



2017/2145(DEC)

6.3.2018

AMENDMENTS

1 - 47

Draft report

Marco Valli

2016 discharge: EU general budget - European External Action Service
(2017/2145(DEC))

Amendment 1
Arndt Kohn

Proposal for a decision 1
Citation 8 a (new)

Proposal for a decision

Amendment

– *having regard to the Court of Auditors' special report No 07/2016 on 'The European External Action Service's management of its buildings around the world';*

Or. en

Amendment 2
Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Notis Marias, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

Amendment

1. *Grants the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European External Action Service for the financial year 2016;* / Postpones its decision on granting the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European External Action Service for the financial year 2016;

1. Postpones its decision on granting the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European External Action Service for the financial year 2016;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Marco Valli

Proposal for a decision 1

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European External Action Service for the financial year 2016/ ***Postpones its decision on granting the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European External Action Service for the financial year 2016;***

Amendment

1. Grants the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European External Action Service for the financial year 2016;

Or. it

Amendment 4 Arndt Kohn

Proposal for a decision 1 Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European External Action Service for the financial year 2016; / ***Postpones its decision on granting the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European External Action Service for the financial year 2016;***

Amendment

1. Grants the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European External Action Service for the financial year 2016;

Or. en

Amendment 5 Julia Pitera

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Asks the EEAS to continue its efforts to actively support and monitor the implementation of procurement rules and procedures in the delegations in order to improve the overall compliance and effectiveness of their tendering procedures and contract management;

Amendment

3. ***Acknowledges that the EEAS undertook a series of initiatives aiming to reduce errors in procurement procedures, by improving the training, support and advice provided to the delegation staff responsible for procurement;*** asks the EEAS to continue its efforts to actively support and monitor the implementation of procurement rules and procedures in the delegations in order to improve the overall compliance and effectiveness of their tendering procedures and contract management;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Asks the EEAS to continue its efforts to actively support and monitor the implementation of procurement rules and procedures in the delegations in order to improve the overall compliance and effectiveness of their tendering procedures and contract management;

Amendment

3. Asks the EEAS to continue its efforts to actively support and monitor the implementation of procurement rules and procedures in the delegations in order to improve the overall compliance and effectiveness of their tendering procedures and contract management; ***encourages the EEAS to consider the possibility of introducing global or regional procurement procedures covering several EU delegations to replace individual low value contracts; asks the EEAS to evaluate to what extent such an arrangement could reduce weaknesses in procurement procedures and to inform the Committee of Budgetary Control***

about the result of this analysis;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. *Notes that* previous recommendations regarding the updating of staff members' personal situation and related supporting documentation and the management of their family allowances *has* been implemented in most respects;

Amendment

4. *Welcomes the follow-up to* previous recommendations regarding the updating of staff members' personal situation and related supporting documentation and the management of their family allowances *which have* been implemented in most respects;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

5. Observes that 15 out of the 20 commitments reviewed by the Court were prepared before the end of the year, with related services, goods and corresponding payments to be provided partly or entirely in 2017; recalls that this practice of carry-over should remain an exception rather than a way to maximise the percentage consumption of appropriations at year-end;

Amendment

5. Observes that 15 out of the 20 commitments reviewed by the Court were prepared before the end of the year, with related services, goods and corresponding payments to be provided partly or entirely in 2017; recalls that this practice of carry-over *is against the principle of budget annuity and* should remain an exception rather than a way to maximise the percentage consumption of appropriations at year-end;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. ***Insists on the necessity of maintaining efforts to reduce the significant*** rate of anomalies detected in ex-ante verifications of financial transactions while noting the nature of the errors and irregularities such as the unavailability of supporting documents or ineligibility of expenditures;

Amendment

6. ***Takes note of a high*** rate of anomalies detected in ex-ante verifications of financial transactions while noting the nature of the errors and irregularities such as the unavailability of supporting documents or ineligibility of expenditures; ***welcomes the extensive internal reporting system of the EEAS which allows to anticipate potential errors and hence contributes to the low level of error rate found by the Court; encourages the EEAS to take measures to reduce this high rate of anomalies; stresses, however, that a reduction of anomalies detected in ex-ante verification should not be achieved to the detriment of maintaining a low error rate;***

