



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

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*Committee on Development*

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**2014/2075(DEC)**

16.12.2014

# AMENDMENTS

## 1 - 7

**Draft opinion**

**Linda McAvan**

(PE541.411v01-00)

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013, Section III - Commission and executive agencies  
(2014/2075(DEC))

AM\_Com\_NonLegOpinion

**Amendment 1**  
**Enrique Guerrero Salom**

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

*Draft opinion*

1. Welcomes the increased focus of the discharge process on improving performance to achieve the best possible results with EU taxpayers' money; encourages the Commission, in this regard, to improve the feedback loop of the evaluations cycle, so that lessons learnt from past practice and evaluation recommendations contribute to an even greater extent to better decision-making, programming and implementation of EU aid in the future;

*Amendment*

1. Welcomes the increased focus of the discharge process on improving performance to achieve the best possible results with EU taxpayers' money; encourages the Commission, in this regard, ***to redouble its efforts*** to improve the feedback loop of the evaluations cycle, so that lessons learnt from past practice and evaluation recommendations contribute to an even greater extent to better decision-making, programming and implementation of EU aid in the future;

Or. es

**Amendment 2**  
**Enrique Guerrero Salom**

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

*Draft opinion*

3. Notes with concern the growing discrepancy between the EU's international commitments, its ambitious policy frameworks and new tools (such as the post-2015 development agenda and the External Financing Instruments for the period 2014-2020) on the one hand, and on the other hand its inability to honour the commitments it has taken vis-à-vis its global partners due to the availability of insufficient payment credits;

*Amendment*

3. Notes with concern the growing discrepancy between the EU's international commitments, its ambitious policy frameworks and new tools (such as the post-2015 development agenda and the External Financing Instruments for the period 2014-2020) on the one hand, and on the other hand its inability to honour the commitments it has taken vis-à-vis its global partners ***and other bodies, in particular with regard to humanitarian aid***, due to the availability of insufficient payment credits;

**Amendment 3**  
**Enrique Guerrero Salom**

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

*Draft opinion*

5. Underlines that 2013 was the second consecutive year that humanitarian aid through the EU budget exceeded EUR 1.3 billion in commitments due to the occurrence of a high number of humanitarian crises that caused immense human suffering; ***regrets deeply*** the impact that the lack of payment appropriations had in this crisis year on DG ECHO's activities, which could only be maintained through rearranging payment schedules, resulting in a carry-over of EUR 160 million in payment arrears at year end;

*Amendment*

5. Underlines that 2013 was the second consecutive year that humanitarian aid through the EU budget exceeded EUR 1.3 billion in commitments due to the occurrence of a high number of humanitarian crises that caused immense human suffering; ***deplores*** the impact that the lack of payment appropriations had in this crisis year on DG ECHO's activities, which could only be maintained through rearranging payment schedules, resulting in a carry-over of EUR 160 million in payment arrears at year end; ***calls on the Council to comply with the payment plan agreed with Parliament;***

**Amendment 4**  
**Linda McAvan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 9 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***9a. Concurs with the recommendations of the Court of Auditors' Special Report on EU support for rehabilitation following the earthquake in Haiti<sup>1a</sup> in particular on the adoption of a common DEVCO-ECHO strategy to ensure more effective linkage and synergy between their respective activities, and urges the***

*Commission to implement these recommendations in all its on-going and future operations in the context of a post-disaster or fragile situation; invites the Commission to inform the co-legislators of any budgetary or legal constraints that hindered effective implementation of EU support for rehabilitation in Haiti following the earthquake;*

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*<sup>1a</sup> Special Report n° 13/2014: EU support for rehabilitation following the earthquake in Haiti:  
[http://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR14\\_13/QJAB14013ENC.pdf](http://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR14_13/QJAB14013ENC.pdf)*

Or. en

## **Amendment 5**

**Heidi Hautala, Judith Sargentini**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 10 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*10a. Notes with concern that the use of blending in energy sector primarily focuses on large projects with less emphasis on local energy solutions; urges the EU to refrain from developing a top-down approach on developing energy infrastructure to ensure universal access to energy for all by 2030, bearing in mind that large scale infrastructures may not suit the economic and social structure of the country and fail to provide energy access to the poor, for whom smaller, decentralised and off-grid energy sources are usually more appropriate and effective;*

Or. en

**Amendment 6**

**Heidi Hautala, Judith Sargentini**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 10 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*10b. Points out that the European Court of Auditors Special Report 16 (2014) on the use of blending concludes that for nearly half of the projects examined, there was insufficient evidence to conclude that the grants were justified, while for a number of these cases, there were indications that the investments would have been made without the EU contribution; in addition, points out that blending risks leading to a debt bubble in some third world countries with limited revenues to service their debt, notably in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean; accordingly, urges the European Commission, in a context where it has indicated its wishes to extend considerably the use of blending in future years, to implement the recommendations made by the European Court of Auditors Special Report on the use of blending and to evaluate the mechanism of blending loans and grants, particularly in terms of development and financial additionality, transparency and accountability;*

Or. en

**Amendment 7**

**Heidi Hautala, Judith Sargentini**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 11**

11. Welcomes the participation of the Parliament in the EU Platform for Blending in External Cooperation (EUBEC) to provide recommendations and guidance with a view to further increase the effectiveness of aid delivered by the EU through blending operations; recommends that the Parliament should be duly informed on the project proposals financed by the blending facilities before decisions are taken by the operational boards; recalls that projects financed through blending should truly contribute to poverty reduction and respect development effectiveness principles; calls on the Commission to use blending only where its added value is demonstrated as highlighted by the Court<sup>2</sup>;

11. ***Recalls that EU blending should in no circumstances constitute an excuse for diminishing ODA***; welcomes the participation of the Parliament in the EU Platform for Blending in External Cooperation (EUBEC) to provide recommendations and guidance with a view to further increase the effectiveness of aid delivered by the EU through blending operations ***in line with the internationally agreed objectives of the aid effectiveness agenda, particularly the key principles of ownership, alignment, harmonisation and mutual accountability***; ***in particular***, recommends, ***in a context where blending provides an opportunity to support the activities of big EU corporations operating abroad (thereby departing from development objectives)***, that the Parliament should be duly informed on the project proposals financed by the blending facilities before decisions are taken by the operational boards; recalls that projects financed through blending should truly contribute to poverty reduction and respect development effectiveness principles; calls on the Commission to use blending only where its added value is demonstrated as highlighted by the Court<sup>2</sup>;

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<sup>2</sup> European Court of Auditors, The effectiveness of blending regional investment facility grants with financial institution loans to support EU external policies, Special Report 16, 2014.

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<sup>2</sup> European Court of Auditors, The effectiveness of blending regional investment facility grants with financial institution loans to support EU external policies, Special Report 16, 2014.

Or. en