



2018/2219(DEC)

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AMENDMENTS

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Draft report

Inés Ayala Sender

(PE626.770v03-00)

Discharge 2017: Court of Auditors' special reports
(COM(2018)0521 – C8-0370/2018 – 2018/2219(DEC))

Amendment 1
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Citation 5

Motion for a resolution

— having regard to the statement of assurance⁴ 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 2017, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

⁴ OJ C 357, 4.10.2018, p. 9.

Amendment

— having regard to the statement of assurance⁴ 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 2017, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union; ***having regard also to the strong possibility that the statement of assurance for 2017 is tainted by the fact that a) the error-rate correction hasn't been published, and b) application of the Residual Error Rate (RER) rather than Payment error-rate in many instances is inappropriate, as this cannot reflect the true error-rate for 2017;***

⁴ OJ C 357, 4.10.2018, p. 9.

Or. en

Amendment 2
Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Notes the Court's findings and conclusions ***and invites*** the Commission ***to take*** them into consideration when preparing the proposals for respective regulations for the next programming

Amendment

1. Notes the Court's findings and conclusions, ***and regrets that*** the Commission ***has not taken*** them into consideration when preparing the proposals for respective regulations for the next

period;

programming period;

Or. en

Amendment 3

Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

2. ***Invites***, in particular, the Commission ***to consider whether maintaining ex-ante conditionalities*** for the ***post-2020 period*** would materially improve efficiency and effectiveness of the Cohesion policy;

Amendment

2. ***Regrets***, in particular, ***that some of the criteria proposed by the Commission in its proposal for the Common Provisions Regulation 2021-2027 may not affect the implementation of the related specific objectives and*** would ***not*** materially improve efficiency and effectiveness of the Cohesion policy, ***contrary to the ECA's recommendation in this regard;***

Or. en

Amendment 4

Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

5. Underlines, in case ex-ante conditionalities are maintained in the next programming period, that they have to be appropriate for the national and regional context, ***incentive oriented*** and conducive to smooth implementation of regional development objectives, as well as excluding overlaps and room for ambiguity and differing interpretations;

Amendment

5. Underlines, in case ex-ante conditionalities are maintained ***and replaced by enabling conditions*** in the next programming period, that they have to be appropriate for the national and regional context, ***incentive-oriented*** and conducive to smooth implementation of regional development objectives, as well as excluding overlaps and room for ambiguity, and differing interpretations;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Notes that around 75 % of all applicable ex-ante conditionalities were fulfilled at the time of adoption of ESIF programmes, that 86 % were fulfilled at the beginning of 2017 and that **98 % at the beginning of** 2018, demonstrating that the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities was longer than the period envisaged under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (the ‘Common Provisions Regulation’) and that by the **deadline of** December 2016 around 15% ex-ante conditionalities remained unfulfilled;

Amendment

6. Notes that around 75 % of all applicable ex-ante conditionalities were fulfilled at the time of adoption of ESIF programmes, that 86 % were fulfilled at the beginning of 2017 and that **99 % by May** 2018, demonstrating that the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities was longer than the period envisaged under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (the ‘Common Provisions Regulation’) and that by the December 2016 **deadline**, around 15% **of** ex-ante conditionalities remained unfulfilled;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Acknowledges that ex-ante conditionalities have represented an additional administrative burden and that, as recognised by the Commission, have been one of the possible reasons for the registered delays in implementation of the ESIF 2014-2020; acknowledges, as well, that although there have been no cases of suspension of payments to programmes by the Commission for non-fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities by the end of 2016, managing authorities concerned refrained from submitting payment claims, thus