Or. en

Amendment 10
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Regrets the persistence of the same weaknesses throughout the years with regard to ‘business continuity’ and ‘document management’ internal control standards which carry with them the risk of hindering the availability and reliability of key management information being used for the monitoring and reporting of activities and projects by the delegations;

Amendment

7. Regrets the persistence of the same weaknesses throughout the years with regard to ‘business continuity’ and ‘document management’ internal control standards which carry with them the risk of hindering the availability and reliability of key management information being used for the monitoring and reporting of activities and projects by the delegations;

recalls that full transparency of documentation could be useful not only to improve the quality of monitoring and control, but also as an efficient instrument to prevent fraud and corruption;

Or. en

Amendment 11
Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Regrets the persistence of the same weaknesses throughout the years with regard to ‘business continuity’ and ‘document management’ internal control standards which carry with them the risk of hindering the availability and reliability of key management information being used for the monitoring and reporting of activities and projects by the delegations; recalls that *full* transparency of documentation *could* be useful not only to improve the quality of monitoring and control, but also as an efficient instrument to prevent fraud and corruption;

Amendment

7. Regrets the persistence of the same weaknesses throughout the years with regard to ‘business continuity’ and ‘document management’ internal control standards which carry with them the risk of hindering the availability and reliability of key management information being used for the monitoring and reporting of activities and projects by the delegations; recalls that transparency of documentation *would* be useful not only to improve the quality of monitoring and control, but also as an efficient instrument to prevent fraud and corruption;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. Notes that only one delegation has issued and renewed a reservation in its

Amendment

8. Notes that only one delegation has issued and renewed a reservation in its

statement of assurance related to procurement management, which falls in the remit of the Regional Centre Europe; **invites** the EEAS to pay attention and reflect on the coherence between the effective, or only formal, implementation of internal control standards and the management assurance of the Union's delegations;

statement of assurance related to procurement management, which falls in the remit of the Regional Centre Europe; **calls on** the EEAS to pay attention and reflect on the coherence between the effective, or only formal, implementation of internal control standards and the management assurance of the Union's delegations;

Or. en

Amendment 13 **Arndt Kohn**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 9**

Motion for a resolution

9. Expresses its support for analysing and refining the cost-effectiveness of ex-post control by comparing the cost of ex-post control activities with the value of detected errors; **regrets** that the unit cost of detecting errors (cost per EUR) amounted to 23 cents in 2016;

Amendment

9. Expresses its support for analysing and refining the cost-effectiveness of ex-post control by comparing the cost of ex-post control activities with the value of detected errors; **notes** that the unit cost of detecting errors (cost per EUR) amounted to 23 cents in 2016; **acknowledges that this unit cost is related to the low error rate and hence would be lower if the sum affected by error would be higher;**

Or. en

Amendment 14 **Petri Sarvamaa**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 10**

Motion for a resolution

10. **Takes note of** the introduction of new guidelines for the cycle of inspection visits in 2016, including the following

Amendment

10. **Welcomes** the introduction of new guidelines for the cycle of inspection visits in 2016, including the following criteria for

criteria for prioritising the inspections of delegations, such as first-time Union ambassadors, delegations facing particular challenges, the period expired since the previous inspection and the size of delegations, with bigger delegations to be inspected every 5 years;

prioritising the inspections of delegations, such as first-time Union ambassadors, delegations facing particular challenges, the period expired since the previous inspection and the size of delegations, with bigger delegations to be inspected every 5 years; *encourages the EEAS to continue defining its inspection cycles on such risk-based grounds, and calls on the EEAS to inform the discharge authority on its experiences and results of using the new guidelines;*

