



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Foreign Affairs*

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**2011/2192(INI)**

8.11.2011

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Development

on the impact of devolution of the Commission's management of external assistance from its headquarters to its delegations on aid delivery  
(2011/2192(INI))

Rapporteur: Kyriakos Mavronikolas

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the conclusion of the Special Report of the Court of Auditors 1/2011<sup>1</sup>, according to which devolution has contributed to improving aid delivery and to making more robust the financial management procedures;
2. Shares with the Court the opinion that the main benefit of budget support is that it offers opportunities for dialogue with local beneficiaries on policy objectives; notes that this opportunity has to be fully exploited, in the light of the ‘more for more’ principle underlying the current ENP review; stresses the need for delegations to have the resources and expertise required to carry out this dialogue in an effective way;
3. Regrets that, in the run-up to the establishment of the EEAS, there has been no thorough assessment to determine the optimal balance between political/trade/development aid posts in delegations;
4. Considers the high turnover rate of staff in delegations to be unacceptable (40 % of Commission staff are contract agents), as this weakens the institutional memory and negatively affects the efficiency of operations;
5. Calls on the Commission and the EEAS to address specifically the areas identified by the audit, in particular the workload within delegations, the adequacy of staffing levels among delegations and the balance of delegations’ staffing between aid management and other functions;
6. Emphasises, in line with the decision establishing the European External Action Service, that the entirety of the personnel working in a delegation is under the authority of the Head of Delegation, since this is the only way to ensure, in line with the Lisbon Treaty, the coherence of EU external action in a given country;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 101, 1.4.2011, p. 27.