Amendment

7. Acknowledges that ex-ante conditionalities have represented an **often unnecessary** additional administrative burden and that, as recognised by the Commission, have been one of the possible reasons for the registered delays in implementation of the ESIF 2014-2020; acknowledges, as well, that although there have been no cases of suspension of payments to programmes by the Commission for non-fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities by the end of 2016, managing authorities concerned refrained

imposing a kind of self-suspension and delaying implementation with the result that the absorption at the end of the fourth year of the current period (2017) was significantly lower than the absorption rate on the corresponding date (end 2010) of the previous period 2007-2013 (17% and 41% respectively), thus further putting into question the added value of ex-ante conditionalities as an instrument introduced with the aim to facilitate cohesion policy implementation;

from submitting payment claims, thus imposing a kind of self-suspension and delaying implementation with the result that the absorption at the end of the fourth year of the current period (2017) was significantly lower than the absorption rate on the corresponding date (end 2010) of the previous period 2007-2013 (17% and 41% respectively), thus further putting into question the added value of ex-ante conditionalities as an instrument introduced with the aim to facilitate cohesion policy implementation;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

10. *Notes, however*, the Court's opinion that, overall, the 2014-2020 performance framework is not significantly more results-oriented than similar arrangements in previous periods, remaining essentially focussed on spending and project outputs, with the large majority of indicators that constitute the basis for allocating the performance reserve representing output indicators (57,1 %), financial indicators (33,4 %) and key implementation steps (9,2 %), with only marginal use of result indicators (0,3 %);

Amendment

10. *Agrees with* the Court's opinion that, overall, the 2014-2020 performance framework is not significantly more results-oriented than similar arrangements in previous periods, remaining essentially focussed on spending and project outputs, with the large majority of indicators that constitute the basis for allocating the performance reserve representing output indicators (57,1 %), financial indicators (33,4 %) and key implementation steps (9,2 %), with - *regrettably* - only marginal use of result indicators (0,3 %);

Or. en

Amendment 8
Georgi Pirinski, Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

13. Calls on the Commission, in case the performance reserve is continued in the post-2020 period, to base its proposal on the lessons drawn from the 2014-2020 period, and to propose the corresponding revision of the performance framework in order to create real incentives for a results orientated system; such a system should also provide the necessary balance between simplification for unhindered project implementation and the necessary provisions for sound financial management and control;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 9

Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 16

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

16. Calls on the Commission to provide information about the amounts of customs claimed from the Member States and collected in favour of the Union budget;

16. Calls on the Commission to provide information about the amounts of customs claimed from the Member States and collected in favour of the Union budget; *believes the current system of incentives for customs controls can be improved;*

Or. en

Amendment 10

Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 22

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

22. Is of the opinion, together with the Court, that financial instruments should

22. Is of the opinion, together with the Court, that financial instruments should

only be used if commercial loans are unobtainable because the project is too small or too risky, or the borrower cannot offer the necessary collateral;

only be used if commercial loans are unobtainable because the project is too small or too risky, or the borrower cannot offer the necessary collateral; ***urges the Commission to develop a methodology for analysing the effect of guarantees on the loan supply, competition between banks and business innovation activity and for analysing the split of implicit subsidy between supplier and beneficiary;***

Or. en

Amendment 11
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 22

Motion for a resolution

22. Is of the opinion, together with the Court, that financial instruments should ***only*** be used if commercial loans are unobtainable because the project is too small or too risky, or the borrower cannot offer the necessary collateral;

Amendment

22. Is of the opinion, together with the Court, that financial instruments should be used ***only*** if commercial loans are unobtainable because the project is too small or too risky, or the borrower cannot offer the necessary collateral;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 23

Motion for a resolution

23. Draws the attention of the Commission and the Court to the fact that the Loan Guarantee Facility and the InnovFin SME Guarantee Facility creates potentially intermediaries' loan portfolios worth EUR 24,42 billion, of which the discharge authority knows very little, as the

Amendment

23. ***Notes with concern and*** draws the attention of the Commission and the Court to the fact that the Loan Guarantee Facility and the InnovFin SME Guarantee Facility creates potentially intermediaries' loan portfolios worth EUR 24,42 billion, of which the discharge authority knows very

system is highly complex and opaque;

little, as the system is highly complex and opaque;

