



**2016/2045(INI)**

20.6.2016

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 29**

**Draft opinion**

**Marco Valli**

(PE583.964v01-00)

The European Union Solidarity Fund: an assessment  
(2016/2045(INI))



**Amendment 1**  
**Derek Vaughan**

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

*Draft opinion*

1. Draws attention to its resolution of 3 April 2014 on the Court of Auditors' special reports in the context of the 2012 Commission discharge, which expressed support for the ECA's finding that 'around 30 % (EUR 144 million) of the EUSF contributions was earmarked for operations which were fully eligible under the EUSF Regulation; however, ***the CASE project (Italian acronym for 'Complessi Antisismici Sostenibili Ecocompatibili', i.e. seismically isolated and environmentally sustainable housing)***, while relevant to the actual needs, did not comply with specific provisions of the EUSF Regulation; ***this was because it constructed new permanent buildings instead of temporary houses; the CASE project took 70 % of the funding – EUR 350 million; the strategy chosen for CASE project addressed the housing needs of 15 000 of the earthquake-affected population, but did not respond in a timely manner and with sufficient capacity to the actual needs of the population; the CASDE houses were more expensive than standard houses; regrets that in many cases the quality of the CASE project has been found to be very poor and some houses have collapsed;*** asks the Commission to explain how, in the revised Regulation on the European Union Solidarity Fund that entered into force on 28 June 2014, the shortcomings identified by the Court of Auditors ***in the delivery of emergency aid to the Abruzzo region*** have been solved;

*Amendment*

1. Draws attention to its resolution of 3 April 2014 on the Court of Auditors' special reports in the context of the 2012 Commission discharge, which expressed support for the ECA's finding that 'around 30 % (EUR 144 million) of the EUSF contributions was earmarked for operations which were fully eligible under the EUSF Regulation; however ***some projects***, while relevant to the actual needs, did not comply with specific provisions of the EUSF Regulation; ***for example one*** project did not respond in a timely manner and with sufficient capacity to the actual needs of the population; asks the Commission to explain how, in the revised Regulation on the European Union Solidarity Fund that entered into force on 28 June 2014, the shortcomings identified by the Court of Auditors have been solved;

Or. en

**Amendment 2**  
**Verónica Lope Fontagné**

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

*Draft opinion*

1. Draws attention to its resolution of 3 April 2014 on the Court of Auditors' special reports in the context of the 2012 Commission discharge, which expressed support for the ECA's finding that 'around 30 % (EUR 144 million) of the EUSF contributions was earmarked for operations which were fully eligible under the EUSF Regulation; however, the CASE project (Italian acronym for 'Complessi Antisismici Sostenibili Ecocompatibiliti', i.e. seismically isolated and environmentally sustainable housing), while relevant to the actual needs, did not comply with specific provisions of the EUSF Regulation; this was because it constructed new permanent buildings instead of temporary houses; the CASE project took 70 % of the funding – EUR 350 million; the strategy chosen for CASE project addressed the housing needs of 15 000 of the earthquake-affected population, but did not respond in a timely manner and with sufficient capacity to the actual needs of the population; the CASDE houses were more expensive than standard houses'; ***regrets that in many cases the quality of the CASE project has been found to be very poor and some houses have collapsed; asks the Commission to explain how, in the revised Regulation on the European Union Solidarity Fund that entered into force on 28 June 2014, the shortcomings identified by the Court of Auditors in the delivery of emergency aid to the Abruzzo region have been solved;***

*Amendment*

1. Draws attention to its resolution of 3 April 2014 on the Court of Auditors' special reports in the context of the 2012 Commission discharge, which expressed support for the ECA's finding that 'around 30 % (EUR 144 million) of the EUSF contributions was earmarked for operations which were fully eligible under the EUSF Regulation; however, the CASE project (Italian acronym for 'Complessi Antisismici Sostenibili Ecocompatibiliti', i.e. seismically isolated and environmentally sustainable housing), while relevant to the actual needs, did not comply with specific provisions of the EUSF Regulation; this was because it constructed new permanent buildings instead of temporary houses; the CASE project took 70 % of the funding – EUR 350 million; the strategy chosen for CASE project addressed the housing needs of 15 000 of the earthquake-affected population, but did not respond in a timely manner and with sufficient capacity to the actual needs of the population; the CASDE houses were more expensive than standard houses'; ***welcomes the fact that the new Regulation defines 'provisional accommodation', something that will help avoid misuse of funds;***

