



2016/2097(INI)

20.9.2016

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on the Annual Report 2015 on the Protection of the EU's Financial Interests –
Fight against fraud
(2016/2097(INI))

Rapporteur: Caterina Chinnici

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Expresses the need for the Commission to publish its second Anti-Corruption Report, which was due for publication in early 2016;
2. Reiterates its call on the Council to resume immediately the negotiations with Parliament on the Directive on the protection of the financial interests of the Union (PIF Directive); recalls that the PIF Directive is an essential instrument in fighting fraud, corruption, money laundering and other illegal activities affecting the EU's financial interests; considers that, in the light of the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union in case C-105/14, *Taricco and Others*, the inclusion of VAT in the scope of the directive is inevitable;
3. Recalls that adoption of the PIF Directive is an essential prerequisite for the adoption of the proposed Regulation on the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), which would establish a Union prosecution office to investigate, prosecute and bring to court the perpetrators of criminal offences affecting the EU's financial interests;
4. Encourages the Council to finalise its position on the EPPO; recalls that Parliament has requested to be kept fully informed throughout the procedure and urges the Council to take Parliament's views fully into account;
5. Reiterates that the EPPO must be independent, endowed with sufficient resources to act effectively, efficiently and swiftly, and required to act at all times in full compliance with the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons; stresses the need to ensure that the division of competences between the EPPO and Member States is clear and consistent with the role of the EPPO as a Union body; points out that establishing the EPPO will require effective coordination with Eurojust, Europol and OLAF.