Or. en

Amendment 13

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 28

Motion for a resolution

28. Believes that election observation activities play a key role in public diplomacy by offering impartial assessment and constructive recommendations which can be followed up by national stakeholders, including civil society organisations;

Amendment

28. Believes that election observation activities - ***properly, fairly and objectively executed*** - play a key role in public diplomacy by offering impartial assessment and constructive recommendations which can be followed up by national stakeholders, including civil society organisations;

Or. en

Amendment 14

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 32

Motion for a resolution

32. Invites the European External Action Service to follow as much as possible the effective implementation in third countries of the EOM's recommendations, while respecting the sovereignty of each country and involving Parliament, and also by allocating a sufficient level of human resources from Union's delegations with adequate technical expertise to this important political task, necessary in some areas identified by the EOM;

Amendment

32. Invites the European External Action Service to follow as much as possible the effective implementation in third countries of the EOM's recommendations, while ***fully*** respecting the sovereignty of each country and involving Parliament, and also by allocating a sufficient level of human resources from Union's delegations with adequate technical expertise to this important political task, necessary in some areas identified by the EOM;

Amendment 15
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 36

Motion for a resolution

36. Welcomes the Court's special report, and **endorses** its remarks and recommendations;

Amendment

36. Welcomes the Court's special report, and **notes** its remarks and recommendations; ***points out a fundamental truth - a Banking Union is effective only if there is full and complete Monetary Union, which is so far not the case in the eurozone;***

Or. en

Amendment 16
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 44

Motion for a resolution

44. Is of the opinion that the SRB **forms** part of a strong banking union with a strong regulation and supervision of banks and an important step towards a structural and coherent institutional framework endowed with adequate resources and democratic legitimacy in order to stabilize the financial sector and prevent a future crisis; nevertheless sees the need for adjustments that will enhance the effectiveness of the work of SRB and its systemic contribution;

Amendment

44. Is of the opinion that the SRB **should form** part of a strong banking union with a strong regulation and supervision of banks and an important step towards a structural and coherent institutional framework endowed with adequate resources and democratic legitimacy in order to stabilize the financial sector and prevent a future crisis, ***but that this would be the case only if there was full Monetary Union in the eurozone, and all that this entails - in the continued absence of a European Deposit Insurance Scheme (EDIS), this is clearly not the case;*** nevertheless sees the need for adjustments that will enhance the effectiveness of the work of SRB and its systemic contribution;

Amendment 17
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 55

Motion for a resolution

55. Is deeply concerned by the fact that the ECB did not grant the Court access to all documents or information requested which the Court deemed necessary to carry out its task;

Amendment

55. Is deeply concerned by the fact that the ECB did not grant the Court access to all documents or information requested which the Court deemed necessary to carry out its task, ***and calls on the ECB to remedy this policy;***

Or. en

Amendment 18
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 56

Motion for a resolution

56. Is of the opinion that the ECB's full cooperation would have enhanced transparency and accountability;

Amendment

56. Is of the opinion that the ECB's full cooperation ***is absolutely necessary, should be forthcoming, and*** would have enhanced transparency and accountability;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 60 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

60a. Recalls also that many of those banks now under ECB supervision

received massive public bailout funds from EU citizens through their various Member State governments, and thus have an additional duty to treat those citizens in a fair manner;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 60 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

60b. Points out that instead, in some Member States, those bailed-out banks have abused their new-found strength and taken advantage of their dominant position, most notably in Ireland as recognised by ECB President Mario Draghi in a recent appearance before the Irish Parliament Oireachtas Finance Committee ("An effective monopoly in the banking market here is the reason mortgage costs are double the level elsewhere in the eurozone, European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi has told the Oireachtas Finance Committee.")¹

*¹
<https://www.independent.ie/business/irish/ecbs-draghi-blames-irish-bank-monopoly-for-high-mortgage-costs-37509130.html>*

Or. en

Amendment 21
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 60 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

60c. *Points out further that as part of its brief, the ECB, in conjunction with the Commission, should investigate and end this monopoly position in Ireland, and its abuse;*

