



**2016/2151(DEC)**

10.3.2017

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 351**

**Draft report**  
**Joachim Zeller**  
(PE593.832v01-00)

Discharge 2015: General budget of the EU - European Commission  
(2016/2151(DEC))



**Amendment 1**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Proposal for a decision 1**  
**Citation 8**

*Proposal for a decision*

– having regard to the statement of **assurance**<sup>4</sup> as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

*Amendment*

– having regard to the **fact (unusual) that the** statement of **assurance**<sup>4</sup> as to **a)** the reliability of the accounts and **b)** the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, **are separate accounts, which can and does cause confusion over whether or not the EU accounts have in fact been signed off;**

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<sup>4</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

Or. en

**Amendment 2**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**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 2015;

*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 2015 **until such time as the confusion over the split reports on the Statement of Assurance is cleared up, and until such time also as the Parliament (and by extension the EU public) is provided with a clear and unambiguous statement of affairs vis-à-vis funds that cannot be fully accounted for either because of fraud and/or negligence, as**

*opposed to simple bureaucratic form-filling error, where funds were properly spent but simply improperly accounted for;*

Or. en

### **Amendment 3**

**Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík**

#### **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 2015;

###### *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 2015;

Or. en

### **Amendment 4**

**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

#### **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 2015;

###### *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 2015;

Or. it

### **Amendment 5**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Proposal for a decision 2**  
**Citation 7**

*Proposal for a decision*

– having regard to the statement of assurance<sup>11</sup> as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

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<sup>11</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

*Amendment*

– having regard to the **fact (unusual) that the** statement of assurance<sup>11</sup> as to **a)** the reliability of the accounts and **b)** the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, **are separate accounts, which can and does cause confusion over whether or not the EU accounts have in fact been signed off;**

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<sup>11</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

Or. en

**Amendment 6**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**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 2015;

*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 2015 **until such time as the confusion over the split reports on the Statement of Assurance is cleared up, and until such time also as the Parliament (and by extension the EU public) is provided with a clear and unambiguous statement of affairs vis-à-vis funds that cannot be fully accounted for either because of fraud and/or negligence, as opposed to simple bureaucratic form-filling error, where funds were properly spent but simply**

*improperly accounted for;*

Or. en

#### **Amendment 7**

**Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík**

#### **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 2015;

###### *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 2015;

Or. en

#### **Amendment 8**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

#### **Proposal for a decision 3**

##### **Citation 7**

###### *Proposal for a decision*

– having regard to the statement of assurance<sup>21</sup> as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

###### *Amendment*

– having regard to the *fact (unusual) that the* statement of assurance<sup>21</sup> as to (a) the reliability of the accounts and (b) the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, *are separate accounts, which can and does cause confusion over whether or not the EU accounts have in fact been signed off;*

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<sup>21</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

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<sup>21</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

**Amendment 9**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**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 discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015;

*Amendment*

1. **Postpones its decision on granting** the Director of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015 ***until such time as the confusion over the split reports on the Statement of Assurance is cleared up, and until such time also as the Parliament (and by extension the EU public) is provided with a clear and unambiguous statement of affairs vis-à-vis funds that cannot be fully accounted for either because of fraud and/or negligence, as opposed to simple bureaucratic form-filling error, where funds were properly spent but simply improperly accounted for;***

**Amendment 10**  
**Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík**

**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 discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015;

*Amendment*

1. **Postpones its decision on granting** the Director of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial

year 2015;

Or. en

**Amendment 11**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Proposal for a decision 4**  
**Citation 7**

*Proposal for a decision*

– having regard to the statement of assurance<sup>31</sup> as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

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<sup>31</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

*Amendment*

– having regard to the **fact (unusual) that the** statement of assurance<sup>31</sup> as to **a)** the reliability of the accounts and **b)** the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, **are separate accounts, which can and does cause confusion over whether or not the EU accounts have in fact been signed off;**

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<sup>31</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

Or. en

**Amendment 12**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Proposal for a decision 4**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Proposal for a decision*

1. **Grants** the Director of the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015;



*Statement of Assurance is cleared up, and until such time also as the Parliament (and by extension the EU public) is provided with a clear and unambiguous statement of affairs vis-à-vis funds that cannot be fully accounted for either because of fraud and/or negligence, as opposed to simple bureaucratic form-filling error, where funds were properly spent but simply improperly accounted for;*

Or. en

### **Amendment 13**

**Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík**

#### **Proposal for a decision 4**

##### **Paragraph 1**

*Proposal for a decision*

1. *Grants* the Director of the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015;

*Amendment*

1. *Postpones its decision on granting* the Director of the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015;

Or. en

### **Amendment 14**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

#### **Proposal for a decision 5**

##### **Citation 7**

*Proposal for a decision*

– having regard to the statement of assurance<sup>42</sup> as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year

*Amendment*

– having regard to the *fact (unusual) that the* statement of assurance<sup>42</sup> as to *a)* the reliability of the accounts and *b)* the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of

2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, *are separate accounts, which can and does cause confusion over whether or not the EU accounts have in fact been signed off;*

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<sup>42</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

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<sup>42</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

Or. en

**Amendment 15**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Proposal for a decision 5**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Proposal for a decision*

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 2015;

*Amendment*

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 2015 *until such time as the confusion over the split reports on the Statement of Assurance is cleared up, and until such time also as the Parliament (and by extension the EU public) is provided with a clear and unambiguous statement of affairs vis-à-vis funds that cannot be fully accounted for either because of fraud and/or negligence, as opposed to simple bureaucratic form-filling error, where funds were properly spent but simply improperly accounted for;*

Or. en

**Amendment 16**  
**Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík**

**Proposal for a decision 5**

## Paragraph 1

### *Proposal for a decision*

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 2015;

### *Amendment*

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 2015;

Or. en

## Amendment 17

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

### Proposal for a decision 6

#### Citation 7

### *Proposal for a decision*

– having regard to the statement of assurance<sup>52</sup> as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

### *Amendment*

– having regard to the **fact (unusual) that the** statement of assurance<sup>52</sup> as to **a)** the reliability of the accounts and **b)** the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, **are separate accounts, which can and does cause confusion over whether or not the EU accounts have in fact been signed off;**

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<sup>52</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

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<sup>52</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

Or. en

## Amendment 18

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

### Proposal for a decision 6

#### Paragraph 1

*Proposal for a decision*

1. **Grants** the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015;

*Amendment*

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 2015 ***until such time as the confusion over the split reports on the Statement of Assurance is cleared up, and until such time also as the Parliament (and by extension the EU public) is provided with a clear and unambiguous statement of affairs vis-à-vis funds that cannot be fully accounted for either because of fraud and/or negligence, as opposed to simple bureaucratic form-filling error, where funds were properly spent but simply improperly accounted for;***

Or. en

**Amendment 19**

**Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík**

**Proposal for a decision 6**

**Paragraph 1**

*Proposal for a decision*

1. **Grants** the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015;

*Amendment*

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 2015;

Or. en

**Amendment 20**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Proposal for a decision 7**

**Citation 7**

*Proposal for a decision*

– having regard to the statement of assurance<sup>62</sup> as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

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<sup>62</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

*Amendment*

– having regard to the **fact (unusual) that the** statement of assurance<sup>62</sup> as to (a) the reliability of the accounts and (b) the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, **are separate accounts, which can and does cause confusion over whether or not the EU accounts have in fact been signed off;**

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<sup>62</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

Or. en

**Amendment 21**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Proposal for a decision 7**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Proposal for a decision*

1. **Grants** the Director of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015;

*Amendment*

1. **Postpones its decision on granting** the Director of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015 **until such time as the confusion over the split reports on the Statement of Assurance is cleared up, and until such time also as the Parliament (and by extension the EU public) is provided with a clear and unambiguous statement of affairs vis-à-vis funds that cannot be fully accounted for either because of fraud and/or negligence, as opposed to simple bureaucratic form-filling error, where funds were properly spent but simply improperly accounted for;**

Or. en

## Amendment 22

Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík

### Proposal for a decision 7

#### Paragraph 1

##### *Proposal for a decision*

1. **Grants** the Director of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015;

##### *Amendment*

1. **Postpones its decision on granting** the Director of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015;

Or. en

## Amendment 23

Luke Ming Flanagan

### Proposal for a decision 8

#### Citation 7

##### *Proposal for a decision*

– having regard to the statement of assurance<sup>72</sup> as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

##### *Amendment*

– having regard to the **fact (unusual) that the** statement of assurance<sup>72</sup> as to (a) the reliability of the accounts and (b) the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2015, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, **are separate accounts, which can and does cause confusion over whether or not the EU accounts have in fact been signed off;**

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<sup>72</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

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<sup>72</sup> OJ C 380, 14.10.2016, p. 147.

Or. en

## Amendment 24

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**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 2015;

*Amendment*

1. *Postpones* the closure of the accounts of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015 *until such time as the confusion over the split reports on the Statement of Assurance is cleared up, and until such time also as the Parliament (and by extension the EU public) is provided with a clear and unambiguous statement of affairs vis-à-vis funds that cannot be fully accounted for either because of fraud and/or negligence, as opposed to simple bureaucratic form-filling error, where funds were properly spent but simply improperly accounted for;*

Or. en

**Amendment 25  
Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

**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 2015;

*Amendment*

1. *Postpones its decision on* the closure of the accounts of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015;

Or. it

**Amendment 26  
Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík**

**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 2015;

### *Amendment*

1. **Postpones** the closure of the accounts of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015;

Or. en

## Amendment 27

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

### Motion for a resolution

#### Recital A

### *Motion for a resolution*

A. whereas Europe is facing a crisis of confidence in its institutions, a situation which requires Parliament to be particularly rigorous when scrutinising the accounts of the Commission;

### *Amendment*

A. whereas Europe is facing a crisis of confidence in its institutions, a situation **for which *each individual institution of the EU must accept its own share of responsibility, and which thus*** requires Parliament to be particularly rigorous when scrutinising the accounts of the Commission;

Or. en

## Amendment 28

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

### Motion for a resolution

#### Recital A a (new)

### *Motion for a resolution*

### *Amendment*

**Aa. *whereas the EU institutions and Member States should improve their communication policy in terms to properly inform the citizens about results achieved by the EU budget and their added value;***



**Amendment 29**

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Recital A b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**Ab.** *whereas the European Parliament must have a strong engagement towards EU citizens concerns about where the EU budget is spent and how the EU protects their interests;*

Or. en

**Amendment 30**

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Recital A c (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**Ac.** *whereas the EU institutions should work towards a robust and resilient EU budgetary system that performs not only with flexibility, but also with agility in both stable and turbulent times;*

Or. en

**Amendment 31**

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Recital A d (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**Ad.** *whereas, cohesion policy brings a clear value added by improving the quality of life of citizens through Europe by being a key policy of solidarity and a vital source of public investment;*

Or. en

**Amendment 32**

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Recital A e (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**Ae.** *whereas the EU institutions need to build a clear understanding and agree on which European policy priorities and public goods should be financed first to answer our citizens concerns and close the gaps in our policies.*

Or. en

**Amendment 33**

**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Recital B**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**B.** *whereas Union spending is a significant instrument for achieving policy objectives and on average represents 1.9% of Union Member states general government expenditure;*

**B.** *whereas Union spending is a significant instrument for achieving **Europe-wide** policy objectives **utilising the European added value** and on average represents 1.9% of Union Member states general government expenditure;*

Or. en

**Amendment 34**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Recital B**

*Motion for a resolution*

B. whereas Union spending is a significant instrument for achieving policy objectives and on average represents 1.9% of Union Member states general government expenditure;

*Amendment*

B. whereas Union spending, ***while limited to 1% of the EU GNI***, is a significant instrument for achieving policy objectives and on average represents 1.9% of Union Member states general government expenditure;

Or. en

**Amendment 35**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Recital B a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

***Ba. whereas while the percentages involved in the EU budget as a) a portion of the overall aggregate Member States' expenditure, and b) the unaccounted for/misspent/wasted element of that budget, are small, the actual amounts involved are considerable and thus justify intense scrutiny;***

*Amendment*

Or. en

**Amendment 36**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Recital D**

*Motion for a resolution*

D. whereas when the Parliament grants discharge to the Commission it checks whether or not funds have been used correctly and policy goals achieved;

*Amendment*

D. whereas when the Parliament grants discharge to the Commission it checks – ***within reason*** – whether or not funds have been used correctly and policy goals achieved;

Or. en

**Amendment 37**  
**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Motion for a resolution*

1. Notes that the seven year duration of the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is not synchronised with the five years mandates of the Parliament and the Commission; furthermore, points out that the 10 year strategic planning cycle is not aligned either with the seven year cycle for managing the EU budget; is of the opinion that this is the cause of a major deficiency of the Union political governance since the Parliament and the Commission are bound by previous agreements on political objectives and finances which may create the impression that the European elections are useless;

*Amendment*

1. Notes that the seven year duration of the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is not synchronised with the five years mandates of the Parliament and the Commission, ***and that this naturally also causes disparities in both the budget for the financial year and its discharge, in particular, which lead to carryovers***; furthermore, points out that the 10 year strategic planning cycle is not aligned either with the seven year cycle for managing the EU budget; is of the opinion that this is the cause of a major deficiency of the Union political governance since the Parliament and the Commission are bound by previous agreements on political objectives and finances which may create the impression that the European elections are useless;

Or. es

**Amendment 38**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Motion for a resolution*

1. Notes that the seven year duration of the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is not synchronised with the five years mandates of the Parliament and the Commission; furthermore, points out that the **10 year strategic planning cycle** is not aligned either with the seven year cycle for managing the EU budget; is of the opinion that this is **the cause** of a major deficiency of the Union political governance since the Parliament and the Commission are bound by previous agreements on political objectives and finances which may create the impression that the European elections **are useless**;

*Amendment*

1. Notes that the seven year duration of the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is not synchronised with the five years mandates of the Parliament and the Commission; furthermore, points out that the **EU2020 strategy** is not aligned either with the seven year cycle for managing the EU budget; is of the opinion that this is **one of the causes** of a major deficiency of the Union political governance since the Parliament and the Commission are bound by previous agreements on political objectives and finances which may create the impression that the **impact of the** European elections **is limited**;

Or. en

**Amendment 39**  
**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Motion for a resolution*

1. Notes that the seven year duration of the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is not synchronised with the five years mandates of the Parliament and the Commission; furthermore, points out that the 10 year strategic planning cycle is not aligned either with the seven year cycle for managing the EU budget; is of the opinion that this is the cause of a major deficiency of the Union political governance since the Parliament and the Commission are bound by previous agreements on political objectives and finances which **may** create

*Amendment*

1. Notes that the seven year duration of the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is not synchronised with the five years mandates of the Parliament and the Commission; furthermore, points out that the 10 year strategic planning cycle is not aligned either with the seven year cycle for managing the EU budget; is of the opinion that this is the cause of a major deficiency of the Union political governance since the Parliament and the Commission are bound by previous agreements on political objectives and finances which **could** create

the impression that the European elections are *useless*;

the impression that the European elections are *irrelevant in this context*;

Or. es

#### **Amendment 40**

**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra**

#### **Motion for a resolution**

#### **Paragraph 2 – introductory part**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

2. Notes, *therefore*, that in 2015 the budget of the Union had *not only* to support the achievement of the objectives of two different long term political programmes:

##### *Amendment*

2. Notes that in 2015 the budget of the Union had to support the achievement of the objectives of two different long term political programmes:

Or. es

#### **Amendment 41**

**Inés Ayala Sender**

#### **Motion for a resolution**

#### **Paragraph 2 – point b**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

(b) the 10 political priorities set out by President Juncker on the other side, while also responding to a number of crisis situations: refugees, insecurity in Europe and its neighbourhood, financial instability in Greece and the economic impact of the Russian ban exports;

##### *Amendment*

(b) the 10 political priorities set out by President Juncker on the other side, while also responding to a number of crisis situations: refugees, insecurity in Europe and its neighbourhood, financial instability in Greece and the economic impact of the Russian ban exports, *as well as the prolonged impact of the financial crisis and its structural consequences of unemployment, poverty and inequality*;

Or. es

**Amendment 42**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 2 – point b**

*Motion for a resolution*

(b) the 10 political priorities set out by President Juncker on the other side, while also responding to a number of crisis situations: refugees, insecurity in Europe and its neighbourhood, financial instability in Greece and the economic impact of the Russian ban exports;

*Amendment*

(b) the 10 political priorities set out by President Juncker on the other side, while also responding to a number of crisis situations: refugees, insecurity in Europe and its neighbourhood, financial instability in Greece and the economic impact of the Russian ban exports;

Or. en

**Amendment 43**  
**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Motion for a resolution*

3. Notes that Union policies may have different short-, medium- and long-term objectives, whose realisation cannot be determined by a single multi-annual financial framework; ***is therefore convinced that*** a new balance ***must be struck*** between political agenda setting, policy implementation and financial frameworks;

*Amendment*

3. Notes that Union policies may have different short-, medium- and long-term objectives, whose realisation cannot ***necessarily*** be determined by a single multi-annual financial framework; ***believes consideration needs to be given to*** a new balance between political agenda setting, policy implementation and financial frameworks needs;

Or. es

**Amendment 44**  
**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**4. Regrets that the current budgetary arrangements do not facilitate the translation of political aspirations into useful operational objectives for spending programmes and schemes;**

**deleted**

Or. es

**Amendment 45  
Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution  
Paragraph 4**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

4. Regrets that the current budgetary arrangements do not facilitate the translation of political aspirations into useful operational objectives for spending programmes and schemes;

4. Regrets that the current budgetary arrangements do not facilitate the translation of **social and** political aspirations into useful operational objectives for spending programmes and schemes;

Or. en

**Amendment 46  
Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution  
Paragraph 5**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

5. Points out that there will be an opportunity in 2020 to bring the long term strategy and policy-making in to line with the budgetary cycle;

5. Points out that there will be an opportunity in 2020 to bring the long term strategy and policy-making in to line with the budgetary cycle **and recommends that this opportunity should be availed of;**

Or. en



**Amendment 47**

**Bart Staes, Benedek Jávor**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**5a.** *Is worried that in 2015 the share of the Climate-related spending of the EU budget was only 17.3% in 2015 and was only 17.6% in average for the period 2014-2016 according to the European Court of Auditors<sup>1a</sup> while the objective was to reach, at least, 20% over the financial period; stresses therefore that according to the ECA there is a serious risk that the 20% target will not be met without more effort to tackle climate change;*

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<sup>1a</sup> *ECA special report 31/2016*

Or. en

**Amendment 48**

**Bart Staes, Benedek Jávor**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**5b.** *Points out furthermore that the 20% climate-related spending was decided before the Paris agreement; is convinced that further efforts should be made in order to make the EU budget even more Climate-friendly; underlines, moreover, that the revision of the MFF creates an excellent opportunity to ensure that the 20% target of spending on climate-related actions is reached and to provide for a*

*possible increase of this threshold in line with the EU's international commitments taken during the COP 21;*

Or. en

**Amendment 49**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 5 c (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*5c. Welcomes the performance based budgeting approach launched by the European Commission; considers that the EU budget should be more efficient and more effective than ever due to the scarce financial resources; regrets however that the European Commission focuses mainly on the outputs rather than on the outcomes;*

Or. en

**Amendment 50**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 6 – introductory part**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

6. Endorses the suggestion made by the Court of Auditors (the “Court”) in its “Briefing paper on the mid-term review of 28.10.2016” (points 39 and 40) of the multiannual financial framework that it is time for the Commission to explore other options, for example:

6. Endorses the suggestion made by the Court of Auditors (the “Court”) in its “Briefing paper on the mid-term review of 28.10.2016” (points 39 and 40) of the multiannual financial framework that it is time for the Commission to explore other options, for example:

Or. en

**Amendment 51**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 6 – indent 1**

*Motion for a resolution*

– a rolling budgeting with a five years planning horizon, clause(s) of revision by objectives and policies and rolling evaluation programme;

*Amendment*

– a rolling budgeting **programme** with a five years planning horizon, clause(s) of revision by objectives and policies and rolling evaluation programme;

Or. en

**Amendment 52**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 6 – indent 2**

*Motion for a resolution*

– determining the duration of programmes and schemes on policy needs rather basing it on the length of the financial planning period **and** requiring Member States and the Commission to present **well justified** needs for Union funding and results to be achieved before spending is set;

*Amendment*

– determining the duration of programmes and schemes on policy needs rather basing it on the length of the financial planning period; requiring Member States and the Commission to present **well-justified** needs for **(a)** Union funding and **(b)** results to be achieved, before spending is set;

Or. en

**Amendment 53**  
**Bogusław Liberadzki, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 7**

*Motion for a resolution*

7. Calls on the Commission to put on the agenda of the next experts' meeting on Budget Focused Results (BFOR) the suggestions made by the Court in its "briefing paper on mid-term review" of 28. 10.2016 (points 39 and 40) in order to prepare the next Conference on EU Budget focused on Results initiative that could debate on the policy areas in which the Union budget should be spent before deciding upon the financial framework;

*Amendment*

7. Calls on the Commission to put on the agenda of the next experts' meeting on Budget Focused Results (BFOR) the suggestions made by the Court in its "briefing paper on mid-term review" of 28. 10.2016 (points 39 and 40) **and the recommendations of the High-level group on own resources** in order to prepare the next Conference on EU Budget focused on Results initiative that could debate on the policy areas in which the Union budget should be spent before deciding upon the financial framework;

Or. en

**Amendment 54**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 7**

*Motion for a resolution*

7. Calls on the Commission to put on the agenda of the next experts' meeting on Budget Focused Results (BFOR) the suggestions made by the Court in its "briefing paper on mid-term review" of 28. 10.2016 (points 39 and 40) in order to prepare the next Conference on EU Budget focused on Results initiative that could debate on the policy areas in which the Union budget should be spent before deciding upon the financial framework;

*Amendment*

7. Calls on the Commission to put on the agenda of the next experts' meeting on Budget Focused Results (BFOR) the suggestions made by the Court in its "briefing paper on mid-term review" of 28. 10.2016 (points 39 and 40) in order to prepare the next 'Conference on EU Budget focused on Results' initiative that could debate on the policy areas in which the Union budget should be spent before deciding upon the financial framework;