Or. en

Amendment 15
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16

Motion for a resolution

16. Stresses the importance of having a transparent and effective overview of the EEAS budget; regrets that the fragmentation of its instruments makes it difficult to access the information; *asks the Vice-President of the Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to provide full access to the data related to the costs of her missions;*

Amendment

16. Stresses the importance of having a transparent and effective overview of the EEAS budget; regrets that the fragmentation of its instruments makes it difficult to access the information;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

16. Stresses the importance of having a transparent and effective overview of the EEAS budget; regrets that the fragmentation of its instruments makes it difficult to access the information; **asks** the Vice-President of the Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to provide **full** access to the data related to the costs of her missions;

16. Stresses the importance of having a transparent and effective overview of the EEAS budget; regrets that the fragmentation of its instruments makes it difficult to access the information; **calls on** the Vice-President of the Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to provide access to the data related to the costs of her missions;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

16a. Welcomes that the Vice-President of the Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has made public data related to the cost of her missions; welcomes the Commission Decision of 31 January 2018 on the Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission which includes an obligation to "publish an overview of mission expenses every two months covering all missions undertaken unless publication of this information would undermine the protection of the public interest as regards public security, defence and military matters, international relations or the financial, monetary or economic policy of the Union or a Member State"; asks this rule to be extended to the High Representative in her role as head of the EEAS;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. Underlines that the execution of the EEAS administrative budget, particularly for the delegations, should improve its efficiency, since certain delegations were receiving separate contributions from the Commission from 33 different budget lines regarding the administrative costs of Commission staff in delegations; ***stresses the need for*** a budgetary simplification in order to provide a transparent overview to Union citizens of the costs;

Amendment

17. Underlines that the execution of the EEAS administrative budget, particularly for the delegations, should improve its efficiency, since certain delegations were receiving separate contributions from the Commission from 33 different budget lines regarding the administrative costs of Commission staff in delegations; ***calls on the Commission to work in cooperation with the Council and the European Parliament toward*** a budgetary simplification in order to provide a transparent overview to Union citizens of the costs;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. Underlines that the execution of the EEAS administrative budget, particularly for the delegations, should improve its efficiency, since certain delegations were receiving separate contributions from the Commission from 33 different budget lines regarding the administrative costs of Commission staff in delegations; ***stresses the need for*** a budgetary simplification in order to provide a transparent overview to Union citizens of the costs;

Amendment

17. Underlines that the execution of the EEAS administrative budget, particularly for the delegations, should improve its efficiency, since certain delegations were receiving separate contributions from the Commission from 33 different budget lines regarding the administrative costs of Commission staff in delegations; ***stresses the need for*** a budgetary simplification in order to ***improve budget management and*** provide a transparent overview to Union citizens of the costs;

Amendment 20
Benedek Jávor

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

17a. Reminds the EEAS that there is a silver lining between economic diplomacy and lobbying, calls on the EEAS therefore set up rules on lobbying in order to distinguish between the two and to transparency for lobbying both in the Headquarter and the Delegations;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 20

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

20. Welcomes the attention dedicated to migration issues, drugs and human trafficking, and the implementation of human rights diplomacy to better address emerging international challenges and political priorities with coordinated responses;

20. Welcomes ***the priorities set by the High Representative and the EEAS in line with the EU Global Strategy to address global challenges, including*** the attention dedicated to migration issues, drugs and human trafficking, and the implementation of human rights diplomacy to better address emerging international challenges and political priorities with coordinated responses; ***highlights, moreover, the increasingly important role of the EEAS in international cooperation regarding peace, security and human development, as shown, among others, by its mediating and representational role in international organisations such as the UN, the negotiation and preservation of the***

nuclear deal with Iran, the mediating role in the Israel-Palestine conflict or the Brussels process for Syria;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21

Motion for a resolution

21. Emphasises that geographical balance, meaning a proportional relationship between the members of staff of a particular nationality and the size of the relevant Member State, ***must*** remain ***a*** guiding ***principle*** of resources management, particularly with respect to the Member States that have acceded to the Union in or after 2004; recalls also the commitment that the Vice-President of the Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy made to the Parliament to address the existing overrepresentation of national diplomats in the position of head of delegation;