Or. es

**Amendment 3**  
**Verónica Lope Fontagné**

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

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3. Regrets the lack of transparency regarding the use of the EUSF in Emilia Romagna and Sardinia, which received EUR 670 192 359 and EUR 16 310 467 respectively;**

*deleted*

Or. es

**Amendment 4**  
**Derek Vaughan**

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

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3. Regrets the lack of transparency regarding the use of the EUSF in Emilia Romagna and Sardinia, which received EUR 670 192 359 and EUR 16 310 467 respectively;**

*deleted*

Or. en

**Amendment 5**  
**Cătălin Sorin Ivan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4. Understands that disasters and the desire to help people in distress as swiftly as possible may put strain on national**

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administrations; believes, however, that Member States should implement EU legislation on disaster risk prevention and management, **which allows** the authorities concerned to receive EU assistance while respecting sound financial management; recalls the need to determine whether EUSF subsidies have been used in compliance with the principles of sound financial management, including the principle of economy, in order to identify and share best practices and lessons learned with respect to economic affordability;

administrations; believes, however, that Member States should implement EU legislation on disaster risk prevention and management **and establish programmes to deal with emergencies and natural disasters which enable** the authorities concerned to receive **rapid** EU assistance while respecting sound financial management; recalls the need to determine whether EUSF subsidies have been used in compliance with the principles of sound financial management, including the principle of economy, in order to identify, **develop** and share best practices and lessons learned with respect to economic affordability;

Or. ro

## **Amendment 6** **Verónica Lope Fontagné**

### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 4**

#### *Draft opinion*

4. Understands that disasters and the desire to help people in distress as swiftly as possible may put strain on national administrations; believes, however, that Member States should implement EU legislation on disaster risk prevention and management, which allows the authorities concerned to receive EU assistance while respecting sound financial management; recalls the need to determine whether EUSF subsidies have been used in compliance with the principles of sound financial management, **including the principle of economy**, in order to identify and share best practices and lessons learned with respect to economic affordability;

#### *Amendment*

4. Understands that disasters and the desire to help people in distress as swiftly as possible may put strain on national administrations; believes, however, that Member States should implement EU legislation on disaster risk prevention and management, which allows the authorities concerned to receive EU assistance while respecting sound financial management; recalls the need to determine whether EUSF subsidies have been used in compliance with the principles of sound financial management, in order to identify and share best practices and lessons learned with respect to economic affordability;

Or. es

**Amendment 7**  
**Verónica Lope Fontagné**

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

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4a. Deplores the fact that, as stated in Special report No 3/2008 of the Court of Auditors, payment was usually made one year after applications had been lodged;**

Or. es

**Amendment 8**  
**Verónica Lope Fontagné**

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

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4b. Takes the view that the EUSF requires a certain amount of flexibility to enable it to respond to disasters more quickly and effectively; welcomes, therefore, the fact that countries are able to apply for advance payment of funds;**

Or. es

**Amendment 9**  
**Cătălin Sorin Ivan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6 – indent 1**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

verify that management and control arrangements have been set up and are being implemented in such a way as to

verify **rigorously** that **prevention**, management and control arrangements have been set up and are being

ensure that Union funds are being used efficiently and correctly, in accordance with the principles of sound financial management,

implemented in such a way as to ensure that Union funds are being used ***and absorbed*** efficiently and correctly, in accordance with the principles of sound financial management,

Or. ro

**Amendment 10**  
**Cătălin Sorin Ivan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6 – indent 2**

*Draft opinion*

verify that the financed actions have been properly carried out,

*Amendment*

verify that the financed actions have been properly carried out, ***and where they have not, identify the irregularities and take concrete and effective preventive measures.***

Or. ro

**Amendment 11**  
**Cătălin Sorin Ivan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6 – indent 3**

*Draft opinion*

ensure that expenditure funded is based on verifiable supporting documents, and is ***correct*** and regular,