Or. en

**Amendment 55**  
**Bart Staes, Benedek Jávor**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**7a. Endorses all recommendations made by the Court of Auditors in its special report 31/2016 and especially that the European Commission should explore all potential opportunities, including the midterm MFF revision and the revision of some legal bases, to ensure a further real shift towards climate action; calls on the ECA to issue a follow-up report on the Climate-related spending of the EU budget by the end of 2018**

Or. en

**Amendment 56**  
**Ryszard Czarnecki, Bas Belder, Notis Marias**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**7a. Calls on the Commission to make greater use of the opportunities regarding the performance reserve within the existing legal framework, in order to create a genuine financial stimulus to effectively improve the financial management; requests furthermore a reinforcement of the performance reserve as an instrument, by increasing the performance-dependent component in the following legislative framework;**

Or. en

**Amendment 57**  
**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**7a. Calls on the Commission to orient its priorities towards the successful achievement of the Europe 2020 Strategy by using the instruments of the European Semester;**

Or. en

**Amendment 58**  
**Bogusław Liberadzki, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**7a. Calls on the Commission to present a proposal for the EU budget post 2020 priorities.**

Or. en

**Amendment 59**  
**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 7 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**7b. Regrets that the Commission did not performed full-scale review of the Europe 2020 Strategy in order to ensure its implementation under the Strategic Agenda for the Union in Times of Change, adopted by the European Council in June 2014, as this Agenda envisages;**

**Amendment 60**  
**Bart Staes, Benedek Jávor**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 7 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**7b.** *Calls on the Commission to take into account the Paris agreement and to increase immediately the Climate-related spending target in the EU budget from 20% to 30%;*

**Amendment 61**  
**Bart Staes, Benedek Jávor**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 7 c (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**7c.** *Calls on the Commission to draft the forthcoming EU budgets in order to make it more efficient and more effective and to better align them with the EU 2020 targets, EU's climate targets, and EU's international commitments;*

**Amendment 62**  
**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 10**

*Motion for a resolution*

10. Points out the increasing use of financial instruments principally composed of loans, equity instruments, guarantees and risk sharing instruments under indirect management for the 2014-2020 period and that the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group managed almost all of the financial instruments under indirect management;

*Amendment*

10. Points out the increasing use of financial instruments principally composed of loans, equity instruments, guarantees and risk sharing instruments under indirect management for the 2014-2020 period and that the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group managed almost all of the financial instruments under indirect management; ***does not believe there is enough information available for an assessment of what these instruments have achieved, especially in regard to their social and environmental impact;***

Or. it

**Amendment 63**  
**Tamás Deutsch**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 10**

*Motion for a resolution*

10. Points out the increasing use of financial instruments principally composed of loans, equity instruments, guarantees and risk sharing instruments under indirect management for the 2014-2020 period and that the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group managed almost all of the financial instruments under indirect management;

*Amendment*

10. Points out the increasing use of financial instruments principally composed of loans, equity instruments, guarantees and risk sharing instruments under indirect management for the 2014-2020 period and that the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group managed almost all of the financial instruments under indirect management; ***emphasizes that financial instruments can supplement grants but should not replace them;***

Or. en

**Amendment 64**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**



## Paragraph 10

### *Motion for a resolution*

10. Points out the increasing use of financial instruments principally composed of loans, equity instruments, guarantees and risk sharing instruments under indirect management for the 2014-2020 period **and** that the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group managed almost all of the financial instruments under indirect management;

### *Amendment*

10. Points out the increasing use of financial instruments principally composed of loans, equity instruments, guarantees and risk sharing instruments under indirect management for the 2014-2020 period, **and points out further** that the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group managed almost all of the financial instruments under indirect management;

Or. en

## Amendment 65

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

### **Motion for a resolution**

#### **Paragraph 11**

### *Motion for a resolution*

11. Regrets that the increasing use of such financial instruments, as also the financial instruments in shared management (the financial engineering instruments), poses higher risks for accountability and the coordination of Union policies and operations;

### *Amendment*

11. Regrets that the increasing use of such financial instruments, as also the financial instruments in shared management (the financial engineering instruments), poses higher risks for accountability and the coordination of Union policies and operations; **points out the ECA special reports<sup>1a</sup> which stated that the Financial instruments do not work as expected and/or are oversized and/or are unsuccessful in attracting private capital;**

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<sup>1a</sup> ECA special report 05/2015 & 19/2016

Or. en

## Amendment 66

**Tamás Deutsch**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 11**

*Motion for a resolution*

11. Regrets that the increasing use of such financial instruments, as also the financial instruments in shared management (the financial engineering instruments), poses higher risks for accountability and the coordination of Union policies and operations;

*Amendment*

11. Regrets that the increasing use of such financial instruments, as also the financial instruments in shared management (the financial engineering instruments), poses higher risks for accountability and the coordination of Union policies and operations; ***underlines that extending the use of financial instruments should be preceded by a comprehensive evaluation of their results, achievements and efficiency;***

Or. en

**Amendment 67**

**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 11**

*Motion for a resolution*

11. Regrets that the increasing use of such financial instruments, as also the financial instruments in shared management (the financial engineering instruments), poses higher risks for accountability and the coordination of Union policies and operations;

*Amendment*

11. Regrets that the increasing use of such financial instruments, as also the financial instruments in shared management (the financial engineering instruments), poses higher risks ***not just for the EU budget remaining credible and sufficient for both current and future objectives,*** for accountability and the coordination of Union policies and operations;

Or. es

**Amendment 68**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 11 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**11a.** *Warns the European Commission that the Financial Instruments or any funding arrangement are not necessarily bound by the EU political objectives and targets and might finance projects which are not in line with the EU commitments;*

Or. en

**Amendment 69**

**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 13**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

13. ***Calls on** the Commission to propose measures to make Union Funding arrangements - which include, **in particular**, structural funds, trust funds, strategic investment **funds**, guarantee funds, facilities, financial instruments **and** macro-financial assistance instruments - clearer, simpler, more coherent and better equipped to ensure sufficient transparency, accountability and public understanding of how Union policies are funded and **the** benefits they bring (*see points 50 and 56 of the Court's "briefing paper on mid-term review" of 28. 10.2016*);*

13. ***Urges** the Commission to propose measures to make Union Funding arrangements **for implementation of the EU budget** - which **currently** include **different tools and combinations between them as for example programmes**, structural **and investment** funds, trust funds, strategic investment **fund**, guarantee funds, facilities, financial instruments, macro-financial assistance instruments, **etc.** - clearer, simpler, more coherent and better equipped to ensure sufficient transparency, accountability, **performance** and public understanding of how Union policies are funded and **what** benefits they bring; **regrets that the proposal for a new financial regulation from September 2016 does not address these problems in an adequate manner;***

Or. en

**Amendment 70**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 13**

*Motion for a resolution*

13. Calls on the Commission to propose measures to make **Union** Funding arrangements - **which include, in particular, structural funds, trust funds, strategic investment funds, guarantee funds, facilities, financial instruments and macro-financial assistance instruments** - clearer, simpler, more coherent and better equipped to ensure sufficient transparency, accountability and public understanding of how Union policies are funded and the benefits they bring (see points 50 and 56 of the Court’s “briefing paper on mid-term review” of 28.10.2016);

*Amendment*

13. Calls on the Commission to propose measures to make **EU** Funding arrangements clearer, simpler, more coherent and better equipped to ensure sufficient transparency, accountability and public understanding of how Union policies are funded and the benefits they bring (see points 50 and 56 of the Court’s “briefing paper on mid-term review” of 28.10.2016); **those EU Funding arrangements include, in particular, structural funds, trust funds, strategic investment funds, guarantee funds, facilities, financial instruments and macro-financial assistance instruments;**

Or. en

**Amendment 71**  
**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 14**

*Motion for a resolution*

14. Asks the Commission to re-evaluate the ex-ante assessment for the Connecting Europe Facility debt instrument in the light of the creation of the EFSI and **consider** the impact of EFSI on other Union programmes and financial instruments;

*Amendment*

14. Asks the Commission to re-evaluate the ex-ante assessment for the Connecting Europe Facility debt instrument in the light of the creation of the EFSI and **to present to Parliament an assessment of** the impact of EFSI on other Union programmes and financial instruments;

Or. en

**Amendment 72**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 14**

*Motion for a resolution*

14. Asks the Commission to re-evaluate the ex-ante assessment for the Connecting Europe Facility debt instrument in the light of the creation of the EFSI *and* consider the impact of EFSI on other Union programmes and financial instruments;

*Amendment*

14. Asks the Commission to re-evaluate the ex-ante assessment for the Connecting Europe Facility debt instrument in the light of the creation of the EFSI, *and also to* consider the impact of EFSI on other Union programmes and financial instruments;

Or. en

**Amendment 73**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 14 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***14a. Asks the European Court of Auditors to evaluate the contribution of the Financial Instruments and funding arrangements (as listed in para 13) to the EU 2020 strategy; calls on the Commission to take any relevant measures in order to ensure that the Financial Instruments and any funding arrangement are compatible with the EU strategy, targets and commitments the EU has taken;***

Or. en

**Amendment 74**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 15**

*Motion for a resolution*

15. Welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back under the Union budget; Calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue;

*Amendment*

15. Welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back under the Union budget; Calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue; ***is of the firm opinion that the forthcoming financial perspectives should be used in order to fix this problem, increase the democratic scrutiny over the shadow budgets and recreate the confidence in its institutions;***

Or. en

**Amendment 75**

**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 15**

*Motion for a resolution*

15. Welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back under the Union budget; Calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue;

*Amendment*

15. Welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back under the ***roof of the*** Union budget, ***as the Commission would be answerable to the European Parliament;*** Calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue ***before November 2017;***

Or. en

**Amendment 76**

**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 15**

*Motion for a resolution*

15. Welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back under the Union budget; ***Calls*** on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue;

*Amendment*

15. Welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back under the Union budget; ***calls*** on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue ***which can be included in the debate on the new multiannual financial framework starting in 2020;***

Or. es

**Amendment 77**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 15**

*Motion for a resolution*

15. Welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back under the Union budget; **Calls** on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue;

*Amendment*

15. Welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back under the Union budget ***but proposes that this should be done sooner rather than later;*** calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue;

Or. en

**Amendment 78**  
**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 15**

*Motion for a resolution*

15. Welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back

*Amendment*

15. Welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back

under the Union budget; Calls on the Commission to *prepare a communication* on this issue;

under the Union budget; Calls on the Commission to *present to co-legislators relevant proposals* on this issue *without delay*;

Or. en

#### **Amendment 79**

**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

#### **Motion for a resolution**

##### **Paragraph 15**

###### *Motion for a resolution*

15. Welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back under the Union budget; *Calls* on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue;

###### *Amendment*

15. Welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back under the Union budget; *calls* on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue *by the end of 2017*;

Or. it

#### **Amendment 80**

**Ryszard Czarnecki, Monica Macovei, Notis Marias, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík**

#### **Motion for a resolution**

##### **Paragraph 15**

###### *Motion for a resolution*

15. *Welcomes* Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back under the Union budget; Calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue;

###### *Amendment*

15. *Notes* Commissioner Oettinger's intention to bring the various shadow budgets, in the long run, back under the Union budget; Calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue;

Or. en



**Amendment 81**  
**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 16**

*Motion for a resolution*

16. Regrets that the backlogs in the use of 2007-2013 Structural Funds are significant; notes that by the end of 2015, 10 % of the total €446.2 billion allocated to all approved operational programmes was still outstanding;

*Amendment*

16. Regrets that the backlogs in the use of 2007-2013 Structural Funds are significant; notes that by the end of 2015, **payment of** 10 % of the total €446.2 billion allocated to all approved operational programmes was still outstanding;

Or. es

**Amendment 82**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 17**

*Motion for a resolution*

17. Stresses that this situation may indeed pose a significant challenge **as** in some Member States the unclaimed Union contribution, together with required co-financing, exceeds 15% of the total general government expenditure;

*Amendment*

17. Stresses that this situation may indeed pose a significant challenge – in some Member States the unclaimed Union contribution, together with required co-financing, exceeds 15% of the total general government expenditure; **this means that because of their own internal budgetary restrictions, those Member States most in need of EU contributions to improve their infrastructure are also the Member States who lose most – this anomaly needs to be addressed and ended;**

Or. en

**Amendment 83**  
**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra**

**Motion for a resolution**

## Paragraph 17

### *Motion for a resolution*

17. Stresses that this situation may indeed pose a significant challenge as in some Member States the unclaimed Union contribution, together with required co-financing, exceeds 15 % of the total general government expenditure;

### *Amendment*

17. Stresses that this situation may indeed pose a significant challenge as in some Member States the unclaimed Union contribution, together with required co-financing, exceeds 15 % of the total general government expenditure ***when the last two financial framework periods, 2007-2013 and 2014-2020, are taken into account;***

Or. es

## Amendment 84 Tamás Deutsch

### Motion for a resolution Paragraph 17

#### *Motion for a resolution*

17. Stresses that this situation may indeed pose a significant challenge as in some Member States the unclaimed Union contribution, together with required co-financing, exceeds 15% of the total general government expenditure;

#### *Amendment*

17. Stresses that this situation may indeed pose a significant challenge ***and undermine the effectiveness of ESI Funds*** as in some Member States the unclaimed Union contribution, together with required co-financing, exceeds 15% of the total general government expenditure;

Or. en

## Amendment 85 Inés Ayala Sender

### Motion for a resolution Paragraph 18

#### *Motion for a resolution*

18. Points out that five Member States (Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania) account for more than half of the

#### *Amendment*

18. Points out that five Member States (Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania) account for more than half of the

unused commitments of Structural Funds that have not led to payment;

unused commitments of Structural Funds that have not led to payment, *the reasons for this delay being various (lack of capacity and administrative assistance, lack of national resources to co-finance EU operations, delays in submitting regional programmes for the 2014-2020 MFF, etc.)*;

Or. es

### **Amendment 86**

**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra**

#### **Motion for a resolution Paragraph 18**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

18. Points out that five Member States (Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania) account for more than half of the unused commitments of Structural Funds that have not led to payment;

##### *Amendment*

18. Points out that *by the end of 2015* five Member States, *the main recipients of monies allocated*, (Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania) *accounted* for more than half of the unused *commitment appropriations under the European Structural and Investment* Funds that have not led to payment;

Or. es

### **Amendment 87**

**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

#### **Motion for a resolution Paragraph 18**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

18. Points out that five Member States (Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania) account for more than half of the unused commitments of Structural Funds that have not led to payment;

##### *Amendment*

18. Points out that five Member States (Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania) account for more than half of the unused commitments of Structural Funds that have not led to payment *for the programming period 2007-2013*;

**Amendment 88**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 18**

*Motion for a resolution*

18. Points out that five Member States (Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania) account for more than half of the unused commitments *of Structural Funds* that have not led to payment;

*Amendment*

18. Points out that five Member States (Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania), *all of whom badly need access to the Structural Funds*, account for more than half of the unused commitments that have not led to payment;

Or. en

**Amendment 89**  
**Ryszard Czarnecki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 18**

*Motion for a resolution*

18. Points out that five Member States (*Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania*) account for more than half of the unused commitments of Structural Funds that have not led to payment;

*Amendment*

18. Points out that five Member States account for more than half of the unused commitments of Structural Funds that have not led to payment;

Or. en

**Amendment 90**  
**Petri Sarvamaa, Joachim Zeller**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 18**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

18. ***Points out*** that five Member States (Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania) account for more than half of the unused commitments of Structural Funds that have not led to payment;

18. ***Notes with concern the fact*** that five Member States (Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania) account for more than half of the unused commitments of Structural Funds that have not led to payment;

Or. en

**Amendment 91**  
**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 18**

*Motion for a resolution*

18. Points out that five Member States (Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania) ***account*** for more than half of the unused commitments of Structural Funds that have not led to payment;

*Amendment*

18. Points out that five Member States (Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Poland and Romania) ***accounted in 2015*** for more than half of the unused commitments of Structural Funds that have not led to payment;

Or. en

**Amendment 92**  
**Bogusław Liberadzki, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 18 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

***18a. Points out that a new feature in this MFF is that unused amounts under the payment ceiling and under the commitments ceiling automatically increase the MFF ceilings for subsequent years;***

Or. en

### Amendment 93

Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki

#### Motion for a resolution

##### Paragraph 21

###### *Motion for a resolution*

21. Finds inadmissible that by the end of 2015 fewer than 20% of the national authorities responsible for European structural and Investment funds with the exception of the European Agricultural Fund for Regional Development (EAFRD) had been designated by the Member States which is a necessary step for Member States authorities to submit statements of expenditure to the Commission;

###### *Amendment*

21. Finds inadmissible that by the end of 2015 fewer than 20% of the national authorities responsible for European structural and Investment funds with the exception of the European Agricultural Fund for Regional Development (EAFRD) had been designated by the Member States which is a necessary step for Member States authorities to submit statements of expenditure to the Commission; ***is of the opinion that the considerable novelties introduced for the 2014-2020 period lead to administrative difficulties despite efforts for simplification;***

Or. en

### Amendment 94

Luke Ming Flanagan

#### Motion for a resolution

##### Paragraph 21

###### *Motion for a resolution*

21. Finds ***inadmissible*** that by the end of 2015 fewer than 20% of the national authorities responsible for European structural and Investment funds with the exception of the European Agricultural Fund for Regional Development (EAFRD) had been designated by the Member States ***which is*** a necessary step for Member States authorities to submit statements of expenditure to the Commission;

###### *Amendment*

21. Finds ***unacceptable*** that by the end of 2015 fewer than 20% of the national authorities responsible for European Structural and Investment funds - with the exception of the European Agricultural Fund for Regional Development (EAFRD) – had been designated by the Member States; ***those designations are*** a necessary step for Member States' authorities to submit statements of expenditure to the Commission;

**Amendment 95**

**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 21**

*Motion for a resolution*

21. ***Finds inadmissible*** that by the end of 2015 fewer than 20 % of the national authorities responsible for European structural and Investment funds with the exception of the European Agricultural Fund for Regional Development (EAFRD) had been designated by the Member States which is a necessary step for Member States authorities to submit statements of expenditure to the Commission;

*Amendment*

21. ***Notes*** that by the end of 2015 fewer than 20 % of the national authorities responsible for European structural and Investment funds with the exception of the European Agricultural Fund for Regional Development (EAFRD) had been designated by the Member States which is a necessary step for Member States authorities to submit statements of expenditure to the Commission;

**Amendment 96**

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 21 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

***21a. Points out that difficulties with completing the compliance assessment procedures concerning the new management and control system, that generally fall at the beginning of the programming period are a serious cause for absorption delays.***

*Amendment*

**Amendment 97**

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 21 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**21b.** *Notes that the global economic recession, which has a direct effect in the form of the budgetary restraint measures applied to public budgets and difficulties in obtaining internal financing is also a main factor for delaying absorption.*

Or. en

**Amendment 98**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 22**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

22. Deeply regrets that, as a consequence, there is a risk that delays in budget execution for the 2014-2020 programming period will be greater than those experienced for the 2007-2013;

22. Deeply regrets that, as a consequence, there is a risk that delays in budget execution for the 2014-2020 programming period will be greater than those experienced for the 2007-2013; ***fears that the forthcoming MFF might start with an unprecedented high level of "RAL" which might endangered the management of the EU budget in the first years;***

Or. en

**Amendment 99**  
**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 22**



*Motion for a resolution*

22. Deeply regrets that, as a consequence, there is a risk that delays in budget execution for the 2014-2020 programming period will be greater than those experienced for the 2007-2013;

*Amendment*

22. Deeply regrets that, as a consequence, there is a risk that delays in budget execution for the 2014-2020 programming period will be greater than those experienced for the 2007-2013 ***and warns of the pressure this may mean for payment appropriations at the end of the current programming period;***

Or. es

**Amendment 100**

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 22**

*Motion for a resolution*

22. Deeply regrets that, as a consequence, there is a risk that delays in budget execution for the 2014-2020 programming period will be greater than those experienced for the 2007-2013;

*Amendment*

22. Deeply regrets that, as a consequence, there is a risk that delays in budget execution for the 2014-2020 programming period will be greater than those experienced for the 2007-2013; ***expects the Commission to have learnt from this with a view to preventing similar delays in the future;***

Or. en

**Amendment 101**

**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 23**

*Motion for a resolution*

23. Notes that the Commission adopted in March 2015 a payment plan presenting short term measures to reduce the level of

*Amendment*

23. Notes that the Commission adopted in March 2015 a payment plan presenting short term measures to reduce the level of

unpaid bill but points out that while those measures seek to improve shorter term cash flow management dealing with the high level of outstanding commitments requires a longer term perspective;

unpaid bill but points out that while those measures seek to improve shorter term cash flow management, dealing with the high level of outstanding commitments requires a longer term perspective ***and a thorough evaluation of the root causes (administrative and operational difficulties, macro-economic restrictions, etc.) in order to devise an effective strategy so they do not occur in the future;***

Or. es

**Amendment 102**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 23**

*Motion for a resolution*

23. Notes that the Commission adopted in March 2015 a payment plan presenting short term measures to reduce the level of unpaid bill but points out that while those measures seek to improve shorter term ***cash flow*** management dealing with the high level of outstanding commitments requires a longer term perspective;

*Amendment*

23. Notes that the Commission adopted in March 2015 a payment plan presenting short term measures to reduce the level of unpaid bill, but points out that while those measures seek to improve shorter term ***cash-flow*** management, dealing with the high level of outstanding commitments requires a longer term perspective;

Or. en

**Amendment 103**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 23 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***23a. Stresses that the triggering of the Article 50 might create troubles in the way the EU budget is managed, especially***

*concerning the payments; points out the need to cover this crucial element in any transitional or final agreement with any withdrawing Member State;*

Or. en

**Amendment 104**  
**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 23 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**23a.** *Expresses concern at the absorption rate for funds, which varies considerably between Member States;*

Or. it

**Amendment 105**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 24**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

24. Requests that the Commission takes measures to reduce outstanding commitments including, faster closure and earlier decommitment of the 2007-2013 programmes, wider use of net correction in cohesion, a reduction of cash held by fiduciaries and the compilation of payment plans and forecasts where outstanding commitments are significant;

24. Requests that the Commission takes measures to reduce outstanding commitments including:

- (1) faster closure and earlier decommitment of the 2007-2013 programmes;
- (2) wider use of net correction in cohesion;
- (3) a reduction of cash held by fiduciaries and
- (4) the compilation of payment plans and forecasts where outstanding commitments are significant;