Amendment

21. Emphasises that geographical balance, meaning a proportional relationship between the members of staff of a particular nationality and the size of the relevant Member State, ***should*** remain ***one of the*** guiding ***principles*** of resources management, particularly with respect to the Member States that have acceded to the Union in or after 2004; recalls also the commitment that the Vice-President of the Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy made to the Parliament to address the existing overrepresentation of national diplomats in the position of head of delegation;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Julia Pitera

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

21a. Regrets that out of 136 heads of EU delegations, only 21 come from the 13 Member States that joined the Union after

2004; calls on EEAS to undertake an in-depth assessment of its recruitment policy to allow for better implementation of the geographical balance policy pursued by the EEAS;

Or. en

Amendment 24

Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 23

Motion for a resolution

23. Notes that the 13 Member States that joined the Union since 2004 account for 19,6% of overall AD EEAS staff, approaching their share of Union population (20,6%); draws attention nevertheless to the fact that they only account for 13,28% of managerial positions and emphasises that, while respecting a merit-based recruitment policy, the percentage of nationals from the these Member States in managerial positions within the EEAS should be further increased to reflect within the EEAS their share of the Union population;

Amendment

23. Notes that the 13 Member States that joined the Union since 2004 account for 19,6% of overall AD EEAS staff, approaching their share of Union population (20,6%); draws attention nevertheless to the fact that they only account for 13,28% of managerial positions and emphasises that, while respecting a merit-based recruitment policy, the percentage of nationals from the these Member States in managerial positions within the EEAS should be further increased to reflect within the EEAS their share of the Union population; *deplores the fact that Member States in question are especially underrepresented at the higher level of administration and remarks that a progress in this matter is of high priority;*

Or. en

Amendment 25

Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 23

Motion for a resolution

23. Notes that the 13 Member States that joined the Union since 2004 account for 19,6% of overall AD EEAS staff, approaching their share of Union population (20,6%); draws attention nevertheless to the fact that they only account for 13,28% of managerial positions and emphasises that, while respecting a merit-based recruitment policy, ***the percentage of nationals from the these Member States in managerial positions within the EEAS should be further increased to reflect within the EEAS their share of the Union population;***

Amendment

23. Notes that the 13 Member States that joined the Union since 2004 account for 19,6% of overall AD EEAS staff, approaching their share of Union population (20,6%); draws attention nevertheless to the fact that they only account for 13,28% of managerial positions and emphasises that, while respecting a merit-based recruitment policy, ***this imbalance could be taken better into account on future recruitment procedures;***

Or. en

Amendment 26

Ryszard Czarnecki, Raffaele Fitto, Notis Marias, Beata Gosiewska, Richard Sulík

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

24. Asks the EEAS to provide further explanation of the increasing number of seconded national experts reaching 445 in 2016 (85% of them being located in Brussels) compared to 434 in 2015 and 407 in 2014;

Amendment

24. Asks the EEAS to provide ***before 30 June 2018*** further explanation of the increasing number of seconded national experts reaching 445 in 2016 (85% of them being located in Brussels) compared to 434 in 2015 and 407 in 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 27

Wolf Klinz, Nedzhmi Ali, Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

24a. Observes that the 5% staff

reduction agreement has led to institutions increasingly hiring staff with temporary contracts; regrets that internal competitions are organised with the aim and result of retaining staff that have previously held the same position under previous temporary contracts; considers it more cost and time efficient as well as transparent and fair if well-performing staff with temporary contracts would be switched to permanent contracts without the added financial and administrative burden of organising competitions with pre-determined outcomes at the expense of disappointing outside applicants;

Or. en

Amendment 28
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 25

Motion for a resolution

25. Reiterates its concern regarding the gender imbalances in EEAS staff at the higher levels of administration; takes note of the slight increase of women in managerial posts and emphasises that there is still room for improvement in order to raise the current rate (22,7% of which 14% in senior management, i.e. 6 posts out of a total of 44, and 25% in middle management, i.e. 53 posts out of 215);