Or. en

Amendment 22
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 60 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

60d. *Points out finally, as further example of how banks continue to abuse their position, that in 2018 there was a major Tracker Mortgage scandal in Ireland in which nearly 40 000 mortgage-holders (and rising) were overcharged by their banks, many of whom lost their homes as a result, yet with no-one within any of the many banks involved held responsible; asks that for its 2018 discharge, the Court should investigate this matter, and that the ECB should take responsibility for ensuring that the necessary actions are taken;¹*

¹

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/numbers-hit-by-tracker-mortgage-scandal-rise-to-38400-873437.html>

Or. en

Amendment 23
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 61

Motion for a resolution

61. Notes that the ECB was given responsibility for the management of the assessments of banks' recovery planning and for early intervention for significant banks in the euro area and that the effective crisis management therefore depends primarily on the operationally efficient management by the ECB;

Amendment

61. Notes that the ECB was given responsibility for the management of the assessments of banks' recovery planning and for early intervention for significant banks in the euro area and that the effective crisis management therefore depends primarily on the operationally efficient management by the ECB; ***asks that in light of the above, the ECB should assume its responsibility in all such cases;***

Or. en

Amendment 24
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 63

Motion for a resolution

63. ***Welcomes*** the Court's special report on the macroeconomic imbalance procedure, its recommendations and the Commission's readiness to implement the majority of them;

Amendment

63. ***Notes*** the Court's special report on the macroeconomic imbalance procedure, its recommendations and the Commission's readiness to implement the majority of them;

Or. en

Amendment 25
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 65

Motion for a resolution

65. Points out that the MIP was designed as a response to the economic and financial crisis in Europe ***as*** macroeconomic imbalances were one of the root causes of the crisis. Therefore the conceptual design of the MIP needs to be

Amendment

65. Points out that the MIP was designed as a response to the economic and financial crisis in Europe ***even though*** macroeconomic imbalances were ***not*** one of the root causes of the crisis - ***the crisis instead arose because of the greedy and***

developed constantly in order to overcome imbalances and ensure social and economic stability;

reckless behaviour of so many in the banking and financial sector. Therefore the conceptual design of the MIP is falsely based and so needs to be redeveloped to ensure social fairness, alongside economic stability;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 66

Motion for a resolution

66. Notes that, if, on the basis of the outcomes of the IDR, the Commission finds that "macroeconomic imbalances" exist, it informs the European Parliament, the Council and the Eurogroup. The Council may then, on recommendation from the Commission, address a recommendation to the Member State concerned (in accordance with procedure set out in Article 121(2) TFEU). These preventive MIP-recommendations form part of the country-specific recommendations (CSRs);

Amendment

66. Notes that, if, on the basis of the outcomes of the IDR, the Commission finds that "macroeconomic imbalances" exist, it informs the European Parliament, the Council and the Eurogroup. The Council may then, on recommendation from the Commission, address a recommendation to the Member State concerned (in accordance with procedure set out in Article 121(2) TFEU), ***which same Member State may then, depending on its size and influence in the Union, simply ignore those recommendations.*** These preventive MIP-recommendations form part of the country-specific recommendations (CSRs);

Or. en

Amendment 27
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 69

Motion for a resolution

69. Concludes, together with the Court,

Amendment

69. ***Inescapably*** concludes, together

that the Council recommendations are subject to political weighting; that this seems to be the rule, rather than the exception;

with the Court, that the Council recommendations are subject to political weighting; that this seems to be the rule, rather than the exception;

Or. en

Amendment 28
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 70

Motion for a resolution

70. Is convinced that the political appreciation of economic data is a necessary exercise as long as it is carried out in a transparent way, stating the economic facts, on the one hand, and the political reasons for the recommendation, on the other;

Amendment

70. Is convinced that the political appreciation of economic data is a necessary exercise as long as it is carried out in a transparent way, stating the economic facts, on the one hand, and the political reasons for the recommendation, on the other, ***but with social impacts also requiring consideration, above and beyond all else;***

