



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Budgetary Control

2014/2155(INI)

12.12.2014

AMENDMENTS

1 - 89

Draft report
Georgi Pirinski
(PE539.821v02-00)

on the Annual Report 2013 on the Protection of the EU's Financial Interests -
Fight against fraud
(2014/2155(INI))

AM_Com_NonLegReport

Amendment 1
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Citation -2 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

*– having regard to the United Nation's
Convention against Corruption,*

Or. en

Amendment 2
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Citation -2 (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

*– having regard to the Council of
Europe's Civil Law and Criminal Law
Conventions on Corruption,*

Or. en

Amendment 3
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Citation 3

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

– having regard to the Commission report of 17 July 2014 entitled ‘Protection of the European *Union's* financial interests – Fight against fraud – 2013 Annual Report’ (COM(2014)0474) and the accompanying staff working documents (SWD(2014)0243, SWD(2014)0244,

– having regard to the Commission report of 17 July 2014 entitled ‘Protection of the European *Union's* financial interests – Fight against fraud – 2013 Annual Report’ (COM(2014)0474) and the accompanying staff working documents (SWD(2014)0243, SWD(2014)0244,

SWD(2014)0246, SWD(2014)0247 and
SWD(2014)0248),

SWD(2014)0245, SWD(2014)0246,
SWD(2014)0247 and SWD(2014)0248),

Or. en

Amendment 4
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Citation 8 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

***– having regard to the Special
Eurobarometer 397 Report on
Corruption,***

Or. en

Amendment 5
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Citation 8 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

***– having regard to the VAT Gap Reports
of the European Commission,***

Or. en

Amendment 6
Louis Aliot

Motion for a resolution
Recital A

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

A. whereas the EU budget, to which each
Member State contributes ***in equal***

A. whereas the EU budget, to which each
Member State contributes ***a specific***

measure according to common objective criteria, provides *support* for the implementation of the Union's policies and represents an *expression of unity and an instrument to advance European integration*;

amount according to common objective criteria, provides *funding* for the implementation of the Union's policies and represents an instrument *for financial redistribution among the Member States*;

Or. fr

Amendment 7
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Recital A

Motion for a resolution

A. whereas the EU budget, to which each Member State contributes *in equal measure* according to common objective criteria, provides support for the implementation of the Union's policies and represents an expression of unity and an instrument to advance European integration;

Amendment

A. whereas the EU budget, to which each Member State contributes *proportionately* according to common objective criteria, provides support for the implementation of the Union's policies and represents an expression of unity and an instrument to advance European integration;

Or. it

Amendment 8
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Recital B

Motion for a resolution

B. whereas protection of the financial interests of the EU should guarantee that budget revenue and expenditure contribute towards the achievement of the EU's priorities and objectives and towards increasing the confidence of citizens by assuring them that their money is being used in full compliance with the aims and

Amendment

B. whereas protection of the financial interests of the EU *alongside the principle of sound financial management* should guarantee that budget revenue and expenditure contribute towards the achievement of the EU's priorities and objectives and towards increasing the confidence of citizens by assuring them

policies of the EU;

that their money is being used in full compliance with the aims and policies of the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Recital B

Motion for a resolution

B. whereas protection of the financial interests of the EU should guarantee that budget revenue and expenditure contribute towards the achievement of the EU's priorities and objectives and towards increasing the confidence of citizens by assuring them that their money is being used in full compliance with the aims and policies of the EU;

Amendment

B. whereas protection of the financial interests of the EU should guarantee that budget revenue and expenditure contribute towards the achievement of the EU's priorities and objectives and towards increasing the confidence of citizens by assuring them that their money is being used in ***a transparent way in*** full compliance with the aims and policies of the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Louis Aliot

Motion for a resolution
Recital B

Motion for a resolution

B. whereas protection of the financial interests of the EU should guarantee that budget revenue and expenditure contribute towards the achievement of the EU's priorities and objectives ***and towards increasing the confidence of citizens by assuring them that their money is being used in full compliance with the aims and policies of the EU;***

Amendment

B. whereas protection of the financial interests of the EU should guarantee that budget revenue and expenditure contribute towards the achievement of the EU's priorities and objectives;

Or. fr

Amendment 11
Louis Aliot

Motion for a resolution
Recital B a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ba. whereas EU budget spending should be fully transparent and in full compliance with the interests of Union citizens;

Or. fr

Amendment 12
Louis Aliot

Motion for a resolution
Recital C

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

C. whereas the diversity of legal and administrative systems in the Member States ***presents a challenging environment in which to overcome*** irregularities and ***combat*** fraud, ***while any incorrect use of EU monies entails not only individual but also collective losses;***

C. whereas the diversity of legal and administrative systems in the Member States ***should not under any circumstances be considered an excuse in the fight against*** irregularities and fraud;

Or. fr

Amendment 13
Louis Aliot

Motion for a resolution
Recital C a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ca. whereas any incorrect use of Union funds entails not only individual but also collective losses and harms the interests of each Member State and of the Union as a whole;

Or. fr

Amendment 14
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph -1 (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

-1. Emphasises that it is incumbent on both the Commission and the Member States to do everything in their power to fight fraud, corruption and all other forms of illegal activity detrimental to the Union's financial interests, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union; points out that close cooperation and coordination between the Commission and the Member States is essential in order to ensure that the Union's financial interests are protected effectively, and hence such cooperation and coordination must, as a matter of priority, be strengthened and made as effective as possible; points out that protecting the Union's financial interests demands an equally vigilant approach to both resources and expenditure;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. **Welcomes** the Commission report on the Protection of the European **Union's** financial interests – Fight against fraud – Annual Report 2013 (the **Commission's** 'annual report'), **in which it outlined** the broad range of legal and administrative measures taken by the Commission since 2011, thus shaping a new landscape for the further enhancement of the policy for protection of the financial interests of the Union;

Amendment

1. **Takes note of** the Commission report on the Protection of the European **Union's** financial interests – Fight against fraud – Annual Report 2013 (the **Commission's** 'annual report'); **welcomes** the broad range of legal and administrative measures taken by the Commission since 2011, thus shaping a new landscape for the further enhancement of the policy for protection of the financial interests of the Union;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Welcomes the Commission report on the Protection of the European Union's financial interests – Fight against fraud – Annual Report 2013 (the Commission's 'annual report'), in which it outlined the broad range of legal and administrative measures taken by the Commission since 2011, thus shaping a new landscape for the further enhancement of the policy for protection of the financial interests of the Union;

