



**2017/2136(DEC)**

31.1.2018

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 37**

**Draft opinion**

**Iskra Mihaylova**

(PE615.430v01-00)

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016: Section III - Commission and executive agencies  
(2017/2136(DEC))



**Amendment 1**  
**Rosa D'Amato, Isabella Adinolfi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Notes that as indicated in the Annual Report of the Court of Auditors, the estimated level of error in spending on 'Economic, social and territorial cohesion' decreased from 5,2 % in 2015 to 4,8 % in 2016; notes the sustained improvement over the past three years; welcomes the fact that the Court issued a qualified opinion on the regularity of the transactions underlying the 2016 accounts; acknowledges that the error rate for the 2007-2013 programming period remains significantly below the rates reported for the previous period, which proves the overall positive impact of the corrective actions taken;

*Amendment*

1. Notes that as indicated in the Annual Report of the Court of Auditors, the estimated level of error in spending on 'Economic, social and territorial cohesion' decreased from 5,2 % in 2015 to 4,8 % in 2016; notes the sustained improvement over the past three years; welcomes the fact that the Court issued a qualified opinion on the regularity of the transactions underlying the 2016 accounts; acknowledges that the error rate for the 2007-2013 programming period remains significantly below the rates reported for the previous period, which proves the overall positive impact of the corrective actions taken ***but remarks that 'Cohesion' was again the biggest contributor to the estimated level of error for 2016, followed by 'Natural resources', 'Competitiveness' and 'Global Europe'; calls on the Commission to keep working with Member States to improve their management and control systems and to continue to use available legal supervisory tools to ensure that all material errors are corrected;***

Or. en

**Amendment 2**  
**Iskra Mihaylova**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

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Annual Report of the Court of Auditors, the estimated level of error in spending on ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ decreased from 5,2 % in 2015 to 4,8 % in 2016; notes the sustained improvement over the past three years; welcomes the fact that the Court issued a qualified opinion on the regularity of the transactions underlying the 2016 accounts; acknowledges that the error rate for the 2007-2013 programming period remains significantly below the rates reported for the previous period, which proves the overall positive impact of the corrective actions taken; ***takes account of the additional assurance requirements for the 2014-2020 programmes which entail an annual acceptance procedure of certified accounts, with a view to a lasting reduction of the amount of residual errors;***

Or. en

### **Amendment 3 Ruža Tomašić**

#### **Draft opinion Paragraph 1**

##### *Draft opinion*

1. Notes that as indicated in the Annual Report of the Court of Auditors, the estimated level of error in spending on ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ decreased from 5,2 % in 2015 to 4,8 % in 2016; notes the sustained improvement over the past three years; welcomes the fact that the Court issued a qualified opinion on the regularity of the transactions underlying the 2016 accounts; acknowledges that the error rate for the 2007-2013 programming period remains significantly below the rates reported for the previous period, which proves the overall positive impact of the corrective

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actions taken;

actions taken; ***highlights, therefore, that Commission should simplify performance measurement by drastically reducing the number of objectives and indicators;***

Or. en

**Amendment 4**  
**Tamás Deutsch**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

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Or. en

**Amendment 5**  
**Derek Vaughan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

### *Draft opinion*

1. Notes that as indicated in the Annual Report of the Court of Auditors, the estimated level of error in spending on ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ decreased from 5,2 % in 2015 to 4,8 % in 2016; notes the sustained improvement over the past three years; welcomes the fact that the Court issued a qualified opinion on the regularity of the transactions underlying the 2016 accounts; acknowledges that the error rate for the 2007-2013 programming period remains significantly below the rates reported for the previous period, which proves the overall positive impact of the corrective actions taken;

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1. Notes that as indicated in the Annual Report of the Court of Auditors, the estimated level of error in spending on ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ decreased from 5,2 % in 2015 to 4,8 % in 2016; notes the sustained improvement over the past three years; welcomes the fact that the Court issued a qualified opinion on the regularity of the transactions underlying the 2016 accounts; acknowledges that the error rate for the 2007-2013 programming period remains significantly below the rates reported for the previous period, which proves the overall positive impact of the corrective actions taken; ***underlines the need for constant clear communication with the public regarding the difference between fraud and error;***

