DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Development

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))

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Recalls that legality of Union spending is a key principle of sound financial management;

2. Reiterates its concerns as regards the use of development funds for non-development objectives and underlines that funding which does not fulfil official development assistance criteria must be sourced from other instruments than the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI); underlines the importance of ensuring human rights standards in all cooperation under the DCI and insists that in order to successfully combat poverty in the long-term, the Union must address the causes of poverty and inequalities;

3. Regrets that the Commission does not report on or monitor how the Union budget and policies contribute to sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); notes that the Commission has recently published a reflection paper outlining scenarios for a sustainable Europe; regrets, however, that this paper does not include a gap analysis of what more the Union needs to do in terms of budget, policy and legislation, nor does it present the contribution of Union spending programmes towards implementing the SDGs;

4. Welcomes the use of budget support in general to assist developing countries in their reform efforts and in achieving the SDGs, urges, however, the Commission to more clearly assess and define the development outcomes to be achieved through budget support in each case and above all to enhance control mechanisms concerning recipient states' conduct in the fields of corruption, respect of human rights, rule of law and democracy.