Amendment

1. Welcomes the Commission report on the Protection of the European Union's financial interests – Fight against fraud – Annual Report 2013 (the Commission's 'annual report'), in which it outlined the broad range of legal and administrative measures taken by the Commission since 2011, thus shaping a new landscape for the further enhancement of the policy for protection of the financial interests of the Union; ***underlines that the current lack of results in the fight against fraud is not due to a lack of regulation but to a lack of implementation; asks the Commission to answer Parliaments demands in its previous annual PIF reports more timely in the following Commission report;***

Amendment 17
Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Notes that although the overall financial impact of non-fraudulent irregularities reported in 2013 decreased to about EUR 1.84 billion, or **38** % less than in 2012, the number of such irregularities registered increased by **16** % on the previous year; notes, furthermore, that the number of fraudulent irregularities reported in 2013 increased by a full 30 % compared with 2012, while the financial impact thereof, involving EUR 309 million in EU funding, decreased by 21 %;

Amendment

3. Notes that although the overall financial impact of non-fraudulent irregularities reported in 2013 decreased to about EUR 1.84 billion, or **36** % less than in 2012, the number of such irregularities registered increased by **17** % on the previous year; notes, furthermore, that the number of fraudulent irregularities reported in 2013 increased by a full 30 % compared with 2012, while the financial impact thereof, involving EUR 309 million in EU funding, decreased by 21 %;

Amendment 18
Louis Aliot

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Notes that, due to the availability of new information as a result of the significant changes in the way Member States and the Commission report irregularities, there has been a shift in focus in the Commission's 2013 annual report from irregularities treated in general terms to those reported as fraudulent; strongly urges the Commission, **however**, to further increase the availability of information and enhance analyses on the scope, types and impact of non-fraudulent

Amendment

4. Notes that, due to the availability of new information as a result of the significant changes in the way Member States and the Commission report irregularities, there has been a shift in focus in the Commission's 2013 annual report from irregularities treated in general terms to those reported as fraudulent; strongly urges the Commission to further increase the availability of information and enhance analyses on the scope, types and impact of non-fraudulent

irregularities in light of the significantly high number thereof and the related negative monetary impact, which adversely affects the financial interests of the EU;

irregularities in light of the significantly high number thereof and the related negative monetary impact, which adversely affects the financial interests of the EU;

Or. fr

Amendment 19
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. *Notes* that, *due* to the availability of new information as a result of the significant changes in the way Member States and the Commission report irregularities, *there has been a shift in focus in the Commission's 2013 annual report from irregularities treated in general terms to those reported as fraudulent; strongly urges the Commission, however, to further increase the availability of information and enhance analyses on the scope, types and impact of non-fraudulent irregularities in light of the significantly high number thereof and the related negative monetary impact, which adversely affects the financial interests of the EU;*

Amendment

4. *Welcomes* that, *thanks* to the availability of new information as a result of the significant changes in the way Member States and the Commission report irregularities, *the Commission increased its focus on irregularities reported as fraudulent in its 2013 annual report; invites the Commission to maintain this approach in its future Annual Report on the Protection of the EU's Financial Interests – Fight against fraud while maintaining the availability of information and analyses on the scope, types and impact of non-fraudulent irregularities in light of the significantly high number thereof and the related negative monetary impact, which adversely affects the financial interests of the EU;*

Or. en

Amendment 20
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

5. Underlines the responsibility of Member State authorities and the **Commission's** services towards recovering sums unduly paid and calls on them to properly assume this responsibility and increase the recovery rate in cases of fraud, which is at a markedly low level compared to the recovery rate for **non-fraudulent** irregularities;

Amendment

5. Is concerned that in 2013 the recovery rate for fraud cases stands at 23,74% only, a figure below the average rate of 33.5% for the 2008-2012 period; points out that the recovery rate for irregularity cases reported for 2013 is 67,9%;
underlines the responsibility of Member State authorities and the **Commission's** services towards recovering sums unduly paid and calls on them to properly assume this responsibility and **substantially** increase the recovery rate in cases of fraud, which is at a markedly low level compared to the recovery rate for **non-fraudulent** irregularities;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Zigmantas Balčytis

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5a. Calls on the Commission to assume full responsibility for the recovery of funds unduly paid from the EU budget and to establish uniform reporting principles in all Member States for the purpose of collecting the appropriate comparable and accurate data;

Or. It

Amendment 22
Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5b. Notes that in a five year perspective, the recovery rate for irregularities reported as fraudulent is 54.4% and for non-fraudulent irregularities is 63.9%; urges the Commission to further improve the recovery process and to make it more timely;

Or. en

Amendment 23

Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 5 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5c. Is concerned since recovery for the EAGF is below the overall average and not even half of the irregularities detected in 2009 were recovered at the end of 2013;

Or. en

Amendment 24

Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6. Welcomes the fact that 98 % of TORs are collected without significant problems, with reported fraudulent irregularities representing 0.29 % of gross established TORs (with a value of EUR 61 million) and non-fraudulent irregularities representing 1.57 % of TORs (with a value

6. Welcomes the fact that 98 % of TORs are collected without significant problems, with reported fraudulent irregularities representing 0.29 % of gross established TORs (with a value of EUR 61 million) and non-fraudulent irregularities representing 1.57 % of TORs (with a value

of EUR 327.4 million); *appreciates*, in particular, the fact that *the* recovery rate of 62 % for TORs in 2013 represents the best result achieved to date over the past decade;

of EUR 327.4); *notes that fraud and irregularity cases detected in 2013 amounted to 380 million of which a total of EUR 234 million was recovered by the Member States; notes*, in particular, the fact that *this* recovery rate of 62 % for TORs in 2013 represents the best result achieved to date over the past decade;

Or. en

Amendment 25
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6a. Is concerned that in 2013 most of the established amounts in OWNRES in the EU-28 related to the customs procedure 'release for free circulation' for both fraud cases (93%) and irregularity cases (87%); calls on the Commission to take appropriate actions aiming at reinforcing the customs procedure 'release for free circulation' in order to make the latter less prone to fraud and irregularity occurrences;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6b. Notes that the overall trend in detecting and reporting potential fraudulent irregularities in the last five

years shows a slow decrease but the number of irregularities not reported as fraudulent has progressively increased; asks the Commission for an analyses that answers the questions whether the trend is due to a shift towards detecting irregular cases or to the way in which Member States classify cases;

Or. en

Amendment 27
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6c. Welcomes the signature of the UN Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products by the European Union in 2013; observes that 15 Member States signed the Protocol and that at present it was ratified by Austria only; invites therefore the remaining Member States to complete their respective ratification process as soon as possible;