Or. en

## **Amendment 6 Iskra Mihaylova**

### **Draft opinion Paragraph 2**

### *Draft opinion*

2. Notes that, as was the case in previous years, Member States had enough information to prevent or correct a significant number of errors before claiming reimbursement and the estimated error rate could have been reduced below the materiality threshold; calls, therefore, on the Member States ***to properly enforce*** their management and control systems;

### *Amendment*

2. Notes that, as was the case in previous years, Member States had enough information to prevent or correct a significant number of errors before claiming reimbursement and the estimated error rate could have been reduced below the materiality threshold; calls, therefore, on the Member States ***for a proper enforcement of*** their management and control systems ***to detect and correct irregularities based on their own control and audits; emphasizes that for the new 2014-2020 period, the overall corrective capacity is further strengthened by the***

*possibility for the Commission to impose net financial corrections in case of serious deficiencies detected, which will be an important incentive for Member States to detect and correct serious irregularities before certifying annual accounts to the Commission;*

Or. en

## **Amendment 7**

**Martina Michels, Josu Juaristi Abaunz, Dimitrios Papadimoulis**

### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 2**

##### *Draft opinion*

2. Notes that, as was the case in previous years, Member States had enough information to prevent or correct a significant number of errors before claiming reimbursement and the estimated error rate could have been reduced below the materiality threshold; calls, therefore, on the Member States to properly enforce their management and control systems;

##### *Amendment*

2. Notes that, as was the case in previous years, Member States had enough information to prevent or correct a significant number of errors before claiming reimbursement and the estimated error rate could have been reduced below the materiality threshold; ***takes note of the conclusion drawn by the Court of Auditors that there is no need for additional controls in EU spending, but that existing controls need to be enforced properly***; calls, therefore, on the Member States to properly enforce their management and control systems;

Or. en

## **Amendment 8**

**Georgi Pirinski**

### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 2**

##### *Draft opinion*

2. Notes that, as was the case in previous years, Member States had enough

##### *Amendment*

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information to prevent or correct a significant number of errors before claiming reimbursement and the estimated error rate could have been reduced below the materiality threshold; calls, therefore, on the Member States to properly enforce their management and control systems;

information to prevent or correct a significant number of errors before claiming reimbursement and the estimated error rate could have been reduced below the materiality threshold; calls, therefore, on the Member States to properly enforce their management and control systems; ***calls on the Commission to effectively use all tools at its disposal, including technical assistance, to provide support to Member States' authorities;***

Or. en

**Amendment 9**  
**Laurențiu Rebegea**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Notes that, as was the case in previous years, Member States had enough information to prevent or correct a significant number of errors before claiming reimbursement and the estimated error rate could have been reduced below the materiality threshold; calls, therefore, on the Member States to properly enforce their management and control systems;

*Amendment*

2. Notes that, as was the case in previous years, Member States had enough information to prevent or correct a significant number of errors before claiming reimbursement and the estimated error rate could have been reduced below the materiality threshold; ***stresses that failure to comply in full does not automatically signify the existence of irregularity or fraud;*** calls, therefore, on the Member States to properly enforce their management and control systems;

Or. ro

**Amendment 10**  
**Ruža Tomašić**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**



*Draft opinion*

2. Notes that, as was the case in previous years, Member States had **enough** information to prevent or correct a significant number of errors before claiming reimbursement and the estimated error rate could have been reduced below the materiality threshold; calls, therefore, on the Member States to properly enforce their management and control systems;

*Amendment*

2. Notes that, as was the case in previous years, Member States had **sufficient** information to prevent or **to detect and** correct, a significant number of errors before claiming reimbursement and the estimated error rate could have been reduced below the materiality threshold; calls, therefore, on the Member States to properly enforce their management and control systems;

Or. en

**Amendment 11**

**Davor Škrlec**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2a. Calls on the Member States, in cooperation with their national, regional and local authorities, to keep up the fight against fraud and to remain ambitious in avoiding irregularities, preventing and detecting fraud and further reducing the error rates; considers that capacity building towards this end should be continued, also in cooperation with Transparency International and the implementation of Integrity Pacts;**

Or. en

**Amendment 12**

**Tamás Deutsch**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2a.** *Reminds that irregularities are not necessarily all fraud and a distinction should be made between fraudulent and non-fraudulent irregularities; it is in part for this reason that the suspension of payments in case of irregularities should only be used as a last resort;*