*Amendment*

ensure that expenditure funded is based on verifiable supporting documents, and is ***used correctly and for the right purpose, transparent*** and regular,

Or. ro

**Amendment 12**  
**Notis Marias**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6 – indent 4**

*Draft opinion*

prevent, detect and correct irregularities and recover amounts unduly paid together with interest on late payments where appropriate, to notify any such irregularities to the Commission **and to keep it informed of the progress of administrative and legal proceedings;**

*Amendment*

prevent, detect and correct irregularities and recover amounts unduly paid together with interest on late payments where appropriate, to notify any such irregularities to the Commission;

Or. el

**Amendment 13**  
**Verónica Lope Fontagné**

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

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**6a. Calls for the EUSF be included in the next Multiannual Financial Framework so as to ensure the unity of the EU budget;**

Or. es

**Amendment 14**  
**Raffaele Fitto**

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

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

7. Regrets the persisting difficulties in assessing whether the applications associated with regional disasters meet the exceptional criteria set out in the regulation; calls on the Commission to simplify and improve procedures on the occasion of the next EUSF revision;

7. Regrets the persisting difficulties in assessing whether the applications associated with regional disasters meet the exceptional criteria set out in the regulation; calls on the Commission to simplify and improve **administrative** procedures on the occasion of the next

**Amendment 15**  
**Cătălin Sorin Ivan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 8**

*Draft opinion*

8. Regrets the fact that in many cases a serious lack of transparency has been noted regarding the use and the destination of the EUSF; asks for an improvement in the ex post monitoring system for spending and strongly believes that the final reports provided by Member States should be public and accessible;

*Amendment*

8. Regrets the fact that in many cases a serious lack of transparency has been noted regarding the use and the destination of the EUSF; asks for an improvement in the ex post monitoring system for spending, ***and accurate and coherent justification of that spending***, and strongly believes that the final reports provided by Member States should be public and accessible;

Or. ro

**Amendment 16**  
**Notis Marias**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 8**

*Draft opinion*

8. Regrets the fact that in many cases a serious lack of transparency has been noted regarding the use and the destination of the EUSF; asks for an improvement in the ex post monitoring system for spending and ***strongly*** believes that the final reports provided by Member States should be public and accessible;

*Amendment*

8. Regrets the fact that in many cases a serious lack of transparency has been noted regarding the use and the destination of the EUSF; asks for an improvement in the ex post monitoring system for spending and believes that the final reports provided by Member States should be public, ***objective*** and accessible;

Or. el

**Amendment 17**  
**Derek Vaughan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 8**

*Draft opinion*

8. Regrets the fact that in *many* cases a serious lack of transparency has been noted regarding the use and the destination of the EUSF; asks for an improvement in the ex post monitoring system for spending and strongly believes that the final reports provided by Member States should be public and accessible;

*Amendment*

8. Regrets the fact that in *some* cases a serious lack of transparency has been noted regarding the use and the destination of the EUSF; asks for an improvement in the ex post monitoring system for spending and strongly believes that the final reports provided by Member States should be public and accessible;

Or. en

**Amendment 18**  
**Raffaele Fitto**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 9**

*Draft opinion*

9. Stresses the importance of the public procurement procedures followed by Member States in response to natural disasters with a view to identifying and *disseminating* best practice and lessons learned with regard to contracts in emergency situations;

*Amendment*

9. Stresses the importance of the public procurement procedures followed by Member States in response to natural disasters with a view to identifying and *harmonising* best practice and lessons learned with regard to contracts in emergency situations;

Or. it

**Amendment 19**  
**Georgi Pirinski**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 10**

*Draft opinion*

10. Believes that necessary improvements to the regulation could include a request for mandatory updated national plans for disaster management, the preparation of agreements on emergency contracts, *the implementation of provisional accommodation measures in disaster areas and the transfer to the EU budget of any revenue generated by the use of the EUSF*;

*Amendment*

10. Believes that necessary improvements to the regulation could include a request for mandatory updated national plans for disaster management *and* the preparation of agreements on emergency contracts;

Or. en

**Amendment 20**  
**Notis Marias**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 10**

*Draft opinion*

10. Believes that necessary improvements to the regulation could include a request for mandatory updated national plans for disaster management, the preparation of agreements on emergency contracts, the implementation of provisional accommodation measures in disaster areas *and the transfer to the EU budget of any revenue generated by the use of the EUSF*;

