



**2017/2136(DEC)**

11.12.2017

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 21**

**Draft opinion**

**Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski**

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



**Amendment 1**  
**Dominique Bilde**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Welcomes the fact that Erasmus+ enabled 500,000 people to study, train or volunteer abroad in 2016 and is on track to achieve its target of 4 million participants by 2020; stresses that Erasmus+ students enjoy better career prospects *than non-mobile students* and that the programme delivers as a strategic investment in Europe's young people;

*Amendment*

1. Welcomes the fact that Erasmus+ enabled 500,000 people to study, train or volunteer abroad in 2016 and is on track to achieve its target of 4 million participants by 2020; stresses that Erasmus+ students enjoy better career prospects and that the programme delivers as a strategic investment in Europe's young people;

Or. fr

**Amendment 2**  
**Momchil Nekov**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Welcomes the fact that Erasmus+ enabled 500,000 people to study, train or volunteer abroad in 2016 and is on track to achieve its target of 4 million participants by 2020; stresses that Erasmus+ students enjoy better career prospects than non-mobile students and that the programme delivers as a strategic investment in Europe's young people;

*Amendment*

1. Welcomes the fact that Erasmus+ enabled 500,000 people to study, train or volunteer abroad in 2016 and is on track to achieve its target of 4 million participants by 2020; stresses that Erasmus+ students *tend to develop a large set of transferable skills, competences and knowledge* and enjoy better career prospects than non-mobile students and that the programme delivers as a strategic investment in Europe's young people; *points out, however, the need to ensure wider accessibility of the programme in particular for young people with fewer opportunities;*

Or. en

**Amendment 3**  
**Dominique Bilde**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1a. Calls on the Commission to ensure that participation in Erasmus+ is geared more consistently towards the aim of learning the host country's language, to remove the obstacles that discourage people from taking part when they are less well off financially, and to return to a more even geographical spread of destinations;***

Or. fr

**Amendment 4**  
**Luigi Morgano**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1a. Welcomes the fact that the Erasmus+ funding application procedure has largely been transferred online; believes, however, that the procedure could be simplified further by abolishing the requirement for project partners' letters of accreditation to be signed by hand;***

Or. it

**Amendment 5**  
**Luigi Morgano**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1b. Points out that there are still problems as regards access to Erasmus+ funding in the 'youth' sector because the programme is managed on a decentralised basis by national agencies; calls on the Commission to take the necessary steps, for instance by centralising part of the funding within the executive agency; calls on the Commission, in addition, to provide the means necessary for all programme beneficiaries to become more involved, one example being to set up permanent sector-specific subcommittees, as provided for under Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013;***

Or. it

**Amendment 6**  
**Dominique Bilde**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1b. Maintains that, to date, the key to the success of Erasmus+ has been university exchanges and that, in order to prevent this from being eroded, none of the funding should be used for another programme, nor should the scope of Erasmus+ be widened to encompass other recipients, for example migrants;***

Or. fr

**Amendment 7**  
**Luigi Morgano**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. ***Is deeply concerned by*** the low take-up and inadequate geographical coverage of the Erasmus+ Student Loan Guarantee Facility; hopes that the recent direct agreement with Luxembourg University will offer ***a new model for*** more effective loan ***roll-out; urges the Commission and European Investment Fund to redouble their efforts to maximise the*** Facility's effectiveness.

*Amendment*

2. ***Notes*** the low take-up and inadequate geographical coverage of the Erasmus+ Student Loan Guarantee Facility; hopes that the recent direct agreement with Luxembourg University will offer ***indications as to a*** more effective loan ***model, but, in general, has reservations about the use of a facility intended to support mobility; calls, therefore, on the Commission to make a thorough assessment of this*** Facility's real benefits;

Or. it

**Amendment 8**  
**Dominique Bilde**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. ***Is alarmed by the chronically low project success rates*** under the Europe for Citizens ***programme and the Creative Europe Culture sub-programme*** (16% and 11% respectively in 2016); ***stresses that low success rates cause frustration among applicants and are symptomatic of inadequate levels of financing.***

*Amendment*

3. ***Points to the high number of funding applications submitted*** under the Europe for Citizens ***and Creative Europe programmes and to the poor success rates*** (16% and 11% respectively in 2016); ***calls, therefore, for preference to be given to projects carried out by and for European citizens, as opposed to projects seeking to establish an inclusive cultural policy in relation to refugees and migrants;***

Or. fr

**Amendment 9**  
**Momchil Nekov**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Is alarmed by the chronically low project success rates under the Europe for Citizens programme and the Creative Europe Culture sub-programme (16% and 11% respectively in 2016); stresses that low success rates cause frustration among applicants and are symptomatic of inadequate levels of financing.

*Amendment*

3. Is alarmed by the chronically low project success rates under the Europe for Citizens programme and the Creative Europe Culture sub-programme (16% and 11% respectively in 2016); stresses that low success rates cause frustration among applicants and are symptomatic of inadequate levels of financing, ***which does not correspond to the ambitious goals of the programmes;***

Or. en

**Amendment 10**  
**Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Bogdan Brunon Wenta**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Commends EACEA's role in implementing the three culture and education programmes; is pleased to note that EACEA makes 92% of its payments within the Financial Regulation deadlines; given that education and culture programme beneficiaries are often very small organisations, calls on EACEA to strive for better results, potentially through an average time-to-pay indicator.