Or. en

Amendment 28
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7. Underlines the fact that the smuggling of heavily taxed goods causes significant losses of revenue to the budgets of the EU and the Member States, and that direct losses in customs revenue as a result of

7. Underlines the fact that the smuggling of heavily taxed goods causes significant losses of revenue to the budgets of the EU and the Member States, and that direct losses in customs revenue as a result of

cigarette smuggling alone are estimated at more than EUR 10 billion a year;

cigarette smuggling alone are estimated at more than EUR 10 billion a year; ***draws attention, moreover, to trafficking in counterfeit goods, which inflicts damage upon both the tax authorities of the Member States and EU companies;***

Or. it

Amendment 29
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7a. Refers to the on-going work to improve the GNI Data and issues raised in the European Court of Auditors Special Report 11/2013 which calls for shorter, more focussed verification of GNI figures and improved reporting and co-ordination over results, so that the GNI system becomes ever more reliable in its contribution to the calculation of EU revenues;

Or. en

Amendment 30
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7b. Underlines the fact that in many Member States the VAT Gap is continuously on a high level due to VAT fraud and avoidance; emphasizes that the Commission has the competence to control and supervise the measures taken

by the Member States, therefore calls on the Commission to fully use its powers in order to help the Member States in their fight against VAT fraud and tax avoidance;

Or. en

Amendment 31
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7c. Notes further that 133 cases of smuggled cigarettes were registered by the Member States in 2013 involving an estimated TOR of around EUR 7 million; underlines that this trend represents a sharp decrease compared to 2012 where 224 cases involving around EUR 25 million were reported; is seriously concerned by the fact that Denmark, Estonia, Spain, France, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Sweden reported no cases of smuggled cigarettes to the Commission in 2013 and questions the efficiency of the reporting process in those Member States; insists upon all Member States to report smuggling and counterfeiting cases to the Commission in an accurate and timely manner so as to enable a better estimation of the TOR adversely affected;

Or. en

Amendment 32
Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7d. Notes that the Commission will publish a study on the feasibility of a tracking and tracing system for tobacco products; underlines that this is a huge step forward in the fight against smuggling; demands from the Commission to implement and design an open and competitive track and trace system, so that the design and way the system is implemented does not favour one single or only a few solution providers;

Or. en

Amendment 33
Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7e. Notes that inclusion of the invisible economy in national accounts should contribute to ensuring more complete and reliable GNI data, and calls on the Commission and Eurostat to deepen the co-operation with national statistical institutions to ensure that this element is dealt with in a coherent and comparable way in all Member States, using the most up to date information;

Or. en

Amendment 34
Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution
Subheading 2 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Excise Movement Control System

Or. en

Amendment 35

Ingeborg Gräble, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7 f (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7f. Recalls that

– Parliament has noted in its report on the Annual Report on the Protection of the Financial Interest of the Union adopted in Plenary on the 3. April 2014 that an increased abuse of the Excise Movement Control System (EMCS) by criminal groups had been observed by enforcement agencies and Parliament was convinced that there is a lack of physical controls of goods being transported under the EMCS;

– the Commission should provide Parliament with an update on the measures taken to increase physical check within the next Annual Report 2014 on the Protection of the Financial Interest of the Union;

– access rights of the EMCS need to be tightened in order to include a comprehensive history of compliance before trading, so that it is possible to grant business actors the status of 'empowered economic operator' ('trusted business actors'), so that only these actors could operate under EMCS directly by themselves;

– Parliament demanded the Commission to present the results of current investigations concerning the need to

amend Directive 2008/118/EC;

– that verification checks conducted by Member States on people and companies applying to the register have to be more robust and comprehensive;

– the Commission should explain the action taken concerning a higher degree of cooperation with tax authorities as goods can easily be misdeclared in order to evade excise duties;

– time limits allowed for the excise movements between authorized warehouses are unrealistically long so that multiple movements on the same declaration and diversion are possible, before the delivery date is entered in the system; reiterates therefore its demands that the competent authority of the Member State declared as the destination and the new destination must be informed about changes immediately by the consignor; - Parliament demanded that the maximum allowed time for submission of the report on the receipt of the excise goods be one working day and, furthermore, that journey time be calculated and established for each delivery in accordance with the type of the means of transport used and distance between places of dispatch and destination; asks the Commission to be informed when these demands are implemented;

– that the guarantees required to establish bonded warehouses are too low in comparison with the value of the excise goods and that Parliament therefore called on the Commission to establish a variable depending on the type of goods and the level of trade that actually occurs; asks the Commission to be informed when these demands are implemented;

– Parliament is concerned that Member States have implemented their own EMCS systems based on broadly defined requirements by the Commission;

reiterates its call on the Commission to take initiative for a more uniform system across the EU;

(to be placed under the new heading Excise Movement Control System)

Or. en

Amendment 36
Louis Aliot

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. Draws attention to the increase of 76 % in the number of irregularities reported as fraudulent regarding EU expenditure and urges the competent authorities to take all necessary measures to **avoid** such a negative trend in the coming years;

Amendment

8. Draws attention to the **alarming** increase of 76 % in the number of irregularities reported as fraudulent regarding EU expenditure and urges the competent authorities to take all necessary measures to **prevent** such a negative trend in the coming years;

Or. fr

Amendment 37
Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

8a. (a) Notes that the Commission is not very clear about the reasons for the increase in the number of irregularities as fraudulent. At first, the Commission states in its Communication that this mainly reflects the increased resources made available to various spending programmes, more programmes being implemented, and the fact that European institutions and national audit services

are paying more attention to the management of funds, whereas elsewhere it argues that the most likely factor causing the increase is the fact that the EU institutions (the European Commission and Court of Auditors) and national services have paid more attention to and exercised greater control over the management of EU funds;

(b) Requests the Commission to examine in more detail which are the main underlying reasons for the increase in irregularities;

(c) Calls for proposals to reduce the number of spending programmes, in particular, when they partly overlap, and to target programmes, whenever possible, to Member States who are in need of support most, so that not all programmes necessarily benefit activities in all Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 38

Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Expresses concern that in the agricultural sector the number of both irregularities in general and fraudulent activities in particular increased significantly in 2013 as compared with 2012; considers that these trends require targeted measures aimed at on the one hand eliminating practices which may potentially lead to inadvertent infringements, and on the other hand aggressively confronting corrupt and criminal behaviour;

