



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

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*Committee on Fisheries*

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**2014/2075(DEC)**

25.2.2015

# OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

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: Alain Cadec

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Takes note of the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors on the annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2013; takes note also of the Annual Report of the Court of Auditors concerning the financial year 2013; takes note of DG MARE's 2013 annual activity report;
2. Takes note of the opinions of the Court of Auditors on the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the accounts; notes the adverse opinion of the Court of Auditors on payment appropriations, in respect of which the overall error rate was 4,7 %;
3. Observes that the Court of Auditors recorded a high overall error rate of 6,7% in respect of payments made in the 'rural development, environment, fisheries and health' areas; notes, however, that the error rate is lower than for the previous financial year (7,9 %); notes that the 'regional policy, transport and energy' areas account for the largest share of the overall error rate recorded by the Court of Auditors and therefore urges the Commission to identify the reasons for this and to put forward corrective actions;
4. Notes DG MARE's reservation with regard to an error rate exceeding 2 % in relation to some Member States' declared expenditure and, in the case of one Member State, a report not considered to be reliable and the failure to submit a report; deplores the situation relating to the Member State concerned; notes, however, that the situation has improved in response to the Commission's instructions to that Member State;
5. Is convinced that the Member States will improve their reporting tools and channels in response to any shortcomings in the data supplied to the Commission; recommends that the Commission exert greater pressure on Member States to submit reliable data;
6. Regrets that apart from these observations, the Court of Auditors has not given more precise details of the outcome of its audits for the specific area of fisheries and maritime affairs and, in the interests of transparency, calls for that information to be made known;
7. Congratulates DG MARE on a very high implementation rate for its commitment appropriations (99,79 %) and payment appropriations (99,08 % for Title 11);
8. Acknowledges that 92,31 % of DG MARE's payments were made on time; notes with concern, however, that the number of late payments increased over the previous financial year; is pleased to note the fall in default interest paid in 2013 and therefore encourages DG MARE to keep its payment periods in line with the relevant rules;
9. Urges the Court of Auditors once again, as it has done in previous years, to provide a specific and separate error rate relating to fisheries and maritime affairs; takes the view that the sample specific to DG MARE must be sufficiently significant to ensure that audits are properly representative and a reliable error rate is determined;

10. Proposes, on the basis of the data available, to grant the Commission discharge in respect of its expenditure in the areas of maritime affairs and fisheries for the financial year 2013.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	24.2.2015
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 18 -: 3 0: 3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Marco Affronte, Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Renata Briano, Alain Cadec, Richard Corbett, Diane Dodds, Linnéa Engström, João Ferreira, Raymond Finch, Ian Hudghton, Carlos Iturgaiz, Werner Kuhn, António Marinho e Pinto, Gabriel Mato, Norica Nicolai, Liadh Ní Riada, Ulrike Rodust, Remo Sernagiotto, Ricardo Serrão Santos, Isabelle Thomas, Ruža Tomašić, Jarosław Wałęsa
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Ole Christensen, Sylvie Goddyn