



2018/2166(DEC)

4.12.2018

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Development

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 2017, Section III – Commission and executive agencies
(2018/2166(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Nirj Deva

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Takes note of the Special Report of the European Court of Auditors ('the Court') on EU Assistance to Myanmar/ Burma and the response of the Commission; welcomes in this respect that the EU played a leading role in supporting development priorities in a difficult context and with limited staff resources while noting that EU assistance was found to be only partially effective; supports the Court in stressing the need to pay increased attention to domestic revenue mobilisation, in particular in emerging economies; in view of the documented atrocities committed by the army of Myanmar expresses great concern about continued sectoral budget support provided from the EU budget to Myanmar;
2. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has responded to Parliament's remarks on the External Assistance Management Reports (EAMR) and Key Performance Indicators ,contained in its resolution of 18 April 2018 on discharge for the financial year 2016¹, and has made changes in order to improve those; notes that the Commission has transmitted the 2017 EAMR to the Parliament without confidentiality constraints but regrets that the access to those reports *de facto* has become more cumbersome; looks forward to a facilitated access for Parliament to those reports in the future;
3. Deplores the increasingly late publication of the Commission's 'Annual Report on the implementation of the European Union's instruments for financing external actions', practically hampering Parliament's oversight and public accountability, with the report on 2016 published only in March 2018 and the report on 2017 still outstanding; invites the Commission to publish the report on 2018 by the end of September 2019 at the latest and to maintain this calendar for subsequent years;
4. Notes that in 2017, the Commission has signed contracts with UN agencies with a value of nearly EUR 253.5 million of contributions from the EU budget, with United Nations Development Programme (EUR 119.21 million), UNICEF (EUR 29.34 million) and United Nations Office for Projects Services (EUR 20.05 million) being the biggest beneficiaries, and contracts with the World Bank worth EUR 174.11million;
5. Recalls that the EU is collectively committed to provide 0.7 % of Gross National Income as Official Development Assistance ('ODA'); regrets that the EU and its Member States, in 2017, have not made progress towards reaching this goal, with the overall EU ODA decreasing from 0.51% to 0.50% and several countries decreasing their ODA.

¹ Not yet published in the Official Journal.