Or. en

Amendment 29
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 71

Motion for a resolution

71. Calls on the Commission to devise a system, which encourages Member States to implement the MIP-CSRs efficiently and effectively;

Amendment

71. Calls on the Commission to devise a system, which encourages Member States to implement the MIP-CSRs efficiently and effectively, ***so long as those MIP-CSRs have also included within their scope an appreciation and allowance for the social impact of those policies, and do not include an enforced privatisation of public services and assets;***

Amendment 30
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 92

Motion for a resolution

92. Calls on Member States, with regard to EAFRD support for renewable energy, to provide the Commission with pertinent information on programme achievements of renewable energy projects in their enhanced annual implementation reports of 2019; this information should allow the Commission to know how much of EAFRD expenditure has been paid out for renewable energy projects, the energy capacity installed or the energy produced from such projects; calls on the Commission to define the various types of indicators more accurately when preparing the post-2020 programming period;

Amendment

92. Calls on Member States, with regard to EAFRD support for renewable energy, to provide the Commission with pertinent ***independent*** information on programme achievements of renewable energy projects in their enhanced annual implementation reports of 2019; this information should allow the Commission to know how much of EAFRD expenditure has been paid out for renewable energy projects, the energy capacity installed or the energy produced from such projects; calls on the Commission to define the various types of indicators more accurately when preparing the post-2020 programming period;

Or. en

Amendment 31
Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Monica Macovei, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 122

Motion for a resolution

122. Is of the opinion that the Commission and Member States should not promote a more intensive and widespread use of public private partnerships (PPP) until the issues identified in this report are addressed and the following recommendations are successfully implemented; in particular, improving the institutional and legal frameworks and

Amendment

122. Is of the opinion that the Commission and Member States should not promote a more intensive and widespread use of public private partnerships (PPP) until the issues identified in this report are addressed and the following recommendations are successfully implemented; in particular, improving the institutional and legal frameworks and

project management and increasing assurance that the choice of the PPP option is the one that provides most value-for-money and that PPP projects are likely to be managed in a successful manner;

project management and increasing assurance that the choice of the PPP option is the one that provides most value-for-money and that PPP projects are likely to be managed in a successful manner;
stresses that failing to identify and allocate project risks correctly may have financial implications for the public partner and hamper the achievement of the project objectives;

Or. en

Amendment 32

Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Monica Macovei, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulik

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 124 – introductory part

Motion for a resolution

124. In order to ensure that the PPP option is the one that maximises value-for-money, recommends that:

Amendment

124. In order to ensure that the PPP option is the one that maximises value-for-money ***and achieves its potential benefits***, recommends that:

Or. en

Amendment 33

Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Monica Macovei, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulik

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 125 – indent 1

Motion for a resolution

- the Member States establish ***clear*** PPP policies and strategies that clearly identify the role that PPPs are expected to play within their infrastructure investment policies, with a view to identifying the sectors in which PPPs are most suitable and establishing possible limits to the extent to which PPPs can be effectively used;

Amendment

- the Member States, ***supported by adequate institutional and legal frameworks*** establish ***experience-based*** PPP policies and strategies that clearly identify the role that PPPs are expected to play within their infrastructure investment policies, with a view to identifying the sectors in which PPPs are most suitable and establishing possible limits to the

extent to which PPPs can be effectively used;

Or. en

Amendment 34
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 129 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

129a. Calls on the Commission to ensure that CAP payments are used for the purpose for which they were designed, i.e. to ensure a sustainable livelihood for all food producers, but especially for small-scale producers, whilst also ensuring a reasonably-priced high-quality and reliable food-supply for consumers. This can be achieved by a), establishing a weighted payment system, with payments reducing as farm size increased, and b), setting an upward limit on payments under CAP;

Or. en

Amendment 35
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 131

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

131. Regrets that the new SCOs are only used for a marginal part of rural development spending and that they are not enhancing the potential of this source of funding, ***although*** simplification ***should be a*** way to encourage beneficiaries to engage in projects;