Or. en

## Amendment 106

Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki

### Motion for a resolution

#### Paragraph 24

##### *Motion for a resolution*

24. Requests that the Commission takes measures to **reduce** outstanding commitments including, **faster** closure and **earlier** decommitment of the 2007-2013 programmes, **wider** use of net correction in cohesion, a reduction of cash held by fiduciaries and the compilation of payment plans and forecasts where outstanding commitments are significant;

##### *Amendment*

24. Requests that the Commission takes measures to **strictly observe the rules and timetables regarding** outstanding commitments including, closure and decommitment of the 2007-2013 programmes, **proper** use of net correction in cohesion, a reduction of cash held by fiduciaries and the compilation of payment plans and forecasts where outstanding commitments are significant;

Or. en

## Amendment 107

Luke Ming Flanagan

### Motion for a resolution

#### Paragraph 25

##### *Motion for a resolution*

25. Requests once again that the Commission establish annually an updated long-term cash-flow forecast, spanning a seven **to ten year** time horizon covering budgetary ceilings, payments needs, capacity constraints and potential **de commitments** in order to better match payments needs and funds available;

##### *Amendment*

25. Requests once again that the Commission establish annually an updated long-term cash-flow forecast, spanning a seven- **to-ten-year** time horizon covering budgetary ceilings, payments needs, capacity constraints and potential **decommitments**, in order to better match payments needs and funds available;

Or. en

## Amendment 108

Marco Valli, Laura Agea

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 26**

*Motion for a resolution*

26. Requests that the Commission considers in its budgetary and financial management the capacity constraints of certain Member States in order to avoid the underutilisation of funds and to increase the absorption rates especially in the area of the ESI funds;

*Amendment*

26. Requests that the Commission considers in its budgetary and financial management the capacity constraints of certain Member States in order to avoid the underutilisation of funds and to increase the absorption rates especially in the area of the ESI funds; ***calls on the Commission to present a thorough analysis of why some regions still exhibit low fund absorption rates and to assess specific ways of remedying the structural problems underlying those imbalances; asks the Commission to take on-the-spot action to improve absorption capacity in Member States experiencing difficulties in this regard;***

Or. it

**Amendment 109**  
**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 26**

*Motion for a resolution*

26. Requests that the Commission considers in its budgetary and financial management the capacity constraints of certain Member States in order to avoid the underutilisation of funds and to increase the absorption rates especially in the area of the ESI funds;

*Amendment*

26. Requests that the Commission considers in its budgetary and financial management the capacity constraints of certain Member States ***and to use all available instruments through technical assistance and the new Structural Reform Support Programme to support these Member States*** in order to avoid the underutilisation of funds and to increase the absorption rates especially in the area of the ESI funds;

Or. en

**Amendment 110**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 26**

*Motion for a resolution*

26. Requests that the Commission considers in its budgetary and financial management the capacity constraints of certain Member States in order to avoid the underutilisation of funds and to increase the absorption rates especially in the area of the ESI funds;

*Amendment*

26. Requests that *as a matter of urgency, given the poor situation in which several Member States now find themselves*, the Commission considers in its budgetary and financial management the capacity constraints of certain Member States, in order to avoid the underutilisation of funds and to increase the absorption rates, especially in the area of the ESI funds;

Or. en

**Amendment 111**  
**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 26**

*Motion for a resolution*

26. Requests that the Commission considers in its budgetary and financial management the capacity constraints of certain Member States in order to avoid the underutilisation of funds and to increase the absorption rates especially in the area of the ESI funds;

*Amendment*

26. Requests that the Commission considers in its budgetary and financial management the *administrative* capacity constraints of certain Member States, *increasing where necessary the technical assistance provided*, in order to avoid the underutilisation of funds and to increase the absorption rates especially in the area of the ESI funds;

Or. es

**Amendment 112**

**Andrey Novakov**

**Motion for a resolution  
Paragraph 26**

*Motion for a resolution*

26. Requests that the Commission considers in its budgetary and financial management the capacity constraints of certain Member States in order to avoid the underutilisation of funds and to increase the absorption rates especially in the area of the ESI funds;

*Amendment*

26. Requests that the Commission considers in its budgetary and financial management the capacity constraints ***and the specific socio-economics conditions*** of certain Member States in order to avoid the underutilisation of funds and to increase the absorption rates especially in the area of the ESI funds;

Or. en

**Amendment 113**

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution  
Paragraph 26 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***26a. Reiterates the need for simplification and clarity of rules and procedures at both EU and national level in order to facilitate access to EU funds for beneficiaries and to ensure sound management of those funds by the administrative services; believes that simplification will contribute to the speedy allocation of funds, higher absorption rates, increased efficiency and transparency, fewer implementation errors and reduced payment periods; considers that a balance needs to be struck between simplification and the stability of rules, procedures and controls; notes that, in any case, providing potential applicants and beneficiaries with sufficient information and guidelines is a necessary precondition for successful***

*implementation;*

Or. en

**Amendment 114**

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 26 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**26b. Calls on the Commission to refrain from new cuts of the technical assistance at its disposal and to come up with an action plan for effective and timely absorption with particular emphasis on those Member States and regions lagging behind and having low absorption rates;**

Or. en

**Amendment 115**

**Joachim Zeller**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 27**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

27. Regrets that only 75 %<sup>77</sup> of the contributions to the financial engineering instruments for the programming period 2007-2013 were paid out to the final recipients by the end of 2015 in shared management (57 % paid out at the end of 2014 and 37 % paid out at the end of 2012) and that cash held in financial instruments under indirect management remain high (EUR **0,9** billion in 2015 EUR 1,3 billion in 2014; EUR 1,4 in 2013);

27. Regrets that only 75 %<sup>77</sup> of the contributions to the financial engineering instruments for the programming period 2007-2013 were paid out to the final recipients by the end of 2015 in shared management (57 % paid out at the end of 2014 and 37 % paid out at the end of 2012) and that cash held in financial instruments under indirect management remain high (EUR **1,3** billion in 2015 EUR 1,3 billion in 2014; EUR 1,4 **billion** in 2013);



<sup>77</sup> European Commission DG REGIO  
Summary of data on the progress made in  
financing and implementing financial  
engineering instruments reported by the  
managing authorities in accordance with  
Article 67(2)(j) of Council Regulation (EC)  
No 1083/2006, Programming period 2007-  
2013 Situation as at 31 December 2015  
20.09.2016, P 61.

<sup>77</sup> European Commission DG REGIO  
Summary of data on the progress made in  
financing and implementing financial  
engineering instruments reported by the  
managing authorities in accordance with  
Article 67(2)(j) of Council Regulation (EC)  
No 1083/2006, Programming period 2007-  
2013 Situation as at 31 December 2015  
20.09.2016, P 61.

Or. de

**Amendment 116**  
**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 28**

*Motion for a resolution*

28. Points out that unused amounts of financial instruments remain relatively high, 80 % of which were at the end of 2014 concentrated in five Member States (of which Italy constituted 45 % of the total);

*Amendment*

28. Points out that unused amounts of financial instruments remain relatively high, 80 % of which were at the end of 2014 concentrated in five Member States (of which Italy constituted 45 % of the total); ***considers the Commission ought to carry out a comprehensive assessment of these instruments before the end of 2018 in order to determine whether they should be carried over into the next financial programming period;***

Or. it

**Amendment 117**  
**Petri Sarvamaa, Joachim Zeller**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 28**

*Motion for a resolution*

28. ***Points out*** that unused amounts of financial instruments remain relatively

*Amendment*

28. ***Notes with concern the fact*** that unused amounts of financial instruments

high, 80% of which were at the end of 2014 concentrated in five Member States (of which Italy constituted 45% of the total);

remain relatively high, 80% of which were at the end of 2014 concentrated in five Member States (of which Italy constituted 45% of the total);

Or. en

**Amendment 118**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 28**

*Motion for a resolution*

28. Points out that unused amounts of financial instruments remain relatively high, 80% of which were **at the end of 2014** concentrated in five Member States (of which Italy constituted 45% of the total);

*Amendment*

28. Points out that unused amounts of financial instruments remain relatively high, 80% of which were concentrated in five Member States **at the end of 2014** (of which Italy constituted 45% of the total);

Or. en

**Amendment 119**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 30**

*Motion for a resolution*

30. **Welcomes** the fact that the Court gives a clean opinion on the reliability of the accounts for 2015 as it had done since 2007, that the Court concluded that revenue was free from material error in 2015 and notes with satisfaction that the commitments underlying the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015 are legal and regular in all material respects;

*Amendment*

30. **Notes** the fact that the Court gives a clean opinion on the reliability of the accounts for 2015 as it had done since 2007, that the Court concluded that revenue was free from material error in 2015 and notes with satisfaction that the commitments underlying the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015 are legal and regular in all material respects; **notes also, however, that this 'clean opinion' can give rise to confusion among the general population as to whether or not**

*this means that the Court is giving a 'clean opinion' on the overall accounts of the Commission - given the vast sums involved, absolute clarity is needed and while the accuracy of the book-keeping is important, in any proper auditing process it is the underlying accounting that is paramount, i.e. whether all income and expenditure is legal, proper and (within the accepted parameters) fully accounted for;*

Or. en

**Amendment 120**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 31**

*Motion for a resolution*

31. Deeply regrets that for the 22nd year in a row payments are materially affected by error because of the fact that the supervisory and control systems are only partially effective;

*Amendment*

31. Deeply regrets that for the 22nd year in a row payments are materially affected by error because of the fact that the supervisory and control systems are only partially effective *and points out that this, in fact, is the true result of the various ECA audits and that based on that result, discharge should be withheld;*

Or. en

**Amendment 121**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 32**

*Motion for a resolution*

32. Regrets that payments are affected by a most likely *error rate of 3,8%*; recalls that the most likely *error rate* for payments

*Amendment*

32. Regrets that payments are affected by a most likely *error-rate of 3,8% and notes that this error-rate is unacceptable;*

was estimated in the financial year 2014 at 4,4%, in the financial year 2013 at 4,7%, in the financial year 2012 at 4,8% and in the financial year 2011 at 3,9%;

recalls that the most likely **error-rate** for payments was estimated in the financial year 2014 at 4,4%, in the financial year 2013 at 4,7%, in the financial year 2012 at 4,8% and in the financial year 2011 at 3,9%;

Or. en

## **Amendment 122**

**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra**

### **Motion for a resolution Paragraph 32**

#### *Motion for a resolution*

32. Regrets that payments are affected by a most likely error rate of 3,8 %; recalls that the most likely error rate for payments was estimated in the financial year 2014 at 4,4 %, in the financial year 2013 at 4,7 %, in the financial year 2012 at 4,8 % and in the financial year 2011 at 3,9 %;

#### *Amendment*

32. Regrets that **despite the improvement**, payments are affected by a most likely error rate of 3,8 %; recalls that the most likely error rate for payments was estimated in the financial year 2014 at 4,4 %, in the financial year 2013 at 4,7 %, in the financial year 2012 at 4,8 % and in the financial year 2011 at 3,9 %;

Or. es

## **Amendment 123**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

### **Motion for a resolution Paragraph 33**

#### *Motion for a resolution*

33. Stresses that even if the situation has improved on recent years the most likely error rate is still significantly above the materiality threshold of 2%;

#### *Amendment*

33. Stresses that even if the situation has improved on recent years the most likely error rate is still significantly above the materiality threshold of 2%; **stresses that if the Commission, the authorities in the Member States or the independent auditors had made use of all information**

*available to them, they could have prevented, or detected and corrected a significant proportion of the errors before the related payments were made; considers inadmissible that available information are not used to reduce the level of errors; firmly believes that the Member states have a crucial role in this regards; urges the Members states to use all available information to prevent, detect and correct any error and to act accordingly;*

Or. en

#### **Amendment 124**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

#### **Motion for a resolution**

##### **Paragraph 34**

###### *Motion for a resolution*

34. *Notes* that due to a change in the legal framework of the common agricultural policy in 2015, the Court no longer includes cross compliance in its transaction testing; in 2014, such errors contributed 0,6 percentage points to the overall estimated level of error for MFF heading 2 ‘Natural resources’ whilst their annual contribution to the overall estimated level of error was between 0,1 and 0,2 percentage points over the period 2011-2014;

###### *Amendment*

34. *Regrets* that due to a change in the legal framework of the common agricultural policy in 2015, the Court no longer includes cross compliance in its transaction testing *making the comparison with the previous financial year more difficult*; in 2014, such errors contributed 0,6 percentage points to the overall estimated level of error for MFF heading 2 ‘Natural resources’ whilst their annual contribution to the overall estimated level of error was between 0,1 and 0,2 percentage points over the period 2011-2014;

Or. en

#### **Amendment 125**

**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 35**

*Motion for a resolution*

35. *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 4,3% rather than 3,8*

*Amendment*

35. *Welcomes that* the corrective measures taken by the Member States and the Commission applied to the payments audited by the Court *lowered* the overall estimated level of error *from 4,3% to 3,8 %; notes however that if the Commission, authorities in the Member States or independent auditors had made use of all information available to them, they could have prevented, or detected and corrected a significant proportion of the errors before the related payments were made;*

Or. en

**Amendment 126**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 35**

*Motion for a resolution*

35. 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 4,3 % rather than 3,8

*Amendment*

35. 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 4,3% rather than 3,8%;

Or. en

**Amendment 127**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 36**

*Motion for a resolution*

36. Points out that the Court found highest estimated levels of error in spending under ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ (5,2%) and for “Competitiveness for growth and jobs” (4,4%) whilst “Administrative expenditure” had the lowest estimated level of error (0,6%);

*Amendment*

36. Points out that the Court found highest estimated levels of error in spending under ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ (5,2%) and for “Competitiveness for growth and jobs” (4,4%) whilst “Administrative expenditure” had the lowest estimated level of error (0,6%); ***recommends that the Court should initiate a Special Report examining and comparing those areas with a view to producing a concise 'best-practice' document;***

Or. en

**Amendment 128**  
**Tamás Deutsch**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 36**

*Motion for a resolution*

36. Points out that the Court found highest estimated levels of error in spending under ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ (5,2%) and for “Competitiveness for growth and jobs” (4,4%) whilst “Administrative expenditure” had the lowest estimated level of error (0,6%);

*Amendment*

36. Points out that the Court found highest estimated levels of error in spending under ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ (5,2%) and for “Competitiveness for growth and jobs” (4,4%) whilst “Administrative expenditure” had the lowest estimated level of error (0,6%); ***underlines that a clear distinction must be made between error and fraud;***

Or. en

**Amendment 129**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 37**

*Motion for a resolution*

37. Notes that the different risk patterns of reimbursement schemes and entitlement schemes have had a major influence on the level of errors in the different spending areas; where the Union reimburses eligible costs for eligible activities on the basis of cost declarations made by beneficiaries the level of error is 5,2% whilst where payments are made on meeting conditions rather than reimbursing costs the error rate is 1,9%;

*Amendment*

37. Notes that the different risk patterns of reimbursement schemes and entitlement schemes have had a major influence on the level of errors in the different spending areas; where the Union reimburses eligible costs for eligible activities on the basis of cost declarations made by beneficiaries the level of error is 5,2% whilst where payments are made on meeting conditions rather than reimbursing costs the error rate is 1,9%; ***recommends that the Court should examine and compare those areas with a view to concluding a Special Report on Best Practice;***

Or. en

**Amendment 130**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 39**

*Motion for a resolution*

39. Stresses that the Commission recognises that spending is affected by a material level of error ***as it presents*** in its 2015 annual and management performance report, COM (2016) 446, the amount at risk ***as*** a range from EUR 3,3 to 4,5 billion which represents between 2,3% and 3,1% of the payments; notes that the Commission estimates that it will in ***the*** future years identify and correct errors for between EUR 2,1 to ***2,7*** billion;

*Amendment*

39. Stresses that the Commission recognises that spending is affected by a material level of error, ***as presented*** in its 2015 annual and management performance report, COM (2016) 446, the amount at risk ***being in*** a range from EUR 3,3 to 4,5 billion, which represents between 2,3% and 3,1% of the payments; notes that the Commission estimates that it will in future years identify and correct errors for between EUR 2,1 to ***2,7*** billion;

Or. en

**Amendment 131**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**



**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 40**

*Motion for a resolution*

40. Shares the view of the Court that the Commission's methodology for estimating its amount at risk error has improved over the years but that individual DGs' estimations of the level of irregular spending are not based on a consistent methodology (see in particular paragraph 1.38 of the 2015 Court annual report);

*Amendment*

40. Shares the view of the Court that the Commission's methodology for estimating its amount at risk error has improved over the years but that individual DGs' estimations of the level of irregular spending are not based on a consistent methodology (see in particular paragraph 1.38 of the 2015 Court annual report); ***recommends that this practice should be regularized and standardized as soon as possible;***

Or. en

**Amendment 132**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 42**

*Motion for a resolution*

42. Points in particular to the fact that for more than three quarters of 2015, expenditure Commission directorates general base their estimates of amount at risk on data provided by national authorities whilst it appears from the annual activity reports of the concerned Commission directorates general (DG AGRI and DG REGIO) that the reliability of Member States control reports remains a challenge, although the data reporting of Member States has improved;

*Amendment*

42. Points in particular to the fact that for more than three quarters of 2015, expenditure Commission directorates general base their estimates of amount at risk on data provided by national authorities whilst it appears from the annual activity reports of the concerned Commission directorates general (DG AGRI and DG REGIO) that the reliability of Member States control reports remains a challenge, although the data reporting of Member States has improved; ***considers unacceptable that the Member states do not cooperate fairly with the European Commission regarding the control reports and their reliability;***

Or. en

**Amendment 133**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 42**

*Motion for a resolution*

42. Points in particular to the fact that for more than three quarters of 2015, expenditure Commission directorates general base their estimates of amount at risk on data provided by national authorities whilst it appears from the annual activity reports of the concerned Commission directorates general (DG AGRI and DG REGIO) that the reliability of Member States control reports remains a challenge, although the data reporting of Member States has improved;

*Amendment*

42. Points in particular to the fact that for more than three quarters of 2015, expenditure Commission Directorates General base their estimates of amount at risk on data provided by national authorities, whilst it appears from the annual activity reports of the concerned Commission directorates general (DG AGRI and DG REGIO) that the reliability of Member States' control reports remains a challenge, although the data reporting of Member States has improved;

Or. en

**Amendment 134**  
**Ryszard Czarnecki, Bas Belder, Notis Marias**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 42 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***42a. Underlines that the control burden for end-users would decrease if a 'Single Audit' approach would be applied, in which a European audit would not be carried out separately, but would build on national audits. Such a continuing line of accountability would however only be possible if national audits are adequate and if Commission and Member States would agree on the principles and interpretations; calls on the Commission to be proactive in this regard by publishing guidelines;***

**Amendment 135**  
**Ryszard Czarnecki, Bas Belder, Notis Marias**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 42 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**42b. Believes that granting discharge should depend on the necessary improvement in financial management at Member State level; points at the instrument of national declarations in this context which could help to achieve greater accountability and ownership at national level;**

Or. en

**Amendment 136**  
**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 43**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

43. Points out that since errors can be corrected more than 10 years after they have occurred, it is artificial to base the estimated impact of future corrections upon recorded corrections over the last six years;

43. Points out that ***owing to the specificity of multiannual programming and the complexity and accumulation of regional, national and EU rules applying to the budget procedure, and*** since errors can be corrected more than 10 years after they have occurred, it is artificial to base the estimated impact of future corrections upon recorded corrections over the last six years;

Or. es

**Amendment 137**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution  
Paragraph 44**

*Motion for a resolution*

44. Emphasises, in this context, that if the Commission were sure of the effectiveness of its corrective capacity the director generals should not issue any financial reservation in their annual activity reports;

*Amendment*

44. Emphasises, in this context, that if the Commission were sure of the effectiveness of its corrective capacity the Director Generals should not issue any financial reservation in their annual activity reports;

Or. en

**Amendment 138**

**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution  
Paragraph 45**

*Motion for a resolution*

45. Points out that the Commission reports<sup>78</sup> a total implemented financial corrections and recoveries amounting to EUR 3,9 billion; **that around EUR1,2 billion of the** corrections and recoveries **were** at source (applied before the Commission accepted expenditure) **and that of the remainder: EUR 2,7 billion, around** EUR 1,1 billion **represents** withdrawals by Member States applied after accepting expenditure by replacing ineligible amounts with new cohesion projects;

*Amendment*

45. Points out that the Commission reports<sup>78</sup> a total implemented financial corrections and recoveries amounting to EUR 3,9 billion; **notes that the ECA classified them in three categories: EUR1,2 billion** corrections and recoveries at source applied before the Commission accepted expenditure (**Agriculture, Cohesion, Direct/indirect management**); EUR 1,1 billion withdrawals by Member States applied after accepting expenditure by replacing ineligible amounts with new cohesion projects; **EUR 1,6 billion net corrections (Agriculture, Direct/indirect management)**;

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<sup>78</sup> see paragraph 1.39 of the 2015 ECA annual report

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<sup>78</sup> see paragraph 1.39 of the 2015 ECA annual report

Or. en

**Amendment 139**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 45**

*Motion for a resolution*

45. Points out that the Commission reports<sup>78</sup> a total implemented financial corrections and recoveries amounting to EUR 3,9 billion; that around EUR 1,2 billion of the corrections and recoveries were at source (applied before the Commission accepted expenditure) and that of the **remainder**: EUR 2,7 billion, around EUR 1,1 billion represents withdrawals by Member States applied after accepting expenditure by replacing ineligible amounts with new cohesion projects;

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<sup>78</sup> see paragraph 1.39 of the 2015 ECA annual report

*Amendment*

45. Points out that the Commission reports<sup>78</sup> total implemented financial corrections and recoveries amounting to EUR 3,9 billion; that around EUR 1,2 billion of the corrections and recoveries were at source (applied before the Commission accepted expenditure) and that of the **remaining** EUR 2,7 billion, around EUR 1,1 billion represents withdrawals by Member States applied after accepting expenditure by replacing ineligible amounts with new cohesion projects;

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<sup>78</sup> see paragraph 1.39 of the 2015 ECA annual report

Or. en

**Amendment 140**  
**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 46**

*Motion for a resolution*

46. Stresses that where there is a high risk of irregularity it is best practice to discuss the risk and to quantify the level and likely impact; regrets that Commission reporting on this subject pays significant attention to “corrective capacity” rather than to quantifying and analysing the nature of the errors it identifies; points out in particular that the Commission

*Amendment*

46. Stresses that where there is a high risk of irregularity it is best practice to discuss the risk and to quantify the level and likely impact; regrets that Commission reporting on this subject pays significant attention to “corrective capacity” rather than to quantifying and analysing the nature of the errors it identifies, **and undertaking relevant preventive measures**

communications on “Protection of the Union budget” provides no estimate of the level of irregularity present in initial or in approved claims for reimbursement;

*for avoiding such errors*; points out in particular that the Commission communications on “Protection of the Union budget” provides no estimate of the level of irregularity present in initial or in approved claims for reimbursement;

Or. en

**Amendment 141**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 47**

*Motion for a resolution*

47. Shares the view expressed by the Court in its special report 27/2016 that the distinction introduced by the Kinnock-Prodi reform between the “political responsibility of Commissioners” and the operational responsibility of *directors-general* means that it has not always been made clear whether ‘political responsibility’ includes taking responsibility for the *directorates-general* budget execution, or whether it is distinct from it (see point 5 of the executive summary of ECA special report 27/2016);

*Amendment*

47. Shares the view expressed by the Court in its Special Report 27/2016 that the distinction introduced by the Kinnock-Prodi reform between the “political responsibility of Commissioners” and the operational responsibility of *Directors-General* means that it has not always been made clear whether ‘political responsibility’ includes taking responsibility for the *Directorates-General* budget execution, or whether it is distinct from it (see point 5 of the executive summary of ECA special report 27/2016);

Or. en

**Amendment 142**  
**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 50 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**50a. Asks the Commission to conduct an careful analysis of so-called ‘retrospective projects’ i.e. the practice of**

*inserting into the regional operational programme (ROP) projects already launched by the authorities using other funds and which may incorporate or replace measures or projects that present operational problems or are in breach of the rules, said analysis to include ex-ante assessments verifying that replacement projects meet the planned objectives;*

Or. it

**Amendment 143**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 50**

*Motion for a resolution*

50. Calls again on the Commission to issue, on an annual basis, a proper "Statement of assurance" based on the directors-general annual activity reports and to produce its own *statistically* estimate of the level of error; asks the Commission to evaluate separately the amount of EU money it envisages to recuperate as recoveries or financial corrections linked to the financial year 2015;

*Amendment*

50. Calls again on the Commission to issue, on an annual basis, a *single*, proper "Statement of Assurance" based on the directors-general annual activity reports and to produce its own *statistical* estimate of the level of error; asks the Commission to evaluate separately the amount of EU money it envisages to recuperate as recoveries or financial corrections linked to the financial year 2015;

Or. en

**Amendment 144**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 51 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**51a. Calls on the Member States to**

*deliver reliable data to the European Commission especially concerning the control reports;*

Or. en

**Amendment 145**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 53**

*Motion for a resolution*

53. *Deeply regret* that the director general of Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, as in previous years, continues to issue a horizontal reservation covering all payments and cost claims under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7); *calls on the director general to develop, at long last, a more meaningful, risk based approach and use specific reservations when needed;*

*Amendment*

53. *Notes* that the director general of Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, as in previous years, continues to issue a horizontal reservation covering all payments and cost claims under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7);

Or. en

**Amendment 146**  
**Ingeborg Gräßle**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 53**

*Motion for a resolution*

53. *Deeply regret* that the director general of Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, as in previous years, continues to issue a horizontal reservation covering all payments and cost claims under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7); *calls on the director general to develop, at long last, a more meaningful, risk based approach and use*

*Amendment*

53. *Questions why* that the director general of Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, as in previous years, continues to issue a horizontal reservation covering all payments and cost claims under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7); *calls on the Commission to develop, at long last, a more meaningful, risk based approach and*



specific reservations when needed;

use specific reservations when needed;

Or. en

#### **Amendment 147**

**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

#### **Motion for a resolution**

##### **Paragraph 53**

###### *Motion for a resolution*

53. *Deeply regret* that the director general of Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, as in previous years, continues to issue a horizontal reservation covering all payments and cost claims under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7); calls on the *director general* to develop, at long last, a more meaningful, risk based approach and use specific reservations when needed;

###### *Amendment*

53. *Notes* that the director general of Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, as in previous years, continues to issue a horizontal reservation covering all payments and cost claims under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7); calls on the *Commission* to develop, at long last, a more meaningful, risk based approach and use specific reservations when needed;

Or. en

#### **Amendment 148**

**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

#### **Motion for a resolution**

##### **Paragraph 57**

###### *Motion for a resolution*

57. Regrets that the so called evaluation report, on the one hand, confuses descriptions of activities with results, and, on the other hand, attempts to evaluate the impact of policies and makes promises for the future;

###### *Amendment*

57. Regrets that the so called evaluation report, on the one hand, confuses descriptions of activities with results, and, on the other hand, attempts to evaluate the impact of policies and makes promises for the future; *points out that Member States are not required to include common indicators in their programmes, with the exception of the Youth Employment Initiative and EAFRD, and that results-based assessments do not form part of the*

*initial control stage in the Member States;*

Or. it

**Amendment 149**

**Ryszard Czarnecki, Bas Belder, Notis Marias**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 58 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**58a.** *Reiterates its call for thematic concentration, as expressed in its discharge report on budget year 2014; calls on the Commission to inquire to what extent thematic concentration could contribute to simplification and a decrease of the regulatory burden and control burden;*

Or. en

**Amendment 150**

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 59 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**59a.** *Draws attention to the need that the process of establishing performance indicators should be transparent and democratic involving all the EU institutions, partners and stakeholders concerned in order to make the indicators adequate for measurement of the implementation of the EU budget, as well as to answer the EU citizens expectations;*

Or. en

**Amendment 151**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Subheading 13 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*measures to be taken*

Or. en

**Amendment 152**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 59 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**59a.** *Calls on the Commission to better evaluate in its next performance reports the outputs and the outcomes of each policies; calls on the Commission to clearly and synthetically show the contribution of the European policies to the EU objectives and to evaluate their respective contribution to the EU 2020 targets;*

Or. en

**Amendment 153**

**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 64**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

64. **Regrets** that the supreme audit

64. **Takes note of the two examples of**

institutions of Bulgaria and Portugal have found that while there are some areas in which national and Union research programmes are *complementarity* in their countries, there were also some weaknesses at national level as to the *national* indicators *strategy or target values per year and the lack of* coordination between all the participants engaged in Horizon 2020<sup>80</sup> ;

*complementarities between national and EU research programmes given in the Court's Annual Report 2015 and* that the supreme audit institutions of Bulgaria and Portugal have found that while there are some areas in which national and Union research programmes are *complementary* in their countries, there were also some weaknesses at national level as to the indicators *related to Horizon 2020 within national action plans and strategies and some issues regarding* coordination and *interaction* between all the participants engaged in Horizon 2020 *at the national level*<sup>80</sup>; *takes note, as well, that Bulgaria was the first member state using voluntarily the Horizon 2020 policy Support Facility and encourages the Commission to continue supporting member states which need to modernize their research and innovation sectors;*

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<sup>80</sup> see paragraphs 3.22 and 3.23 of the ECA annual report

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<sup>80</sup> see paragraphs 3.22 and 3.23 of the ECA annual report

Or. en

## **Amendment 154** **Luke Ming Flanagan**

### **Motion for a resolution** **Paragraph 66**

#### *Motion for a resolution*

66. Points out that there remain a number of weaknesses in the performance indicators used in Horizon 2020, such as in relation to the balance of indicators which measure only inputs or outputs rather than results and impact<sup>81</sup> , the absence of baselines *or* a lack of ambition in targets;

#### *Amendment*

66. Points out that there remain a number of weaknesses in the performance indicators used in Horizon 2020, such as *1)* in relation to the balance of indicators which measure only inputs or outputs rather than results and impact<sup>81</sup> , *2)* the absence of baselines *and* *3)* a lack of ambition in targets;

<sup>81</sup> see paragraph 3.29 of the ECA annual report

<sup>81</sup> see paragraph 3.29 of the ECA annual report

Or. en

**Amendment 155**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 68**

*Motion for a resolution*

68. Notes with satisfaction that as to the proposals and grant agreements examined by the Court sufficient emphasis had been put on performance in the objectives, when required by the Commission and that the same applies for the evaluation process of these proposals;

*Amendment*

68. Notes with satisfaction that, as to the proposals and grant agreements examined by the Court, sufficient emphasis had been put on performance in the objectives when required by the Commission, and that the same applies for the evaluation process of these proposals;

Or. en

**Amendment 156**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 70**

*Motion for a resolution*

70. Is concerned by the fact that the Commission does not always use key performance concepts (for example, “output”, “results” and “impact”) consistently;

*Amendment*

70. Is concerned by the fact that the Commission does not always use key performance concepts (for example, “output”, “results”, "*outcomes*", and “impact”) consistently;

Or. en

**Amendment 157**  
**Bogusław Liberadzki, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**

on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 70 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**70a. Regrets that the payment policy for researchers is applied with minor adjustments in the framework of the Horizon 2020 programme and thus it allows different payment for the same work within the same project based only on the nationality of the researcher, which stimulates the brain-drain of scientists from Central and Eastern Europe;**

Or. en

**Amendment 158**  
**Ingeborg Gräßle**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 71**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

71. Regrets that the Court found that the current setup does not enable the Commission to monitor and report separately the spending and performance of research and development (R&D) and innovation within Horizon 2020; in addition, while the financial contribution of Horizon 2020 within Europe 2020 is well established in the budgetary process through the published programme statements, it is regrettable that the Commission has not yet reported on the implementation of Horizon 2020 and its contribution to Europe 2020 in a meaningful way;

71. Regrets that the Court found that the current setup does not enable the Commission to monitor and report separately the spending and performance of research and development (R&D) and innovation within Horizon 2020; in addition, while the financial contribution of Horizon 2020 within Europe 2020 is well established in the budgetary process through the published programme statements, it is regrettable that the Commission has not yet reported on the implementation of Horizon 2020 and its contribution to Europe 2020 in a meaningful way; ***invites the Commission to report on the implementation of Horizon 2020 and its contribution to Europe 2020 in a meaningful way as***

*results of the programme become available;*

Or. en

**Amendment 159**

**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 71**

*Motion for a resolution*

71. *Regrets that the Court found that the current setup does not enable the Commission* to monitor and report separately the spending and performance of research and development (R&D) and innovation within Horizon 2020; in addition, while the financial contribution of Horizon 2020 within Europe 2020 is well established in the budgetary process through the published programme statements, *it is regrettable that the Commission has not yet reported* on the implementation of Horizon 2020 and its contribution to Europe 2020 in a meaningful way;

*Amendment*

71. *Supports the Commission's view that it is not necessary* to monitor and report separately the spending and performance of research and development (R&D) and innovation within Horizon 2020; in addition, while the financial contribution of Horizon 2020 within Europe 2020 is well established in the budgetary process through the published programme statements, *invites the Commission to report* on the implementation of Horizon 2020 and its contribution to Europe 2020 in a meaningful way *as the results of the programme become available;*

Or. en

**Amendment 160**

**Andrey Novakov**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 71 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*71a. Suggests that the role for the National Contact Points (NCP) should be increased in order to provide quality technical support on the ground; Annual assessment of results, trainings and*

*Amendment*

*stimulation of well performing NCPs will increase the success rate of Horizon 2020 programme.*

Or. en

**Amendment 161**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Subheading 14 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*Measures to be taken*

Or. en

**Amendment 162**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 71 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*71a. Calls on the Commission to present, in its future performance reports, the contribution of Horizon 2020 to Europe 2020 in a clear and exhaustive way;*

Or. en

**Amendment 163**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 72**



*Motion for a resolution*

72. Regrets *that* the Court *noted* that many of the objectives used in management plans and annual activity reports of the DGs for agriculture and rural development (AGRI) for Climate Action (CLIMA), for Environment (ENVI) and for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE) were taken directly from policy or legislative documents and lacked the level of detail necessary for management and monitoring purposes;

*Amendment*

72. Regrets *the observations made by* the Court that many of the objectives used in management plans and annual activity reports of the DGs for agriculture and rural development (AGRI) for Climate Action (CLIMA), for Environment (ENVI) and for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE) were taken directly from policy or legislative documents and lacked the level of detail necessary for management and monitoring purposes;

Or. en

**Amendment 164**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 73 – indent 1**

*Motion for a resolution*

– assess the performance of work programmes *and calls*, by translating high-level objectives set out in the Horizon 2020 legislation into operational objectives at work programme level;

*Amendment*

– assess the performance of work programmes by translating high-level objectives set out in the Horizon 2020 legislation into operational objectives at work programme level;

Or. en

**Amendment 165**  
**Bogusław Liberadzki, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 73 – indent 3 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

– *take measures ensuring the same pay for researchers doing the same work within the same project;*

*Amendment*

**Amendment 166**

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 73 – indent 3 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

– *provide a list, by nationality, of all the enterprises quoted on the stock-exchange and/or which show a profit in their annual statement of accounts and which receive funds from Horizon 2020;*

Or. fr

**Amendment 167**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 74**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

74. *Welcomes* the fact that the Court overall audit evidence indicates that revenue is not affected by a material level of error and, in particular, that the examined systems are effective for GNI and *VAT based* own resources, that the examined systems are overall effective for the traditional own resources, the key internal controls in Member States visited by the Court being nevertheless partially effective and that the Court found no errors in the transactions tested;

74. *Notes* the fact that the Court overall audit evidence indicates that revenue is not affected by a material level of error and, in particular, that the examined systems are effective for GNI and *VAT-based* own resources, that the examined systems are overall effective for the traditional own resources, the key internal controls in Member States visited by the Court being nevertheless partially effective and that the Court found no errors in the transactions tested; *notes also, however, that as has been known for many years but that as was highlighted in 2016 when there was an almost overnight increase of 26%, Ireland's GDP is hugely distorted by the presence and activities of many major multinationals corporations (MNCs), this*

*distorted GDP then used to overestimate Ireland's contribution to the EU budget; given that the major distortion announced in 2016 related to Ireland's 2015 GDP, a refund is surely due to Ireland for that year;*

Or. en

**Amendment 168**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 75**

*Motion for a resolution*

75. Recalls that a reservation is a means by which a doubtful element in GNI data submitted by a Member State is kept open for possible correction and *welcomes* the fact that the Court did not identify serious problems in the lifted reservations reviewed in 2015;

*Amendment*

75. Recalls that a reservation is a means by which a doubtful element in GNI data submitted by a Member State is kept open for possible correction and *notes* the fact that the Court did not identify serious problems in the lifted reservations reviewed in 2015; *advises, however, that in light of the gross distortion of Ireland's GDP for 2015, caused by the activities of its many major multinational corporations (MNCs), such a reservation is now needed for Ireland for 2015;*

Or. en

**Amendment 169**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 78**

*Motion for a resolution*

78. Regarding *the* traditional own resources notes that at the end of 2015, the Commission also had a list of 325 open points concerning non-compliance with

*Amendment*

78. Regarding traditional own resources, notes that at the end of 2015 the Commission also had a list of 325 open points concerning non-compliance with

Union customs rules that they had identified through inspections in Member States;

Union customs rules that they had identified through inspections in Member States;

Or. en

**Amendment 170**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 79**

*Motion for a resolution*

79. Points out that *the Court found* - as to the customs duties and sugar levies statements - inefficiencies in the management of the amounts receivable (known as the B accounts) in the Member States and that the Commission identified similar shortcomings in 17 of the 22 Member States they visited;

*Amendment*

79. Points out that as to the customs duties and sugar levies statements, *the Court found* inefficiencies in the management of the amounts receivable (known as the B accounts) in the Member States and that the Commission identified similar shortcomings in 17 of the 22 Member States they visited;

Or. en

**Amendment 171**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 81**

*Motion for a resolution*

81. Stresses that the impact of the major revisions to the GNI balances could be smaller if a common Union revision policy harmonising the *time table* for major revisions had been in place;

*Amendment*

81. Stresses that the impact of the major revisions to the GNI balances could be smaller if a common Union revision policy harmonising the *timetable* for major revisions had been in place;

Or. en

**Amendment 172**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 82**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**82. Deplores that structural and legal elements having led to the political incident which occurred by the end of October 2014 as to the contributions of some Member States are still in place;**

*deleted*

Or. en

**Amendment 173**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 83 – indent 5 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

– *reassess Ireland's EU 2015 budget contribution with a view to changing the basis for assessment from GDP to the more accurate GNP, which in the case of the vast majority of countries are far more closely aligned than in Ireland and which would reflect a truer measure of Ireland's national production;*

Or. en

**Amendment 174**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 89 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**89a. Strongly condemns the fact that the Commission does not feel the need to**

*further publish the EU Anti-corruption report; is of the opinion, that whatever the Commission's intentions on fighting corruption, this last minute cancellation sends out the wrong signal not only to the Member States but also to the citizens; reiterates its opinion that corruption is still a challenge for the EU and the Member States; and without effective anti-corruption measures it undermines the economic performance, the rule of law and the credibility of democratic institutions within the EU;*

*Calls on the European Commission to finalise and publish the 2016 anti-corruption report, to act swiftly and robustly to eliminate corruption in the Member States and EU institutions, and to commission an independent assessment of the anti-corruption standards in the EU institutions themselves.*

Or. en

**Amendment 175**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 89 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*89b. Strongly reiterates its call on 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; invites the Commission to develop a corruption index in order to categorise the Member States; is of the opinion that Corruption index could provide a sound basis on which the Commission could establish its country*

*specific control mechanism when  
controlling the spending EU resources;*

Or. en

**Amendment 176**  
**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 90 – introductory part**

*Motion for a resolution*

90. ***Welcomes the fact*** that the ex-post evaluation of FP7, undertaken by a high-level expert group<sup>86</sup>, considered FP7 to have been a success; the high-level group underlined in particular that FP7:

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<sup>86</sup>Commitment and Coherence, ex-post evaluation of the 7th EU Framework Programme, November 2015  
[https://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/fp7\\_final\\_evaluation\\_expert\\_group\\_report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/fp7_final_evaluation_expert_group_report.pdf)

*Amendment*

90. ***Notes that despite the repeated error rate, and delays in its implementation and closure,*** the ex-post evaluation of FP7, undertaken by a high-level expert group<sup>86</sup>, considered FP7 to have been a success; the high-level group underlined in particular that FP7:

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<sup>86</sup>Commitment and Coherence, ex-post evaluation of the 7th EU Framework Programme, November 2015  
[https://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/fp7\\_final\\_evaluation\\_expert\\_group\\_report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/fp7_final_evaluation_expert_group_report.pdf)

Or. es

**Amendment 177**  
**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 91 – introductory part**

*Motion for a resolution*

91. ***Notes*** that the public stakeholder consultation in the context of the FP7 evaluation, held between February and May 2015, pointed to the following weaknesses:

*Amendment*

91. ***Regrets*** that the public stakeholder consultation in the context of the FP7 evaluation, held between February and May 2015, pointed to the following weaknesses:

**Amendment 178**  
**Andrey Novakov**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 91 – indent 2**

*Motion for a resolution*

- high degree of over-subscription,

*Amendment*

- high degree of over-subscription;  
*little flexibility of allocations between subprograms;*

Or. en

**Amendment 179**  
**Andrey Novakov**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 91 – indent 6**

*Motion for a resolution*

- high threshold for newcomers;

*Amendment*

- high threshold for newcomers; *low average success rate for proposals and applicants of 19% and 22% respectively;*

Or. en

**Amendment 180**  
**Andrey Novakov**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 91 – indent 6 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

- *-weak communication;*

Or. en



## Amendment 181

Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali

### Motion for a resolution

#### Paragraph 92

##### *Motion for a resolution*

92. Regrets that **that** the target to invest 3% of Member States' gross domestic product (GDP) into research by 2020 will most likely not be met;

##### *Amendment*

92. Regrets that the target to invest 3% of Member States' gross domestic product (GDP) into research by 2020 will most likely not be met; **is aware, that the majority of all Research and Innovation expenditure in the EU is, at the national and regional level in Member States and through the private sector, where the Commission plays the role of a catalyst and facilitator, encouraging increased and smarter investment in research and innovation by Member States and the business sector through working with the Member States and the development of appropriate policies of open science and open innovation; calls on the Commission to draw the necessary conclusions for the mid-term revision of the MFF and for the next MFF;**

Or. en

## Amendment 182

Luke Ming Flanagan

### Motion for a resolution

#### Paragraph 92

##### *Motion for a resolution*

92. Regrets that that the target to invest 3% of Member States' gross domestic product (GDP) into research by 2020 will most likely not be met;

##### *Amendment*

92. Regrets that that the target to invest 3% of Member States' gross domestic product (GDP) into research by 2020 will most likely not be met; **recommends that in the case of Ireland, where GDP is hugely distorted by the presence and**

*activities of many major multinational corporations, GNP rather than GDP should be used as the basis for such calculations;*

Or. en

**Amendment 183**  
**Ingeborg Gräßle**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 92**

*Motion for a resolution*

92. Regrets that that the target to invest 3% of Member States' gross domestic product (GDP) into research by 2020 will most likely not be met;

*Amendment*

92. Regrets that that the target to invest 3% of Member States' gross domestic product (GDP) into research by 2020 will most likely not be met; ***calls on all Member States to rise to the challenge. Calls on the Commission to draw the necessary conclusions for mid-term revision of the MFF and for the next MFF;***

Or. en

**Amendment 184**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 92**

*Motion for a resolution*

92. Regrets that ***that*** the target to invest 3% of Member States' gross domestic product (GDP) into research by 2020 will most likely not be met;

*Amendment*

92. ***Deeply*** regrets that the target to invest 3% of Member States' gross domestic product (GDP) into research by 2020 will most likely not be met; ***considers therefore that the recurrent cuts in the EU budget concerning the research programs should be halted;***

**Amendment 185**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 94**

*Motion for a resolution*

94. Welcomes also that the share of Horizon 2020 funds allocated to small and medium-sized enterprises increased from 19,4% in 2014 to 23,4% in 2015;

*Amendment*

94. Welcomes also that the share of Horizon 2020 funds allocated to small and medium-sized enterprises increased from 19,4% in 2014 to 23,4% in 2015 **and recommends that this trend should be proactively encouraged;**

**Amendment 186**  
**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 95**

*Motion for a resolution*

95. **Regrets** that the DG R&I **failed to comply** with its **wish** that the Commission's directorate generals should publish all their country specific recommendations in their annual activity reports;

