

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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*Committee on Transport and Tourism*

**2004/2040(DEC)**

15.3.2005

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on the discharge for implementing the European Union general budget for the financial year 2003

(SEC(2004)1181 - C6-0000/2005 - 2004/2040(DEC))

(SEC(2004)1182 - C6-0000/2005 - 2004/2040(DEC))

Section III - Commission

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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 2003 budget as finally adopted and amended in the course of the year a total of 661.8 million Euro was included for transport policies in commitment appropriations and 609.3 million Euro was available in payment appropriations; further notes that of these totals:
  - 610.6 million was available in commitment appropriations for Trans-European Networks for Transport (TEN-T) and 572 million Euro in payment appropriations,
  - 16.6 million in commitments and 13.3 million in payments for transport safety,
  - 15.0 million in commitments only for the Marco Polo programme,
  - 8.4 million in commitments and 9.55 million in payments for sustainable mobility and
  - 7.4 million in commitments and 6.35 million in payments for transport agencies;
2. Welcomes the increased rates of utilisation of both commitment and payment appropriations for Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) projects, both reaching almost 100%, and expects that this will result in Member States identifying resources from both the public and private sectors to speed completion of these projects;
3. Expresses its concern that interim and final payments for Trans-European Transport Network projects were often authorised by the Commission in 2003 without specific preconditions in the financial implementing provisions being satisfied and recalls that the Court of Auditors has already drawn this weakness to the Commission's attention in its annual reports for 2001 and 2002;
4. Notes that despite this high rate of payment appropriation utilisation the volume of outstanding commitments or RAL (reste à liquider) was not reduced and rose slightly to 1,154 million Euro for TEN-T in the course of 2003;
5. Notes with concern that for the other transport lines the rate of utilisation of commitment appropriations fell from 93% to 83%. The commitment utilisation rate for transport safety was particularly low at 65% of the appropriations available and the payment rate of utilisation was 72%. The equivalent rates for transport safety in 2002 were 99% and 58%. Finds these rates of utilisation for a key objective identified in the White Paper on Transport to be wholly unacceptable, particularly the sharp decline in the utilisation of payment appropriations;
6. Proposes that the Committee on Budgetary Control grant the discharge for the financial year 2003 for those sectors for which the Committee on Transport and Tourism is responsible.