131. Regrets that the new SCOs are only used for a marginal part of rural development spending and that they are not enhancing the potential of this source of funding; simplification ***is the best*** way to encourage beneficiaries to engage in projects, ***and this should be done;***

Amendment 36
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 135

Motion for a resolution

135. Recalls that simplification must be beneficial to both administrations and projects bearers;

Amendment

135. Recalls that simplification ***is not an end in itself, but*** must be beneficial to both administrations and projects bearers;

Or. en

Amendment 37
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 139

Motion for a resolution

139. ***Welcomes*** the Commission's efforts in improving the broadband coverage across the Union;

Amendment

139. ***Notes*** the Commission's efforts in improving the broadband coverage across the Union ***but regrets that in certain Member States, such as in Ireland, privatisation of these services has meant that many rural areas that are deemed commercially non-viable are broadband blackspots;***

Or. en

Amendment 38
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 145

Motion for a resolution

145. Calls, therefore, on all Member

Amendment

145. Calls, therefore, on all Member

States to make sure that not only the Europe 2020 objectives for broadband are met in good time, but also the Commission's "Gigabit Society 2025" targets; all urban areas and all major terrestrial transport paths to have uninterrupted 5G coverage, and all European households, rural or urban, to have access to internet connectivity offering a download speed of at least 100 Mbps, upgradable to Gigabit speed;

States to make sure that not only the Europe 2020 objectives for broadband are met in good time, but also the Commission's "Gigabit Society 2025" targets; all urban areas and all major terrestrial transport paths to have uninterrupted 5G coverage, and all European households, ***SMEs and local public administrations in rural or urban areas, in particular in depopulated and sparsely populated areas***, to have access to internet connectivity offering a download speed of at least 100 Mbps, upgradable to Gigabit speed;

Or. es

Amendment 39
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 151

Motion for a resolution

151. ***Welcomes*** the Court's special report, ***endorses*** its recommendations and sets out its observations and recommendations below;

Amendment

151. ***Notes*** the Court's special report, ***further notes*** its recommendations and sets out its observations and recommendations below;

Or. en

Amendment 40
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 151 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

151a. Points out that it was the actions (including arms supply) of the USA (aided and abetted by certain Member States of the EU) in sovereign countries such as Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, that led to

much of the mass migration from those areas, and the accompanying radicalisation of many;

Or. en

Amendment 41
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 157 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

157a. Calls on the Commission to ensure, and the Court to confirm, that no work done by these Centres of Excellence will ever be towards the area of chemical warfare or chemically-based crowd control (e.g. new gases);

Or. en

Amendment 42
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 166

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

166. *Welcomes* the Court's special report on strengthening the capacity of the internal security forces in Niger and Mali and sets out its observations and recommendations below;

166. *Notes* the Court's special report on strengthening the capacity of the internal security forces in Niger and Mali and sets out its observations and recommendations below;

Or. en

Amendment 43
Brian Hayes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 185

Motion for a resolution

185. Notes that Court presented a very thorough and comprehensive piece of research (e.g. good sample size), and could be an example for future analysis in other areas of *the IIA-BLM*; **also notes** that the *development of additional* performance indicators to monitor the implementation of the IIA-BLM *should be considered*;

Amendment

185. Notes that Court presented a very thorough and comprehensive piece of research (e.g. good sample size), and could be an example for future analysis in other areas of *Better Law Making; is of the opinion* that the *existing* performance indicators to monitor the implementation of the IIA-BLM *are sufficient*;

Or. en

Amendment 44 Brian Hayes

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 186

Motion for a resolution

186. *Is of the opinion that the active involvement and participation of the Court will benefit the IIA-BLM by enhancing its monitoring exercise; believes that* greater use of Court's briefing papers *may also contribute to achieving that objective*;

Amendment

186. *Welcomes the* greater use of Court's briefing papers *in the monitoring of the implementation of legislation by the Member States*;

