



**2018/2114(INI)**

24.10.2018

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgetary Control

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on Implementation of the legal provisions and the Joint Statement ensuring the  
parliamentary scrutiny over decentralised agencies  
(2018/2114(INI))

Rapporteur: Dennis de Jong

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgetary Control calls on the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Recognises the implementation by the Union agencies of the Joint statement and Common Approach and its roadmap; refers, in particular, to the Recommendations from the Interinstitutional Working Group on decentralised agencies, which were endorsed by the Conference of Presidents on 18 January 2018; notes that with the follow-up meeting on 12 July 2018 the work of the IIWG was considered achieved;
2. Welcomes the draft revised text of the Framework Financial Regulation for decentralised agencies submitted by the European Commission, and, in particular, the strengthening of the governance of these agencies;
3. Is, however, of the opinion that there is still a variety of unresolved issues and urges the Commission to submit without delay an evaluation of multiple locations of agencies, as recommended by the IIWG, as well as proposals for possible mergers, closures and/or transfer of tasks to the Commission which was foreseen in the terms of reference of the IIWG, but was never really examined due to lack of proposals to this effect from the Commission;
4. Recalls the letters of 28 March 2018 of the President of the Parliament to the President of the Commission and the President-in-Office of the Council, regretting that Parliament had not been involved in the procedure leading to the selection of the new seat of the European Medicines Agency, recalling the prerogatives of Parliament as co-legislator and asking for a revision of the joint statement and the common approach in this respect; urges the Commission to prepare the necessary proposals based on an in-depth analysis of the implementation of the Joint Statement and common approach as requested by the Council in its reply to the letter from the President of the Parliament;
5. Is concerned with potential conflicts of interest that may arise if agencies have to rely on fees as their main source of income: re-iterates that agencies themselves are aware of this reputational risk and prefer a steady and predictable flow of income through the EU budget rather than having to rely on fees which are both unpredictable and vary from year to year; urges the Commission to submit proposals to receive the fees itself and in return provide agencies with a regular subsidy from the EU budget;
6. Repeats its call for streamlined and harmonized reporting obligations, in particular for what concerns the Annual Activity Report, the Budgetary and Financial management Report and the Final Accounts;
7. Encourages the agencies to inform the Parliament in a detailed manner on the measures taken to meet the recommendations of the discharge authority ("follow-up reports") and those of the Court of Auditors;
8. Notes that the audit of the decentralised agencies "remains under the full responsibility of the Court, which manages all administrative and procurement procedures required and finances these"; reiterates that the audit approach involving private sector auditors

has resulted in a significant increase of the administrative burden on the agencies, as well as that the time spent on procurement and administration of audit contracts created additional expenditure, thus straining further the diminishing resources of the agencies; emphasises that it is imperative to resolve this issue in accordance with the Common Approach, within the context of the revision of the Framework Financial Regulation; calls on all parties involved in this revision to provide clarity on this issue as a matter of urgency so as to significantly reduce the excessive administrative burden.