Regulation; *urges the Commission to step up work in order to accredit all civilian CSDP missions, in line with the ECA's recommendation, allowing them to be entrusted with budget implementation tasks* under indirect management.

60 of the Financial Regulation; *criticizes civilian CSDP missions in general since the purely civilian nature of such missions have to be questioned in many cases against the background that as a matter of fact civilian and military aspects are increasingly blurred and merged in particular within Security Sector Reform (SSR) and training missions and are therefore at odds with the provision of Art. 41(2) TEU; further sees the budget implementation through indirect management for civilian CSDP missions as critical, as only the Member State concerned is responsible for publishing data on the beneficiaries of the funds it administers under indirect management; is therefore concerned that parliamentary control could be further undermined;*

Or. en

Amendment 15
Cristian Dan Preda

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Welcomes the ECA's special report on the "EU Assistance to Tunisia" and takes positive note that, through its funding, the EU made a significant and timely contribution to the democratic transition and to the economic development of the country in a challenging environment; recommends to the Commission to fully implement the recommendations of the ECA, including regarding the "more for more" approach and the need of reducing the number of priorities in order to increase the impact of the EU assistance;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Neena Gill

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Takes note of the ECA special report 11/2017 on the Bêkou EU trust fund for the Central African Republic; welcomes all the recommendations made by the ECA and calls on the Commission to implement them; in this light particularly underscores the importance of addressing concerns regarding coordination amongst stakeholders, attraction of additional donors, transparency and cost-effectiveness as well as the need to fully develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Jordi Solé

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Expresses alarm at the increase in destruction and confiscation of EU-funded humanitarian assistance in the West Bank; deplores the lack of resolve of the EEAS and the Commission, as highlighted by the European Court of Auditors, to secure compensation from and guarantees of non-repetition by the Israeli authorities; expects the Commission to deduct the equivalent of these losses from bilateral EU assistance

to Israel;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Neena Gill

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. Takes note of the ECA Special Report 03/2017 on EU Assistance to Tunisia; notes with satisfaction that EU funding made a significant contribution to the democratic transition and economic stability of Tunisia; welcomes all the recommendations made by the ECA and calls on the Commission to implement them; underscores the importance of strengthening the programming and focus of EU assistance and the implementation of EU budget support programmes and calls on the Commission to explore options for accelerating approval procedures of Macro-Financial Assistance, particularly for emergency funding;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Cristian Dan Preda

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. Welcomes equally the ECA's special report on the "EU support to fight human trafficking in South/South-East Asia"; encourages the Commission, in

coordination with the EEAS, to pursue the development of the human trafficking strategic framework, including for South and South-East Asia, and to ensure the consistency of implemented projects with this framework;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Neena Gill

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5c. Equally welcomes recommendations made by the ECA in Special Report 09/2017 on EU support to fight human trafficking in South and South-East Asia; particularly encourages the Commission to optimise the impact of projects by integrating them into a comprehensive framework and strengthening its focus on sustainability of project results;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Neena Gill

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5d. In view of the significant bilateral support given to Libya across a number of sectors including civil society, governance, health, education, migration and protection, support to the political process, and security and mediation, calls

*on the ECA to issue a Special Report on
EU Assistance to Libya;*

Or. en