



2016/2151(DEC)

14.12.2016

AMENDMENTS

1 - 20

Draft opinion
Zigmantas Balčytis
(PE594.060v01-00)

Discharge 2015: General budget of the EU - European Commission
(2016/2151(DEC))

Amendment 1

Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, Sophie Montel, Laurențiu Rebegea, Edouard Ferrand, Auke Zijlstra

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes with regret that the level of error in Heading 4 for the 2015 financial year, as estimated by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) in its annual report, has not decreased compared to 2014 and amounts to 2,8%; ***points out, nevertheless, that this is below the level of error identified in other headings, in spite of the fact that Union external aid activities frequently take place in crisis-struck regions and politically difficult environments;***

Amendment

1. Notes with regret that the level of error in Heading 4 for the 2015 financial year, as estimated by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) in its annual report, has not decreased compared to 2014 and amounts to 2,8%; ***considers this to be unacceptable;***

Or. fr

Amendment 2

Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes with regret that the level of error in Heading 4 for the 2015 financial year, as estimated by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) in its annual report, has not decreased compared to 2014 and amounts to 2,8%; points out, nevertheless, that this is below the level of error identified in other headings, in spite of the fact that Union external aid activities frequently take place in crisis-struck regions and politically difficult environments;

Amendment

1. Notes with regret that the level of error in Heading 4 for the 2015 financial year, as estimated by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) in its annual report, has not decreased compared to 2014 and amounts to 2,8%, ***and that in seven cases the Commission had sufficient information to prevent or detect and correct the errors before accepting the expenditure;*** points out, nevertheless, that this is below the level of error identified in other headings, in spite of the fact that Union external aid activities frequently take place in crisis-struck regions and politically difficult environments;

Amendment 3

Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, Sophie Montel, Laurențiu Rebegea, Edouard Ferrand, Auke Zijlstra

Draft opinion Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Supports all recommendations formulated by the ECA based on its findings; *welcomes* the fact that the Commission *has fully implemented 5 out* of the 7 recommendations the ECA made in the 2012 and 2013 reports and urges the Commission to take steps *to conclude implementation of the remaining ones*;

Amendment

2. Supports all recommendations formulated by the ECA based on its findings; *notes* the fact that the Commission, *which is quick to criticise others, has not seen fit to implement all* of the 7 recommendations the ECA made in the 2012 and 2013 reports and urges the Commission to take *the steps needed to become a good example*;

Or. fr

Amendment 4 Notis Marias

Draft opinion Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. *Supports* all recommendations formulated by the ECA based on its findings; welcomes the fact that the Commission has fully implemented 5 out of the 7 recommendations the ECA made in the 2012 and 2013 reports and urges the Commission to take steps to conclude implementation of the remaining ones;

Amendment

2. *Notes* all recommendations formulated by the ECA based on its findings; welcomes the fact that the Commission has fully implemented 5 out of the 7 recommendations the ECA made in the 2012 and 2013 reports and urges the Commission to take steps to conclude implementation of the remaining ones;

Or. el

Amendment 5

Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, Sophie Montel, Laurențiu Rebegea, Edouard Ferrand, Auke Zijlstra

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. *Notes with concern* the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications carried out by auditors contracted by beneficiaries, which *in some cases* lead to the *Commission's acceptance of* ineligible costs;

Amendment

3. *Is outraged to note* the persisting deficiencies, *year after year*, in the quality of expenditure verifications carried out by auditors contracted by beneficiaries, which lead to the *Commission accepting* ineligible costs, *and thus acting outside the law*;

Or. fr

Amendment 6
Angel Dzhambazki

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes with concern the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications carried out by auditors contracted by beneficiaries, which in some cases *lead to the Commission's acceptance of* ineligible costs;

Amendment

3. Notes with concern the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications carried out by auditors contracted by beneficiaries, which in some cases *may result in, due to causality, the re-appearance of* ineligible costs *along different points of the procedural lines*;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Notis Marias

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes with *concern* the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications carried out by auditors contracted by beneficiaries, which in some cases lead to the Commission's acceptance

Amendment

3. Notes with *disapproval* the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications carried out by auditors contracted by beneficiaries, which in some cases lead to the Commission's

of ineligible costs;

acceptance of ineligible costs;

Or. el

Amendment 8
Cristian Dan Preda

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes with concern the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications carried out by auditors contracted by beneficiaries, which in some cases lead to the Commission's acceptance of ineligible costs;