Amendment

25. Reiterates its concern regarding the gender imbalances in EEAS staff at the higher levels of administration; takes note of the slight increase of women in managerial posts and emphasises that there is still room for improvement in order to raise the current rate (22,7% of which 14% in senior management, i.e. 6 posts out of a total of 44, and 25% in middle management, i.e. 53 posts out of 215); ***calls on the Member States to encourage more actively women candidates to apply for EEAS posts at the management level;***

Or. en

Amendment 29
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 26

Motion for a resolution

26. *Is aware*, in that context, *of* the creation of the task forces on ‘Career Development’ and ‘Gender and Equal Opportunities’ as important milestones for improving the functioning of the EEAS by defining a more attractive career path, streamlining recruitment and the adequacy of competences as well as gender and equal opportunities;

Amendment

26. *Welcomes*, in that context, the creation of the task forces on ‘Career Development’ and ‘Gender and Equal Opportunities’ as important milestones for improving the functioning of the EEAS by defining a more attractive career path, streamlining recruitment and the adequacy of competences as well as gender and equal opportunities;

Or. en

Amendment 30
Julia Pitera

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 26

Motion for a resolution

26. *Is aware, in that* context, *of* the creation of the task forces on ‘Career Development’ **and** ‘Gender and Equal Opportunities’ as important milestones for improving the functioning of the EEAS *by defining a* more attractive *career path*, *streamlining* recruitment and *the* adequacy of competences as well as gender and equal opportunities;

Amendment

26. *Acknowledges, in this* context, the creation of the task forces on ‘Career Development Gender and Equal Opportunities’, **‘Learning and Development Framework’ (LEAD) as well as the creation of the network ‘Women and the EEAS’ (WEEAS)** as important milestones for improving the functioning of the EEAS. *These initiatives define* more attractive *careers paths*, *streamlines* recruitment and *ensures the appointment of competent individuals* adequacy of competences as well as gender and equal opportunities *from the point of view of gender and ethnic background; calls on Member States to do more to promote qualified female candidates for managerial positions in order to reduce gender imbalances;*

Amendment 31
Dennis de Jong

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 26

Motion for a resolution

26. Is aware, in that context, of the creation of the task forces on ‘Career Development’ and ‘Gender and Equal Opportunities’ as important milestones for improving the functioning of the EEAS by defining a more attractive career path, streamlining recruitment and the adequacy of competences as well as gender and equal opportunities;

Amendment

26. Is aware, in that context, of the creation of the task forces on ‘Career Development’ and ‘Gender and Equal Opportunities’ as important milestones for improving the functioning of the EEAS by defining a more attractive career path, streamlining recruitment and the adequacy of competences as well as gender and equal opportunities; ***welcomes in this regard the High Representative’s intention to ensure that the frequency of rotation of staff does not undermine continuity of specific knowledge and competences available both at headquarters and at the delegations;***

Amendment 32
Julia Pitera, Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 27

Motion for a resolution

27. Regrets that the EEAS Mediation Service received 75 cases of conflict, harassment or poor work environment in 2016 and that 23 cases remained open at year end; calls on the EEAS to ***improve*** its policy in this regard in order to prevent any form of psychological and sexual harassment as well as cases of conflict;

Amendment

27. Regrets that the EEAS Mediation Service received 75 cases of conflict, harassment or poor work environment in 2016 and that 23 cases remained open at year end; ***notes that the decrease in cases that remained open (23 cases in 2016 compared to 36 in 2015) might indicate that solutions are being found more quickly; acknowledges with satisfaction***

*actions undertaken to tackle this phenomenon by developing support services such as the Mediator, confidential counsellor, medical and psychological support, awareness raising and appropriate disciplinary measures; calls on the EEAS to **continue improving** its policy in this regard in order to prevent any form of psychological and sexual harassment as well as cases of conflict, **and to inform the discharge authority on the developments made;***