Amendment

9. Expresses concern that in the agricultural sector the number of both irregularities in general and fraudulent activities in particular increased significantly in 2013 as compared with 2012; ***notes that a new significant infringement trend referring to the 'beneficiary not having the required quality' occurred in 2013 with 51 fraudulent irregularity cases reported;*** considers that these trends require targeted measures aimed at on the one hand eliminating practices which may

potentially lead to inadvertent infringements, and on the other hand aggressively confronting corrupt and criminal behaviour;

Or. en

Amendment 39
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9a. Acknowledges that in the agriculture and rural development area, Member States recovered EUR 197 million from the beneficiaries during the financial year 2013 while EUR 1 318.3 million remains to be recovered from the beneficiaries at year end of which EUR 1 097.1 million is outstanding to the EU budget following the application of the 50/50 mechanism;

Or. en

Amendment 40
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10a. Acknowledges that following the 2013 CAP reform Member States benefit from a higher degree of flexibility in the implementation of the policy and are notably allowed to customise it to their regional or national capabilities and priorities and to make transfers between its different pillars; calls on the Commission and the Member States to

ensure that the increase in flexibility will not be at the expense of the monitoring and evaluation systems; notes further that in the framework of the new CAP the Commission is working on a simplification agenda; calls on the Commission to align the simplification agenda fully with DG AGRI's anti-fraud strategy and to maintain balance between simplification and the sound management of EU fund by ensuring adequate controls;

Or. en

Amendment 41
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 12 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

12a. Regrets however the lack of information on the amounts to be recovered and the recovery rates specifically related to the cohesion policy for the financial year 2013; calls on the Commission to provide detailed information on this respect in its future annual report;

Or. en

Amendment 42
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14a. Takes note that in 2013 the Commission proceeded to 217

interruptions of payment in the cohesion policy area and that 131 were still opened at year-end involving an amount of nearly EUR 2 million; acknowledges further that the Commission adopted four suspension decisions in 2013 and two in January 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 43
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14b. Acknowledges that in 2013, as part of the Pre-Accession Assistance (PAA), 33 irregularities were reported as fraudulent with an affected amount of EUR 14.4 million and that those irregularities are mainly related to SAPARD; notes in addition that nine fraudulent irregularities involving an amount of EUR 1.2 million were reported under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA); observes that between 2003 and 2013 under the PAA the recovery rates reached 37.36% and 29.22% respectively for irregularity cases and fraudulent cases; calls on the Commission and the IPA beneficiary countries to take actions in order to ensure a higher recovery rate under IPA;

Or. en

Amendment 44
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14 c (new)

14c. Observes that the recommendations made by the Commission to Member States in 2012 – particularly on the anti-fraud coordination services, the common rules on fraud, the reform of public procurement, the reported fraudulent irregularities, the systems of checks and controls and of risk assessment – were generally appropriate, and finds it regrettable that a number of concerns were not fully addressed; notes for instance that preparations were not launched by all Member States for the implementation of the MFF 2014-2020 and its provisions on fraud prevention; calls on Member States to follow-up on the Commission's recommendations made in 2012 and to ensure that those made to them in its 2011 report are followed in full, and that where action on recommendations cannot be taken they submit a reasoned explanation;

Or. en

Amendment 45

Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

15. Underlines its concerns as regards the persisting threats to the EU budget, which stem from both failures to comply with the rules (non-fraudulent irregularities) and purposeful wrongdoings and criminal offences (i.e. fraud); insists on enhanced cooperation between the Member States and the Commission with a view to securing relevant and adequate measures for avoiding and rectifying non-fraudulent

Amendment

15. Underlines its concerns as regards the persisting threats to the EU budget, which stem from both failures to comply with the rules (non-fraudulent irregularities) and purposeful wrongdoings and criminal offences (i.e. fraud); insists on enhanced cooperation between the Member States and the Commission with a view to securing relevant and adequate measures ***and means*** for avoiding and rectifying

irregularities and combatting fraud;

non-fraudulent irregularities and
combatting fraud;

Or. en

Amendment 46

Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

15. Underlines its concerns as regards the persisting threats to the EU budget, which stem from both failures to comply with the rules (non-fraudulent irregularities) and purposeful wrongdoings and criminal offences (i.e. fraud); insists on enhanced cooperation between the Member States and the Commission with a view to securing relevant and adequate measures for avoiding and rectifying non-fraudulent irregularities and combatting fraud;

Amendment

15. Underlines its concerns as regards the persisting threats to the EU budget, which stem from both failures to comply with the rules (non-fraudulent irregularities) and purposeful wrongdoings and criminal offences (i.e. fraud); ***reiterates that there are still different approaches to detecting fraud and in some cases non-standardised interpretations when applying the legal framework***; insists on enhanced cooperation between the Member States and the Commission with a view to securing relevant and adequate measures for avoiding and rectifying non-fraudulent irregularities and combatting fraud;

Or. en

Amendment 47

Tomáš Zdechovský

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 16

Motion for a resolution

16. Draws attention to the differing levels of rigour and scope employed by the Member States in reporting irregularities in general and fraudulent irregularities in particular, including in such areas as

Amendment

16. Expresses its concern about the reliability of data due to the fact that detection of irregularities by the Member States continues to vary significantly; stresses that the Commission should

cohesion policy and agriculture, and calls on the Commission to develop a unified and comprehensive information bank on irregularities actually instigated and on measures taken, thus providing authorities and citizens with trustworthy data for the implementation of effective corrective measures, and for an objective assessment of the actual, rather than perceived, gravity of infringements and of the parties responsible;

develop common guidelines and indicators in order to narrow the gap between the different approaches of the Member States to detection of irregularities; highlights that the Commission should furthermore implement guidelines for the Member States on effective application of preventive measures on countering fraud that would approximate the varying procedures;

Or. en

Amendment 48
Louis Aliot

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16

Motion for a resolution

16. Draws attention to the differing levels of rigour and scope employed by the Member States in reporting irregularities in general and fraudulent irregularities in particular, including in such areas as cohesion policy and agriculture, and ***calls on the Commission to develop a unified and comprehensive information bank on irregularities actually instigated and on measures taken, thus providing authorities and citizens with trustworthy data for the implementation of effective corrective measures, and for an objective assessment of the actual, rather than perceived, gravity of infringements and of the parties responsible;***

Amendment

16. Draws attention to the differing levels of rigour and scope employed by the Member States in reporting irregularities in general and fraudulent irregularities in particular, including in such areas as cohesion policy and agriculture, and ***stresses the need to introduce and standardise rigorous and precise rules in order to put all countries on an equal footing and to reduce the incidence of irregularities and fraud;***