Or. en

**Amendment 13**  
**Tamás Deutsch**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2b.** *Draws attention to the role administrative capacities play in the regular use of the European Structural and Investment Funds and considers that an exchange of good practices could effectively contribute to enhancing Member States' capacities in this field;*

Or. en

**Amendment 14**  
**Georgi Pirinski**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

3. Notes that State aid errors were an important factor contributing to the estimated level of error in cohesion policy; calls on the Commission to ***take preventive action to improve the implementation of State aid rules; expresses its concern*** that,

3. Notes that State aid errors were an important factor contributing to the estimated level of error in cohesion policy; calls on the Commission to ***perform a review of the State Aid legislation and propose modifications that would reduce***

three years after the start of 2014-2020 period, the Member States have designated only 77 % of programme authorities; urges the Member States and the Commission to collaborate closely to complete the process;

*the administrative burden on national authorities and beneficiaries, and would remove obstacles that put European companies and organizations at a disadvantage in comparison with their competitors from third countries; is deeply concerned* that, three years after the start of 2014-2020 period, the Member States have designated only 77 % of programme authorities; urges the Member States and the Commission to collaborate closely to complete the process;

Or. en

## **Amendment 15** **Iskra Mihaylova**

### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 3**

#### *Draft opinion*

3. Notes that *State aid errors were an important factor contributing to the estimated level of error in cohesion policy*; calls on the Commission to take preventive *action to improve the implementation of State aid rules*; expresses its concern that, three years after the start of 2014-2020 period, the Member States have designated only 77 % of programme authorities; urges the Member States and the Commission to collaborate closely to complete the process;

#### *Amendment*

3. Notes that *the main sources of error were the inclusion of ineligible costs in beneficiaries' declarations (the inclusion of ineligible costs in expenditure declarations accounts for 42% of the estimated level of error calculated by the ECA), as well as infringements of public procurement rules (30% of the estimated level of error)*; *in this context* calls on the Commission to take *the appropriate preventive and corrective actions*; expresses its concern that, *according to the ECA Annual Report*, three years after the start of 2014-2020 period, the Member States have designated only 77 % of programme authorities *and* urges the Member States and the Commission to collaborate closely to complete the process;

Or. en

## Amendment 16

Martina Michels, Josu Juaristi Abaunz, Dimitrios Papadimoulis

### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 4

##### *Draft opinion*

4. Is concerned by the delays in implementing the 2014-2020 programmes **and** that, in 2016, the total amount of budgetary commitments reached some EUR 238,8 billion, mainly because of those delays; underlines that this amount is expected to rise until 2020; emphasises that clearing this backlog should be a priority when planning the next MFF;

##### *Amendment*

4. Is concerned by the delays in implementing the 2014-2020 programmes **by several Member States and the repercussions on the regions to mobilise and utilise EU funds and hence to pursue public investments which are ever more needed in the aftermath of the multiple crises of the past decade; points out** that, in 2016, the total amount of **outstanding** budgetary commitments **were higher than ever and** reached some EUR 238,8 billion, mainly because of those delays; underlines that this amount is expected to rise until 2020; emphasises that clearing this backlog should be a priority when planning the next MFF; **highlights that delays in the implementation should in no way be interpreted as declining need of EU funding;**

Or. en

## Amendment 17

Georgi Pirinski

### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 4

##### *Draft opinion*

4. Is concerned by the delays in implementing the 2014-2020 programmes and that, **in** 2016, the total amount of budgetary commitments reached some EUR **238,8** billion, mainly because of those delays; underlines that this amount is expected to rise until 2020; emphasises that clearing this backlog should be a priority when planning the next MFF;

##### *Amendment*

4. Is concerned by the delays in implementing the 2014-2020 **ESIF** programmes and that, **as of end** 2016, the total amount of budgetary commitments, **allocated to selected projects**, reached some EUR **186,6** billion, mainly because of those delays, **and that only EUR 41,9 billion were paid, thus accumulating more than 77% unpaid commitments (EUR**

**144,6 billion**); underlines that this amount is expected to rise until 2020; emphasises that clearing this backlog should be a priority when planning the next MFF;

Or. en

## Amendment 18

Rosa D'Amato, Isabella Adinolfi

### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 4

##### *Draft opinion*

4. Is concerned by the delays in implementing the 2014-2020 programmes and that, in 2016, the total amount of budgetary commitments reached some EUR 238,8 billion, mainly because of those delays; underlines that this amount is expected to rise until 2020; emphasises that clearing this backlog should be a priority when planning the next MFF;

