



**2017/2148(DEC)**

24.1.2018

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions for the financial year 2016  
(2017/2148(DEC))

Rapporteur: Claude Rolin

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social 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 its satisfaction that the Court of Auditors (the ‘Court’) has declared the transactions underlying the Foundation’s annual accounts for the financial year 2016 to be legal and regular and that its financial position as at 31 December 2016 is fairly represented;
2. Acknowledges that the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (the ‘Foundation’) remained an essential contributor to policy development and that the use of its expertise in key Union policy documents remained significant;
3. Acknowledges the work of the Foundation during the four-year work programme 2013-2016 “From crisis to recovery: Better informed policies for a competitive and fair Europe”; welcomes the Foundation's high-quality analysis and policy input as regards living and working conditions, industrial relations and employment and labour market developments, in particular the Overview report of the sixth European Working Conditions Survey and the New Forms of Employment; underlines the importance of the tripartite management of the Foundation which enables a comprehensive overview of the economic and social reality to be conducted;
4. Stresses the necessity to maintain strong cooperation between the Foundation and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs in order to benefit from the Foundation's expertise and to engage in constructive and evidence-based discussions; welcomes its programme delivery rate of 97 %, which was well above the target for 2016 and a significant improvement on the two previous years;
5. Welcomes the fact that Parliament, the Commission, and other stakeholders are the main users of knowhow provided by the Foundation, and that they are aware of its quality and interest;
6. Welcomes the successful implementation of the Foundation’s four-year work programme with a high level of organisational effectiveness, as evidenced by an overall improvement of Foundation’s key performance indicators;
7. Notes the revision of Council Regulation No 1365/75/EEC<sup>1</sup>, which established the Foundation, and welcomes the inclusion by Parliament and the Commission of an explicit reference to the use of external audit reports and evaluations;
8. Notes the Commission’s Internal Audit Service (IAS) 2016 audit report which highlighted the need to improve the Foundation’s management of projects, mainly in relation to governance arrangements, monitoring and reporting, and welcomes the Foundation’s willingness to implement the agreed action plan in cooperation with the

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<sup>1</sup> [Regulation \(EEC\) No 1365/75 of the Council of 26 May 1975 on the creation of a European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions](#) (OJ L 139, 30.5.1975, p. 1–4)

IAS;

9. Commends the exemplary high budget implementation rate (100 %); notes, however, that the level of appropriations carried over to 2017 increased for Title III (43 %) compared to the 2016 (31 %), mainly in relation to projects going beyond the end of the year; notes the Foundation's reply distinguishing that these were planned carry-overs and in fact below the initial figure of EUR 3 million;
10. Notes the Court's recommendation that the Foundation may consider introducing differentiated budget appropriations to better reflect the multi-annual nature of operations and unavoidable delays between the signature of contracts, deliveries and payments;
11. Welcomes the Foundation's remedial actions undertaken in relation to salary corrections following Court's reports; notes that an audit of the salaries function was undertaken in Q2 2017 in order to provide additional assurance that the appropriate processes and controls are in place and operating well and calls on the Foundation to take the necessary steps where needed;
12. Expresses concern about the negative budgetary impact of the growing Irish country coefficient which increasingly risks undermining the financial capability of the Foundation to deliver on its mandate; expects action to be taken by the Institutions of the Union to offset the effects;
13. Welcomes the good cooperation between the Foundation and other Union agencies, in particular Cedefop, EU-OSHA, ETF, FRA and EIGE, during the planning and implementation of its work in order to ensure good coordination and synergies in its activities;
14. Notes how strongly the Foundation has contributed to combating poverty and fraudulent contracting of work in several actions across the Union.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	23.1.2018
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 42 -: 8 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Guillaume Balas, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Enrique Calvet Chambon, David Casa, Ole Christensen, Michael Detjen, Martina Dlabajová, Lampros Fountoulis, Arne Gericke, Marian Harkin, Czesław Hoc, Agnes Jongerius, Rina Ronja Kari, Jan Keller, Ádám Kósa, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Jean Lambert, Jérôme Lavrilleux, Jeroen Lenaers, Verónica Lope Fontagné, Javi López, Thomas Mann, Dominique Martin, Anthea McIntyre, Joëlle Mélin, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Emilian Pavel, João Pimenta Lopes, Georgi Pirinski, Marek Plura, Dennis Radtke, Terry Reintke, Claude Rolin, Siôn Simon, Romana Tomc, Ulrike Trebesius, Marita Ulvskog, Tatjana Ždanoka
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Georges Bach, Lynn Boylan, Rosa D'Amato, Tania González Peñas, Krzysztof Hetman, Paloma López Bermejo, António Marinho e Pinto, Edouard Martin, Ivare Padar, Flavio Zanonato
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Geoffroy Didier, Morten Messerschmidt

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

42	+
ALDE	Enrique Calvet Chambon, Martina Dlabajová, Marian Harkin, António Marinho e Pinto
EFDD	Rosa D'Amato
GUE/NGL	Lynn Boylan, Tania González Peñas, Rina Ronja Kari, Paloma López Bermejo, João Pimenta Lopes
PPE	Georges Bach, David Casa, Geoffroy Didier, Krzysztof Hetman, Ádám Kósa, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Jérôme Lavrilleux, Jeroen Lenaers, Verónica Lope Fontagné, Thomas Mann, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Marek Plura, Dennis Radtke, Claude Rolin, Romana Tomc
S&D	Guillaume Balas, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Ole Christensen, Michael Detjen, Agnes Jongerius, Jan Keller, Javi López, Edouard Martin, Ivari Padar, Emilian Pavel, Georgi Pirinski, Siôn Simon, Marita Ulvskog, Flavio Zanonato
VERTS/ALE	Jean Lambert, Terry Reintke, Tatjana Ždanoka

8	-
ECR	Arne Gericke, Czesław Hoc, Anthea McIntyre, Morten Messerschmidt, Ulrike Trebesius
ENF	Dominique Martin, Joëlle Mélin
NI	Lampros Fountoulis

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention