



7.1.2019

AMENDMENTS

1-17

Draft opinion

Nirj Deva

(PE631.872v1-00)

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))

Amendment 1
Heidi Hautala

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Is very worried by an ongoing trend in Commission proposals to ignore legally binding provisions of Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1a} when it comes to Official Development Assistance ('ODA') eligible expenditure and eligible countries for Development Cooperation Instrument ('DCI') spending; recalls that legality of EU spending is a key principle of sound financial management and that political considerations should not take precedence over clearly spelled out legal provisions; recalls that DCI is first and foremost an instrument designed to fight poverty;

^{1a} Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020 (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 44).

Or. en

Amendment 2
Heidi Hautala

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Regrets that in every annual activity report since 2012, the Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and

Development had to issue a reservation on the regularity of underlying transactions which points to serious internal management deficiencies;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Heidi Hautala

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3b. Highlights the highly negative findings by the European Court of Auditors on Public-Private Partnerships¹ ('PPPs') and the Court's recommendation "not to promote a more intensive and widespread use of PPPs" inside the Union; calls on the Commission to take this recommendation fully into account when dealing with PPPs in developing countries where the environment for successful implementation of PPPs is even more difficult than inside the EU;

^{1a.} Special report Nr 9/2018: Public Private Partnerships in the EU: Widespread shortcomings and limited benefits

Or. en

Amendment 4
Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

¹ Special report Nr 9/2018: Public Private Partnerships in the EU: Widespread shortcomings and limited benefits.

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. *Believes that promoting peace, security and justice in developing countries is of paramount importance for the Union in order to address the root causes of migration; recognizes that expenditure relating to security is particularly relevant in the current efforts to comprehensively address the security-development nexus and deliver on Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;*

Or. en

Amendment 5

Heidi Hautala, Arne Lietz

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

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.

Amendment

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; ***recalls the commitment to provide 0.15-0.20% ODA/GNI to Least Developed Countries ('LDCs') in the short-term and to reach 0.20% until 2030;***

Or. en

Amendment 6

Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

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.***

Amendment

5. Recalls that the EU is collectively committed to provide 0.7 % of Gross National Income as Official Development Assistance ('ODA'); ***calls on the Commission and Member States to prepare and present a plausible timeline for such a gradual increase towards this level, affirms that Union development assistance should be spent more effectively and that ODA should be targeted to sectors where it is needed the most, namely capacity building, good governance, health, education, agriculture, water supply and sanitation, as well as energy; emphasises the need for maintenance support with sufficient access locally-trained technical experts;***

Or. en

Amendment 7

Heidi Hautala

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Given the shift in aid modalities from direct grants to trust funds and blended finance, including through the European Fund for Sustainable Development, invites the Council, Commission and European Investment Bank to adopt an inter-institutional agreement with the European Parliament on transparency, accountability and parliamentary scrutiny on the basis of the policy principles set out in the New European Consensus on Development;

Amendment 8
Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. Calls for an enlargement of the “Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs” programme beyond Europe, in particular to developing countries, while providing the necessary financial means;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5c. Welcomes the European Court of Auditors’ recommendations for improving the transparency of EU funds implemented by NGOs published in the special report 2018/ 35, where it, amongst other things, recommends that the Commission improve the reliability of the information on NGOs in its accounting system, and that the Commission improve the information collected on funds implemented by NGOs; calls therefore on the Commission to implement these proposals before the end of the current mandate;

Or. en

Amendment 10

Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5d. Fully recognizes the complex nature of many challenges and the need for multifaceted and complementary response actions, but insists on the need for clarity in funding arrangements and respect for international commitments;

Or. en

Amendment 11

Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5e. Calls for an incentive-based approach to development by introducing the more-for-more principle, taking as an example the European Neighbourhood Policy; believes that the more and the faster a country progress in its internal reforms in relation to the building and consolidation of democratic institutions, the respect for human rights and the rule of law, the more support it should receive from the Union;

Or. en

Amendment 12

Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 f (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5f. *Recognise that no country has ever developed without engaging in further trade relations with their neighbours and the rest of the world; further encourages the financing of aid for trade activities in order to allow developing countries to participate to a much greater degree in global value chains in the future; stresses in this context the increasing importance of digital connectivity in order to achieve a more balanced distribution of the globalisation benefits in favour of developing countries;*

Or. en

**Amendment 13
Paul Rübzig**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 g (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

5g. *Underlines the high importance of supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and calls in particular for the establishment of local solutions for a better access to finance with a further strengthening of micro-finance loans and guarantee system;*

Or. en

**Amendment 14
Paul Rübzig**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 h (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 h. *Underlines the importance of increasing the attribution of funds aiming at supporting good governance, democracy and the rule of law in developing countries in order to promote accountable and transparent institutions, support capacity building and foster a participatory decision-making and public access to information;*

Or. en

Amendment 15
Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 i (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5i. *Emphasises the importance of the provision of clean water and of the building of additional wastewater disposal facilities;*

Or. en

Amendment 16
Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 j (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5j. *Draws attention to the scale and implication of energy poverty in developing countries and to the Union's strong involvement in efforts to reduce such poverty; underlines the need for strong and concerted efforts by governments and stakeholders in affected*

countries to reduce energy poverty;

Or. en

Amendment 17

Paul Rübige

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 k (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5k. Welcomes the European Court of Auditors' recommendations for improving the transparency of EU funds implemented by NGOs published in the special report 2018/ 35, where it , amongst other things, recommends that the Commission improve the reliability of the information on NGOs in its accounting system, and that the Commission improve the information collected on funds implemented by NGOs; calls therefore on the Commission to implement these proposals before the end of the current mandate;

Or. en