##### *Amendment*

4. Is concerned by the delays in implementing the 2014-2020 programmes and that, in 2016, the total amount of budgetary commitments reached some EUR 238,8 billion, mainly because of those delays; underlines that this amount is expected to rise until 2020; emphasises that clearing this backlog should be a priority when planning the next MFF, ***especially considering that in the next cohesion policy framework the n+2 rule is likely to be reapplied and such delays would entail huge decommitments***;

Or. en

## Amendment 19

Laurențiu Rebegea

### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 4

##### *Draft opinion*

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##### *Amendment*

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expected to rise until 2020; emphasises that clearing this backlog should be a priority when planning the next MFF;

expected to rise until 2020; emphasises that clearing this backlog and ***ensuring increased fund take-up capacity*** should be a priority when planning the next MFF;

Or. ro

**Amendment 20**  
**Ruža Tomašić**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***4a. Reminds that errors in the 'Economic, social and territorial cohesion policy' are mainly due to ineligible beneficiaries, activities, projects or expenditure (cost reimbursement payments); highlights, that 2016 financial year is the last in which all expenditure audited is linked to the 2007-2013 MFF period and in coming years we expect to see an increasing share of 2014-2020 MFF funds;***

Or. en

**Amendment 21**  
**Georgi Pirinski**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***4a. Is deeply concerned that the major delay in implementing the policies of economic, social and territorial cohesion has exacerbated the multiple inequalities both throughout the Union and within Member States and regions, thus jeopardising the integrity of the Union;***

**Amendment 22****Rosa D'Amato, Isabella Adinolfi****Draft opinion****Paragraph 5***Draft opinion*

5. Takes note of the strategic report 2017 on the implementation of the ESI Funds<sup>1</sup>, stressing the ESI Funds' investment amounting to EUR 278 billion has been delivered to Europe's real economy since the beginning of the funding period; considers that the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has now reached full speed, proving the added value of cohesion policy investment for all regions in Europe;

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[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/).

*Amendment*

5. Takes note of the strategic report 2017 on the implementation of the ESI Funds<sup>1</sup>, stressing the ESI Funds' investment amounting to EUR 278 billion has been delivered to Europe's real economy since the beginning of the funding period; considers that the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has now reached full speed *in some Member States, but is not satisfactory in others*, proving the added value of cohesion policy investment for all regions in Europe *but also the need for further efforts in strengthening the administrative capacity of national, regional and local authorities*;

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[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/).

Or. en

**Amendment 23****Laurențiu Rebegea****Draft opinion****Paragraph 5***Draft opinion*

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*Amendment*

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Funds<sup>1</sup>, stressing the ESI Funds' investment amounting to EUR 278 billion has been delivered to Europe's real economy since the beginning of the funding period; considers that *the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has now reached full speed, proving the added value of cohesion policy investment for all regions in Europe;*

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Funds<sup>1</sup>, stressing the ESI Funds' investment amounting to EUR 278 billion has been delivered to Europe's real economy since the beginning of the funding period; considers that *the Member States are chiefly responsible for stimulating public and private investment, which are essential for medium and long-term economic growth; considers that more efforts are needed to ensure the selection and effective implementation of quality projects, thus proving the added value of cohesion policy investment;*

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[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/).

Or. ro

## Amendment 24 Georgi Pirinski

### Draft opinion Paragraph 5

#### *Draft opinion*

5. Takes note of the strategic report 2017 on the implementation of the ESI Funds<sup>1</sup>, stressing the ESI Funds' *investment amounting to* EUR 278 billion has been delivered to Europe's real economy since the beginning of the funding period; *considers* that the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes *has now reached full speed, proving* the added value of cohesion policy investment *for* all regions in Europe;

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[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/).

#### *Amendment*

5. Takes note of the strategic report 2017 on the implementation of the ESI Funds<sup>1</sup>, stressing *that* the ESI Funds' *project selection has reached an overall* EUR 278 billion, *or 44 % of the total investment planned for 2014-2020* has been delivered to Europe's real economy since the beginning of the funding period; *Notes that* the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes *is still to reach stage of implementation where* the added value of cohesion policy investment *would be visible in* all regions in Europe;

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[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/).



report/.

report/.

