



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Transport and Tourism

2010/2142(DEC)

1.3.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the European Union general budget for the financial year 2009, Section III - Commission and executive agencies
(SEC(2010)0963 - C7-0211/2010 - 2010/2142(DEC))

Rapporteur: Mathieu Grosch

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes that in the 2009 budget, as finally adopted and amended during the course of the year, specifically for policies within the remit of the Committee on Transport and Tourism, a total of EUR 2 427 000 000 was included in commitment appropriations and EUR 2 103 000 000 was available in payment appropriations; notes further that of these amounts:
 - EUR 934 582 000 in commitment appropriations and EUR 830 594 000 in payment appropriations was available for Trans-European Networks for Transport (TEN-T),
 - EUR 17 600 000 in commitment appropriations and EUR 14 500 000 in payment appropriations was available for transport safety,
 - EUR 64 971 000 in commitment appropriations and EUR 29 054 000 in payment appropriations was available for the Marco Polo Programme,
 - EUR 146 902 000 in commitment appropriations and EUR 109 257 000 in payment appropriations was available for the transport agencies and the European GNSS Supervisory Authority,
 - EUR 427 424 000 in commitment appropriations and EUR 388 859 000 in payment appropriations was available for transport, including a priority area dedicated to sustainable urban mobility, in the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development,
 - EUR 2 750 000 in commitment appropriations was available for transport security,
 - EUR 3 800 000 in commitment appropriations and EUR 3 600 000 in payment appropriations was available for tourism;
2. Regrets that, in considering the implementation of the budget for the 2009 financial year, the Court of Auditors has again chosen to focus on energy and research policies rather than on transport policy;
3. Welcomes the continuing high utilisation rates of both commitment and payment appropriations for TEN-T projects, both reaching almost 100 %; calls on Member States to ensure that adequate funding is made available from national budgets to match this EU commitment; recalls that Parliament supported a higher level of Union funding; welcomes the mid-term review of the 2007-2013 TEN-T Multi-Annual Programme Project Portfolio published on 27 October 2010, which aims at optimising the use of TEN-T funds and underlines the importance of reliable financial planning of projects;
4. Is concerned that there has, once again, been a low uptake (73 %) of payment appropriations for the safety and optimisation of transport systems and for passengers'

rights; regrets that the 100 % take-up rate of payment appropriations for the Marco Polo II Programme was achieved only because half the appropriations originally allocated to it were reallocated in the course of the year 2009;

5. Welcomes the substantial increase in the take-up rate of payment appropriations for the Galileo Programme compared to 2008 and stresses the considerable importance of that programme for the logistics and sustainable transport sectors;
6. Notes the fact that sampling checks on transactions reveal a margin of error most probably between 2 and 5 %; calls on the Commission to intensify its efforts to further reduce this figure;
7. Notes with satisfaction that the Court of Auditors has taken the view that the annual accounts of the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency are legal and regular in all significant aspects; welcomes the fact that the Agency succeeded in filling the posts that were still vacant at the end of 2008;
8. Stresses that there is an urgent need for regional and transport policies to be transparent through the provision of proper information to taxpayers and budget authorities, and to be more closely coordinated, particularly as regards TEN-T funding, as at present only cursory consideration is given to the potential European added value of projects and consequently funds are not used as effectively as possible to eliminate bottlenecks and problems in connection with border crossings or inadequate connections;
9. Insists that the procedures for selecting and approving transport projects under the Cohesion Policy should be more soundly based;
10. Welcomes the Court of Auditors' Special Report No 8/2010 on EU rail infrastructure investments and, above all, its finding that the current TEN-T coordinators played an important role, in particular by facilitating contacts between the stakeholders concerned; supports the recommendation that the Commission should consider appointing further coordinators for the other priority projects;
11. Notes the observation by the Court of Auditors that priority projects were not selected on the basis of actual and anticipated traffic flows and that greater use could be made of cost/benefit analysis; points out, however, that priority projects also satisfy European economic, social and territorial cohesion objectives and the desire to combat climate change through support for more environment-friendly means of transport;
12. Proposes, after hearing the Commission's explanations for the under-utilisation of appropriations, that, in relation to the sectors for which the Committee on Transport and Tourism is responsible, Parliament grant the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the European Union general budget for the financial year 2009.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	28.2.2011
Result of final vote	+: 25 -: 1 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Georges Bach, Antonio Cancian, Saïd El Khadraoui, Carlo Fidanza, Knut Fleckenstein, Jacqueline Foster, Mathieu Grosch, Jim Higgins, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Georgios Koumoutsakos, Eva Lichtenberger, Hella Ranner, Olga Sehnalová, Brian Simpson, Dirk Sterckx, Keith Taylor, Giommara Uggias, Thomas Ulmer, Peter van Dalen, Artur Zasada, Roberts Zīle
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Philip Bradbourn, Frieda Brepoels, Spyros Danellis, Ádám Kósa, Janusz Władysław Zemke
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Karin Kadenbach