Or. en

Amendment 33
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 27

Motion for a resolution

27. **Regrets** that the EEAS Mediation Service received 75 cases of conflict, harassment or poor work environment in 2016 and that 23 cases remained open at year end; **calls on** the EEAS to **improve** its policy in this regard in order to prevent any form of psychological and sexual harassment as well as cases of conflict;

Amendment

27. **Notes** that the EEAS Mediation Service received 75 cases of conflict, harassment or poor work environment in 2016 and that 23 cases remained open at year end; **notes that 26 out of 65 cases remained open at the end of 2015 and hence the relative number of open cases at the end of the year decreased in 2016; welcomes the alert system put in place by the EEAS which allows for a systematic follow-up of complaints and encourages** the EEAS to **continue improving** its policy in this regard in order to prevent any form of psychological and sexual harassment as well as cases of conflict;

Or. en

Amendment 34
Benedek Jávor, Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 27 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

27a. Expresses the need to establish an independent disclosure, advice and referral body with sufficient budgetary resources, in order to help whistleblowers use the right channels to disclose their information on possible irregularities affecting the financial interests of the Union, while protecting their confidentiality and offering needed support and advice;

Or. en

Amendment 35
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 28

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

28. **Observes** that the EEAS has so far complied with the inter-institutional agreement to reduce staff by 5% over a period of five years with seventeen posts being removed in 2016, the applied reduction of posts so far being 68, 16 more posts having to be identified for 2017 to reach an overall contribution of 84 posts for the EEAS over the five years period ending in 2017;

28. **Welcomes the fact** that the EEAS has so far complied with the inter-institutional agreement to reduce staff by 5% over a period of five years with seventeen posts being removed in 2016, the applied reduction of posts so far being 68, 16 more posts having to be identified for 2017 to reach an overall contribution of 84 posts for the EEAS over the five years period ending in 2017; **is concerned that, as a result, the remaining resources available in each service don't allow for absorption of the additional workload of the EEAS, in particular in the EU delegations; calls on the budgetary authorities to be mindful of the long-term impact of staff cuts, in particular regarding the institution's ability to**

improve gender and geographical imbalances as well as the need for building on capacity of experienced officials to take over management posts, when planning the future allocation of financial resources for personnel;

Or. en

Amendment 36
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 29

Motion for a resolution

29. *Recalls the* Ombudsman's recommendation concerning the EEAS' practice of offering unpaid traineeships in Union delegations *and underlines the importance of an appropriate allowance to be paid to all EEAS' trainees since the practice of offering unpaid traineeships may lead to a discriminatory situation, endorsing only those who can afford it; takes note of the new traineeships' scheme of the EEAS and asks for a proper and prompt implementation of the new rules in this regard;*

Amendment

29. *Welcomes the measures taken by the EEAS to restructure its traineeship programme, in reaction to the European Ombudsman's recommendations, and that it will offer scholarships for traineeships in EU Delegations; highlights that the stipends will be funded by an additional €1,2 Million, which were granted in the 2018 budget thanks to the support of the European Parliament, and that the new traineeship scheme can be seen as the result of an exemplary cooperation between EEAS, Ombudsman and Parliament; is concerned, however, that the number of offered scholarships is significantly lower than the number of traineeships in EU delegations offered in 2016; calls on the EEAS to find other ways of offering paid traineeship with a view to ensuring equal opportunities, for instance, in cooperation with universities or other public institutions;*

Or. en

Amendment 37
Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 29

Motion for a resolution

29. Recalls the Ombudsman's recommendation concerning the EEAS' practice of offering unpaid traineeships in Union delegations and underlines the importance of an appropriate allowance to be paid to all EEAS' trainees *since the practice of offering unpaid traineeships may lead to a discriminatory situation, endorsing only those who can afford it; takes note of the new traineeships' scheme of the EEAS and asks for a proper and prompt implementation of the new rules in this regard;*