Or. en

## Amendment 25

Ruža Tomašić

### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 5 a (new)

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a. Stresses that the delays in budget implementation as of mid-2017 were greater than at the same point in the 2007-2013 period;**

Or. en

## Amendment 26

Martina Michels, Josu Juaristi Abaunz

### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 6

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

6. Notes that the average disbursement rate for financial instruments was only 75 % at the end of 2015, **which shows that the potential of those instruments is not fully exploited**; points out that the revision of the Financial Regulation which is due to enter into force in 2018 **will** significantly contribute to the simplification, improvement and optimisation of their use during current programming period;

6. Notes that the average disbursement rate for financial instruments was only 75 % at the end of 2015 **and underlines that these instruments are not suitable for all types of interventions under cohesion policy, although they may be useful in some areas where they can play a complementary role; opposes therefore a further increase of the share of financial instruments or binding quantitative targets for the use of financial instruments, and insists that the use of financial instruments should not lead to a reduction of grants in the EU budget in general**; points out that the revision of the Financial Regulation which is due to enter into force in 2018 **could** significantly contribute to the

simplification, improvement and optimisation of their use during current programming period;

Or. en

**Amendment 27**  
**Rosa D'Amato, Isabella Adinolfi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6**

*Draft opinion*

6. Notes that the average disbursement rate for financial instruments was only 75 % at the end of 2015, which shows that the potential of those instruments is not fully exploited; points out that the revision of the Financial Regulation which is due to enter into force in 2018 will significantly contribute to the simplification, improvement and optimisation of their use during current programming period;

*Amendment*

6. Notes that the average disbursement rate for financial instruments was only 75 % at the end of 2015, which shows that the potential of those instruments is not fully exploited; ***stresses, in this regard, that a lower than 100 % disbursement rate does not fully exploit the potential of the instruments' 'revolving' architecture which would be indeed one of their main advantages over grants***; points out that the revision of the Financial Regulation which is due to enter into force in 2018 will significantly contribute to the simplification, improvement and optimisation of their use during current programming period;

Or. en

**Amendment 28**  
**Tamás Deutsch**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6**

*Draft opinion*

6. Notes that the average disbursement rate for financial instruments was only 75 % at the end of 2015, which shows that the potential of those

*Amendment*

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instruments is not fully exploited; points out that the revision of the Financial Regulation which is due to enter into force in 2018 will significantly contribute to the simplification, improvement and optimisation of their use during current programming period;

instruments is not fully exploited, ***while emphasising that grants are the main form of cohesion policy support due to the fact that not all investments are bankable or have quantifiable results in the short term***; points out that the revision of the Financial Regulation which is due to enter into force in 2018 will significantly contribute to the simplification, improvement and optimisation of their use during current programming period;

Or. en

**Amendment 29**  
**Iskra Mihaylova**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6**

*Draft opinion*

6. Notes that the average disbursement rate for financial instruments was only 75 % at the end of 2015, which shows that the potential of those instruments is not fully exploited; points out that the revision of the Financial Regulation which is due to enter into force in 2018 will significantly contribute to the simplification, improvement and optimisation of their use during current programming period;

*Amendment*

6. Notes that the average disbursement rate for financial instruments was only 75 % at the end of 2015, which shows that the potential of those instruments is not fully exploited; ***notes however that a significant progress in the average disbursement rate was reported by the Commission at closure***; points out that the revision of the Financial Regulation which is due to enter into force in 2018 will significantly contribute to the simplification, improvement and optimisation of their use during current programming period;

Or. en

**Amendment 30**  
**Derek Vaughan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6**

*Draft opinion*

6. Notes that the average disbursement rate for financial instruments was only 75 % at the end of 2015, ***which shows that the potential of those instruments is not fully exploited***; points out that the revision of the Financial Regulation which is due to enter into force in 2018 will significantly contribute to the simplification, improvement and optimisation of their use during current programming period;

*Amendment*

6. Notes that the average disbursement rate for financial instruments was only 75 % at the end of 2015, points out that the revision of the Financial Regulation which is due to enter into force in 2018 will significantly contribute to the simplification, improvement and optimisation of their use during current programming period; ***underlines the need for further improvement with regards to the absorption rate in cohesion policy***;