*Amendment*

95. **Considers it unacceptable** that the DG R&I **has not complied** with its **request** that the Commission's directorate generals should publish all their country specific recommendations in their annual activity reports; **notes with concern that only a limited number of territories are represented in the 20 most important Horizon 2020 projects;**

**Amendment 187**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**

## Paragraph 97

### *Motion for a resolution*

97. Notes that the responsibility to implement the research framework programmes is shared amongst different Commission directorate-generals, **to** Executive Agencies, Joint Undertakings and so called Article 185 bodies (partnerships with the Member States), which requires close coordination;

### *Amendment*

97. Notes that the responsibility to implement the research framework programmes is shared amongst different Commission directorate-generals, Executive Agencies, Joint Undertakings and so called Article 185 bodies (partnerships with the Member States), **all of** which requires close coordination;

Or. en

## Amendment 188 Luke Ming Flanagan

### Motion for a resolution Paragraph 98

#### *Motion for a resolution*

98. Clarifies that the Court's audit **concerned** almost exclusively payments under the Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7);

#### *Amendment*

98. Clarifies that the Court's audit almost exclusively **concerned** payments under the Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7);

Or. en

## Amendment 189 Luke Ming Flanagan

### Motion for a resolution Paragraph 103

#### *Motion for a resolution*

103. Regrets that most of the quantified errors which the Court found (33 out of 38) concerned the reimbursement of ineligible personnel and indirect costs declared by beneficiaries; almost all of the errors we found in cost statements were due to beneficiaries misinterpreting the complex

#### *Amendment*

103. Regrets that most of the quantified errors which the Court found (33 out of 38) concerned the reimbursement of ineligible personnel and indirect costs declared by beneficiaries; almost all of the errors we found in cost statements were due to beneficiaries misinterpreting the complex

eligibility rules or incorrectly calculating their eligible costs;

eligibility rules or incorrectly calculating their eligible costs *which leads to the obvious conclusion that those rules need to be simplified*;

Or. en

## **Amendment 190**

**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

### **Motion for a resolution**

#### **Paragraph 103**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

103. Regrets that most of the quantified errors which the Court found (33 out of 38) concerned the reimbursement of ineligible personnel and indirect costs declared by beneficiaries; almost all of the errors *we found* in cost statements were due to beneficiaries misinterpreting the complex eligibility rules or incorrectly calculating their eligible costs;

##### *Amendment*

103. Regrets that most of the quantified errors which the Court found (33 out of 38) concerned the reimbursement of ineligible personnel and indirect costs declared by beneficiaries *and that* almost all of the errors *found by the Court* in cost statements were due to beneficiaries misinterpreting the complex eligibility rules or incorrectly calculating their eligible costs;

Or. en

## **Amendment 191**

**Ingeborg Gräßle**

### **Motion for a resolution**

#### **Paragraph 105**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

105. *Regrets* that the director general of DG R&I issued again, as in previous years, a horizontal reservation concerning all cost claims under FP7 (EUR 1,47 billion); is of the opinion that horizontal reservations in general cannot be considered as instrument of sound financial management;

##### *Amendment*

105. *Questions why* that the director general of DG R&I issued again, as in previous years, a horizontal reservation concerning all cost claims under FP7 (EUR 1,47 billion); is of the opinion that horizontal reservations in general cannot be considered as instrument of sound financial management; *acknowledges however 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) were significantly lower than for all expenditure; within RTD this applies to expenditure given Joint Undertakings; 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 192**  
**Martina Dlabajová**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 105**

*Motion for a resolution*

105. Regrets that the director general of DG R&I issued again, as in previous years, a horizontal reservation concerning all cost claims under FP7 (EUR 1,47 billion); is of the opinion that horizontal reservations in general cannot be considered as instrument of sound financial management;

*Amendment*

105. Regrets that the director general of DG R&I issued again, as in previous years, a horizontal reservation concerning all cost claims under FP7 (EUR 1,47 billion); is of the opinion that horizontal reservations in general cannot be considered as instrument of sound financial management;  
*acknowledges however that certain parts of FP7 expenditure were not covered by a reserve where there was evidence that risk (and so the residual error rates) were significantly lower than for all expenditure; within RTD this applies to expenditure given to Joint Undertakings; outside RTD this 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 193**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 105**

*Motion for a resolution*

105. **Regrets** that the director general of DG R&I issued again, as in previous years, a horizontal reservation concerning all cost claims under FP7 (EUR 1,47 billion); is of the opinion that horizontal reservations in general cannot be considered as instrument of sound financial management;

*Amendment*

105. **Notes** that the director general of DG R&I issued again, as in previous years, a horizontal reservation concerning all cost claims under FP7 (EUR 1,47 billion); is of the opinion that horizontal reservations in general cannot be considered as instrument of sound financial management;

Or. en

**Amendment 194**  
**Martina Dlabajová**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 105 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

**105a. Remains convinced that the Commission must continue to strive for an acceptable balance between the attractiveness of programmes to participants and the legitimate necessity of accountability and financial control; recalls, in this connection, the statements of the Director General that a procedure designed to attain a residual error rate of 2% under all circumstances is not a viable option;**

*Amendment*

Or. en

**Amendment 195**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 107**

*Motion for a resolution*

107. Is concerned that FP7, according to the Commissioner, will not be fully executed and evaluated before 2020; this could cause delays in future follow-up programmes;

*Amendment*

107. Is concerned that FP7, according to the Commissioner, will not be fully executed and evaluated before 2020; this could cause delays in future follow-up programmes; ***urges the Commission to publish the evaluation report as soon as possible and at the latest before its presents the post Horizon 2020 research program;***

Or. en

**Amendment 196**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 109**

*Motion for a resolution*

109. Is concerned about the Court's findings that multiannual programmes setting political objectives like EU 2020 or Horizon 2020 advance in parallel ***and*** do not have a real link<sup>87</sup> ;

*Amendment*

109. Is concerned about the Court's findings that multiannual programmes setting political objectives like EU 2020 or Horizon 2020, ***while they*** advance in parallel, ***they*** do not have a real link<sup>87</sup> ;

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<sup>87</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report 2015, point 3.19

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<sup>87</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report 2015, point 3.19

Or. en

**Amendment 197**  
**Ingeborg Gräßle**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 110**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*



110. Regrets furthermore that the first monitoring report on Horizon 2020 gave only little information about synergy effects between the programme and structural funds<sup>88</sup> ;

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<sup>88</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report 2015, point 3.22

110. Regrets furthermore that the first monitoring report on Horizon 2020 gave only little information about synergy effects between the programme and structural funds<sup>88</sup> ; ***invites the Commission to report on these synergy effects as results of the programme become available;***

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<sup>88</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report 2015, point 3.22

Or. en

**Amendment 198**  
**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 110**

*Motion for a resolution*

110. ***Regrets furthermore*** that the first monitoring report on Horizon 2020 gave only little information about synergy effects between the programme and structural funds<sup>88</sup> ;

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<sup>88</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report 2015, point 3.22

*Amendment*

110. ***Notes*** that the first monitoring report on Horizon 2020 gave only little information about synergy effects between the programme and structural funds<sup>88</sup> ; ***invites the Commission to report on these synergy effects as results of the programme become available;***

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<sup>88</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report 2015, point 3.22

Or. en

**Amendment 199**  
**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 111**

*Motion for a resolution*

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**EN**

111. Also *regrets* that, according to the Court<sup>89</sup>, Horizon 2020 is not sufficiently performance driven;

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<sup>89</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report 2015, Section 3

111. Also *notes* that, according to the Court<sup>89</sup>, Horizon 2020 is not sufficiently performance driven; *welcomes the Commission's commitment to improve the work programmes, including their role in performance reporting*;

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<sup>89</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report 2015, Section 3

Or. en

## **Amendment 200**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

### **Motion for a resolution**

#### **Paragraph 111**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

111. *Also regrets* that, according to the Court<sup>89</sup>, Horizon 2020 is not sufficiently performance driven;

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<sup>89</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report 2015, Section 3

##### *Amendment*

111. *Is deeply concerned about the fact* that, according to the Court<sup>89</sup>, Horizon 2020 is not sufficiently performance driven;

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<sup>89</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report 2015, Section 3

Or. en

## **Amendment 201**

**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

### **Motion for a resolution**

#### **Paragraph 113**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

113. Calls on the Member States to make an extra effort with the view to meeting the target of 3 % GDP being invested in research; this would boost

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##### *Amendment*

113. Calls on the Member States to make an extra effort with the view to meeting the target of 3 % GDP being invested in research; this would boost

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excellence and innovation;

excellence and innovation; *ask the Commission to explore the possibility of setting the target of 3 % GDP being invested in research as a prerequisite for using EU funding relevant to research and innovation during the mid-term revision of the MFF and for the next MFF;*

Or. en

**Amendment 202**  
**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 113**

*Motion for a resolution*

113. Calls on the Member States to make an extra effort with the view to meeting the target of 3 % GDP being invested in research; this would boost excellence and innovation;

*Amendment*

113. Calls on the Member States to make an extra effort with the view to meeting the target of 3 % GDP being invested in research; this would boost excellence and innovation; *calls on the Commission therefore to examine the possibility of proposing a Science Covenant at local, regional and national level, building on the dynamic already created by the Covenant of Mayors;*

Or. es

**Amendment 203**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 113**

*Motion for a resolution*

113. Calls on the Member States to make an extra effort with the view to meeting the target of 3 % GDP being

*Amendment*

113. Calls on the Member States to make an extra effort with the view to meeting the target of 3 % GDP being

invested in research; this would boost excellence and innovation;

invested in research; this would boost excellence and innovation; ***calls on the Member states and the European Parliament to make an effort through the EU budget too;***

Or. en

**Amendment 204**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 113**

*Motion for a resolution*

113. Calls on the Member States to make an extra effort with the view to meeting the target of 3% **GDP** being invested in research; this would boost excellence and innovation;

*Amendment*

113. Calls on the Member States to make an extra effort with the view to meeting the target of 3% **GNP** being invested in research; this would boost excellence and innovation;

Or. en

**Amendment 205**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 115**

*Motion for a resolution*

115. Calls on the Commission to follow-up in particular the 16 cases of quantifiable errors, in which Commission, national authorities or independent auditors had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct the errors before accepting the expenditure; and inform its competent committee in detail about the corrective measures taken before the end of October 2017;

*Amendment*

115. Calls on the Commission to follow-up in particular the 16 cases of quantifiable errors in which Commission, national authorities or independent auditors had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct the errors before accepting the expenditure; and ***further, to*** inform its competent committee in detail about the corrective measures taken before the end of October 2017;

Or. en

**Amendment 206**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 115**

*Motion for a resolution*

115. ***Calls on*** the Commission to follow-up in particular the 16 cases of quantifiable errors, in which Commission, national authorities or independent auditors had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct the errors before accepting the expenditure; and inform its competent committee in detail about the corrective measures taken before the end of October 2017;

*Amendment*

115. ***Urges*** the Commission to follow-up in particular the 16 cases of quantifiable errors, in which Commission, national authorities or independent auditors had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct the errors before accepting the expenditure; and inform its competent committee in detail about the corrective measures taken before the end of October 2017;

Or. en

**Amendment 207**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Subheading 25 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*Miscellaneous*

Or. en

**Amendment 208**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 118 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**118a.** *Takes note of the exclusive attribution of operating grants under budget line 04 03 01 05 "Information and training measures for workers' organisations" to only two specific trade union institutes, the European Trade Union Institute and the European Centre for Workers Questions; reminds the Commission that operating grants and framework partnerships shall be basically treated as grants and hence be subject to open tendering procedures and publication; expresses its general concern regarding the justification of such attribution practices on grounds of de facto monopolies or bodies' technical competence, high degree of specialisation or administrative power (Article 190 1 c, f Rules of Application); brings into consideration that in particular lasting exclusive attributions of operating grants to bodies on these grounds may actually lead to such de facto monopolies, high competences, specialisations and powers, hence further justifying exclusive attributions of operating grants on the basis of Article 190 of the Rules of Application;*

Or. en

**Amendment 209**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 118 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**118b.** *Reminds the Commission in that regard that exceptions to the rules of transparency and publication as established in articles 125ff of the*

*Financial Regulation are to be interpreted and applied restrictively; Invites the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to strive towards clearly defining both the time frame and the scope of application for exceptions to the principles of transparency and publication, with the clear aim to further restrict their use;*

Or. en

**Amendment 210**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Subheading 25 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*Measures to be taken*

Or. en

**Amendment 211**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 118 c (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*118c. Requests the Commission to apply and interpret restrictively exceptions to the rules of transparency and publication as established in articles 125ff of the Financial Regulation; Requests the Commission to clearly define both the time frame and the scope of application for exceptions to the principles of transparency and publication, with the clear aim to further restrict their use;*

**Amendment 212**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 119**

*Motion for a resolution*

119. **Welcomes** the fact that, according to the ex-post evaluation of the ERDF/CF 2007-2013<sup>92</sup>, EUR 1 of cohesion policy investment will generate EUR 2,74 of **additional** Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2023; structural and cohesion funds invested mainly in small and medium enterprise innovation (EUR 32,3 billion), generic enterprise support (EUR 21,4 billion), in research and technology development (RTD) infrastructure (EUR 17,5 billion), transport investments (EUR 82,2 billion), energy investment (EUR 11,8 billion), environmental investment (EUR 41,9 billion), culture and tourism investments (EUR 12,2 billion) and urban and social infrastructure (EUR 28,8 billion);

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<sup>92</sup> SWD(2016) 318 final

*Amendment*

119. **Notes** the fact that, according to the ex-post evaluation of the ERDF/CF 2007-2013<sup>92</sup>, EUR 1 of cohesion policy investment will generate EUR 2,74 of **additional** Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2023; **welcomes the fact that** Structural and Cohesion Funds invested mainly in small and medium enterprise innovation (EUR 32,3 billion), generic enterprise support (EUR 21,4 billion), in research and technology development (RTD) infrastructure (EUR 17,5 billion), transport investments (EUR 82,2 billion), energy investment (EUR 11,8 billion), environmental investment (EUR 41,9 billion), culture and tourism investments (EUR 12,2 billion) and urban and social infrastructure (EUR 28,8 billion);

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<sup>92</sup> SWD(2016) 318 final

**Amendment 213**  
**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 120**

*Motion for a resolution*

120. Welcomes that ERDF/CF were able, to a certain extent, to counter balance the effects of the 2007-2008 financial

*Amendment*

120. Welcomes that ERDF/CF were able, to a certain extent, to counter balance the effects of the 2007-2008 financial



crises, indicating that without structural funds' intervention the economic divergence among European regions would have grown;

crises, indicating that without structural funds' intervention the economic **and social** divergence among European regions would have grown **even more**;

Or. en

**Amendment 214**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 120**

*Motion for a resolution*

120. ***Welcomes that ERDF/CF were able, to a certain extent, to counter-balance*** the effects of the 2007-2008 financial crises, indicating that without structural funds' intervention the economic divergence among European regions would have grown;

*Amendment*

120. ***Notes that to a limited extent, ERDF/CF were able to counter-balance*** the effects of the 2007-2008 financial crises, indicating that without structural funds' intervention the economic divergence among European regions would have grown ***even more than it has***;

Or. en

**Amendment 215**  
**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 120 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

***120a. Welcomes the achievements of the cohesion policy shown by the ex-post evaluations of the 2007-2013 programming period in relation to the EU 2020 targets:***

***– by ERDF and Cohesion Fund:  
Headlines 1 "Employment" and 2 "R&D and innovations" - 41 600 research jobs were created and 400 000 SMEs were supported; Headline 3 "Climate change and Energy" - 3900 MW additional***

*capacity of renewable energy production were created;*

*– by the European Social Fund:  
Headlines 1 "Employment" - at least 9.4 million people gained employment (of which more than 300.000 people supported became self-employed);  
Headline 4 "Education" - at least 8.7 million people gained a qualification/certificate;*

Or. en

**Amendment 216**  
**Georgi Pirinski**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 121**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*121. Notes, however, that very few programmes had a focus on results or measured impact; therefore little to nothing is known about the sustainability of the investments;*

*deleted*

Or. en

**Amendment 217**  
**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 121**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*121. Notes, however, that very few programmes had a focus on results or measured impact; therefore little to nothing is known about the sustainability of the investments;*

*deleted*

Or. en

**Amendment 218**  
**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 121**

*Motion for a resolution*

121. Notes, however, that very few programmes had a focus on results or measured impact; therefore little to nothing is known about the sustainability of the investments;

*Amendment*

121. Notes, however, that ***in 2015*** very few programmes had ***jet*** a focus on results or measured impact; therefore ***urges the Commission to set and agree at Interinstitutional level the necessary set of indicators to implement the budget based on result*** little to nothing is known about the sustainability of the investments;

Or. en

**Amendment 219**  
**Bogusław Liberadzki, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 121**

*Motion for a resolution*

121. Notes, however, that very few programmes had a focus on results or measured impact; ***therefore little to nothing is known about the sustainability of the investments;***

*Amendment*

121. Notes, however, that very few programmes had a focus on results or measured impact;

Or. en

**Amendment 220**  
**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 121**

*Motion for a resolution*

121. Notes, however, that very few programmes had a focus on results or measured impact; therefore little to nothing is known about the sustainability of the investments;

*Amendment*

121. Notes, however, that very few programmes had a focus on results or measured impact; therefore little to nothing is known about the sustainability **and the European added value** of the investments;

Or. en

**Amendment 221**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 121**

*Motion for a resolution*

121. **Notes**, however, that very few programmes had a focus on results or measured impact; therefore little to nothing is known about the sustainability of the investments;

*Amendment*

121. **Highlights**, however, that very few programmes had a focus on results or measured impact; therefore little to nothing is known about the sustainability of the investments;

Or. en

**Amendment 222**

**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 122**

*Motion for a resolution*

**122. Regrets that it is not informed about the measures, which the Commission asked Member States to undertake in the context of the European semester**

*Amendment*

**deleted**

Or. en

**Amendment 223**

**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 122**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**122. Regrets that it is not informed about the measures, which the Commission asked Member States to undertake in the context of the European semester**

**deleted**

Or. en

**Amendment 224**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 122**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

122. Regrets that it is not informed about the measures, which the Commission asked Member States to undertake in the context of the European semester

122. Regrets that it is not informed about the measures, which the Commission asked Member States to undertake in the context of the European semester; ***calls on the Commission to inform the European Parliament about the measures taken by the Member states in the context of the European semester;***

Or. en

**Amendment 225**

**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 122**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

122. Regrets that ***it is not informed***

122. Regrets that ***for the time being the***

*about the measures, which the Commission asked Member States to undertake* in the context of the European semester

*debate on possible measures to use* in the context of the European Semester *is not addressing them fairly to all and every Member State (deficit and surplus ones)*

Or. en

**Amendment 226**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 122**

*Motion for a resolution*

122. Regrets that it is not informed about the measures, **which** the Commission asked Member States to undertake in the context of the European semester

*Amendment*

122. Regrets that it is not informed about the measures the Commission asked Member States to undertake in the context of the European semester

Or. en

**Amendment 227**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 124**

*Motion for a resolution*

124. Welcomes the fact that the Court has aligned the chapters in its Annual Report to the heading under the MFF; is, **however**, of the opinion that the funds under this heading are of such financial importance ( European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): EUR 28,3 billion, Cohesion Fund (CF): EUR 12,1 billion, European Social Fund (ESF): EUR 10,3 billion) that the Court's audit strategy should keep the ERDF and the CF, **one** the one hand, and the ESF, on the other, identifiable;

*Amendment*

124. Welcomes the fact that the Court has aligned the chapters in its Annual Report to the heading under the MFF; is of the opinion, **however**, that the funds under this heading are of such financial importance - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) EUR 28,3 billion; Cohesion Fund (CF) EUR 12,1 billion; European Social Fund (ESF) EUR 10,3 billion - that the Court's audit strategy should keep the ERDF and the CF **on** the one hand, and the ESF on the other, identifiable;

**Amendment 228**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 125**

*Motion for a resolution*

125. Is concerned that Member States, in particular towards the end of a programming period, focussed on absorption funds available under national envelopes rather than on achievement of policy objectives;

*Amendment*

125. Is concerned that Member States, in particular towards the end of a programming period, focussed on absorption funds available under national envelopes rather than on achievement of policy objectives; ***calls on the European Commission to help the worst performing member states through technical assistance, especially at the end of the financial period;***

Or. en

**Amendment 229**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 125**

*Motion for a resolution*

125. Is concerned that ***Member States***, in particular towards the end of a programming period, focussed on absorption funds available under national envelopes rather than on achievement of policy objectives;

*Amendment*

125. Is concerned that, in particular towards the end of a programming period, ***Member States*** focussed on absorption funds available under national envelopes rather than on achievement of policy objectives;

Or. en

**Amendment 230**

**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 127**

*Motion for a resolution*

127. Is anxious that the 16 Member States, which have not yet transposed the directive on public procurement, and the 19 Member States which have not transposed the directive on award of concession contracts, and the 17 Member States, which have not transposed the directive on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors, do so as swiftly as possible, as the directives aim at further simplification; calls on the Commission to verify progress in these areas;

*Amendment*

127. Is anxious that the 16 Member States, which have not yet transposed the directive on public procurement, and the 19 Member States which have not transposed the directive on award of concession contracts, and the 17 Member States, which have not transposed the directive on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors, do so as swiftly as possible, as the directives aim at further simplification; calls on the Commission to verify progress in these areas; ***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 231**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 126**

*Motion for a resolution*

126. Is anxious that the 16 Member States, ***which*** have not yet transposed the directive on public procurement, ***and*** the 19 Member States ***which*** have not transposed the directive on award of concession contracts, and the 17 Member States, ***which*** have not transposed the directive on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport

*Amendment*

126. Is anxious that the 16 Member States ***that*** have not yet transposed the directive on public procurement, the 19 Member States ***that*** have not transposed the directive on award of concession contracts, and the 17 Member States ***that*** have not ***yet*** transposed the directive on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services



and postal services sectors, do so as *swiftly* as possible, as the directives aim at further simplification; calls on the Commission to verify progress in these areas;

sectors, do so as *quickly* as possible as the directives aim at further simplification; calls on the Commission to verify progress in these areas;