Amendment

29. Recalls the Ombudsman's recommendation concerning the EEAS' practice of offering unpaid traineeships in Union delegations and underlines the importance of an appropriate allowance to be paid to all EEAS' trainees, *in order to provide sufficient reimbursement for the trainees' efforts and not to reinforce discrimination on economical grounds;*

Or. en

Amendment 38
Julia Pitera

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 30

Motion for a resolution

30. Considers it essential that the heads of delegations continue to be regularly trained and reminded, during pre-posting, ad hoc seminars or the annual conference of the ambassadors, of their key role in the consolidation of the EEAS assurance chain and their overall accountability, both for managing administrative expenditure and portfolios of projects requiring an adequate assessment and for weighing various components likely to trigger the issuance of a reservation, in addition to their political duties;

Amendment

30. *Is concerned that shortcomings in procurement procedures in EU delegations (calls for tender, proposals and others) affected in 2015 and 2016 87 projects with a total value of EUR 873.197.910,00;* considers it essential that the heads of delegations continue to be regularly trained and reminded, during pre-posting, ad hoc seminars or the annual conference of the ambassadors, of their key role in the consolidation of the EEAS assurance chain and their overall accountability, both for managing administrative expenditure and portfolios of projects requiring an adequate assessment and for weighing various

components likely to trigger the issuance of a reservation, in addition to their political duties;

Or. en

Amendment 39
Julia Pitera

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 30 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

30a. Underlines that “substantial flaws in the intervention logic, in assumptions or in risk assessment” were the main problems reported in 2015 and 2016 by the heads of delegations affecting 293 projects with a total amount of EUR 2.574.730.715,00; calls on the Commission and the EEAS to undertake an in-depth analysis to improve the management of projects i.e. by properly assessing risks, geographical priorities, the capacity of EU delegations to cope with the workload and keep focusing on the areas of support in order to increase the impact of the aid;

Or. en

Amendment 40
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 31

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

31. Notes that the annual budget for the EEAS’ 185 office buildings and 144 official residences amounts to about EUR 160 million, representing 20% of the EEAS

31. Notes that the annual budget for the EEAS’ 185 office buildings and 144 official residences amounts to about EUR 160 million, representing 20% of the EEAS

budget; acknowledges the efforts undertaken by the EEAS since the last discharge procedure to adapt and correct various components of its building policies; reaffirms, however, that the monitoring and recovery of full costs and the selection procedure have to be deepened; stresses the importance to find a balance between security issues, the environmental policy and access for disabled people and the necessity to provide more savings relating to the buildings; stresses the importance of negotiating contracts in order to offer savings and continuity in the building policy;

budget; acknowledges the efforts undertaken by the EEAS since the last discharge procedure to adapt and correct various components of its building policies; reaffirms, however, that the monitoring and recovery of full costs and the selection procedure have to be deepened; stresses the importance to find a balance between security issues, the environmental policy and access for disabled people and the necessity to provide more savings relating to the buildings; stresses the importance of negotiating contracts in order to offer savings and continuity in the building policy; *suggests that the EEAS carries out a comprehensive analysis of all EU delegations to determine in which countries it would be more cost-effective for the delegations to buy office or residence buildings instead of renting them;*

Or. en

Amendment 41
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 31 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

31a. Welcomes the efforts to increase coordinated support to EU delegations regarding the building management provided by the Headquarters, including inter alia the launch of an updated version of the IT tool for Building Management (IMMOGEST) or the increase of specialised contractual staff in the Headquarters; calls on the EEAS to continue implementing the recommendations of the European Court of Auditors in its Special Report on the EEAS' management of its buildings

around the world; asks the EEAS to carry out a review of the new measures and to keep the Parliament informed about the results^{1a};

^{1a} Court of Auditors: Special report no 07/2016: The European External Action Service's management of its buildings around the world

Or. en

Amendment 42
Arndt Kohn

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

33. Considers that a thorough verification of the rental conditions or purchase options of office buildings and residences have to be ensured in any new building files or transactions to be agreed at headquarters; calls on the EEAS to continue monitoring office space to achieve the benchmarks foreseen; regrets that exceeding the ceiling of 35 m² per person for office buildings resulted in additional costs of EUR 7,4 million;