*Amendment*

10. Believes that necessary improvements to the regulation could include a request for mandatory updated national plans for disaster management, the preparation of agreements on emergency contracts, the implementation of provisional accommodation measures in disaster areas;

Or. el

**Amendment 21**  
**Verónica Lope Fontagné**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 10**

*Draft opinion*

10. Believes that necessary improvements to the regulation could include a request for mandatory updated national plans for disaster management, the preparation of agreements on emergency contracts, the implementation of provisional accommodation measures in disaster areas ***and the transfer to the EU budget of any revenue generated by the use of the EUSF;***

*Amendment*

10. Believes that necessary improvements to the regulation could include a request for mandatory updated national plans for disaster management, the preparation of agreements on emergency contracts, the implementation of provisional accommodation measures in disaster areas;

Or. es

**Amendment 22**  
**Cătălin Sorin Ivan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 10**

*Draft opinion*

10. Believes that necessary improvements to the regulation could include a request for mandatory updated national plans for disaster management, the preparation of agreements on emergency contracts, the implementation of provisional accommodation measures in disaster areas and the transfer to the EU budget of any revenue generated by the use of the EUSF;

*Amendment*

10. Believes that necessary improvements to the regulation could include a request for mandatory updated national plans for disaster management, ***the introduction of a concrete action plan***, the preparation of agreements on emergency contracts, the implementation of provisional accommodation measures in disaster areas and the transfer to the EU budget of any revenue generated by the use of the EUSF;

Or. ro

**Amendment 23**  
**Raffaele Fitto**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 10 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**10a. Stresses that the Member States too must look at their own administrative procedures with a view to accelerating the mobilisation of aid for affected regions;**

Or. it

**Amendment 24**  
**Cătălin Sorin Ivan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 11**

*Draft opinion*

11. Emphasises, furthermore, that Article 11 of the amended regulation gives the Commission and the ECA the power of audit and allows the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) to conduct investigations *if* necessary;

*Amendment*

11. Emphasises, furthermore, that Article 11 of the amended regulation gives the Commission and the ECA the power of audit and allows the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) to conduct investigations *whenever* necessary;

Or. ro

**Amendment 25**  
**Notis Marias**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 11**

*Draft opinion*

11. Emphasises, furthermore, that Article 11 of the amended regulation gives the *Commission and the* ECA the power of audit and allows the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) to conduct investigations if necessary;

*Amendment*

11. Emphasises, furthermore, that Article 11 of the amended regulation gives the ECA the power of audit and allows the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) to conduct investigations if necessary;

Or. el

**Amendment 26**  
**Verónica Lope Fontagné**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 12**

*Draft opinion*

12. Is of the opinion that the EUSF should, wherever possible, create synergies with other sources of financial assistance, in particular with the Structural Funds;

*Amendment*

12. Is of the opinion that the EUSF should, wherever possible, create synergies with other sources of financial assistance, in particular with the **European Structural and Investment** Funds; ***calls, therefore, with a view to ensuring the proper implementation of the EUSF, on the states to set out clearly what damage is to be covered by the EUSF and what action will be undertaken with the support of other funds;***

Or. es

**Amendment 27**  
**Georgi Pirinski**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 12**

*Draft opinion*

12. Is of the opinion that the EUSF should, wherever possible, create synergies with other sources of financial assistance, in particular with the Structural Funds;

*Amendment*

12. Is of the opinion that the EUSF should, wherever possible, create synergies with other sources of financial assistance, in particular with the **European Structural and Investment** Funds;

Or. en

**Amendment 28**  
**Notis Marias**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 12**

*Draft opinion*

12. Is of the opinion that the EUSF should, *whenever possible*, create synergies with other sources of financial assistance, in particular with the Structural Funds;

*Amendment*

12. Is of the opinion that the EUSF should create synergies with other sources of financial assistance, in particular with the Structural Funds;

Or. el

**Amendment 29**  
**Georgi Pirinski**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 12 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***12a. Believes that there should be additional requirements for higher visibility of EUSF assistance in supported areas in order to demonstrate its European added value;***

Or. en