



3.1.2019

AMENDMENTS

1 - 22

Draft report

Nirj Deva

(PE631.880v01-00)

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2017

COM(2018)0519 – C8-0328/2018 – 2018/2177(DEC))

Amendment 1
Heidi Hautala

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Welcomes the increasing role of blended finance, with the EU having leveraged investments of at least EUR 5.6 billion in sub-Saharan Africa with an EU contribution of EUR 900 million;
commends the EU for the successful launch of the European Investment Plan and the European Fund for Sustainable Development, underscored by the approval of 28 guarantee tools totalling EUR 1.54 billion in guarantees by November 2018, expected to unlock EUR17.5 billion in total investments;

Amendment

1. Commends the EU for the successful launch of the European Investment Plan and the European Fund for Sustainable Development, underscored by the approval of 28 guarantee tools totalling EUR 1.54 billion in guarantees by November 2018, expected to unlock EUR17.5 billion in total investments; ***underlines that no evaluation exists yet on the implementation results and that any conclusion as to widening the scope and the means is premature; highlights the finding of the EDF 11 mid-term evaluation that blending only mobilises additional resources in 50 % of the cases; regrets therefore that the Commission has proposed more means for blended finance for the future financing period 2021-2027;***

Or. en

Amendment 2
Arne Lietz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

1a. Welcomes the budgetisation of the EDF included in the EC proposal of the future EU Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI);

Amendment

Or. en

Amendment 3
Heidi Hautala

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Highlights the highly negative findings by the European Court of Auditors on Public-Private Partnerships^{1a} (PPPs) and the Court's recommendation "not to promote a more intensive and widespread use of PPPs" inside the EU; 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 Union;

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

Or. en

Amendment 4
Heidi Hautala

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1b. Is worried by the findings of the mid-term evaluation on EDF 11 which states that "there is a real threat that EDF will be pushed into responding to agendas that distance it from its primary objective of poverty alleviation, which are difficult to reconcile with the EDF's core values and compromise what it does well", that

"despite consultations, government and CSOs' views (with some notable exceptions such as in the Pacific region), have rarely been taken account of in programming choices" and that "the EDF11 programming thus used a top-down approach to apply the concentration principle but at the cost of the Cotonou Agreement's central principle of partnership"; regrets that the Commission has until now completely ignored these findings;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Arne Lietz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Takes note of the achievements of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF); recalls, however, that EUTF funding coming from development budget lines must not be used for security measures jeopardising migrants' rights; recalls, that EU development cooperation must have the eradication of poverty and sustainable development as the main objectives; stresses, that EUTF projects must integrate human rights at the core of programming and contribute to the realisation of human rights in the countries concerned; strongly recommends to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in EUTF programmes as well as the protection of those most vulnerable, including children and persons with disabilities;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Heidi Hautala

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. *Notes the numerous concerns the European Court of Auditors^{1a} and the authors of the EDF 11 mid-evaluation have expressed on the implementation of the EUTF:*

- *In terms of project implementation, the EUTF had only limited impact in speeding up the process compared to traditional development aid;*
- *Concerns over the likely effectiveness and sustainability of EUTF projects and over the ability of the Union to closely monitor their implementation;*
- *The Northern Africa and Horn of Africa windows have no documented criteria for selecting project proposals;*
- *Serious flaws in the measurement of performance;*
- *No specific risk assessment framework.*

Considers that given such findings, the added value of the EUTF is highly questionable;

^{1a} *Special report 32/2018*

Or. en

Amendment 7
Heidi Hautala

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2c. Regrets that the expenditure recorded in 2017 under the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh EDF is materially affected by error and that the error rate is on the rise on the contrary to EU general budget expenditure; highlights that errors occur predominantly in transactions related to projects implemented by international organisations and Member States' cooperation agencies and that in the examined transactions of this type, 36 % contained quantifiable errors, which is enormous; urges the Commission to produce detailed explanations in response to these findings and to submit a clear plan to the European Parliament outlining the necessary steps in order to correct this seriously worrying situation;

Or. en

**Amendment 8
Heidi Hautala**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 d (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

2d. Regrets that in every annual activity report since 2012, DG DEVCO had to issue a reservation on the regularity of underlying transactions which points to serious internal management deficiencies;

Or. en

**Amendment 9
Heidi Hautala**

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2e. Highlights the negative findings from the Court of Auditors in the area of EU support to African security, which is often financed through the EDF:

- **Strengthening the capacity of the internal security forces in Niger and Mali has been slow and there are serious concerns on ownership and sustainability^{1a}**
- **The EU's support for the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) has had a poor effect^{2a}.**

Highlights as well the serious risk that EU support through the African Peace Facility to Burundian soldiers participating in the AMISOM mission indirectly finances a Burundian regime exposed to EU sanctions; recalls that for years, DG DEVCO expressed reservations on its expenditure on the support to the African Peace Facility;

1a Special report 15/2018, Strengthening the capacity of the internal security forces in Niger and Mali: only limited and slow progress

2a Special report No 20/2018: The African Peace and Security Architecture: need to refocus EU support

Or. en

**Amendment 10
Heidi Hautala**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 f (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

2f. *Considers in this context the ever increasing EU focus on the security-development nexus as raising serious sound financial management issues and calls on the Commission and the EEAS to apply a much more prudent approach to EU support for African security;*

Or. en

Amendment 11
Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. *Insists, given the important role played by the United Kingdom in development, that close ties are retained between the Union and the United Kingdom after its departure in order to minimise ensuing losses;*

Or. en

Amendment 12
Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. *Urges the Commission to better define and clearly assess the development outcomes to be achieved in each case and above all to enhance control mechanism concerning recipient State's conduct in the fields of corruption, respect of human rights, rule of law and democracy;*

expresses deep concern about the potential use of budget support in countries lacking democratic oversight, either due to the lack of functioning parliamentary democracy or freedoms for civil society and the media, or due to a lack of capacity of oversight bodies;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Heidi Hautala

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. *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;*

Or. en

Amendment 14
Arne Lietz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5c. *Welcomes the process of the post-Cotonou agreement in order to maintain the ACP-EU framework;*

Amendment 15

Paul Rübige

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5d. 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 loan and guarantee system;

Or. en

Amendment 16

Paul Rübige

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

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

Or. en

Amendment 17

Paul Rübige

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 f (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5f. *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 18
Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 g (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5g. *Calls for an incentive-based approach to development by introducing the more-for-more principle, taking as an example the European Neighbouring Policy; believes that the more and the faster a country progresses 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 19
Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 h (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5h. 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 20
Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 i (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5i. 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 21
Paul Rübzig

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 j (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

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

Or. en

Amendment 22

Paul Rübige

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 k (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5k. *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