Or. en

**Amendment 232**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 127**

*Motion for a resolution*

127. Highlights the importance of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI); by the end of November 2015, close to 320,000 young people had been included in actions supported by the YEI and 18 out of 22 Member States had launched actions under it; 28 % of the available YEI funding had been committed, 20 % had been contracted out to beneficiaries and 5 % had been paid to beneficiaries; three Member States had not yet committed any funding by the end of November 2015 (ES, IE, UK-Scotland);

*Amendment*

127. Highlights the importance of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI); by the end of November 2015 close to 320,000 young people had been included in actions supported by the YEI and 18 out of 22 Member States had launched actions under it; 28 % of the available YEI funding had been committed; 20 % had been contracted out to beneficiaries and 5 % had been paid to beneficiaries; three Member States had not yet committed any funding by the end of November 2015 (ES, IE, UK-Scotland);

Or. en

**Amendment 233**  
**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 127 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***127a. Takes note of the preliminary results of the implementation of the ESF and YIE in 2014-2015 and that 2.7***

*million participants took part in ESF and YEI activities, including 1.6 million unemployed and 700,000 inactive people;*

Or. en

**Amendment 234**  
**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 129 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*129a. Expresses concern at the fact that in Italy there have been unacceptable delays in payments to trainees under the Youth Guarantee; 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 235**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 129**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

129. Notes that, in 2015, more than 80% of the payments were interim payments to operational programmes (OPs) of the 2007-2013 programming period, whose eligibility period ended 31 December 2015; the advance payments to the 2014-2020 programming period amounted to around EUR 7,8 billion;

129. Notes that in 2015 more than 80% of the payments were interim payments to operational programmes (OPs) of the 2007-2013 programming period, whose eligibility period ended 31 December 2015; the advance payments to the 2014-2020 programming period amounted to around EUR 7,8 billion;

Or. en

## **Amendment 236**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

### **Motion for a resolution**

#### **Paragraph 131**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

131. *Notes* that the Court quantified the estimated level of error at 5,2% (2014: 5,7%); is alarmed that the Court, as in previous years, had to conclude that “In 18 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. If all this information had been used, the estimated level of error for this chapter would have been 2,4 percentage points lower.”<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report concerning the financial year 2015, point 6.36

##### *Amendment*

131. *Is worried about the fact* that the Court quantified the estimated level of error at 5,2% (2014: 5,7%); is alarmed that the Court, as in previous years, had to conclude that “In 18 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; ***urges the Member States to use all information to prevent, detect and correct the errors; urges the Commission to check whether the Member States use all information to prevent, detect or correct the errors;*** if all this information had been used, the estimated level of error for this chapter would have been 2,4 percentage points lower.”<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report concerning the financial year 2015, point 6.36

Or. en

## **Amendment 237**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

### **Motion for a resolution**

#### **Paragraph 131**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

131. *Notes* that the Court quantified the estimated level of error at 5,2% (2014:

##### *Amendment*

131. *Notes with regret* that the Court quantified the estimated level of error at

5,7%); is alarmed that the Court, as in previous years, had to conclude that “In 18 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. If all this information had been used, the estimated level of error for this chapter would have been 2,4 percentage points lower.”<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report concerning the financial year 2015, point 6.36

5,2% (2014: 5,7%); is alarmed that the Court, as in previous years, had to conclude that “In 18 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. If all this information had been used, the estimated level of error for this chapter would have been 2,4 percentage points lower.”<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report concerning the financial year 2015, point 6.36

Or. en

### **Amendment 238** **Luke Ming Flanagan**

#### **Motion for a resolution** **Paragraph 132**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

132. Takes note that the Court identified that the main *risk* to regularity were, *in the area of ERDF/CF expenditure, that beneficiaries*, on the one hand, declare costs *which* are ineligible according to national eligibility rules and/or the less numerous eligibility provisions in the EU structural funds regulations, or, on the other hand, noncompliance with EU and/or national public procurement rules when awarding contracts; the Commission estimated the risk of error in this policy area between 3% and 5,6%;

##### *Amendment*

132. Takes note that *in the area of ERDF/CF expenditure*, the Court identified that the main *risks* to regularity were *that* on the one hand, *beneficiaries* declare costs *that* are ineligible according to national eligibility rules and/or the less numerous eligibility provisions in the EU structural funds regulations, or, on the other hand, noncompliance with EU and/or national public procurement rules when awarding contracts; the Commission estimated the risk of error in this policy area between 3% and 5,6%;

Or. en

### **Amendment 239**

**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

**Motion for a resolution  
Paragraph 133 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***133a. Notes with regret that one of the main sources of expenditure-related errors under the heading ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ continues to be breaches of the rules on public procurement; 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 240  
Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution  
Paragraph 133**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

133. Takes note that the Court identified that the main risk to regularity related, ***in the area of ESF expenditure***, to the intangible nature of the investments in human capital, and the involvement of multiple, often small-scale, partners in the implementation of projects; the Commission estimated the risk of error in this policy area between 3% and 3,6%;

133. Takes note that ***in the area of ESF expenditure***, the Court identified that the main risk to regularity related to the intangible nature of the investments in human capital and the involvement of multiple, often small-scale, partners in the implementation of projects; the Commission estimated the risk of error in this policy area between 3% and 3,6%;

Or. en

**Amendment 241**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 135**

*Motion for a resolution*

135. Welcomes *that fact* Member States' annual control reports became, over the years, *more reliable*: in only 14 cases (ERDF/CF) adjusted the Commission error rate reported by Member States upwards by more than 2%;

*Amendment*

135. Welcomes *the fact that* Member States' annual control reports became *more reliable* over the years: in only 14 cases (ERDF/CF) adjusted the Commission error rate reported by Member States upwards by more than 2%;

Or. en

**Amendment 242**  
**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 137**

*Motion for a resolution*

137. Regrets also that DG EMPL issues 23 reservations (down from 36) due to unreliable MCS in 11 Member States; the estimated financial impact of these reservations from EUR 169,4 million in 2014 to EUR 50,3 million in 2015 for the ESF;

*Amendment*

137. Regrets also that DG EMPL issues 23 reservations (down from 36) due to unreliable MCS in 11 Member States; *takes note that* the estimated financial impact of these reservations *decreased* from EUR 169,4 million in 2014 to EUR 50,3 million in 2015 for the ESF;

Or. en

**Amendment 243**  
**Bogusław Liberadzki, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 142**

*Motion for a resolution*

142. Points out that Poland, Hungary, Italy and France are the prime beneficiaries of the FEIs;

*Amendment*

142. Points out that Poland, Hungary, Italy and France are the prime **countries** *with* beneficiaries of the FEIs;

Or. en

**Amendment 244**

**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Subheading 30 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***European Investment Bank***

Or. en

**Amendment 245**

**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 144 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***144a. Is deeply concerned about the generally higher costs and fees for EIB/EIF-managed funds implementing financial instruments under shared management which have been revealed by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) findings in its Special report 19/2016 on 'Implementing the EU budget through financial instruments – lessons to be learnt from the 2007-2013 programme period' and encourages the ECA to conduct similar audit for the current period;***

Or. en

**Amendment 246**

**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 144 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**144b. Calls on the Commission to present annually by June every year starting from 2018 a report on implementation from the beginning of the current MFF and state of play, including results achieved, of all financial instruments managed and implemented by the EIB Group, which operate with resources from the EU budget, in order to use it in the discharge procedure;**

Or. en

**Amendment 247**

**Martina Dlabajová**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 145**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

145. Notes the European-Anti Fraud Office (OLAF) opened an administrative **investigation into a** project in the Czech Republic known as “Stork Nest” on the basis of alleged irregularities; calls on the Commission to inform its competent committee immediately when the **investigation is** completed;

145. Notes the European-Anti Fraud Office (OLAF) opened an administrative **investigations, such as in Germany related to the Volkswagen Group on the basis of emissions scandal, in France related to the National Front and MEP Le Pen and into** project in the Czech Republic known as "Stork Nest" on the basis of alleged irregularities; calls on the Commission to inform its competent committee immediately when the **investigations are** completed;

Or. en



**Amendment 248**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 146**

*Motion for a resolution*

146. Is deeply concerned that, in Hungary, the European Court of Auditors and DG REGION discovered serious irregularities related to the construction of metro line *four* in Budapest; based on an OLAF administrative enquiry, which began in 2012 and which was only recently concluded due to the complex nature of the case, the Commission may have to recover EUR 228 million and the European Investment Bank EUR 55 million; the mismanagement was discovered at project level; the OLAF case report also recommends judicial follow-ups in Hungary and the United Kingdom; calls on the Commission to keep its competent committee regularly informed on the progress made and measures taken;

*Amendment*

146. Is deeply concerned that in Hungary, the European Court of Auditors and DG REGION discovered serious irregularities related to the construction of metro line **4** in Budapest; based on an OLAF administrative enquiry, which began in 2012 and which was only recently concluded due to the complex nature of the case, the Commission may have to recover EUR 228 million and the European Investment Bank *may have to recover* EUR 55 million; the mismanagement was discovered at project level; the OLAF case report also recommends judicial follow-ups in Hungary and the United Kingdom; calls on the Commission to keep its competent committee regularly informed on the progress made and measures taken;

Or. en

**Amendment 249**  
**Cătălin Sorin Ivan, Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 147**

*Motion for a resolution*

***147. Deplores the adoption of two ordinances by the Romanian Parliament, which could impede an effective fight against corruption and which, in addition, could offer the possibility of pardoning***

*Amendment*

***deleted***

*politicians who may have been implicated in illegal acts; such new legislative measures could have a very negative impact on the Commission's endeavour to protect the Union's financial interests as Romania is an important recipient of structural funds; calls on the Commission to inform its competent committee about the measures taken by the Commission to address the situation in time for the 2015 discharge vote;*

Or. en

**Amendment 250**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 147**

*Motion for a resolution*

147. Deplores the adoption *of two ordinances* by the Romanian Parliament, which could impede an effective fight against corruption and which, in addition, could offer the possibility of pardoning politicians who may have been implicated in illegal acts; such new legislative measures could have a very negative impact on the Commission's endeavour to protect the Union's financial interests as Romania is an important recipient of structural funds; calls on the Commission to inform its competent committee about the measures taken by the Commission to address the situation in time for the 2015 discharge vote;

*Amendment*

147. Deplores the adoption by the Romanian Parliament *of two ordinances* which could impede an effective fight against corruption and which, in addition, could offer the possibility of pardoning politicians who may have been implicated in illegal acts; such new legislative measures could have a very negative impact on the Commission's endeavour to protect the Union's financial interests as Romania is an important recipient of structural funds; calls on the Commission to inform its competent committee about the measures taken by the Commission to address the situation in time for the 2015 discharge vote;

Or. en

**Amendment 251**  
**Cătălin Sorin Ivan, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 147 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**147a. Welcomes the Commission's 2014, 2015 and 2016 CVM reports highlighting a positive trend and a track record pointing to strong progress and growing irreversibility of reform; this trend is confirmed in the 2017 Report, with a continued track record for the judicial institutions in Bulgaria and Romania and a strong impetus by successive governments to strengthen corruption prevention.**

Or. en

**Amendment 252**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 149**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

149. Asks the Court that its audit strategy should keep the ERDF and the CF, **one** the one hand, and the ESF, on the other, **identifiable given their financial importance**;

149. Asks the Court that, **given their financial importance**, its audit strategy should keep the ERDF and the CF **on** the one hand, and the ESF on the other, **separately identifiable**;

Or. en

**Amendment 253**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 150 – indent 1**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

– to make sure that the management

– to make sure that the management

and control systems concerned in the 15 Member States<sup>97</sup>, which showed weaknesses are reinforced, and report on its effort to its competent committee in writing before October 2017;

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<sup>97</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report concerning the financial year 2015, point 6.9, footnote 8

and control systems concerned in the 15 Member States<sup>97</sup> which showed weaknesses, are reinforced, and report on its effort to its competent committee in writing before October 2017;

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<sup>97</sup> European Court of Auditors, Annual Report concerning the financial year 2015, point 6.9, footnote 8

Or. en

#### **Amendment 254**

**Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender, Bogusław Liberadzki**

#### **Motion for a resolution**

#### **Paragraph 150 – indent 4**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

– in line with the Court’s recommendation, to ***fundamentally reconsider*** the design and delivery mechanism for the ESI funds, ***including political and financial frameworks***, when making its legislative proposal for the next programming period taking also into account the suggestions of the high level simplification group; calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue at an early stage;

##### *Amendment*

– in line with the Court’s recommendation, to ***propose necessary updates of*** the design and delivery mechanism for the ESI funds when making its legislative proposal for the next programming period taking also into account the suggestions of the high level simplification group ***in order to strengthen the cohesion policy contribution to tackle disparities in inequalities between EU regions and Member States***; calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue at an early stage;

Or. en

#### **Amendment 255**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

#### **Motion for a resolution**

#### **Paragraph 150 – indent 4**

*Motion for a resolution*

– in line with the Court’s recommendation, to fundamentally reconsider the design and delivery mechanism for the ESI funds, including political and financial frameworks, **when making its legislative proposal for the next programming period** taking **also** into account the suggestions of the high level simplification group; calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue at an early stage;

*Amendment*

– in line with the Court’s recommendation, **when making its legislative proposal for the next programming period**, to fundamentally reconsider the design and delivery mechanism for the ESI funds (including political and financial frameworks), taking into account **also** the suggestions of the high level simplification group; calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue at an early stage;

Or. en

**Amendment 256**

**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 151 – indent 5 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

– in line with the Court’s recommendation, to fundamentally reconsider the design and delivery mechanism for the ESI funds, including political and financial frameworks, **when making its legislative proposal for the next programming period** taking **also** into account the suggestions of the high level simplification group; calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue at an early stage;

*Amendment*

– **to foresee full transparency and access to documentation for infrastructure work financed by the European Union, focusing particularly on data relating to contractors and subcontractors;**

Or. it

**Amendment 257**

**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 151**

*Motion for a resolution*

**151. Fully supports Commissioner Oettinger when he said that financial instruments and “shadow budgets” must**

*Amendment*

**deleted**

*be brought back, in the long run, under the roof of the Union budget, as the Commission would be answerable to the European Parliament; calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue before November 2017;*

Or. en

**Amendment 258**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 151**

*Motion for a resolution*

151. Fully supports Commissioner Oettinger when he said that financial instruments and “shadow budgets” must be brought back, *in the long run*, under the roof of the Union budget, as the Commission would be answerable to the European Parliament; calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue before November 2017;

*Amendment*

151. Fully supports Commissioner Oettinger when he said that financial instruments and “shadow budgets” must be brought back *eventually* under the roof of the Union budget (*and the sooner the better*), as the Commission would be answerable to the European Parliament; calls on the Commission to prepare a communication on this issue before November 2017;

Or. en

**Amendment 259**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 152**

*Motion for a resolution*

152. Recalls that the direct aid schemes introduced by the 2013 CAP Reform only entered into force in claim year 2015 and that the present report relates to the expenditure of budget year 2015, corresponding to the direct aid applications

*Amendment*

152. Recalls that the direct aid schemes introduced by the 2013 CAP Reform only entered into force in claim year 2015 and that the present report relates to the expenditure of budget year 2015, corresponding to the direct aid applications

lodged in 2014, the last year of the old CAP schemes;

lodged in 2014, the last year of the old CAP schemes; *also notes that much of the expenditure in rural development are in multi annual programs and as such cannot be assessed accurately on an annual basis;*

Or. en

**Amendment 260**  
**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 153 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**153a. Calls on the Commission, therefore, with a view to improving accountability and reporting at senior management levels, to examine a more flexible and efficient application of the rule on internal mobility of managers in cases where a long time in post is combined with high error rates constantly being noted by the Court of Auditors and sustained reservations about the results of management in the services concerned;**

Or. es

**Amendment 261**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 154**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

154. Points out that for “Market and direct support”, the estimated error of the Court is 2,2%, slightly above the materiality threshold of 2% (same level as in 2014) whilst in “Rural development and

154. Points out that for “Market and direct support”, the estimated error of the Court is 2,2%, slightly above the materiality threshold of 2% (same level as in 2014) whilst in “Rural development and

other policies”, the estimated level of error remains high at 5,3% but is lower than the 6% estimated last year;

other policies”, the estimated level of error remains high at 5,3% but is lower than the 6% estimated last year; *regrets therefore that the focus of the simplification agenda being pursued by the Commission is on Pillar one while Pillar two which is known to have a higher error rate due to the complexity of the schemes within it is not receiving priority;*

Or. en

**Amendment 262**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 154**

*Motion for a resolution*

154. Points out that for “Market and direct support”, the estimated error of the Court is 2,2%, slightly above the materiality threshold of 2% (same level as in 2014) whilst in “Rural development and other policies”, the estimated level of error remains high at 5,3% but is lower than the 6% estimated last year;

*Amendment*

154. Points out that for “Market and direct support”, the estimated error of the Court is 2,2%, slightly above the materiality threshold of 2% (same level as in 2014), whilst in “Rural development and other policies” the estimated level of error remains high at 5,3% but is lower than the 6% estimated last year;

Or. en

**Amendment 263**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 155**

*Motion for a resolution*

155. Stresses that errors in direct support area were nearly all due to an overstated number of eligible hectares despite the fact that the reliability of data in the Land Parcel Identification System has been

*Amendment*

155. Stresses that errors in direct support area were nearly all due to an overstated number of eligible hectares despite the fact that the reliability of data in the Land Parcel Identification System has been



constantly improving over recent years *and* points out that in rural development half of the errors were caused by the ineligibility of the beneficiary or project, 28% by procurement issues and 8% by infringements to agri-environmental commitments;

constantly improving over recent years, *believes however that there is room for further improvement in particular in developing a consistent approach to identifying landscape features, trees and hedges*; points out that in rural development half of the errors were caused by the ineligibility of the beneficiary or project, 28% by procurement issues and 8% by infringements to agri-environmental commitments;

Or. en

**Amendment 264**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 155**

*Motion for a resolution*

155. Stresses that errors in direct support area were nearly all due to an overstated number of eligible hectares despite the fact that the reliability of data in the Land Parcel Identification System has been constantly improving over recent years and points out that in rural development half of the errors were caused by the ineligibility of the beneficiary or project, 28% by procurement issues and 8% by infringements to agri-environmental commitments;

*Amendment*

155. Stresses that errors in direct support area were nearly all due to an overstated number of eligible hectares despite the fact that the reliability of data in the Land Parcel Identification System has been constantly improving over recent years, and points out that in rural development, half of the errors were caused by the ineligibility of the beneficiary or project, 28% by procurement issues, and 8% by infringements to agri-environmental commitments;

Or. en

**Amendment 265**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 156**

*Motion for a resolution*

156. Strongly regrets that for both areas, direct support and rural development, national authorities could have reduced the level of error to a level close to or below materiality<sup>98</sup> as they either had sufficient information to detect the error or they made the error themselves;

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<sup>98</sup> Avoiding these errors would have reduced our estimated level of error by 0.9 percentage points for “Market and direct support” and by 3.2 percentage points for “Rural development and other policies”.

*Amendment*

156. Strongly regrets that for both areas, direct support and rural development, national authorities could have reduced the level of error to a level close to or below materiality<sup>98</sup> as they either had sufficient information to detect the error or they made the error themselves; ***urges the Members states to use all available information to prevent, detect and correct any error and to act accordingly;***

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<sup>98</sup> Avoiding these errors would have reduced our estimated level of error by 0.9 percentage points for “Market and direct support” and by 3.2 percentage points for “Rural development and other policies”.

Or. en

**Amendment 266**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 157**

*Motion for a resolution*

157. Welcomes the fact that the Commission significantly reduced the number of open conformity procedures: from 192 in 2014 to 34 in 2015 and that following changes in legislation designed to streamline the procedure, the Commission now monitors the audit cycle more closely in order to comply with the internal and external deadlines;

*Amendment*

157. Welcomes the fact that the Commission significantly reduced the number of open conformity procedures from 192 in 2014 to 34 in 2015, and that following changes in legislation designed to streamline the procedure, the Commission now monitors the audit cycle more closely in order to comply with the internal and external deadlines;

Or. en

**Amendment 267**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 158 – point a**

*Motion for a resolution*

(a) for EAGF, the LPIS, the administrative controls, the quality of on-the-spot inspections and the recovery procedures for incorrect payments;

*Amendment*

(a) for EAGF, the LPIS, the administrative controls, the quality of on-the-spot inspections, ***the lack of consistency in defining the parameters for maintaining land in Good Agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC)*** and the recovery procedures for incorrect payments;

Or. en

**Amendment 268**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 158 – point a**

*Motion for a resolution*

(a) for EAGF, the LPIS, the administrative controls, the quality of on-the-spot inspections ***and*** the recovery procedures for incorrect payments;

*Amendment*

(a) for EAGF:  
\* The LPIS, the administrative controls;  
\* The quality of on-the-spot inspections;  
\* The recovery procedures for incorrect payments;

Or. en

**Amendment 269**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 158 – point b**

*Motion for a resolution*

(b) for rural development support, deficiencies in administrative checks related to eligibility conditions, in particular those concerning public

*Amendment*

(b) for rural development support:  
\* Deficiencies in administrative checks related to eligibility conditions, in particular those concerning public

procurement;

procurement;

Or. en

**Amendment 270**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 159**

*Motion for a resolution*

159. *Regrets that despite the fact that in 2015 the certification bodies were, for the first time* required to ascertain the legality and regularity of the expenditure, the Commission could use the work of those bodies only to a limited extent due to significant weaknesses in methodology and implementation such as: inadequate audit strategies, *small* samples being drawn that were too small, insufficient skills and legal expertise of Certification Bodies' auditors;

*Amendment*

159. *Notes that in 2015, for the first time*, the certification bodies were required to ascertain the legality and regularity of the expenditure; *regrets that* the Commission could use the work of those bodies only to a limited extent due to significant weaknesses in methodology and implementation such as:  
\* Inadequate audit strategies;  
\* Samples being drawn that were too small;  
\* Insufficient skills and legal expertise of Certification Bodies' auditors;

Or. en

**Amendment 271**  
**Andrey Novakov**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 160 – point a**

*Motion for a resolution*

(a) in Direct payments, DG AGRI made adjustments (top ups) for 12 out of 69 paying agencies with an error rate above 2% - but none above 5% - while only one paying agency had initially qualified its declaration; DG AGRI has issued a reservations for 10 paying agencies: *3 for Spain one for France, Bulgaria, Cyprus*

*Amendment*

(a) in Direct payments, DG AGRI made adjustments (top ups) for 12 out of 69 paying agencies with an error rate above 2% - but none above 5% - while only one paying agency had initially qualified its declaration; DG AGRI has issued a reservations for 10 paying agencies.

