DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018, Section III - Commission and executive agencies (2019/2055(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Sabine Verheyen
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the conclusion of the European Court of Auditors’ special report on Erasmus+ that the programme has a positive effect on participants’ attitudes towards the Union and generates many forms of European added value; however, stresses also that further efforts should be taken to fully align indicators with objectives, and that there is a need to simplify the application and reporting process;

2. Is worried that European Court of Auditors concluded that beneficiaries of Union funding under Erasmus+ were in some cases obliged to follow national rules that were not fully in line with Union principles; stresses that the Commission should closely monitor the coherence of implementation measures throughout all Member States;

3. Acknowledges that, as the Student Loan Guarantee Facility has not produced the expected results, the Commission decided to reallocate the relevant funds;

4. Welcomes the 11 000 placements offered to young people by the European Solidarity Corps programme; regrets, however, the lack of data on the number of placements in the occupational strand of the programme;

5. Highlights the progress in the success rates in the Creative Europe programme compared to 2017 (31 % for Culture and 48 % for the MEDIA sub-programme), but stresses that more adequate levels of financing are required to tackle those still unsatisfactory results;

6. Notes that the internal control system of EACEA still needs major improvements, as identified by the reservations raised in the second phase of an audit on the Erasmus+ and Creative Europe grant management; calls on EACEA to adopt all the necessary corrective actions, in order to guarantee the highest quality implementation of the programmes.