Or. fr

Amendment 49
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16

Motion for a resolution

16. Draws attention to the differing levels of rigour and scope employed by the Member States in reporting irregularities in general and fraudulent irregularities in particular, including in such areas as cohesion policy and agriculture, and calls on the Commission to develop a unified and comprehensive information bank on irregularities actually instigated and on measures taken, thus providing authorities and citizens with **trustworthy** data for the implementation of effective corrective measures, and for an objective assessment of the actual, rather than perceived, gravity of infringements and of the parties responsible;

Amendment

16. Draws attention to the differing levels of rigour and scope employed by the Member States in reporting irregularities, in general and fraudulent irregularities in particular, including in such areas as cohesion policy and agriculture, and calls on the Commission to develop a unified and comprehensive information bank on irregularities actually instigated and on measures taken, thus providing authorities and citizens with **comparable and centralised** data for the implementation of effective corrective measures, and for an objective assessment of the actual, rather than perceived, gravity of infringements and of the parties responsible;

Or. en

Amendment 50
Zigmantas Balčytis

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

16a. Stresses that the situation in which Member States fail to submit data in time or to submit accurate data is one that has been recurring for many years; points out that it is impossible to make comparisons and an objective assessment of the scale of fraud in the EU Member States; notes that Parliament, the Commission, and OLAF cannot properly fulfil their task of assessing the situation and making recommendations; reiterates, therefore, that this state of affairs should not be tolerated;

Or. It

Amendment 51

Louis Aliot

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 16 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

16b. Calls on the Commission to set up a standardised, comprehensive database on irregularities actually committed and on the measures adopted in order to provide the authorities and citizens with reliable data for the implementation of effective countermeasures and enable them to objectively evaluate the actual – not merely perceived – seriousness of the offences committed and the responsibility of the parties concerned;

Or. fr

Amendment 52

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 16 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

16b. Calls on the Commission to establish a public database for cases of fraud and corruption involving civil servants, in order to increase public confidence and make EU citizens more involved;

Or. it

Amendment 53

Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

16c. Is concerned since for the recovery orders qualified as irregularities (both reported as fraudulent and not reported as fraudulent) issued between 2009 and 2013 under centralized management, the average delay between the occurrence of an irregularity and its detection is 3.4 years: more than half of the cases (54%) were detected within 4 years following the year when the irregularity was committed, meanwhile in the other half (46%) of the cases the delay varied between 4 and 13 years; recalls that after the detection of the irregularity further procedures kick in (recovery orders, OLAF investigations, etc.); requests the Commission to determine the average, minimum and maximum lifespan of a detected irregularity under centralized management;

Or. en

Amendment 54
Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

16d. Is furthermore worried since the average delay between the occurrences of an irregularity, its detection and finally its reporting to the Commission is 6.3 years in the agricultural sector and 2.75 years; recalls that after the detection of the irregularity further procedures kick in (recovery orders, OLAF investigations, etc.); requests the Commission to

determine the average, minimum and maximum lifespan of a detected irregularity under shared management for each policy sector;

Or. en

Amendment 55
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. Points out that modifications to the rules pertaining to both revenue and expenditure, including those aimed at simplification, require time for adoption on the part of the authorities responsible for their proper implementation; urges the Member States and the Commission, in this connection, to implement targeted and timely measures to strengthen administrative capacities, including by means of guidance and training and by establishing schemes for retaining qualified and skilled staff;

Amendment

17. Points out that modifications to the rules pertaining to both revenue and expenditure, including those aimed at simplification, require time for adoption on the part of the authorities responsible for their proper implementation; urges the Member States and the Commission, in this connection, to ***better coordinate the interpretation of the legal framework, to*** implement targeted and timely measures to strengthen administrative capacities, including by means of guidance and training and by establishing schemes for retaining qualified and skilled staff;

Or. en

Amendment 56
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18

Motion for a resolution

18. ***Considers that*** Member States ***which detect and report*** irregularities, including cases of fraud, ***on their own should be supported and encouraged*** to further

Amendment

18. ***Calls for the Commission to support and encourage*** Member States ***detecting and reporting*** irregularities, including cases of fraud, to further improve their

improve their reporting and management systems, avoiding the counterproductive practice of ‘naming and shaming’; ***expresses concern at the Commission’s inability*** to establish whether or not the low number of irregularities and cases of fraud detected by certain Member States and the wide gaps in the number of cases reported for different years are due to the ineffectiveness of these Member States’ control systems;

reporting and management systems, ***while*** avoiding the counterproductive practice of ‘naming and shaming’; ***calls on the Commission to improve monitoring in order*** to establish whether or not the low number of irregularities and cases of fraud detected by certain Member States and the wide gaps in the number of cases reported for different years are due to the ineffectiveness of these Member States’ control systems;

Or. en

Amendment 57

Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 18

Motion for a resolution

18. Considers that Member States which detect and report irregularities, including cases of fraud, on their own should be supported and encouraged to further improve their reporting and management systems, ***avoiding the counterproductive practice of ‘naming and shaming’***; expresses concern at the Commission’s inability to establish whether or not the low number of irregularities and cases of fraud detected by certain Member States and the wide gaps in the number of cases reported for different years are due to the ineffectiveness of these Member States’ control systems;

Amendment

18. Considers that Member States which detect and report irregularities, including cases of fraud, on their own should be supported and encouraged to further improve their reporting and management systems ; expresses concern at the Commission’s inability to establish whether or not the low number of irregularities and cases of fraud detected by certain Member States and the wide gaps in the number of cases reported for different years are due to the ineffectiveness of these Member States’ control systems;

Or. en

Amendment 58

Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18

Motion for a resolution

18. Considers that Member States which detect and report irregularities, including cases of fraud, on their own should be supported and encouraged to further improve their reporting and management systems, ***avoiding the counterproductive practice of ‘naming and shaming’***; expresses concern at the ***Commission’s*** inability to establish whether or not the low number of irregularities and cases of fraud detected by certain Member States and the wide gaps in the number of cases reported for different years are due to the ineffectiveness of these Member States’ control systems;

Amendment

18. Considers that Member States which detect and report irregularities, including cases of fraud, on their own should be supported and encouraged to further improve their reporting and management systems; expresses concern at the ***Commission’s*** inability to establish whether or not the low number of irregularities and cases of fraud detected by certain Member States and the wide gaps in the number of cases reported for different years are due to the ineffectiveness of these Member States’ control systems;