Or. en

**Amendment 31**  
**Georgi Pirinski**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6**

*Draft opinion*

6. Notes that ***the average*** disbursement ***rate for*** financial instruments ***was only 75 % at the end of 2015***, which shows ***that the potential of those instruments is not fully exploited***; points out that the revision of the Financial Regulation which is due to enter into force in 2018 will significantly contribute to the simplification, improvement and optimisation of their use during current programming period;

*Amendment*

6. Notes that disbursement ***from*** financial instruments ***to final recipients reached 93% by 31 March 2017*** which shows ***the practical usefulness of such*** instruments; points out that the revision of the Financial Regulation which is due to enter into force in 2018 will significantly contribute to the simplification, improvement and optimisation of their use during current programming period;

Or. en

**Amendment 32**  
**Martina Michels, Josu Juaristi Abaunz**

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

**6a. Highlights, as regards EFSI in particular, the audit relevant risks identified by the Court of Auditors namely additionality of EFSI to traditional EIB activities, coherence and complementarity of EFSI with traditional funding instruments under the EU budget, and the measurement and reporting of the public and private investment mobilized; stresses that the EFSI should not undermine the strategic coherence, territorial concentration and long-term perspective of cohesion policy programming and should not replace or crowd out the grants nor aim to replace or reduce the ESIF budget; insists on the real additionality of its resources; calls for the establishment of clear delimitations between the EFSI and cohesion policy; calls for further improvement of democratic scrutiny over EFSI;**

Or. en

**Amendment 33**

**Rosa D'Amato, Isabella Adinolfi**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 6 a (new)**

**6a. Calls on the Commission to take into duly account the remarks of the Court of Auditors, which found inaccuracies in the analysis of the performance of at least four of the 12 ERDF and ESF financial instruments that have been examined in the 2016 European Court of Auditors report; shares the concern of the Court of Auditors, who underlines that these errors have the effect of overstating performance and, if not corrected, could artificially**

*increase the declared amount of eligible expenditure at closure, especially in the case of guarantee funds;*

Or. en

**Amendment 34**  
**Georgi Pirinski**

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

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**6a. Welcomes the Court of Auditors Special Report 5/2017 and urges the Commission and the Member States to fully implement Court's recommendations in order to increase the coverage and effectiveness of Youth Guarantee schemes;**

Or. en

**Amendment 35**  
**Georgi Pirinski**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

7. Urges the Commission to **review**, under the EU Budget Focused on Results initiative, **the effectiveness of indicators used**, and to improve the **overall** performance measurement system when reconsidering the delivery mechanism post-2020; calls on the Commission to further strengthen the **programme** focus on performance and **simplified** implementation.

7. Urges the Commission to **take into consideration the European Court of Auditors' recommendations in the 2016 Annual Report with regard the performance reporting framework and to adopt international good practices when reviewing the effectiveness of indicators used** under the EU Budget Focused on Results initiative and to improve the **current** performance measurement system, **as well as** when reconsidering the delivery mechanism post-2020; calls on the Commission to further strengthen the

*programmes'* focus on performance and *to simplify ESIF* implementation;

Or. en

**Amendment 36**  
**Ruža Tomašić**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7**

*Draft opinion*

7. Urges the Commission to review, under the EU Budget Focused on Results initiative, the effectiveness of indicators used, and to improve the overall performance measurement system when reconsidering the delivery mechanism post-2020; calls on the Commission to further strengthen the programme focus on performance and simplified implementation.

*Amendment*

7. Urges the Commission to review, under the EU Budget Focused on Results (**BFOR**) initiative, the effectiveness of indicators used, and to improve the overall performance measurement system when reconsidering the delivery mechanism post-2020; calls on the Commission to further strengthen the programme focus on performance and simplified implementation;

Or. en

**Amendment 37**  
**Davor Škrlec**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7**

*Draft opinion*

7. Urges the Commission to review, under the EU Budget Focused on Results initiative, the effectiveness of indicators used, and to improve the overall performance measurement system when reconsidering the delivery mechanism post-2020; calls on the Commission to further strengthen the programme focus on *performance* and simplified implementation.

*Amendment*

7. Urges the Commission to review, under the EU Budget Focused on Results initiative, the effectiveness of indicators used, and to improve the overall performance measurement system when reconsidering the delivery mechanism post-2020; calls on the Commission to further strengthen the programme focus on *results* and simplified implementation.

