



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2016/2151(DEC)

1.2.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

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 2015, Section III – Commission and executive agencies
(2016/2151(DEC))

Rapporteur: Giovanni La Via

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Is satisfied with the overall implementation by the Commission of the budgetary headings for environment, climate action, public health and food safety in 2015;
2. Is satisfied with the work carried out by the five decentralised agencies which are under its remit and which carry out technical, scientific or managerial tasks that help the Union's institutions to elaborate and implement policies in the area of environment and climate policy, public health and food safety, as well as with the way those agencies' budgets are implemented;
3. With respect to the overall error rate of the section "Rural Development, fisheries, environment and climate", in the chapter on the environment, notes a slight reduction of the error rate in the report of the Court of Auditors (ECA) for 2015, with 5,3% against 6% for the previous year;

Environment and Climate Action

4. Underlines that EUR 369 251 846 have been made available to DG ENV in commitment appropriations, of which 99,83 % has been implemented; notes that, with respect to payment appropriations, it is satisfactory that 99,36% of the EUR 332 260 333 available has been used; notes, moreover, that the LIFE+ administrative expenditure is executed over two budgetary exercises (through automatic carry-overs), and that if this administrative expenditure is not taken into account, the rate of payment implementation reaches 99,72%;
5. Is satisfied with the overall implementation of the LIFE+ operational budget, which amounted to 99,95 % in 2015 for commitment appropriations and 98,93% for payment appropriations; stresses that LIFE+ has helped to increase public awareness and participation in legislation and the implementation of the environmental policy of the Union, in addition to improving governance in this sector; notes that, in 2015, EUR 225,9 million were committed for action grants, EUR 40 million were used for financial instruments managed by the European Investment Bank and EUR 59,2 million were used for measures intended to support the Commission's role of initiating and monitoring policy and legislation development; notes that EUR 10,2 million were used for administrative support to LIFE and for support to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME);
6. Takes note that DG CLIMA has increased its implementation rate to 99,9% of EUR 108 747 880 in commitment appropriations and 91,77% of EUR 47 479 530 in payment appropriations, and that if the administrative expenditure is not taken into account, the rate of payment implementation reaches 96,88%;
7. Stresses that an amount of EUR 4 400 000 has been allocated as contributions to international conventions, protocols and agreements to which the Union is a party, or in relation to which the Union is involved in preparatory work; considers it important, in this

context, that the role of the European Parliament be duly reflected;

8. Encourages the budgetary authority to focus on pilot projects (PP) and preparatory actions (PA) with true added value for the Union in the future; acknowledges that ten PP and five PA amounting in total to EUR 1 400 000 in commitment appropriations and EUR 5 599 888 in payment appropriations have been implemented;

Public Health

9. Acknowledges that an evaluation of the second Health Programme (2008-2013) was finalised in 2015; welcomes that the third Health Programme was reinforced in 2015 to support and foster exchange of information and good practices in Member States facing challenges linked to significant reception of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, in particular in relation to DG SANTE's preparation of a personal health record for migrants' health assessment to be used at "Hotspots" and reception areas and an additional budget for projects linked to migrants' health;
10. Notes that the level of implementation in the Public Health programme 2014-2020 is very good, at 99,9%, and that the payment appropriations available were fully implemented;
11. Notes that DG SANTE was responsible, in 2015, for implementing EUR 237 251 659 on public health budget lines, of which 97,4% has been committed satisfactorily; also takes note that the level of execution of payments is at 97,2%; stresses, however, that all credits under the Health domain were fully implemented, except for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA); nevertheless underlines that the under-execution of those commitment appropriations fully corresponds to the outturn of 2014;
12. Acknowledges that the Agencies' accounts showed a positive budget outturn of EUR 3 083 926 (ECDC), EUR 1 089 066 (EFSA) and EUR 1 949 934 (EMA) and that this amount was booked as assigned revenue credits in 2015 to be implemented in 2016; therefore, taking this consideration into account, recognizes that the implementation rate is also at 100% for those three agencies;
13. As regards payment appropriations, notes that during the Global Transfer procedure in September 2015, EUR 8,1 million in payment credits were returned in the Health domain;

Food Safety, animal health and welfare and plant health

14. Acknowledges that, as regards the commitment appropriations for food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health, during the Global Transfer procedure, EUR 12,9 million were returned from the Food and Feed Budget, being EUR 2,4 million from Plant Health and EUR 10,5 million from the Emergency Fund; notes that the remaining commitment appropriations available were fully implemented;
15. Notes that no new pilot projects were voted in 2015; acknowledges that, with regard to the PA on control posts in relation to transport of animals, a balance payment of EUR 0,4 million was made in 2015;
16. Is of the opinion, on the basis of the data available and the implementation report, that discharge can be granted to the Commission with respect to expenditure in the areas of

environmental and climate policy, public health and food safety for the financial year 2015.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	31.1.2017
Result of final vote	+: 54 -: 11 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Marco Affronte, Pilar Ayuso, Zoltán Balczó, Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Mireille D'Ornano, Miriam Dalli, Mark Demesmaecker, Ian Duncan, Stefan Eck, José Inácio Faria, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Jens Gieseke, Julie Girling, Sylvie Goddyn, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Jytte Guteland, György Hölvényi, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Jean-François Jalkh, Benedek Jávor, Karin Kadenbach, Kateřina Konečná, Urszula Krupa, Giovanni La Via, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Valentinas Mazuronis, Susanne Melior, Miroslav Mikolášik, Gilles Pargneaux, Piernicola Pedicini, Pavel Poc, Julia Reid, Frédérique Ries, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Renate Sommer, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Ivica Tolić, Estefanía Torres Martínez, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Damiano Zoffoli
Substitutes present for the final vote	Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Jørn Dohrmann, Herbert Dorfmann, Martin Häusling, Jan Huitema, Peter Jahr, Merja Kyllönen, Gesine Meissner, James Nicholson, Gabriele Preuß, Bart Staes, Tiemo Wölken
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Jiří Maštálka, Clare Moody