Or. en

Amendment 59
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

18a. Calls on the Commission to carry out an assessment during the execution and after the implementation of projects proposed by the Member States in relation to the Structural Funds, with progressive performance audits designed to increase the effectiveness and improve the monitoring of financial investments with a view to detecting any misuse or fraud related to the project;

Amendment

Or. it

Amendment 60
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. Finds it unacceptable that certain Member States apply corrective measures only without proceeding to investigate irregularities and sanction those responsible, thus failing to adequately protect the financial interests of both the EU and individual taxpayers; considers, therefore, that the adoption of decisions which introduce criminal law responsibility at EU level should represent a strong disincentive to committing illegal acts as well as to foregoing due process in pursuing and punishing corrupt or criminal behaviour which damages the financial interests of the EU;

Amendment

19. ***Regrets that only some Member States allocate relevant resources to counter fraud and*** finds it unacceptable that certain Member States apply corrective measures only, without proceeding to investigate irregularities and sanction those responsible, thus failing to adequately protect the financial interests of both the EU and individual taxpayers; considers, therefore, that the adoption of decisions which introduce criminal law responsibility at EU level should represent a strong disincentive to committing illegal acts as well as to foregoing due process in pursuing and punishing corrupt or criminal behaviour which damages the financial interests of the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 61
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. Finds it unacceptable that certain Member States ***apply*** corrective measures ***only*** without proceeding to investigate ***irregularities*** and sanction those responsible, thus failing to adequately protect the financial interests of both the EU and individual taxpayers; considers, therefore, that the adoption of decisions which introduce criminal law responsibility at EU level should represent a strong

Amendment

19. Finds it unacceptable that ***in cases of fraudulent irregularities*** certain Member States ***limit their actions to*** corrective measures without proceeding to investigate ***the potential criminal offence*** and sanction those responsible, thus failing to adequately protect the financial interests of both the EU and individual taxpayers; considers, therefore, that the adoption of decisions which introduce criminal law

disincentive to committing illegal acts as well as to foregoing due process in pursuing and punishing corrupt or criminal behaviour which damages the financial interests of the EU;

responsibility at EU level should represent a strong disincentive to committing illegal acts as well as to foregoing due process in pursuing and punishing corrupt or criminal behaviour which damages the financial interests of the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 62
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. Finds it unacceptable that certain Member States apply corrective measures only without proceeding to investigate irregularities and sanction those responsible, thus failing to adequately protect the financial interests of both the EU and individual taxpayers; considers, therefore, that the adoption of ***decisions*** which introduce criminal law responsibility at EU level should represent a strong disincentive to committing illegal acts as well as to foregoing due process in pursuing and punishing corrupt or criminal behaviour which damages the financial interests of the EU;

Amendment

19. Finds it unacceptable that certain Member States apply corrective measures only without proceeding to investigate irregularities and sanction those responsible, thus failing to adequately protect the financial interests of both the EU and individual taxpayers; considers, therefore, that the adoption of ***legislations*** which introduce criminal law responsibility at EU level ***and the introduction of the European Public Prosecutor's office as a tool in starting and coordinating investigations in such irregularities*** should represent a strong disincentive to committing illegal acts as well as to foregoing due process in pursuing and punishing corrupt or criminal behaviour which damages the financial interests of the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 63
Zigmantas Balčytis

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

19a. Notes that Member States must introduce anti-fraud monitoring procedures and that statistics regarding criminal cases and their outcome are incomplete, making it hard to evaluate fraud investigation and prosecution procedures in the Member States in order to provide a basis for future policy;

Or. It

Amendment 64

Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 20

Motion for a resolution

20. Is of the opinion that effective action against corruption is possible if criminal law measures are complemented by other measures such as better transparency and accountability; insists, therefore, that Member States demonstrate firm political will in countering corruption and calls upon citizens to convincingly exert pressure on governments to vigorously pursue meaningful anti-corruption policies;

Amendment

20. Is of the opinion that effective action against corruption is possible if criminal law measures are complemented by other measures such as better transparency and accountability; insists, therefore, that Member States demonstrate firm political will in countering corruption and calls upon citizens to convincingly exert pressure on governments to vigorously pursue meaningful anti-corruption policies; ***urges the Commission to fulfil its obligations under the UN Convention Against Corruption and to submit regular reports on the implementation of this Convention by the EU institutions; Requests the Commission to submit a supplementary report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation by the European institutions of their internal anti-corruption policies;***

Or. en

Amendment 65
Louis Aliot

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 20

Motion for a resolution

20. Is of the opinion that effective action against corruption is possible if criminal law measures are complemented by other measures such as better transparency and accountability; insists, therefore, that Member States demonstrate firm political will in countering corruption and calls upon citizens to convincingly exert pressure on governments to vigorously pursue meaningful anti-corruption policies;

Amendment

20. Is of the opinion that effective action against corruption is possible if criminal law measures are ***respected and*** complemented by other measures such as better transparency and accountability; insists, therefore, that Member States demonstrate firm political will in ***effectively*** countering corruption and calls upon citizens to convincingly exert pressure on governments to vigorously pursue meaningful anti-corruption policies;

Or. fr

Amendment 66
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 20

Motion for a resolution

20. Is of the opinion that effective action against corruption is possible if criminal law measures are complemented by other measures such as better transparency and accountability; insists, therefore, that Member States demonstrate firm political will in countering corruption and calls upon citizens to convincingly exert pressure on governments to vigorously pursue meaningful anti-corruption policies;

Amendment

20. Is of the opinion that effective action against corruption is possible if criminal law measures are complemented by other measures such as better transparency and accountability; insists, therefore, that Member States demonstrate firm political will in countering corruption ***both at the national and at the EU level by adopting effective anti-corruption legislation and by proceeding with the existing proposals at EU level*** and calls upon citizens to convincingly exert pressure on governments to vigorously pursue meaningful anti-corruption policies;

Amendment 67
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 20 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

20a. Welcomes the first EU Anti-corruption Report of February 2014 as a valuable tool to monitor and evaluate efforts in the fight against corruption, as well as the Commission's Communication on Fighting corruption in the EU exploring the necessary steps to better implement the existing anti-corruption instruments, and proposing ways to integrate stronger anti-corruption considerations in a number of internal and external policy areas; notes, however, the importance of extending the scope of the Anti-Corruption Report to the cross-border and EU-level element of corruption, and to the assessment of the measures taken to further improve integrity of the EU institutions, and emphasizes the need for a fully comprehensive and coherent anti-corruption strategy encompassing all EU policies that addresses, inter alia, the concerns raised in the first EU Anti-Corruption Report;

