



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

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*Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs*

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**2014/2155(INI)**

9.1.2015

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on the Annual Report 2013 on the Protection of the EU's Financial Interests -  
Fight against fraud  
(2014/2155(INI))

Rapporteur: Monica Macovei

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas in order to enhance the existing measures such as the PIF Convention for fighting fraud, corruption, money laundering and other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union, the Commission has submitted two proposals for criminal law instruments, the PIF Directive and the EPPO Regulation, aimed at ensuring more effective investigation and better protection of the taxpayers' money throughout the European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice;
- B. whereas the fight against fraud, corruption and money laundering in the Union must be a priority for political action by the Community institutions, and police and judicial cooperation between Member States is therefore crucial;
  - 1. Acknowledges the Commission's recommendation to the co-legislators regarding swift completion of the legislative work and adoption of the PIF Directive and the EPPO Regulation; recalls, however, that the ultimate goal is to be able to rely on sound and effective legal instruments in the fight against fraud;
  - 2. Is convinced that the means of criminal law in the PIF Directive will be effective only if they succeed in providing a clear definition of PIF offences, minimum maximum imprisonment penalties applicable in all participating Member States, and minimum rules on the statute of limitations, and if these rules are then implemented equally and efficiently by all Member States;
  - 3. Calls on the Council to keep Parliament constantly and fully informed and consulted throughout the legislative procedure for the EPPO Regulation; urges the Council to take into due account the views of Parliament – as an institution directly elected by European citizens – at all stages of the negotiations, in order to reach the necessary level of consensus enabling Parliament to give its final consent;
  - 4. Reiterates its call for an EPPO that must imperatively be independent, endowed with sufficient resources to act effectively, efficiently and swiftly, operating as a single office which investigates, prosecutes and brings to court the perpetrators of criminal offences affecting the Union's financial interests while ensuring that procedural safeguards for the suspected and accused persons are protected; stresses the importance of a common agreement of Parliament and the Council in the selection and appointment procedures for independent prosecutors with investigative powers in Member States; points out that establishing the EPPO will require effective coordination between the EPPO, Eurojust and OLAF;
  - 5. Calls on Member States to prosecute those who are suspected of fraud or other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union, also if financial corrections have been made by the Commission;
  - 6. Recalls the importance of sound financial instruments such as Pericles 2020 and Hercule

III in the fight against illegal activities affecting the resources of the Union;

7. Recalls the findings and recommendations of the first Commission report on anti-corruption policy in the EU, published in February 2014, and reaffirms the particular importance of intensifying exchanges of the current good practices highlighted in that report.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	8.1.2015
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 40 -: 6 0: 11
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Jan Philipp Albrecht, Malin Björk, Michał Boni, Bodil Ceballos, Caterina Chinnici, Ignazio Corrao, Rachida Dati, Frank Engel, Lorenzo Fontana, Mariya Gabriel, Kinga Gál, Sylvie Guillaume, Jussi Halla-aho, Filiz Hyusmenova, Sophia in 't Veld, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Timothy Kirkhope, Barbara Kudrycka, Kashetu Kyenge, Marju Lauristin, Monica Macovei, Vicky Maeijer, Louis Michel, Claude Moraes, József Nagy, Péter Niedermüller, Soraya Post, Judith Sargentini, Birgit Sippel, Branislav Škripek, Csaba Sógor, Helga Stevens, Traian Ungureanu, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Udo Voigt, Beatrix von Storch, Kristina Winberg
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Laura Agea, Hugues Bayet, Andrea Bocskor, Carlos Coelho, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Miriam Dalli, Dennis de Jong, Gérard Deprez, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Marek Jurek, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Emilian Pavel, Salvatore Domenico Pogliese, Elly Schlein, Barbara Spinelli, Daniele Viotti, Axel Voss
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Amjad Bashir, Georg Mayer, Georgi Pirinski