



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Transport and Tourism

2013/2195(DEC)

20.2.2014

OPINION

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012, Section III – Commission and executive agencies
(2013/2195(DEC))

Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák

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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 2012 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 1 940 022 989 was included in commitment appropriations and EUR 1 497 274 373 was available in payment appropriations; notes further that of these amounts:
 - EUR 1 335 211 119 in commitment appropriations and EUR 801 200 112 in payment appropriations was available for Trans-European Networks for Transport (TEN-T),
 - EUR 32 569 800 in commitment appropriations and EUR 17 106 945 in payment appropriations was available for transport safety,
 - EUR 64 508 800 in commitment appropriations and EUR 25 852 114 in payment appropriations was available for the Marco Polo programme,
 - EUR 161 013 270 in commitment appropriations and EUR 154 148 555 in payment appropriations was available for the transport agencies,
 - EUR 176 840 000 in commitment appropriations and EUR 377 590 430 in payment appropriations was available for the Galileo programme,
 - EUR 166 880 000 in commitment appropriations and EUR 117 219 217 in payment appropriations was available for transport, including a priority area dedicated to sustainable urban mobility, under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development,
 - EUR 3 000 000 in commitment appropriations and EUR 4 157 000 in payment appropriations was available for tourism;
2. Calls for greater clarity, both in the Annual Accounts by the European Commission as well as the Annual Reports by the European Court of Auditors with regard to the overall budget for transport policy and transport projects, as the latter are eligible also on the basis of cohesion policy, but cannot be identified within this heading;
3. Notes that administrative and operating expenses are steadily increasing; calls therefore on the Commission to ensure that its sole aim is to promote effective management of EU policies and therefore suggests reflecting on possible measures, such as establishing incentives, in order to concentrate resources on investment activities, without compromising the operational capability and proper functioning of programmes;

4. Points out that in the context of the trans-European transport networks, some Member States that are eligible for financing from the Cohesion Fund are experiencing major difficulties with regard to developing and carrying out projects and making efficient use of EU funding; points out that through the Connecting Europe Facility, the Commission must help these Member States to develop an adequate pipeline of projects, in particular by strengthening the institutional capacity of the public administrations concerned and by organising additional calls for proposals;
5. Welcomes the 100 % utilisation rate for commitment appropriations and 100 % utilisation rate for payment appropriations for TEN-T projects, as these projects are important in that they aim to integrate transport networks in order to develop the internal market, promote sustainable intermodal mobility and stimulate economic development as well as better employment;
6. With regard to TEN-T projects and the Connecting Europe Facility, calls on the Commission to manage budget resources more efficiently and to take account of possible acceleration of EU funded projects at the end of financial periods, which can be found in previous periods, in order to avoid possible incapability to honour its financial obligations towards beneficiaries such as Europe's regions, towns or businesses;
7. Demands the Commission to annually involve the European Parliament in due time into TEN-T/CEF co-financing, with information on the choice of transport infrastructure projects and amounts; asks the Commission to inform the European Parliament annually with lists of transport projects and amounts of co-financing through the regional and cohesion funds;
8. Appreciates and is encouraged by the achieved decrease in the frequency of errors among the transactions audited by the Court (49 % as compared to 59 % in 2011) and welcomes the reinforced control provisions in the 2007-2013 programming period and application of a strict policy of interruptions/suspensions by the Commission. However, is deeply concerned that as in 2012 the Court found quantifiable errors in six out of eight TEN-T projects audited (75 %), further measures addressing weaknesses in TEN-T projects such as detailed advisory work and guidance material need to be taken as a matter of priority.
9. Proposes that in relation to the sectors for which the Committee on Transport and Tourism is responsible, the Parliament grants to the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the European Union general budget for the financial year 2012.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

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| Date adopted | 20.2.2014 |
| Result of final vote | +: 28 -: 4 0: 0 |
| Members present for the final vote | Inés Ayala Sender, Georges Bach, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Michael Cramer, Joseph Cuschieri, Philippe De Backer, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Saïd El Khadraoui, Ismail Ertug, Jacqueline Foster, Franco Frigo, Mathieu Grosch, Jim Higgins, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Georgios Koumoutsakos, Eva Lichtenberger, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Gesine Meissner, Dominique Riquet, Brian Simpson, Giommara Uggias, Peter van Dalen, Patricia van der Kammen, Artur Zasada |
| Substitute(s) present for the final vote | Spyros Danellis, Isabelle Durant, Eider Gardiazábal Rubial, Alfreds Rubiks, Bernadette Vergnaud, Janusz Władysław Zemke |
| Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote | Birgit Sippel, Robert Sturdy |