Or. en

Amendment 68
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 20 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

20b. Stresses the need for structured coordination between management authorities and anti-fraud bodies and the importance of coordination and exchange of best practices between Member States and among various administrations within the same Member State in order to homogenise, as much as possible, the approach to tackling fraud;

Or. en

Amendment 69

Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 20 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

20c. Underlines that greater transparency allowing for proper scrutiny is key to detect fraud schemes; recalls that in previous years the Parliament urged the Commission to take action to ensure one-stop transparency of all beneficiaries of EU-funds from all Member States by publishing on the same Commission's site all beneficiaries of EU funds, independently of the administrator of the funds and based on standard categories of information to be provided by all Member States in at least one working language of the Union; calls on the Member States to cooperate with and provide to the Commission full and reliable information regarding the beneficiaries of the EU funds managed by Member States; regrets that this measure has not been implemented and calls on the Commission to implement it urgently;

Or. en

Amendment 70
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 20 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

20d. Calls on the Commission to implement an extraordinary monitoring procedure with regard to funds disbursed to those Member States in which organised crime is governed by national law;

Or. it

Amendment 71
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 20 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

20e. Calls on the Commission to promote adequate legislation on the protection of whistle-blowers, access to information and the transparency of lobbying, as these are necessary for ensuring the civic control of governments and EU institutions, and subjecting their practices to public scrutiny, as well as to use EU funding to support the work of independent organizations in this area, inter alia to establish financial support for trans-border investigative journalism;

Or. en

Amendment 72
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 22

Motion for a resolution

22. Welcomes the adoption of the public procurement directives and the directive on the awarding of concessions, and welcomes the fact that ten Member States have already introduced specific measures or sets of measures in public procurement in order to mitigate corruption and strengthen transparency and the effectiveness of management, control and audit systems; invites the Commission to proceed with the implementation of the rules on public procurement in order to provide necessary support to Member States through guidance, the sharing of best practices and training;

Amendment

22. Welcomes the adoption of the public procurement directives and the directive on the awarding of concessions, and welcomes the fact that ten Member States have already introduced specific measures or sets of measures in public procurement in order to mitigate corruption and strengthen transparency and the effectiveness of management, control and audit systems; invites the Commission to proceed with the implementation of the rules on public procurement in order to provide necessary support to Member States through guidance, the sharing of best practices and training; ***calls on the Commission to continuously and impartially monitor the compliance of the Member States with the existing directives and start infringement procedures if necessary;***

Or. en

Amendment 73
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

24. Urges the Commission to revert to interruptions and suspensions of payments only as a last resort for preventing irregularities since such measures increase the risk of errors due to the reduced time frames required for the proper absorption of EU funds; requests that the Commission report on the actual contribution from interruptions

Amendment

deleted

and suspensions of payments in reducing irregularities and errors;

Or. it

Amendment 74

Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

24. Urges the Commission to *revert to interruptions and suspensions of payments only as a last resort for preventing irregularities since such measures increase the risk of errors due to the reduced time frames required for the proper absorption of EU funds; requests that the Commission report on the actual contribution from interruptions and suspensions of payments in reducing irregularities and errors;*

Amendment

24. Urges the Commission to *maintain its strict policy of* interruptions and *suspension* of payments;

Or. en

Amendment 75

Tomáš Zdechovský

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

24. Urges the Commission to *revert to interruptions and suspensions of payments only as a last resort for preventing irregularities since such measures increase the risk of errors due to the reduced time frames required for the proper absorption of EU funds; requests that the Commission report on the actual contribution from interruptions and suspensions of payments in reducing*

Amendment

24. Urges the Commission to *apply all mechanisms to prevent and correct fraud and other irregularities as appropriate; recommends that the Commission should in the framework of sound financial management pursue both preventive and corrective measures, and use them as deem necessary to protect the EU budget; considers the interruptions of payments to be an important preventive tool;*

irregularities and errors;

Or. en

Amendment 76

Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

24. Urges the Commission to revert to interruptions and suspensions of payments ***only as a last resort*** for preventing irregularities ***since such measures increase the risk of errors due to the reduced time frames required for the proper absorption of EU funds***; requests that the Commission report on the actual contribution from interruptions and suspensions of payments in reducing irregularities and errors;

Amendment

24. Urges the Commission to revert to interruptions and suspensions of payments for preventing irregularities; requests that the Commission report on the actual contribution from interruptions and suspensions of payments in reducing irregularities and errors;

Or. en

Amendment 77

Georgi Pirinski

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

24. ***Urges the Commission to revert to*** interruptions and suspensions of payments ***only as a last resort*** for preventing irregularities ***since such measures increase the*** risk of errors due to the reduced time frames required for the proper absorption of EU funds; requests that the Commission report on the actual contribution from interruptions and suspensions of payments in reducing

Amendment

24. ***Recognises that*** interruptions and suspensions of payments ***are the*** last resort for preventing irregularities ***but cautions that there may be an increased*** risk of errors ***associated with their use*** due to the reduced time frames required for the proper absorption of EU funds; requests that the Commission report on the actual contribution from interruptions and suspensions of payments in reducing

irregularities and errors;

irregularities and errors;

Or. en

Amendment 78

Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 25

Motion for a resolution

25. Welcomes the report on the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS) and the guidance provided to Member States' managing authorities on the implementation of the relevant anti-fraud provisions; insists, however, that in the delegated and implementing acts pertaining to the European structural and investment funds the Commission adopt more simplified rules, facilitating effective and efficient absorption;

Amendment

25. Welcomes the report on the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS) and the guidance provided to Member States' managing authorities on the implementation of the relevant anti-fraud provisions; insists, however, that in the delegated and implementing acts pertaining to the European structural and investment funds the Commission adopt more simplified rules, facilitating effective and efficient absorption, ***while ensuring that the level of fight against fraud is not undermined by the delegated and implemented acts;***

Or. en

Amendment 79

Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 25 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

25a. Reiterates its call for an independent and efficient EPPO, operating as a single office which investigates, prosecutes and brings to court the perpetrators of criminal offences affecting the Union's financial interests, while ensuring that procedural safeguards for the suspected

*and accused persons are protected;
stresses the importance of a common
agreement of Parliament and the Council
in the selection and appointment
procedures for independent prosecutors
with investigative powers in Member
States;*

Or. en

Amendment 80
Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 26

Motion for a resolution

26. Welcomes the establishment of anti-fraud coordination services (AFCOS) in Member States as *bodies which facilitate* effective cooperation and *the exchange of* information with OLAF and insists that Member States which have not yet designated AFCOS do so without further delay; expects that AFCOS will assist in facilitating better reporting of irregularities and contribute towards a balanced interpretation of the relevant EU acts;

