



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2014/2075(DEC)

10.12.2014

AMENDMENTS

1 - 19

Draft opinion
Marian Harkin
(PE541.520v02-00)

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

AM_Com_NonLegOpinion

Amendment 1
Lampros Fountoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that the Court of Auditors Report shows a slight decrease in the estimated error rate for the area of Employment and Social Affairs, which stood at 3.1% in 2013 compared to 3.2% in the previous year; ***notes that this error rate was still the second lowest amongst all policy areas;***

Amendment

1. Notes that the Court of Auditors Report shows a slight decrease in the estimated error rate for the area of Employment and Social Affairs, which stood at 3.1% in 2013 compared to 3.2% in the previous year;

Or. el

Amendment 2
Barbara Kappel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that the Court of Auditors Report shows a slight decrease in the estimated error rate for the area of Employment and Social Affairs, which stood at 3.1% in 2013 compared to 3.2% in the previous year; notes that this error rate was still the second lowest amongst all policy areas;

Amendment

1. Notes that the Court of Auditors Report shows a slight decrease in the estimated error rate for the area of Employment and Social Affairs, which stood at 3.1% in 2013 compared to 3.2% in the previous year; notes that this error rate was still the second lowest amongst all policy areas ***and demands a further decrease in the error rate over the next few years;***

Or. de

Amendment 3
Barbara Kappel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. **Emphasises** the importance of the European Social Fund (ESF) as a main policy tool to implement employment and social policy; notes that ESF spending accounted for around 98% of the policy area spending in 2013;

Amendment

2. **Notes** the importance of the European Social Fund (ESF) as a main policy tool to implement employment and social policy; notes that ESF spending accounted for around 98% of the policy area spending in 2013;

Or. de

Amendment 4
Lampros Fountoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Emphasises the **importance of** the European Social Fund (ESF) as a main policy tool to implement employment and social policy; notes that ESF spending accounted for around 98% of the policy area spending in 2013;

Amendment

2. Emphasises the **contribution made by** the European Social Fund (ESF) as a main policy tool to implement employment and social policy; notes that ESF spending accounted for around 98% of the policy area spending in 2013;

Or. el

Amendment 5
Rina Ronja Kari

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Points up the fact that, under Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999^{1a}, monies from the European

Social Fund may not be used to relocate jobs from one Member State to another; insists that the Commission and Member States carry out proper checks to make sure that EU monies are not misappropriated in that way;

^{1a} *OJ L 263, 7.10.2011, p. 22.*

Or. da

Amendment 6
Georgi Pirinski

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes the Court's observations about the main risks to regularity of spending in this policy area, such as the risks related to the intangible nature of investments in human capital, the diversity of the activities and the involvement of multiple, often small-scale partners in the implementation of projects; welcomes in this regard the specific mitigating actions taken by the Commission, including both preventative and corrective measures; welcomes the use of simplified cost options which are less error prone by Member States and ***the risk based audits carried out by DG EMPL;***

Amendment

3. Notes the Court's observations about the main risks to regularity of spending in this policy area, such as the risks related to the intangible nature of investments in human capital, the diversity of the activities and the involvement of multiple, often small-scale partners in the implementation of projects; welcomes in this regard the specific mitigating actions taken by the Commission, including both preventative and corrective measures ***and the risk based audits carried out by DG EMPL;*** welcomes the use of simplified cost options which ***reduce the administrative burden on the beneficiaries and*** are less error prone by Member States and ***asks the Commission to encourage Member States not to apply more demanding rules to ESF projects than to nationally funded projects;***

Or. en

Amendment 7
Claude Rolin

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes the Court's observations about the main risks to regularity of spending in this policy area, such as the risks related to the intangible nature of investments in human capital, the diversity of the activities and the involvement of multiple, often small-scale partners in the implementation of projects; welcomes in this regard the specific mitigating actions taken by the Commission, including both preventative and corrective measures; *welcomes* the use of simplified cost options which are less error prone by Member States and the risk based audits carried out by DG EMPL;

Amendment

3. Notes the Court's observations about the main risks to regularity of spending in this policy area, such as the risks related to the intangible nature of investments in human capital, the diversity of the activities and the involvement of multiple, often small-scale partners in the implementation of projects; welcomes in this regard the specific mitigating actions taken by the Commission, including both preventative and corrective measures; *points* up the use of simplified cost options which are less error prone by Member States and the risk based audits carried out by DG EMPL;