*Italy (Calabria), Romania, and one for Spain and France as to POSEI (Programme d'Options Spécifiques à l'Éloignement et à l'Insularité for the ultra-peripheral regions).*

Or. en

**Amendment 272**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 160 – point a**

*Motion for a resolution*

(a) in Direct payments, DG AGRI made adjustments (top ups) for 12 out of 69 paying agencies with an error rate above 2 % - but none above 5 % - while only one paying agency had initially qualified its declaration; DG AGRI has issued a reservations for 10 paying agencies: 3 for Spain *one* for France, Bulgaria, Cyprus Italy (Calabria), Romania, and one for Spain and France as to POSEI (Programme d'Options Spécifiques à l'Éloignement et à l'Insularité for the ultra-peripheral regions).

*Amendment*

(a) in Direct payments:  
\* DG AGRI made adjustments (top ups) for 12 out of 69 paying agencies with an error rate above 2 % (but none above 5 %) while only one paying agency had initially qualified its declaration;  
\* DG AGRI has issued a reservations for 10 paying agencies: 3 for Spain, *one each* for France, Bulgaria, Cyprus Italy (Calabria), Romania, and one *each* for Spain and France as to POSEI (Programme d'Options Spécifiques à l'Éloignement et à l'Insularité for the ultra-peripheral regions).

Or. en

**Amendment 273**  
**Andrey Novakov**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 160 – point b**

*Motion for a resolution*

(b) in rural area, DG AGRI made adjustments (top ups) for 36 out of 72 paying agencies and in 14 cases the adjusted error rate was above 5; DG AGRI

*Amendment*

(b) in rural area, DG AGRI made adjustments (top ups) for 36 out of 72 paying agencies and in 14 cases the adjusted error rate was above 5; DG AGRI

issued a reservation for 24 Paying agencies comprising 18 Member States: *Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy (4 paying agencies), Latvia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Spain (3 paying agencies) and the United Kingdom (2 paying agencies; in addition DG AGRI issued reservations concerning public procurement for 2 Member States: Germany and Spain;*

issued a reservation for 24 Paying agencies comprising 18 Member States.

Or. en

**Amendment 274**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 160 – point b**

*Motion for a resolution*

(b) in rural area, DG AGRI made adjustments (top ups) for 36 out of 72 paying agencies and in 14 cases the adjusted error rate was above 5; DG AGRI issued a reservation for 24 Paying agencies comprising 18 Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy (4 paying agencies), Latvia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Spain (3 paying agencies) and the United Kingdom (2 paying agencies; in addition DG AGRI issued reservations concerning public procurement for 2 Member States: Germany and Spain;

*Amendment*

(b) in rural area:  
\* DG AGRI made adjustments (top ups) for 36 out of 72 paying agencies and in 14 cases the adjusted error rate was above 5%;  
\* DG AGRI issued a reservation for 24 Paying agencies comprising 18 Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy (4 paying agencies), Latvia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Spain (3 paying agencies) and the United Kingdom (2 paying agencies;  
\* In addition DG AGRI issued reservations concerning public procurement for 2 Member States: Germany and Spain;

Or. en

**Amendment 275**  
**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 162**

*Motion for a resolution*

162. Notes that as in 2014, the Court examined performance related issues for selected rural development transactions and is concerned by the facts that there was insufficient evidence that costs were reasonable in 44 % of projects, and that there were deficiencies in targeting measures and selecting projects, including weak links to Europe 2020 objectives.

*Amendment*

162. Notes that as in 2014, the Court examined performance related issues for selected rural development transactions and is concerned by the facts that there was insufficient evidence that costs were reasonable in 44 % of projects, and that there were deficiencies in targeting measures and selecting projects, including weak links to Europe 2020 objectives;  
***calls on the European Commission to take all possible measures to improve this worrying situation;***

Or. en

**Amendment 276**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 162**

*Motion for a resolution*

162. Notes that as in 2014, the Court examined ***performance related*** issues for selected rural development transactions and is concerned by the facts that there was insufficient evidence that costs were reasonable in 44 % of projects, and that there were deficiencies in targeting measures and selecting projects, including weak links to Europe 2020 objectives.

*Amendment*

162. Notes that as in 2014, the Court examined ***performance-related*** issues for selected rural development transactions and is concerned by the facts that there was insufficient evidence that costs were reasonable in 44 % of projects, and that there were deficiencies in targeting measures and selecting projects, including weak links to Europe 2020 objectives.

Or. en

**Amendment 277**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 163 – introductory part**

*Motion for a resolution*

163. Is concerned about the reliability of the data used by the Commission to measure Key performance indicator 1 as defined by DG AGRI concerning the agricultural factor income; notes in particular that:

*Amendment*

163. Is concerned about the reliability of the data used by the Commission to measure Key performance indicator 1 as defined by DG AGRI concerning the agricultural factor income; ***believes that the current trend in part time farming due to low commodity prices is not accurately accounted for,*** notes in particular that:

Or. en

**Amendment 278**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 163 – introductory part**

*Motion for a resolution*

163. Is concerned about the reliability of the data used by the Commission to measure Key performance indicator 1 as defined by DG AGRI concerning the agricultural factor income; notes in particular that:

*Amendment*

163. Is concerned about the reliability of the data used by the Commission to measure Key Performance Indicator 1 (***KPI I***) as defined by DG AGRI concerning the agricultural factor income; notes in particular that:

Or. en

**Amendment 279**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 164**

*Motion for a resolution*

164. Fears that the Commission is not well equipped to ***yearly*** provide

*Amendment*

164. Fears that the Commission is not well equipped to provide comprehensive



comprehensive data as to **key performance indicator 1 and** to precisely and comprehensively monitor the evolution of farmer income;

**yearly** data as to **KPI 1, nor – as a result –** to precisely and comprehensively monitor the evolution of farmer income;

Or. en

**Amendment 280**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 165**

*Motion for a resolution*

165. Considers that **key performance 4** on the employment rate in rural development is not relevant **as** the employment rate in rural development is not solely influenced by the CAP measures **and as** the objective of maintaining and creating rural jobs is shared with many other instruments, notably other ESI funds;

*Amendment*

165. Considers that **KPI 4** on the employment rate in rural development is not relevant, **given that** the employment rate in rural development is not solely influenced by the CAP measures, **given also that** the objective of maintaining and creating rural jobs is shared with many other instruments, notably other ESI funds;

Or. en

**Amendment 281**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 167**

*Motion for a resolution*

167. Takes note that the director general of DG AGRI reported in one page of its Annual activity report for 2015 on the “Trends in the distribution of direct payments” and stressed once again that it is up to the Member States to use the options offered by the 2013 CAP reform to redistribute the CAP subsidies;

*Amendment*

167. Takes note that the director general of DG AGRI reported in one page of its Annual activity report for 2015 on the “Trends in the distribution of direct payments” and stressed once again that it is up to the Member States to use the options offered by the 2013 CAP reform to redistribute the CAP subsidies;  
**recommends that:**  
**\* Given the fact that this is one of the**

*biggest areas of EU funding;  
\* Given also the fact that under the current system in certain Member States (Ireland and the UK in particular), many large farms/estates are receiving vast annual sums from CAP, giving rise to much public criticism (justified) and putting at those funds at risk for al;  
The Commission should control the distribution of those funds such that they are properly targeted at those who are meant to receive them, with a binding cap on CAP payments to any individual farm, adjusted to the Consumer Price Index in each individual Member State;*

Or. en

**Amendment 282**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 167**

*Motion for a resolution*

167. Takes note that the director general of DG AGRI reported in one page of its Annual activity report for 2015 on the “Trends in the distribution of direct payments” *and stressed once again* that it is up to the Member States to use the options offered by the 2013 CAP reform to redistribute the CAP subsidies;

*Amendment*

167. Takes note that the director general of DG AGRI reported in one page of its Annual activity report for 2015 on the “Trends in the distribution of direct payments” *believes that the Commission has abdicated its duties in ensuring a fair distribution of CAP by stressed* that it is up to the Member States to use the options offered by the 2013 CAP reform to redistribute the CAP subsidies *which is in stark contrast to its willingness to engage directly with Member States and insist regulations be followed where it feels there is funds to be recovered;*

Or. en

**Amendment 283**

**José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 168**

*Motion for a resolution*

**168.** *Considers that direct payments may not fully play their role as a safety net mechanism for stabilising farm income, particularly for smaller farms, given that the current distribution of payments leads to 20 % of all farms in the EU receiving 80 % of all direct payments; is the opinion that larger farms do not necessarily need the same degree of support for stabilising farm incomes as smaller farms in times of income volatility crisis since they may benefit of potential economies of scale which are likely to make them more resilient;*

*Amendment*

*deleted*

Or. es

**Amendment 284**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 168**

*Motion for a resolution*

168. Considers that direct payments may not fully play their role as a safety net mechanism for stabilising farm income, particularly for smaller farms, given that the current distribution of payments leads to 20% of all farms in the EU receiving 80% of all direct payments; is the opinion that larger farms do not necessarily need the same degree of support for stabilising farm incomes as smaller farms in times of income volatility crisis since they may benefit of potential economies of scale which are likely to make them more

*Amendment*

168. Considers that direct payments may not fully play their role as a safety net mechanism for stabilising farm income, particularly for smaller farms, given that the current distribution of payments leads to 20% of all farms in the EU receiving 80% of all direct payments; is the opinion that larger farms do not necessarily need the same degree of support for stabilising farm incomes as smaller farms in times of income volatility crisis since they may benefit of potential economies of scale which are likely to make them more

resilient;

resilient; *considers that capping the direct payments, as initially proposed by the European Commissions and endorsed by the European Parliament, could deliver sufficient financial resources to make the CAP fairer;*

Or. en

**Amendment 285**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 168**

*Motion for a resolution*

168. Considers that direct payments may not fully play their role as a safety net mechanism for stabilising farm income, particularly for smaller farms, given that the current distribution of payments leads to 20% of all farms in the EU receiving 80% of all direct payments; is the opinion that larger farms do not necessarily need the same degree of support for stabilising farm incomes as smaller farms in times of income volatility crisis since they may benefit of potential economies of scale which are likely to make them more resilient;

*Amendment*

168. Considers that direct payments may not fully play their role as a safety net mechanism for stabilising farm income, particularly for smaller farms, given that the current distribution of payments leads to 20% of all farms in the EU receiving 80% of all direct payments *which does not reflect the level of production and is a legacy of Member States continuing to base payments on historic criteria*; is the opinion that larger farms do not necessarily need the same degree of support for stabilising farm incomes as smaller farms in times of income volatility crisis since they may benefit of potential economies of scale which are likely to make them more resilient;

Or. en

**Amendment 286**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 168**

*Motion for a resolution*

168. Considers that direct payments *may* not fully play their role as a safety net mechanism for stabilising farm income, particularly for smaller farms, given that the current distribution of payments leads to 20% of all farms in the EU receiving 80% of all direct payments; is the opinion that larger farms do not *necessarily* need the same degree of support for stabilising farm incomes as smaller farms in times of income volatility crisis since they *may* benefit *of potential* economies of scale which are likely to make them more resilient;

*Amendment*

168. Considers that direct payments *do* not fully play their role as a safety net mechanism for stabilising farm income, particularly for smaller farms, given that the current *unbalanced* distribution of payments leads to 20% of all farms in the EU receiving 80% of all direct payments; is the opinion that larger farms do not need the same degree of support for stabilising farm incomes as smaller farms in times of income volatility crisis, since they benefit *from* economies of scale which are likely to make them more resilient;

Or. en

**Amendment 287**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 171**

*Motion for a resolution*

171. Is concerned by the conclusions of the Court that six major changes potentially affecting the LPIS were introduced in May 2015 and that the complexity of the rules and the procedures required to deal with those changes has further increased the administrative burden for Member States;

*Amendment*

171. Is concerned by the conclusions of the Court that six major changes potentially affecting the LPIS were introduced in May 2015 and that the complexity of the rules and the procedures required to deal with those changes has further increased the administrative burden for Member States; *recommends that those six changes should be revisited with a view to simplification;*

Or. en

**Amendment 288**  
**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

**Motion for a resolution**

## Subheading 42

*Motion for a resolution*

*Czech paying agency*

*Amendment*

*Conformity clearance inquiry*

Or. en

## Amendment 289

**Martina Dlabajová, Nedzhmi Ali**

### Motion for a resolution

#### Paragraph 172

*Motion for a resolution*

172. Asks the Commission to speed up *the* conformity clearance *procedure* opened *on 8 January 2016* to get detailed and precise information on the risk of a conflict of interest *concerning the State Agricultural Intervention Fund in the Czech Republic*; takes note that a failure to remedy a conflict of interest may ultimately result in the withdrawal of the accreditation of the paying agency by the competent authority or in imposing financial corrections by the Commission and asks the Commission to inform the Parliament without delay if at the end of *the* conformity clearance procedure information related to possible cases of fraud, corruption or any illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the EU are transmitted to OLAF by DG AGRI;

*Amendment*

172. Asks the Commission to speed up *all* conformity clearance *procedures* opened *and* to get detailed and precise *pieces of* information *related to them, especially* on the risk of a conflict of interest; *is aware that in 2015 the Commission adopted 3 such conformity clearance decisions covering 207 individual net financial corrections for a total amount of EUR 2 551.7 million*; takes note that a failure to remedy a conflict of interest may ultimately result in the withdrawal of the accreditation of the paying agency by the competent authority or in imposing financial corrections by the Commission and asks the Commission to inform the Parliament without delay if at the end of *any* conformity clearance procedure information related to possible cases of fraud, corruption or any illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the EU are transmitted to OLAF by DG AGRI;

Or. en

## Amendment 290

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 174 – point b**

*Motion for a resolution*

(b) annually monitor the results of the LPIS quality assessment performed by Member States and check that all Member States *with negative assessments actually take the necessary remedial*;

*Amendment*

(b) annually monitor the results of the LPIS quality assessment performed by Member States and check that all Member States *have the skills and competency to ensure accurate implementation of the schemes*;

Or. en

**Amendment 291**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 174 – point c**

*Motion for a resolution*

(c) re-examine the current legal framework in order to simplify and streamline the LPIS related rules for the next CAP period, e.g. by re considering the need for the 2 % stability threshold and the 100-tree rule;

*Amendment*

(c) re-examine the current legal framework in order to simplify and streamline the LPIS related rules for the next CAP period, e.g. by re considering the need for the 2 % stability threshold and the 100-tree rule *in light of the clear benefits identified in practicing Agroforestry*;

Or. en

**Amendment 292**  
**Ingeborg Gräßle**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 174 – point e**

*Motion for a resolution*

(e) monitor and actively supports the certification bodies in improving their work and methodology on the legality and regularity of expenditure with a view to

*Amendment*

(e) monitor and actively supports the certification bodies in improving their work and methodology on the legality and regularity of expenditure *and in particular*

implement the single audit approach in the area of agricultural spending;

*in delivering opinions on the legality and regularity of the CAP expenditure of a quality and scope which enable the Commission to ascertain the reliability of Paying agencies' control data or, where appropriate, estimate the necessary adjustment of Paying agencies' error rates on the basis of those opinions*, with a view to implement the single audit approach in the area of agricultural spending;

Or. en

**Amendment 293**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 174 – point h**

*Motion for a resolution*

(h) redefine **KP4** relating to employment in rural area in order to stress the specific impact of the CAP measures on the employment in those areas;

*Amendment*

(h) redefine **KPI 4** relating to employment in rural area in order to stress the specific impact of the CAP measures on the employment in those areas;

Or. en

**Amendment 294**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 174 – point i**

*Motion for a resolution*

(i) trigger regular debates between the Member States in the Council regarding the implementation of the provisions introduced by the 2013 CAP reform for redistributing the direct payments between beneficiaries and to fully report on the progress made in this regard in the annual activity report of DG AGRI;<sup>104</sup>

*Amendment*

(i) trigger regular debates between the Member States in the Council regarding the implementation of the provisions introduced by the 2013 CAP reform for redistributing the direct payments between beneficiaries and to fully report on the progress made in this regard in the annual activity report of DG AGRI *and to make*



*this information widely and publicly available to the farming community;*<sup>04</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Member States must reduce the differences between per-hectare payment levels to beneficiaries on their respective territories (this is referred to as "internal convergence"). In principle (exceptions apply), they must also reduce by at least 5 % the receipts above EUR 150 000 which any beneficiary obtains from the basic payment scheme or the single area payment scheme. In addition, Member States have the option to redistribute up to 30% of their direct payments national envelope to the first 30 ha on every farm ("redistributive payment"), as well as to set an absolute upper limit on each beneficiary's receipts from the basic payment scheme or the single area payment scheme ("capping").

Or. en

**Amendment 295**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 174 – point 1 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*(1a) recommends that:*

*\* Given the fact that this is one of the biggest areas of EU funding;*

*\* Given also the fact that under the current system in certain Member States (Ireland and the UK in particular), many large farms/estates are receiving vast annual sums from CAP, giving rise to much public criticism (justified) and putting at those funds at risk for all;*

*The Commission should control the distribution of those funds such that they*

*are properly targeted at those who are meant to receive them, with a binding cap on CAP payments to any individual farm, adjusted to the Consumer Price Index in each individual Member State;*

Or. en

**Amendment 296**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 174 – point 1 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*(1a) reconsider the introduction of a binding capping for the direct payments;*

Or. en

**Amendment 297**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 177**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

177. Notes that if all the information detained by the Commission - and the auditors appointed by the Commission - had been used to correct errors the estimated error rate for the chapter Global Europe would have been 1,6% points lower;

177. Notes that if all the information detained by the Commission - and the auditors appointed by the Commission - had been used to correct errors the estimated error rate for the chapter Global Europe would have been 1,6% points lower; ***urges the Commission to use all available information to prevent, detect and correct any error and to act accordingly;***

Or. en

**Amendment 298**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 177**

*Motion for a resolution*

177. Notes that if all the information ***detained*** by the Commission - and the auditors appointed by the Commission - had been used to correct errors the estimated error rate for the chapter Global Europe would have been 1,6% points lower;

*Amendment*

177. Notes that if all the information ***gathered*** by the Commission - and the auditors appointed by the Commission - had been used to correct errors the estimated error rate for the chapter Global Europe would have been 1,6% points lower;

Or. en

**Amendment 299**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 179**

*Motion for a resolution*

179. Points out that the most significant type of error representing 33% of the estimated level of error, concerns expenditure not incurred: i.e. expenditure not incurred at the moment the Commission accepted and in some cases cleared it;

*Amendment*

179. Points out that the most significant type of error, representing 33% of the estimated level of error, concerns expenditure not incurred: i.e. expenditure not incurred at the moment the Commission accepted and in some cases cleared it;

Or. en

**Amendment 300**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 180**

*Motion for a resolution*

180. Points out that the most frequent type of error representing 32% of the estimated level of error concerns ineligible expenditure: *i.e.*; expenditure related to activities not covered by a contract or incurred outside the eligibility period, non-compliance with the rule of origin, ineligible taxes and indirect costs wrongly charged as direct costs

*Amendment*

180. Points out that the most frequent type of error, representing 32% of the estimated level of error, concerns ineligible expenditure, *i.e.*  
(a) expenditure related to activities not covered by a contract or incurred outside the eligibility period;  
(b) non-compliance with the rule of origin;  
(c) ineligible taxes and indirect costs wrongly charged as direct costs;

Or. en

**Amendment 301**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 181**

*Motion for a resolution*

181. Recalls that in his declaration of assurance, the director general of DG NEAR considers that for both of the financial instruments managed by DG NEAR: European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and Instrument Pre Adhesion (IPA) the financial exposure from the amount at risk is below the materiality threshold of 2% and the average determined error rate for the whole DG is 1,12%;

*Amendment*

181. Recalls that in his declaration of assurance, the director general of DG NEAR considers that for both of the financial instruments managed by DG NEAR - European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and Instrument Pre Adhesion (IPA) - the financial exposure from the amount at risk is below the materiality threshold of 2% and the average determined error rate for the whole DG is 1,12%;

Or. en

**Amendment 302**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 184**

*Motion for a resolution*

184. Stresses that the Court found that the calculation of the RER as to the management mode “indirect management by beneficiary countries” which combines results from non-statistical sampling by the audit authorities with the historical RER calculated by DG NEAR is not sufficiently representative and does not provide accurate information on the amount of payments at risk; points out that according to the Court there is a risk that the calculation underestimates the level of error and may potentially impact on the assurance provided by the director General;

*Amendment*

184. Stresses that the Court found that the calculation of the RER as to the management mode “indirect management by beneficiary countries”, which combines results from non-statistical sampling by the audit authorities with the historical RER calculated by DG NEAR, is not sufficiently representative and does not provide accurate information on the amount of payments at risk; points out that according to the Court there is a risk that the calculation underestimates the level of error and may potentially impact on the assurance provided by the director General;

Or. en

**Amendment 303**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 187**

*Motion for a resolution*

187. Notes that DG DEVCO assessed two spending areas as high risk: grants in direct management *and* indirect management with international organisations but shares the views expressed by the Court that a reservation could have been justified as regards indirect management with beneficiary countries in particular because grants implemented indirectly by beneficiary countries should require a similar level of risk analysis as grants implemented directly;

*Amendment*

187. Notes that DG DEVCO assessed two spending areas as high risk:  
(1) Grants in direct management;  
(2) Indirect management with international organisations;  
but shares the views expressed by the Court that a reservation could have been justified as regards indirect management with beneficiary countries in particular because grants implemented indirectly by beneficiary countries should require a similar level of risk analysis as grants implemented directly;

Or. en

**Amendment 304**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 188**

*Motion for a resolution*

188. Points out that according to the findings of the Court (see paragraphs 48-50 of the Court's 2015 annual report on the EDF) the corrective capacity of DG DEVCO has been overestimated by not excluding recoveries of *pre financing and earnest* interest and cancellations of recovery orders from the calculation of the average annual amount of recovery order issued for errors and irregularities between 2009 and 2015;

*Amendment*

188. Points out that according to the findings of the Court (see paragraphs 48-50 of the Court's 2015 annual report on the EDF), the corrective capacity of DG DEVCO has been overestimated by not excluding recoveries of *prefinancing and earned* interest and cancellations of recovery orders from the calculation of the average annual amount of recovery order issued for errors and irregularities between 2009 and 2015;

Or. en

**Amendment 305**

**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 190**

*Motion for a resolution*

190. Regrets once again that the external assistance management reports (EAMR) issued by the heads of Union Delegation are not annexed to the annual activity reports of DG DEVCO and DG NEAR as *it* is foreseen by article 67. 3 of the Financial Regulation; regrets that they are systematically considered as confidential whilst in accordance with article 67.3 of the Financial Regulation , "they shall be made available to the European Parliament and the Council having due regard, where appropriate to their confidentiality";

*Amendment*

190. Regrets once again that the external assistance management reports (EAMR) issued by the heads of Union Delegation are not annexed to the annual activity reports of DG DEVCO and DG 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 67.3 of the Financial Regulation , "they shall be made available to the European Parliament and the Council, having due regard, where appropriate, to their confidentiality";

Or. en

**Amendment 306**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 192 – point c**

*Motion for a resolution*

(c) the share of projects with implementation problems has ***de-creased*** from 53,5% to 39,7%.