Amendment

26. Welcomes the establishment of anti-fraud coordination services (AFCOS) in Member States as *required by Article 3(4) of the new OLAF Regulation and that Germany re-confirmed its working cooperation arrangement with OLAF; notes that AFCOS aim at facilitating* effective cooperation and *exchanging* information with OLAF and insists that Member States which have not yet designated AFCOS do so without further delay; expects that AFCOS will assist in facilitating better reporting of irregularities and contribute towards a balanced interpretation of the relevant EU acts; *is nevertheless concerned by the substantial discrepancies already existing between the different AFCOS established in the Member States in terms of functions, tasks and powers as well as human resources allocated; acknowledges that AFCOS' mandate, institutional framework and tasks are not defined in details in Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 883/2013 but is of the opinion that AFCOS operationally independent with a comprehensive mandate including investigative powers represent a*

benchmark to be developed by all Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 81

Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 26 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

26a. Acknowledges the Commission's reporting on the results of the Hercule II Programme; takes note that in 2013 the budget of Hercule II was reduced to EUR 14 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 9,9 million in payment appropriations compared to 2012 resulting in difficulties in meeting the financial commitments made in 2013 and previous years; observes with satisfaction that Hercule II activities receive an increasing interest from the Member States as demonstrated by the ever growing number of applications received following the calls for proposals; welcomes the positive results obtained in 2013 such as in Germany, Spain and Romania thanks to the deployed of highly sophisticated and transnational compatible technical equipment purchased thanks to the Programme;

Or. en

Amendment 82

Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 26 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

26b. Welcomes the adoption of the Regulation establishing Hercule III for the financial period 2014-2020 which allows for an increased maximum co-funding percentage for technical assistance grants of 80% of the eligible costs and up to 90% in exceptional and duly justified cases instead of the maximum of 50% under the Hercule II Decision; notes that the first call for proposals was successfully launched in 2014; is nevertheless concerned that the Programme is already particularly affected by the issue of outstanding payments leading to possible adverse effects on funded and future projects;

Or. en

Amendment 83

Louis Aliot

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 27

Motion for a resolution

27. Welcomes the successful outcomes of numerous joint customs operations (JCOs) involving the cooperation of OLAF and Member States with various third-country services, along with active support from DG Taxation and the Customs Union, Europol and Frontex, ***which have resulted in the seizure of, inter alia, 68 million smuggled cigarettes, 124 kg of cocaine and 140 000 litres of diesel fuel;***

Amendment

27. Welcomes the successful outcomes of numerous joint customs operations (JCOs) involving the cooperation of OLAF and Member States with various third-country services, along with active support from DG Taxation and the Customs Union, Europol and Frontex, ***and calls on them to continue to ensure that the rules and interests of each of the Union's sovereign states are respected;***

Or. fr

Amendment 84

Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 27 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

27a. Notes that in 2013 OLAF issued 353 recommendations for administrative, disciplinary, financial or judicial action to be taken by the relevant EU institutions, bodies, offices, agencies or the competent national authorities and that about EUR 402,8 million was recommended for recovery; is concerned that the rate of indictment following OLAF's judicial recommendations for the period 2006-2013 is only about 54%; is worried since the low rate of indictment also sheds a bad light on the quality and the usability of the Office's investigative results; calls on the Commission to urgently ameliorate the effectiveness of the Office; deems a fully-fledged and proper oversight over the Office's affairs by the Supervisory Committee (without interference in on-going investigations) as indispensable and therefore urges the Commission and the Office improve the current situation in which the Supervisory Committee is not able to fulfil its purpose; regrets further the lack of information on conviction rate in cases involving offences against the Union's budget;

Or. en

Amendment 85
Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 28

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

28. *Views the fact* that in 2013 OLAF received the largest amount of information

28. *Takes note* that in 2013 OLAF *self-reportedly* received the largest amount of

registered to date, *as well as the* unprecedented number of recommendations issued *by OLAF*, as a clear indication of the growing role of the office in protecting the financial interests of the EU against fraud;

information registered to date *and claims to have issued an* unprecedented number of recommendations; *points out that the method how incoming information and issued recommendation is counted was also change; asks the Supervisory Committee to analyse the effects of these data changes and the quality of recommendations issued by OLAF*;

Or. en

Amendment 86

Monica Macovei, Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 28

Motion for a resolution

28. Views the fact that in 2013 OLAF received the largest amount of information registered to date, as well as *the unprecedented* number of *recommendations issued by OLAF*, as a clear indication of the growing role of the office in protecting the financial interests of the EU against fraud;

Amendment

28. Views the fact that in 2013 OLAF received the largest amount of information registered to date, as well as *closed the highest* number of *cases with recommendations*, as a clear indication of the growing role of the office in protecting the financial interests of the EU against fraud; *is however concerned that the ratio of OLAF investigation and coordination cases closed with recommendations decreased from 56,4% in 2009 to 39,5% in 2013 and urges the office to inform the European Parliament of the reasons behind this trend*;

Or. en

Amendment 87

Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 28 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

28a. Calls on the OLAF Supervisory Committee to inform Parliament about the duration of OLAF investigations and the calculation method hereto as this method was changed in 2012; points out that this change may artificially reduce the apparent duration of investigations; asks the Supervisory Committee to closely analyse the quality of information provided by OLAF including the reports to the institutions;

Or. en

Amendment 88

Dennis de Jong, Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 29

Motion for a resolution

29. ***Welcomes*** the adoption of new working arrangements between OLAF and its supervisory committee and ***expects that they will contribute to better cooperation and mutual understanding*** between ***both bodies***;

Amendment

29. ***Notes*** the adoption of new working arrangements between OLAF and its supervisory committee and ***calls for a speedy resolution of the remaining issues*** between ***these two institutions***;

Or. en

Amendment 89

Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 29

Motion for a resolution

29. ***Welcomes the adoption of new working arrangements between OLAF***

Amendment

29. ***Calls on the Director General to improve the working situation of the***

and its supervisory committee *and* expects that *they will* contribute *to* better cooperation and mutual understanding between both bodies;

OLAF Supervisory Committee; expects that *the Director General will finally* contribute *on a serious level to a* better cooperation and mutual understanding between both bodies; *asks the Commission to draw consequences from the unbearable situation, in which reports of the Office raise doubts on their factuality and in which the Supervisory Committee cannot validate the work of the Office;*

Or. en