*Amendment*

4. Commends EACEA's role in implementing the three culture and education programmes, ***as evidenced by the positive evaluation of the Agency's work completed in 2016; welcomes EACEA's greater use of e-reporting for funded projects, which should improve data collection and project monitoring, help feed into the Commission's policy work and assist beneficiaries;*** is pleased to note that EACEA makes 92% of its payments within the Financial Regulation deadlines; given that education and culture programme beneficiaries are often very small organisations, calls on EACEA to strive for better results, potentially through an average time-to-pay indicator;

Or. en

**Amendment 11**  
**Dominique Bilde**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Welcomes the 2016 launch of the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility, with a budget of 121 million EUR up to 2022, and the initial interest shown by the sector and financial intermediaries; calls for quick implementation of the planned 60 million EUR frontloading of the Facility from EFSI; recalls that loans complement other essential sources of funding to the sector, such as grants.

*Amendment*

5. Welcomes the 2016 launch of the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility, with a budget of 121 million EUR up to 2022, and the initial interest shown by the sector and financial intermediaries; calls for quick implementation of the planned 60 million EUR frontloading of the Facility from EFSI; recalls that loans complement other essential sources of funding to the sector, such as grants; ***also draws attention to the declared aim of supporting more than 10 000 SMEs.***

Or. fr

**Amendment 12**  
**Luigi Morgano**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5a. Points out that the Commission's own Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) says that the Europe for Citizens programme reached full maturity in 2016, in its third year of implementation; calls, therefore, on the Commission and Council to allow properly for the long time-frames that have proved necessary for full implementation of new programmes within the 2014-2020 MFF in order to prevent similar delays from occurring within the financial framework to be***



*established after 2020;*

Or. it

**Amendment 13**  
**Luigi Morgano**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. *Welcomes* the 2016 launch of the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility, with a budget of 121 million EUR up to 2022, and the initial interest shown by the sector and financial intermediaries; calls for quick implementation of the planned 60 million EUR frontloading of the Facility from EFSI; recalls that loans complement other essential sources of funding to the sector, such as grants.

*Amendment*

5. *Notes* the 2016 launch of the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility, with a budget of 121 million EUR up to 2022, and the initial interest shown by the sector and financial intermediaries; calls for quick implementation of the planned 60 million EUR frontloading of the Facility from EFSI; recalls that loans complement other essential sources of funding to the sector, such as grants;

Or. it

**Amendment 14**  
**Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Bogdan Brunon Went**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

***5a. Is concerned by the very low level of EFSI funding that reached the education and cultural and creative sectors in 2016; considers that tailored, sector-specific support is essential to ensure that the cultural and creative sector benefits from EFSI loans;***

Or. en

**Amendment 15**  
**Morten Løkkegaard**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a.** *Notes the efforts made by the European Schools and the Office of the Secretary-General to enhance internal controls, as well as the planned governance changes to increase central responsibility through an Authorising Officer and Accounting Officer; remains concerned that, by the Schools' own admission, "substantial work lies ahead";*

Or. en

**Amendment 16**  
**Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Bogdan Brunon Went**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5c.** *Notes the efforts made by the European Schools and the Office of the Secretary-General to enhance internal controls, as well as the planned governance changes to increase central responsibility through an Authorising Officer and Accounting Officer; remains concerned that, by the Schools' own admission, "substantial work lies ahead";*

Or. en

**Amendment 17**  
**Morten Løkkegaard**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5b.** *Considers that the UK's withdrawal from the European Union poses particularly challenging questions in relation to the European Schools, especially since around 21% of all European School pupils in the 2016-2017 school year were in the English language section (second only to the French language section) and English was the chosen second language of 61% of all European School pupils; is aware that the uncertainty surrounding the provision of English-language teaching after the UK's withdrawal is a cause for concern for parents and pupils at the European Schools; calls on the European Commission and the European Schools to report to the Committee on Culture and Education on its plans to deal with the specific challenges caused by the UK's withdrawal and on how it intends to continue to provide first-class English-language teaching within the European Schools going forward, including considerations for possible alternative contracting arrangements for teachers;*

Or. en

**Amendment 18**

**Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Bogdan Brunon Wenta**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5d.** *Considers that the UK's withdrawal from the European Union poses particularly challenging questions in relation to the European Schools, especially since around 21% of all*

*European School pupils in the 2016-2017 school year were in the English language section (second only to the French language section) and English was the chosen second language of 61% of all European School pupils; is aware that the uncertainty surrounding the provision of English-language teaching after the UK's withdrawal is a cause for concern for parents and pupils at the European Schools; calls on the European Commission and the European Schools to report to the Committee on Culture and Education on its plans to deal with the specific challenges created by the UK's withdrawal and how it intends to continue to provide first-class English-language teaching within the European Schools going forward;*

Or. en

**Amendment 19**  
**Luigi Morgano**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5b. Points out that, as the Court of Auditors has stated, a new record was set in the financial year 2016 as regards payments carried over into future budgets; urges the Commission and Council to reduce the difference between commitment and payment appropriations to a minimum by making the necessary provision to meet contractual obligations to programme beneficiaries without delay;*

Or. it

**Amendment 20**

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**Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Bogdan Brunon Wenta**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5b. Reiterates its support for independent media coverage of European affairs, notably through budgetary assistance for television, radio and online networks; welcomes the continuation of the grant for Euranet+ until 2018 and urges the Commission to find a more sustainable funding model for the network;***

Or. en

**Amendment 21**  
**Luigi Morgano**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5c. Considers it unfortunate that – generally speaking – decisions concerning the EU budget should be dictated primarily by notions of 'fair return' and that the budget should be treated as a zero-sum game; believes, therefore, that the EU budget needs to be made more independent from direct national contributions, and supports the proposal to reform the own resources system with a view in the medium term to achieving a maximum figure of 50% for financing by the gross national income-based resource (GNI resource).***

Or. it