*Amendment*

(c) the share of projects with implementation problems has ***decreased*** from 53,5% to 39,7%.

Or. en

**Amendment 307**  
**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 193 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***193a. Regards it as essential that suspension of pre-accession funding should be possible not only in cases of proven misuse of funds, 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 308**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 193**

*Motion for a resolution*

193. Stresses that the Instrument for Stability (IFS), the MIDEAST Instrument and the European Development Fund are still the programs with worryingly high levels of implementation difficulties and

*Amendment*

193. Stresses that ***1)*** the Instrument for Stability (IFS), ***2)*** the MIDEAST Instrument and ***3)*** the European Development Fund are still the programs with worryingly high levels of

that 3 of 4 EUR spent with the European Development Fund are at risk of not reaching their objectives or of *to be* delayed;

implementation difficulties and that *an unacceptable* 3 of 4 EUR spent with the European Development Fund are at risk of not reaching their objectives or of *being* delayed;

Or. en

**Amendment 309**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 194 – introductory part**

*Motion for a resolution*

194. Notes that information on 3782 projects *have* been reported by the Heads of Delegation for EUR 27.41 billion of commitments and that:

*Amendment*

194. Notes that information on 3782 projects *has* been reported by the Heads of Delegation for EUR 27.41 billion of commitments and that:

Or. en

**Amendment 310**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 195**

*Motion for a resolution*

195. Welcomes that for the first time the Commission questioned the Heads of Union Delegations about the a priori risk of projects which may offer a first step into a centralized risk management process; recommends that on the basis of the information available regarding the *difficulty* field in which delegation may operate the Commission intensifies its dialogue with the delegations on how to manage this risk during the implementation phase of the project;

*Amendment*

195. Welcomes that for the first time the Commission questioned the Heads of Union Delegations about the a priori risk of projects which may offer a first step into a centralized risk management process; recommends that on the basis of the information available regarding the *difficult* field in which delegation may operate the Commission intensifies its dialogue with the delegations on how to manage this risk during the implementation phase of the project;



**Amendment 311**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 197 – point d**

*Motion for a resolution*

(d) Improve performance of all delegations with less than 60% of their KPIs “green” in 2015 in particular through the adoption of action plans and DEVCO information systems.

*Amendment*

(d) Improve performance of all delegations with less than 60% of their KPIs “green” in 2015, in particular through the adoption of action plans and DEVCO information systems.

**Amendment 312**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 199**

*Motion for a resolution*

199. Recalls that one *important* aspect of the Union external relations is that the fight against poverty should have as indirect impact to create the conditions of *preventing the uncontrolled arrival of irregular migrants in Europe*;

*Amendment*

199. Recalls that one aspect of the Union external relations is that the fight against poverty, *the sustainable development and the establishment of democratic structures* should have as indirect impact to create the conditions of *limiting the level of migration*;

**Amendment 313**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 199**

*Motion for a resolution*

199. Recalls that one important aspect of the Union external relations is that the fight against poverty should **have as indirect impact** to create the conditions of preventing the uncontrolled arrival of irregular migrants in Europe;

*Amendment*

199. Recalls that one important aspect of the Union external relations is that the fight against poverty should **also aim** to create the conditions of preventing the uncontrolled arrival of irregular migrants in Europe;

Or. en

**Amendment 314**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 200**

*Motion for a resolution*

200. Endorses the main findings reported by the Court in its special report 9/2016 concerning “EU external migration spending in Southern Mediterranean and Eastern neighbourhood countries until 2014” and stresses in particular that the existing fragmentation of instruments, hinders parliamentary oversight **on** the way funds are implemented, the identification of responsibilities and therefore makes it difficult to assess the financial amounts actually spent to support external action on migration;

*Amendment*

200. Endorses the main findings reported by the Court in its special report 9/2016 concerning “EU external migration spending in Southern Mediterranean and Eastern neighbourhood countries until 2014” and stresses in particular that the existing fragmentation of instruments hinders parliamentary oversight **of 1) the way funds are implemented and 2), the identification of responsibilities, and therefore makes it difficult to assess the financial amounts actually spent to support external action on migration;**

Or. en

**Amendment 315**  
**Bogusław Liberadzki, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 200 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**200a. Calls on the Commission to define performance indicators, in order to be able to track, monitor and control the implementation of different instruments merged;**

Or. en

**Amendment 316**  
**Ryszard Czarnecki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 201**

*Motion for a resolution*

201. In light of the alarming information provided by Politico on 2 December 2016 regarding “Conflict of interest fears over Georgieva’s World Bank dealings” recalls that the Parliament called on the Commission in its last resolution of the Commission discharge for 2014 to review the code of conduct for Commissioners by the end of 2017 including by defining what constitutes a conflict of interest;

*Amendment*

201. In light of the alarming information provided by Politico on 2 December 2016 regarding “Conflict of interest fears over Georgieva’s World Bank dealings” recalls that the Parliament called on the Commission in its last resolution of the Commission discharge for 2014 to review the code of conduct for Commissioners by the end of 2017 including by defining what constitutes a conflict of interest; ***stresses that without a detailed definition of what constitutes a conflict of interest Parliament will not be able to properly evaluate fairly and consistently the existence of actual or potential conflict of interests.***

Or. en

**Amendment 317**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 201**

*Motion for a resolution*

201. In light of the alarming information

*Amendment*

201. In light of the alarming information

provided by Politico on 2 December 2016 regarding “Conflict of interest fears over Georgieva’s World Bank dealings” recalls that *the* Parliament called on the Commission in its last resolution of the Commission discharge for 2014 to review the code of conduct for Commissioners by the end of 2017 including by defining what constitutes a conflict of interest;

provided by Politico on 2 December 2016 regarding “Conflict of interest fears over Georgieva’s World Bank dealings”, recalls that Parliament called on the Commission in its last resolution of the Commission discharge for 2014 to review the code of conduct for Commissioners by the end of 2017, including by defining what constitutes a conflict of interest;

Or. en

**Amendment 318**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 202**

*Motion for a resolution*

202. Considers that the new funding arrangement concluded by the Commission with the World bank<sup>106</sup> replacing a flat management fee with a more complex formula and foreseeing in particular that certain projects directly carried out by the World Bank may be subject to a 17% charge on the cost of personnel and consultants *may* be detrimental *for* the budget of the Union and could result in payments exceeding *a* 7% cap on management fees forbidden by article 124.4 of the Union Financial Regulation;

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<sup>106</sup> Commission decision of 12.4.2016 amending Commission Decision C(2014) 5434 authorising the use of reimbursement on the basis of unit costs for activities implemented by a World Bank Group entity under the Framework Agreement with the Union

*Amendment*

202. Considers that the new funding arrangement concluded by the Commission with the World bank<sup>106</sup> replacing a flat management fee with a more complex formula, and foreseeing in particular that certain projects directly carried out by the World Bank may be subject to a 17% charge on the cost of personnel and consultants, *will probably* be detrimental *to* the budget of the Union and could result in payments exceeding *the* 7% cap on management fees forbidden by article 124.4 of the Union Financial Regulation;

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<sup>106</sup> Commission decision of 12.4.2016 amending Commission Decision C(2014) 5434 authorising the use of reimbursement on the basis of unit costs for activities implemented by a World Bank Group entity under the Framework Agreement with the Union

Or. en

**Amendment 319**

**Ingeborg Gräßle**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Subheading 51 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***International Management Group (IMG)***

Or. en

**Amendment 320**  
**Ingeborg Gräßle**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 203 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***203a. Congratulates the Commission on the outcome of proceedings in Case T-381/15 on 2 February 2017; asks which contracts with IMG are still underway at present;***

Or. de

**Amendment 321**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 204 – indent 4**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

– DG DEVCO to revise the estimate of its future corrective capacity by excluding from the calculation recoveries of unspent *pre financing* and earned interests and cancellation of recovery orders previously issued;

– DG DEVCO to revise the estimate of its future corrective capacity by excluding from the calculation recoveries of unspent *pre financing* and earned interests and cancellation of recovery orders previously issued;

Or. en

**Amendment 322**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 204 – indent 7**

*Motion for a resolution*

– the Commission to clarify objectives, develop, expand and improve the performance measurement framework of its migration and asylum policies in neighbourhood countries, *to* focus available financial resources on clearly defined and quantified target priorities and *to* further consolidate the link between development and migration;

*Amendment*

– the Commission to  
(1) Clarify objectives;  
(2) Develop, expand and improve the performance measurement framework of its migration and asylum policies in neighbourhood countries;  
(3) Focus available financial resources on clearly defined and quantified target priorities and,  
(4) Further consolidate the link between development and migration;

Or. en

**Amendment 323**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 204 – indent 8**

*Motion for a resolution*

– the Commission *to includes* in the code of conduct for Commissioners the definition of what constitutes a conflict of *interests*, *that the Commission* fundamentally *reconsiders* the need to foresee in its funding arrangements with international organisations and entrusted entities provisions regarding their remuneration for staff cost linked to activities that are at the core of their mission *and that the Commission* fully *reports* to the European Parliament by the end of 2017 on its reflections *in this regards* but also on the impact of the application of the new cost recovery policy;

*Amendment*

– the Commission  
(1) *To include* in the code of conduct for Commissioners the definition of what constitutes a conflict of *interest*, *and further, to outline the punishment for those who do not then declare such conflicts of interest, up to and including dismissal*;  
(2) *To* fundamentally *reconsider* the need to foresee in its funding arrangements with international organisations and entrusted entities provisions regarding their remuneration for staff cost linked to activities that are at the core of their mission, *and*  
(3) *To* fully *report* to the European

Parliament by the end of 2017 on its reflections *on these issues* but also on the impact of the application of the new cost recovery policy;

Or. en

#### **Amendment 324**

**Ryszard Czarnecki, Monica Macovei, Notis Marias, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík**

#### **Motion for a resolution**

##### **Paragraph 206**

###### *Motion for a resolution*

206. *Takes note* that the Court did not formulate any error rate regarding this policy area whilst the director general of DG HOME estimates in his 2015 annual activity report a residual multiannual error rate of 2,88% for DG HOME directly managed non-research grants;

###### *Amendment*

206. *Deplores* that the Court did not formulate any error rate regarding this policy area whilst the director general of DG HOME estimates in his 2015 annual activity report a residual multiannual error rate of 2,88% for DG HOME directly managed non-research grants;

Or. en

#### **Amendment 325**

**Ryszard Czarnecki, Monica Macovei, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík**

#### **Motion for a resolution**

##### **Paragraph 208**

###### *Motion for a resolution*

208. Recalls that deficiencies were detected by DG HOME in the management and control systems of the European Refugees Fund, Return Fund, and European fund for integration of third-country nationals and the External Borders Fund for the period 2007-2013 *by Czech Republic, Germany, France and Poland*;

###### *Amendment*

208. Recalls that deficiencies were detected by DG HOME in the management and control systems of the European Refugees Fund, Return Fund, and European fund for integration of third-country nationals and the External Borders Fund for the period 2007-2013;

Or. en

**Amendment 326**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 208**

*Motion for a resolution*

208. Recalls that deficiencies were detected by DG HOME in the management and control systems of the European Refugees Fund, Return Fund, and European fund for integration of *third-country* nationals and the External Borders Fund for the period 2007-2013 by Czech Republic, Germany, France and Poland;

*Amendment*

208. Recalls that deficiencies were detected by DG HOME in the management and control systems of the European Refugees Fund, Return Fund, and European fund for integration of *third-country* nationals and the External Borders Fund for the period 2007-2013 by Czech Republic, Germany, France and Poland;

Or. en

**Amendment 327**  
**Ryszard Czarnecki, Monica Macovei, Notis Marias, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 210**

*Motion for a resolution*

210. **Takes note** that the Commission considers that it is “difficult if not impossible to provide an estimated cost paid for migrants/seeker country by country as the management of migratory flows comprises a wide range of activities”<sup>107</sup> ;

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<sup>107</sup> reply to written question 23 - hearing of Commissioner AVRAMOPOULOS of 29 November 2016

*Amendment*

210. **Deplores** that the Commission considers that it is “difficult if not impossible to provide an estimated cost paid for migrants/seeker country by country as the management of migratory flows comprises a wide range of activities”<sup>107</sup> ;

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<sup>107</sup> reply to written question 23 - hearing of Commissioner AVRAMOPOULOS of 29 November 2016

Or. en



**Amendment 328**  
**Marco Valli, Laura Agea**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 211 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**211a. Expresses concern over checks carried out on funds for refugees, which are frequently allocated by the Member States in emergencies in ways that do not comply with the rules in force; regards it as essential that the Commission introduce more rigorous checks, including with a view to ensuring that the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers are upheld;**

Or. it

**Amendment 329**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 212 – point d**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

(d) provides the budget and budgetary control authority with the most possible precise data as to the cost paid for migrants/asylum seekers in order to solidly justify the amounts of budgetary requests for funding programmes;

(d) provides the budget and budgetary control authority with the most possible precise data as to the cost paid for migrants/asylum seekers in order to solidly justify the amounts of budgetary requests for funding programmes, **while acknowledging the unquantifiable value of any and all human life;**

Or. en

**Amendment 330**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 212 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**212a. Stresses that the absolutely majority of the staff of the European Commission is composed by women (55%); stresses therefore that less than 30% of the senior managers (Directors and Directors-General) and 33% of middle managers (Heads of Units) are women; urges the Commission to be active in order to have, at least, 40% of women at managerial positions by end of 2019;**

Or. en

**Amendment 331**  
**Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 213**

*Motion for a resolution*

213. Notes that an official can be appointed to a senior expert or a senior assistant post which opens the possibility to be promoted to the AD 14 grade or AST 11, and that, once an official is appointed to a senior expert post, there is no possibility to move him/her back to an administrator job; regrets the inconsistency between this measure and those aiming to reduce administrative expenses or reinforce the link between grade and function; calls on the Commission to end this practice;

*Amendment*

213. Notes that an official can be appointed to a senior expert or a senior assistant post which opens the possibility to be promoted to the AD 14 grade or AST 11, and that once an official is appointed to a senior expert post, there is no possibility to move him/her back to an administrator job; regrets the inconsistency between this measure and those aiming to reduce administrative expenses or reinforce the link between grade and function; calls on the Commission to end this practice;

Or. en

**Amendment 332**  
**Ingeborg Gräßle**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 214 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***214a. Notes that the College of Commissioners lifted the OLAF Director-General's immunity, following a request by Belgian authorities, in the context of investigations linked to the "Dalli case"; is of the opinion that the Director-General is confronted with a three-fold conflict of interest:***

- while the College was in the process of deciding on lifting his immunity, the Director-General considered the possibility of opening OLAF investigations against Members of the Commission,***
- once the College had taken its decision to lift his immunity, the Director-General took legal action against the Commission for an alleged irregularity in the adoption of its decision; at the same time the Director-General continued to represent the Commission on policy matters related to his portfolio,***
- after the lifting of his immunity had been confirmed, the Belgian public prosecutor opened an investigation into the Director-General's role in the case in question, while continuing to serve as the OLAF Director-General's interlocutor for fighting fraud against the EU's financial interests in Belgium;***

***considers that these conflicts of interest could damage both OLAF's and the Commission's reputation; asks therefore the Commission to place the OLAF Director-General on leave until the end of the investigation conducted by the Belgian authorities, and to appoint a temporary substitute;***

Or. en

**Amendment 333**  
**Tamás Deutsch**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 214 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***214a. Emphasises that geographical balance, namely the relationship between staff nationality and the size of Member States, should still remain an important element of resources management particularly with respect to the Member States that have acceded to the Union since 2004, welcomes the fact that the Commission has reached a more balanced composition of officials from the Member States which joined the European Union before and since 2004; but points out that these Member States are still underrepresented at the higher level of administration and in managerial posts for which progress is still awaited;***

Or. en

**Amendment 334**  
**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 214 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***214a. Calls on the Commission to examine the viability of members of the EU institutions' Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme being given a special EU social security card, or some similar system, which Member States' social security systems will recognise automatically, with the aim of improving patient care, doing away with excessive red-tape and adapting to the new technologies now being used in a good many Member States;***

**Amendment 335**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Subheading 55 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*Code of conduct*

Or. en

**Amendment 336**

**Inés Ayala Sender**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 214 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***214b. Notes with concern the excessively high prices charged for medical services in Luxembourg and the difficulties in ensuring that members of the EU institutions' Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme receive treatment on an equal footing with Luxembourg's citizens; calls on the institutions, and the Commission in particular, to demand and guarantee that Article 4 of Directive 2011/24/EU, under which Member States are required to ensure that healthcare providers on their territory apply the same fees for patients from other Member States as for domestic patients, be enforced in all Member States, and in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg especially; calls too for it to impose the appropriate sanctions where this Directive is not complied with;***

Or. es

**Amendment 337**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 214 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*214a. Is of the firm opinion that there is a growing 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 338**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 214 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*214b. Notes the Commission proposal to revise the code of conducts for commissioners; regrets however that the revision is limited to the extension of the cooling off period to three years only for the former President of the European Commission; calls on the Commission to review the code of conduct for Commissioners by the end of 2017, including by implementing the European Parliament's recommendation that the ad hoc ethical committee be reformed to extend its powers and include independent experts, 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 all Commissioners;*

Or. en

**Amendment 339**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 214 c (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*214c. Points out that an important step with regard to conflicts of interest is to increase the transparency of the European 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;*

Or. en

**Amendment 340**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 214 d (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*214d. Calls on the College of Commissioners to take a decision now that the recommendation of the ethical ad-hoc committee in the case of the former Commission President has been*

*finalised so as to refer the case to the European Court of Justice for it to give an opinion on the matter.*

Or. en

**Amendment 341**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Subheading 55 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*Expert groups*

Or. en

**Amendment 342**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 214 e (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*214e. Welcomes the Commission Decision of 30 May 2016 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission EGs, but regrets the fact that, despite many non-governmental organisations having expressed their interest, the Commission did not organise a full public consultation; reiterates the importance of reviving forms of involvement of representatives of civil society and the social partners in crucial areas such as the transparency and the functioning of the European institutions;*

Or. en



**Amendment 343**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 214 f (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**214f.** *Recalls that a lack of transparency has a negative effect on the trust that EU citizens have in the EU institutions; believes that the effective reform of the Commission's EGs system, based on clear principles of transparency and balanced composition, will improve the availability and reliability of data, which will in turn help increase people's trust in the EU;*

Or. en

**Amendment 344**

**Bart Staes**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 214 g (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**214g.** *Takes the view that the Commission should make progress towards a more balanced composition of the EGs; deplores the fact, however, that as yet no express distinction is drawn between those representing economic and non-economic interests so as to guarantee a maximum of transparency and balance;*

Or. en

**Amendment 345**

**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 214 h (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**214h.** *Recalls that both Parliament and the European Ombudsman have recommended to the Commission to make the agendas, background documents, minutes of meetings and deliberations of EGs public,*

Or. en

**Amendment 346**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Subheading 55 c (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***special advisors***

Or. en

**Amendment 347**  
**Bart Staes**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 214 i (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**214i.** *Calls on the European Commission to publish the names, the function, the grade and the contract (working hours, length of the contract, place of work) of all special advisors; considers that there is a risk of conflict of*

*interest with the special advisors; is therefore of the firm opinion that conflict of interest should be avoided as it would undermine the credibility of the institutions; calls on the Commission to publish the declarations of interest of the special advisors;*

Or. en

**Amendment 348**  
**Ryszard Czarnecki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 218 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*218a. Notes that the size of the budget allocated to the European Schools system is considerably larger than that received by all but 2 of the 32 agencies; Believes that the financial accountability of the European Schools system should be raised to a level comparable to that of the European agencies including by means of a dedicated discharge process for the EUR 168,4 million put at its disposal;*

Or. en

**Amendment 349**  
**Ryszard Czarnecki**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 219 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*219a. Notes the ongoing financial and organisational crisis in the European Schools system is growing more acute because of the plans to open a fifth school in Brussels and the possible consequences*

*of the withdrawal of one member state from the European Schools Convention at some point in the future; questions whether the European schools system as currently organised and financed has the resources to cope with the planned expansion to five schools in Brussels; notes that this risks creating even more significant problems in the future by overstretching some language sections that, under current resourcing models, only have the capacity to cover four Brussels schools (in the case of the German-language sections) or three (in the case of the English-language sections);*

Or. en

**Amendment 350**

**Bogusław Liberadzki, Inés Ayala Sender**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 220**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**220. Finds it unacceptable that Member States representatives continue to grant discharge to the European schools, although the Commission, which pays 58% of the annual budget, and the Court advise against it;**

*deleted*

Or. en

**Amendment 351**

**Ryszard Czarnecki, Notis Marias**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 223 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***223a. Calls for the Commission to play its full part in all aspects of the process of reform covering managerial, financial, organisational and pedagogical issues; asks that the Commission submits annually a report giving its assessment of the state of progress in these areas to the European Parliament to ensure its relevant committees can scrutinise the management of the schools system and evaluate the use it makes of the resources put at the system's disposal out of the European Union budget asks that the relevant Commissioner give the matter his close attention, and specifically calls on him to participate personally in the biannual meetings of the Board of Governors; reiterates Parliament's view that a 'comprehensive review' of the European Schools system is urgently required; calls for the first draft of the review in question to be provided until 30 June 2017;***

Or. en