Amendment

33. Considers that a thorough verification of the rental conditions or purchase options of office buildings and residences have to be ensured in any new building files or transactions to be agreed at headquarters; calls on the EEAS to continue monitoring office space to achieve the benchmarks foreseen; ***welcomes that the average size of delegation buildings was slightly reduced in 2016 but*** regrets that exceeding the ceiling of 35 m² per person for office buildings resulted in additional costs of EUR 7,4 million; ***acknowledges that the delegations are constrained in their ability to decrease the size of buildings when, for instance, they are bound by existing lease contracts or because of a higher need for meeting rooms;***

Or. en

Amendment 43

Julia Pitera

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

33. Considers that a thorough verification of the rental conditions or purchase options of office buildings and residences have to be ensured in any new building files or transactions to be agreed at headquarters; calls on the EEAS to continue monitoring office space to achieve the benchmarks foreseen; regrets that exceeding the ceiling of 35 m² per person for office buildings resulted in additional costs of EUR 7,4 million;

Amendment

33. Considers that a thorough verification of the rental conditions or purchase options of office buildings and residences have to be ensured in any new building files or transactions to be agreed at headquarters; ***acknowledges that since 2016, the EEAS has improved the system for verifying the purchase of real estate by implementing external financial evaluations and technical audits executed by recognised experts and calls on the EEAS to present the results of those actions***; calls on the EEAS to continue monitoring office space to achieve the benchmarks foreseen; regrets that exceeding the ceiling of 35 m² per person for office buildings resulted in additional costs of EUR 7,4 million;

Or. en

Amendment 44
Julia Pitera

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 34

Motion for a resolution

34. Invites also the EEAS to identify best practices in real estate management among Member States that could contribute to the reinforcement of its building policy in a cost-effective manner;

Amendment

34. Invites also the EEAS to identify best practices in real estate management among Member States that could contribute to the reinforcement of its building policy in a cost-effective manner; ***notes that since 2016, the EEAS has contracted a service provider to systematically monitor market information and to calculate return on investment against the existing renting***

options;

Or. en

Amendment 45

Wolf Klinz, Nedzhmi Ali, Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 36 – subparagraph 1 (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Notes that during the discharge procedure, Annual Activity reports are currently submitted to the Court of Auditors in June, submitted by the Court of Auditors to the European Parliament in October and voted in plenary by May; notes that by the time discharge is closed, if not postponed, at least 17 months have passed since the closing of annual accounts; points out that auditing in the private sector follows a much stricter timeline; stresses that the discharge procedure needs to be streamlined and sped up; requests that the EEAS and the Court of Auditors follow the good example set by the private sector and proposes to set a deadline for the submission of Annual Activity reports on 31 March of the following year, a deadline for the submission for the Court of Auditor's reports on the 1st of July and subsequently vote on the discharge during the plenary in November, thereby closing the discharge procedure within the year following the accounting year in question;

Or. en

Amendment 46

Dennis de Jong

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 36 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

36a. *Emphasises the need for exposing disinformation, especially in the Eastern Neighbourhood, the Western Balkans and the South, and notes the work of the East Stratcom Task Force in this respect; is concerned, however, by the activities undertaken by the Task Force in respect of media literacy within the Union itself, as this is dependent on a handful of active volunteers. Calls for a more professional and reticent approach in this regard, based on objective criteria, thus avoiding the impression of arbitrariness;*

Or. en

Amendment 47

Wolf Klinz, Nedzhmi Ali, Martina Dlabajová

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 36 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

36a. *Regrets the decision by the UK to withdraw from the Union; observes that at this point no predictions can be made about the financial, administrative, human and other consequences related to the withdrawal, asks the EEAS and the Court of Auditors to perform impact assessments and inform the European Parliament on the results by the end of the year 2018;*

Or. en