

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Budgetary Control

2008/2064(INI)

15.7.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgetary Control

for the Committee on Regional Development

on Governance and partnership at a national, regional and project basis in the
field of regional policy
(2008/2064(INI))

Draftsman: Jorgo Chatzimarkakis

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. underlines that structural policies were the second largest part of the EU budget in the programming period 2000-2006 and are the major policies of the EU in the 2007-2013 period;
2. recalls that in its Annual Report concerning the financial year 2006, the European Court of Auditors found that at least 12% of the total amount reimbursed to Structural Policies projects should not have been reimbursed, that 44% of the reimbursements in the sample were affected by errors and that a significant percentage projects were subject to compliance errors;
3. stresses that in the same report, the European Court of Auditors described the control systems in the Member States as generally ineffective or only moderately effective;
4. welcomes therefore the effort to pursue the objectives of the structural and cohesion funds during the current 2007-2013 programming period in the framework of governance and the partnership principle¹;
5. calls for the national courts of auditors both to play a stronger role in the control mechanisms, to ensure that funds are appropriately spent, and to accept their responsibilities and play a more active part;
6. calls for the provision of guidance and training by the Member States for the project promoters and the managing and paying authorities as well as for the audit bodies to ensure that all actors are well aware of and properly implement Community regulation requirements;
7. welcomes the annual summaries of Member States as a first step towards National Management Declarations; urges however the Commission to propose the adoption of the same requirements, guidelines and guidance notes for Structural Policies as for the Common Agricultural Policy;
8. regrets the fact that the implementing provisions for the projects were once again adopted very late and calls on the responsible managing authorities, and payment and control authorities to provide for and implement rules designed to simplify administration (e.g. by making more use of flat-rate payments).

¹ As defined in Article 11, Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006, OJ L 210, 31.07.2006, p.25.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	15.7.2008
Result of final vote	+ : 16 - : 0 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Jean-Pierre Audy, Herbert Bösch, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Esther De Lange, Petr Duchoň, James Elles, Szabolcs Fazakas, Christofer Fjellner, Ingeborg Gräble, Ashley Mote, Bart Staes
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Edit Herczog, Pierre Pribetich, Paul Rübig, Margarita Starkevičiūtė, Petya Stavreva