Or. fr

Amendment 8
Claude Rolin

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Calls for the Commission to make sure that the national authorities responsible for managing the Structural Funds address the problem of personnel costs being charged for at higher rates for EU projects than for nationally funded projects;

Or. fr

Amendment 9
Marian Harkin

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Notes the Court's finding that projects using Simplified Cost Options are less likely to be prone to error than the ones using actual costs;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Lampros Fountoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. Notes that the intention of Member States to absorb EU funds, should not compromise the consistent application of effective controls;

deleted

Or. el

Amendment 11
Barbara Kappel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. Notes that the intention of Member States to absorb EU funds, *should* not compromise the consistent application of effective controls;

4. Notes that the intention of Member States to absorb EU funds, *must* not compromise the consistent application of effective controls;

Or. de

Amendment 12
Georgi Pirinski

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Notes that the intention of Member States to absorb EU funds, should not compromise the consistent application of effective controls;

Amendment

4. Notes that the intention of Member States to absorb EU funds, should not compromise the consistent application of effective controls ***and it should pursue achieving results and the objectives supported by ESF which are relevant and affect the life of every European citizen;***

Or. en

Amendment 13
Marian Harkin

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Notes that the intention of Member States to absorb EU funds, should not compromise the consistent application of effective controls;

Amendment

4. Notes that the intention of Member States to absorb EU funds, ***particularly towards the end of the eligibility period,*** should not compromise the consistent application of effective controls, ***which can lead to the non-detection of infringement rules with subsequent funding of projects that are too costly, poorly implemented or unlikely to achieve the intended result;***

Or. en

Amendment 14
Georgi Pirinski

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes the new guidance developed by the Commission in order to further strengthen the reliability of management verifications in the 2014-2020 programming period. ***This guidance has been presented to Member States and will be issued in the second half of 2014;***

Amendment

5. Notes the recommendation of the Court that the Commission should follow up with Member States on the weaknesses identified in the DG EMPL risk based thematic audit of management verifications and welcomes the new guidance developed by the Commission in order to further strengthen the reliability of management verifications in the 2014-2020 programming period; ***underlines that it is very important that the authorities in the Member States should use the information available for them to detect and correct errors prior to claiming reimbursement from the Commission which will significantly reduce the error rate in the area of employment and social affairs;***

Or. en

Amendment 15
Lampros Fountoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes the new guidance developed by the Commission in order to further strengthen the reliability of management verifications in the 2014-2020 programming period. This guidance ***has*** been presented to Member States and ***will be*** issued ***in*** the second half of 2014;

Amendment

5. Welcomes the new guidance developed by the Commission in order to further strengthen the reliability of management verifications in the 2014-2020 programming period. This guidance ***should have*** been ***already*** presented to Member States and ***been*** issued ***by the end of the*** second half of 2014;

Or. el

Amendment 16
Marian Harkin

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes the new guidance developed by the Commission in order to further strengthen the reliability of management verifications in the 2014-2020 programming period. This guidance has been presented to Member States and will be issued in the second half of 2014;

Amendment

5. Welcomes the new guidance developed by the Commission in order to further strengthen the reliability of management verifications in the 2014-2020 programming period. This guidance, ***which draws on the lessons learned from the previous programming period***, has been presented to Member States and will be issued in the second half of 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Lampros Fountoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Notes the recommendation of the Court that the Commission should follow up with Member States on the weaknesses identified in the DG EMPL risk based thematic audit of management verifications and welcomes the guidelines issued to Member States from the Commission on this matter.

Amendment

deleted

Or. el

Amendment 18
Georgi Pirinski

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

Amendment

6. Notes the recommendation of the Court that the Commission should follow up with Member States on the weaknesses identified in the DG EMPL risk based thematic audit of management verifications and welcomes the guidelines issued to Member States from the Commission on this matter.

deleted

Or. en

**Amendment 19
Georgi Pirinski**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. Encourages DG EMPL to pursue its aim with regard to ESF to move further from the need to correct to a situation where errors are avoided and supports DG EMPL's efforts to help the Member States with highest error rates for ESF to improve their systems by using best practice available; notes in this regard that the administrative capacity and organization of DG EMPL should correspond to its work and responsibilities towards the Member States.

Or. en