



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on International Trade

2014/2075(DEC)

23.1.2015

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

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 2013, Section III - Commission and executive agencies
(2014/2075(DEC))

Rapporteur: Reimer Böge

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Is concerned about the Court of Auditors' conclusion that all payments during the financial year 2013, with the exception of the Union's own administration, were affected by material level of error;
2. Regrets that 29 % of the transactions audited in relation to the Union's External relations, Aid and Enlargement, were affected by error, and that none of the errors found had been detected by the Commissions' checks; however, is satisfied that the most likely error was reduced from 3,3 % in 2012 to 2,6 % in 2013, but stresses there is still room for improvement;
3. Points out that non-compliance with procedures, ineligibility of expenditure and non-performance accounted for 86 % of the most likely error within the Union's External relations, Aid and Enlargement;
4. Draws attention to the need to ensure appropriate controls and audits of the Union's macro-financial assistance;
5. Regrets that the Commission has not appropriately assessed all the economic effects of Preferential Trade Agreements; strongly recommends the Commission to take on board the recommendations of the Court of Auditors and to address the deficiencies, including in ex ante and ex post evaluations, weaknesses in customs controls applied by authorities of Member States selected in the Court's sample and in verifying that Member States improve the effectiveness of their risk management systems and control strategy to reduce losses to the Union budget; urges that such evaluations must be both transparent and readily understandable;
6. Notes that the Court of Auditors observed that, even though there have also been positive developments, the GSP has not yet been able to fully achieve its intended goals; notes also that this system has only been in force for a short time;
7. Stresses that in connection to the Aid for Trade strategy, Union funds must be used effectively and in accordance with the rules and regulations in force, as well as with the objectives of ensuring better integration of beneficiaries into the rules-based world trading system;
8. Stresses that evaluation and control of trade agreements is not only a budgetary issue, but that it is also essential when it comes to keeping partners to the commitments they have taken in the field of human rights, labour and environmental standards;

9. Asks to ensure sufficient controls on the various activities supporting the internationalisation of the Union's small and medium-sized enterprises as well as their access to third markets; reminds of the need to evaluate the level of effectiveness of and to look for ways in which coordination between Union business centres, national business centres and chambers of commerce in third countries could be improved.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	22.1.2015
Result of final vote	+: 30 -: 6 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	William (The Earl of) Dartmouth, Maria Arena, Tiziana Beghin, David Borrelli, David Campbell Bannerman, Daniel Caspary, Salvatore Cicu, Christofer Fjellner, Yannick Jadot, Ska Keller, Jude Kirton-Darling, Gabrielius Landsbergis, Bernd Lange, Marine Le Pen, David Martin, Emmanuel Maurel, Emma McClarkin, Anne-Marie Mineur, Alessia Maria Mosca, Artis Pabriks, Franck Proust, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández, Matteo Salvini, Marietje Schaake, Helmut Scholz, Joachim Schuster, Joachim Starbatty, Adam Szejnfeld, Iuliu Winkler, Jan Zahradil
Substitutes present for the final vote	Goffredo Maria Bettini, Reimer Böge, Victor Boștinăru, Klaus Buchner, Dita Charanzová, Sajjad Karim, Fernando Ruas, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Jarosław Wałęsa