Amendment

3. Notes with concern the persisting deficiencies in the quality of expenditure verifications carried out by auditors contracted by beneficiaries, which in some cases lead to the Commission's acceptance of ineligible costs ***and recognizes the need to improve grant supervision; underlines that delays were also identified in the validation, authorization and payment of expenditures by the Commission;***

Or. en

Amendment 9
Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Is concerned by the lack of direct means of control in regard to the use of macro-financial assistance by recipient third countries; calls on the Commission to tie assistance of this kind more closely to measurable parameters;

Or. it

Amendment 10
Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, Sophie Montel, Laurențiu Rebegea, Edouard Ferrand, Auke Zijlstra

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. *Is concerned by* the fact revealed by the ECA's audit that DG NEAR's evaluation of the amount of payments at risk is not *sufficiently* accurate *and expects a swift* revision of DG NEAR's methodology;

Amendment

4. *Objects strongly to* the fact revealed by the ECA's audit that DG NEAR's evaluation of the amount of payments at risk is not accurate *at all and demands an immediate* revision of DG NEAR's methodology;

Or. fr

Amendment 11
James Carver

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. *While welcoming the progress achieved, notes that 6 out of 10 civilian missions under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) have not yet been recognised by the Commission as compliant with Article 60 of the Financial Regulation; urges the Commission to step up work in order to accredit all civilian CSDP missions, in line with the ECA's recommendation, allowing them to be entrusted with budget implementation tasks under indirect management;*

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 12
Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, Sophie Montel, Laurențiu Rebegea, Edouard Ferrand, Auke Zijlstra

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. ***While welcoming the progress achieved, notes*** that 6 out of 10 civilian missions under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) have not yet been recognised by the Commission as compliant with Article 60 of the Financial Regulation; ***urges the Commission to step up work in order to*** accredit all civilian CSDP missions, in line with the ECA's recommendation, allowing them to be entrusted with budget implementation tasks under indirect management;

5. ***Notes*** that 6 out of 10 civilian missions under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) have not yet been recognised by the Commission as compliant with Article 60 of the Financial Regulation, ***which means that its missions are not being conducted within a legal framework; demands that the Commission*** accredit all civilian CSDP missions, in line with the ECA's recommendation, allowing them to be entrusted with budget implementation tasks under indirect management;

Or. fr

Amendment 13
Zigmantas Balčytis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Welcomes the establishment of the Mission Support Platform aimed at reducing the administrative burden and increasing the efficiency of civilian CSDP missions; regrets its limited size and scope and reiterates its call for further progress towards a Shared Services Centre, which would lead to further budgetary and efficiency gains through centralising all mission support services that do not need to be ensured locally;

Or. en

Amendment 14
James Carver

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Reiterates that pursuant to Article

41(2) TEU expenditure arising from operations having military or defence implications shall not be charged to the Union budget; rejects any attempt to deviate from this rule;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Zigmantas Balčytis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 b. Encourages further progress on upgrading the CSDP warehouse in order to allow for the reuse of equipment that is no longer needed and its reallocation between missions based on actual needs, thus achieving savings as well as making necessary equipment more readily available;

Or. en

Amendment 16
James Carver

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 b. Rejects reform of the Athena mechanism until after the negotiations for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union are completed;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Notis Marias

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Reiterates *its view* that the Union's financial rules need to be better adapted to the specificities of external action, including crisis management, and stresses that the current revision of the Financial Regulation needs to deliver greater flexibility.

Amendment

6. Reiterates that the Union's financial rules need to be better adapted to the specificities of external action, including crisis management, and stresses that the current revision of the Financial Regulation needs to deliver greater flexibility.

Or. el

Amendment 18
Cristian Dan Preda

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. Takes note of the ECA Special reports 11/2016, 20/2016 and 21/2016 that focus on EU pre-accession assistance for strengthening administrative capacity in the Western Balkans; welcomes all the recommendations made by the ECA and encourages the Commission to implement them; draws attention in particular to the importance of ensuring responsive, targeted and flexible assistance to the candidate and potential candidate countries from the Western Balkans, as well as of making full use of available instruments for stimulating the necessary reforms for a European path of these countries;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Angel Dzhambazki

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

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Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. *Calls for more transparency and accountability;*

Or. en

Amendment 20
Cristian Dan Preda

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 b. *Welcomes equally the recommendations suggested by the ECA in the Special report 13/2016 on the EU assistance for strengthening the public administration in Moldova and in the Special report 32/2016 on EU assistance to Ukraine; considers that the EU should fully use the leverage of the conditionality and ensure proper monitoring of the implementation of the reforms undertaken in order to positively contribute to the reinforcement of democratic practices both in Moldova and Ukraine;*

Or. en