



**2017/2136(DEC)**

8.11.2017

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

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 2016, Section III – Commission and executive agencies  
(2017/2136(DEC))

Rapporteur: Claude Rolin



## 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. Notes that there has been a sustained improvement in the overall estimated level of error in payments made from the EU budget in the past few years (4,4 % in 2014; 3,8 % in 2015; 3,1 % in 2016); welcomes that for the first time since 1994, the Court issued a qualified opinion on the regularity of the transactions underlying the 2016 accounts;
2. Acknowledges the overall positive impact of the corrective action by authorities in the Member States and by the Commission, which had a positive impact on the estimated level of error and without which the estimated level of error would have been 1,2 % higher;
3. Notes with concern the high estimated level of error in the policy area of ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ at 4,8 %, which is above the error level for the EU budget as a whole (3,1 %); notes, however, that this represents a small decrease from the previous year (5,2 %); notes that the estimated error level in the area of ‘Competitiveness for growth and jobs’ is 4,1 %;
4. Deplores that, as it was the case in previous years, Member States had sufficient information available to prevent, or to detect and correct, a significant number of errors; notes the Courts recommendation not to introduce additional control in EU spending but to make sure that the existing control mechanisms are enforced properly;
5. Notes the Court’s recommendation that when reconsidering the design and delivery mechanism for the ESI funds post-2020, the Commission should strengthen the programme focus on performance and simplify the mechanism for payments by encouraging, as appropriate, the introduction of further measures linking the level of payments to performance instead of simply reimbursing costs.