Or. en

Amendment 45 Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 200

Motion for a resolution

200. Is most concerned at the complete divergence of opinions between the Court and the Commission regarding whether the Commission has been implementing the preventive arm provisions properly in order

Amendment

200. Is most concerned at the complete divergence of opinions between the Court and the Commission regarding whether the Commission has been implementing the preventive arm provisions properly in order

to achieve the required MTOs. This complete lack of common understanding between the two institutions on the crux of the question whether the Commission has been properly applying the SGP preventive arm is an important indication of the existence of substantial differences, on the one hand regarding the adequacy of the actual texts of the legal acts currently governing the implementation of the SGP, and on the other concerning the criteria and considerations, on the basis of which to assess whether they are being applied in practice;

to achieve the required MTOs, ***but notes that this is indicative of the confusion and lack of certainty around this entire exercise, which strongly suggests that it needs either to be scrapped, or reviewed and totally overhauled.*** This complete lack of common understanding between the two institutions on the crux of the question whether the Commission has been properly applying the SGP preventive arm is an important indication of the existence of substantial differences, on the one hand regarding the adequacy of the actual texts of the legal acts currently governing the implementation of the SGP, and on the other concerning the criteria and considerations, on the basis of which to assess whether they are being applied in practice;

Or. en

Amendment 46 **Luke Ming Flanagan**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 201**

Motion for a resolution

201. ***Is of the opinion*** that the findings of the Court, namely that the Commission, through its actions has not been ensuring that the Regulation's main objective is met, might be considered as justified on the basis of a strictly literal interpretation of its provisions; nevertheless considers that the Commission has had sufficient grounds to exercise flexibility in applying the respective provisions of the Regulation in light of economic conditions and the of requirements of relaunching growth and increasing employment;

Amendment

201. ***Notes*** that the findings of the Court, namely that the Commission, through its actions has not been ensuring that the Regulation's main objective is met, might be considered as justified on the basis of a strictly literal interpretation of its provisions; nevertheless considers that the Commission has had sufficient grounds to exercise flexibility in applying the respective provisions of the Regulation in light of economic conditions and the of requirements of relaunching growth and increasing employment;

Or. en

Amendment 47
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 202

Motion for a resolution

202. Further considers that the expanding complexity of the provisions of the SGP that has been taking place in the course of the past decade of implementation calls for an all-round comprehensive reexamination of the respective legal acts and their interpretation in light of experiences accumulated as well as of the actual evolution of the European and the global economy, characterized by subdued growth, deepening inequalities and increasing uncertainties;

Amendment

202. Further considers that the expanding complexity of the provisions of the SGP that has been taking place in the course of the past decade of implementation calls ***not just*** for an all-round comprehensive reexamination of the respective legal acts and their interpretation in light of experiences accumulated as well as of the actual evolution of the European and the global economy, characterized by subdued growth, deepening inequalities and increasing uncertainties, ***but for the entire scrapping of the SGP***;

Or. en

Amendment 48
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 205 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

205a. Believes that in the context of COP 21, if the European Union is really serious about taking real steps to decelerate climate change, then it needs to invest whatever it takes to establish an EU-wide working rail system;

Or. en

Amendment 49
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 207

Motion for a resolution

207. Underlines that the chances to improve the situation remain slim unless Member ***States show*** the political will to improve the situation;

Amendment

207. Underlines that the chances to improve the situation remain slim unless ***each and every*** Member ***State shows*** the political will to improve the situation;

Or. es

Amendment 50

Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 210

Motion for a resolution

210. ***Insists that value*** added ***be generated when*** cross-border projects ***are co-financed from*** European structural funds, and ***in particular from*** the Connecting Europe Facility; ***with the view to finally overcoming*** political and infrastructural ***when linking European*** regions ***by*** high-speed rail connections;

Amendment

210. ***Emphasises the European*** added ***value of*** cross-border projects ***financed by*** European structural funds, and ***by*** the Connecting Europe Facility; ***stresses the importance of continuing to rely on these financing mechanisms to overcome*** political and infrastructural ***obstacles and accelerate the territorial and socio-economic cohesion of EU*** regions ***through*** high-speed rail connections;

Or. es

Amendment 51

Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 211

Motion for a resolution

211. Reminds the Commission ***that freight rail transport is decreasing across Europe and that freight transport runs on lower-speed tracks than*** passenger trains; ***calls therefore on the Commission to analyse thoroughly whether rail traffic is***

Amendment

211. Reminds the Commission ***of the importance of promoting not only accessible and quality passenger rail transport but also freight rail transport in light of its economic, environmental,***

primarily used for passenger or freight transport and adapt co-financing accordingly considering the specific needs for each rail connection;

logistical and safety benefits;

Or. es

Amendment 52
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 233 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

233a. Regrets that for 2019, 'The EU Erasmus+ Programme can co-fund projects related to Key Skills and Competencies (KSC) for Defence, including those supporting EDA's Overarching Strategic Research Agenda (OSRA) and Key Strategic Activities (KSA) in Defence.¹ observes that for 2017, and for all other years to date, according to its own website 'Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport', with no reference contained therein to this well-founded programme becoming involved in military/'defence' research; believes that this decision should be revisited and reversed;

¹ <https://eda.europa.eu/what-we-do/our-current-priorities/eu-funding-gateway/access-to-eu-erasmus-funding>

² <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/about-erasmus?md=yxz>

Or. en

Amendment 53
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 245

Motion for a resolution

245. Welcomes the **ambitious** commitments of the European Union to achieve cutting of its emissions compared to 1990 by at least 20% levels by 2020 and by 40% by 2030, and to spend at least 20% of its budget on climate related action for the 2014-2020 budgeting period;

Amendment

245. Welcomes the commitments of the European Union to achieve cutting of its emissions compared to 1990 by at least 20% levels by 2020 and by 40% by 2030, and to spend at least 20% of its budget on climate related action for the 2014-2020 budgeting period; **while these commitments are ambitious, it should also be noted that they are absolutely necessary, and those targets are minimums, to be exceeded if and where possible;**

Or. en

Amendment 54
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 246

Motion for a resolution

246. Welcomes the Union ambition of being a global leader in renewables; considers it of high importance for the Commission to continuously demonstrate sufficient leadership and commitment to climate change issues to consolidate its international credibility and impact of its instruments for shaping conditions for the Union's climate policy and green diplomacy in future years;

Amendment

246. Welcomes the Union ambition of being a global leader in renewables, **but notes that those renewables should and must be sustainable;** considers it of high importance for the Commission to continuously demonstrate sufficient leadership and commitment to climate change issues to consolidate its international credibility and impact of its instruments for shaping conditions for the Union's climate policy and green diplomacy in future years;

Or. en

Amendment 55
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 274 – indent 1

Motion for a resolution

- carry out an evaluation of the 2012-2015 animal welfare strategy to identify to what extent its objectives have been achieved and if the guidance it has issued is being applied;

Amendment

- carry out an evaluation of the 2012-2015 animal welfare strategy - ***particularly in relation to live animal transportation*** - to identify to what extent its objectives have been achieved and if the guidance it has issued is being applied;

Or. en

Amendment 56
Karin Kadenbach

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 274 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

274a. Welcomes the conclusion of the Court that the EU actions on animal welfare have improved compliance with animal welfare requirements and supported higher standards with a clear positive impact on animal welfare, where properly implemented;

Or. en

Amendment 57
Tomáš Zdechovský

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 277 – indent 3

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

- for the programming period post-2020, provide guidance to Member States on the use of other rural development measures to support improved animal welfare standards, in order to give farmers a wider range of incentives to improve animal welfare;

- for the programming period post-2020, provide ***structured*** guidance to Member States on the use of other rural development measures to support improved animal welfare standards, in order to give farmers a wider range of incentives to improve animal welfare, ***with a view to a complete abolishment of***

the cruel factory farming practices in the EU;

Or. en