



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgetary Control

2013/2195(DEC)

27.2.2014

AMENDMENTS

1 - 423

Draft report
Markus Pieper
(PE521.558v03-00)

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the
European Union for the financial year 2012, Section III – Commission and
executive agencies
(COM(2013)0570 – C7-0273/2013 – 2013/2195(DEC))

AM_Com_NonLegReport

Amendment 1

Ryszard Czarnecki, Philip Bradbourn, Marta Andreasen, Derk Jan Eppink

Proposal for a decision 1

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Commission discharge/Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Or. en

Amendment 2

Lorenzo Fontana

Proposal for a decision 1

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Commission discharge/Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Or. it

Amendment 3

Derek Vaughan

Proposal for a decision 1

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Commission

Amendment

1. Grants the Commission discharge in

discharge/*Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge* in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Rina Ronja Kari

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. *Grants the Commission discharge*/Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Christofer Fjellner

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. *Grants the Commission discharge*/Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Commission discharge/*Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge* in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Amendment

1. Grants the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Or. es

Amendment 7
Bart Staes

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 3

Proposal for a decision

3. Instructs its President to forward this decision, and the resolution forming an integral part of it, to the Council, the Commission, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Court of Auditors and the European Investment Bank, and to arrange for their publication in the Official Journal of the European Union (L series).

Amendment

3. Instructs its President to forward this decision, and the resolution forming an integral part of it, to the *Member States, the Ministers of Finance and Agriculture of the Member-States, the national Courts of Auditors*, the Council, the Commission, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Court of Auditors and the European Investment Bank, and to arrange for their publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (L series).

Or. en

Amendment 8
Ryszard Czarnecki, Philip Bradbourn, Marta Andreasen, Derk Jan Eppink

Proposal for a decision 2
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012 / Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Derek Vaughan

Proposal for a decision 2
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012 / ***Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;***

Amendment

1. Grants the Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012

Or. en

Amendment 10
Ryszard Czarnecki

Proposal for a decision 3
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (formerly the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012 / Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;

Or. en

**Amendment 11
Derek Vaughan**

**Proposal for a decision 3
Paragraph 1**

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (formerly the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012 / ***Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;***

Amendment

1. Grants the Director of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (formerly the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012

Or. en

**Amendment 12
Ryszard Czarnecki**

Proposal for a decision 4
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Director of the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency (formerly the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012*** / Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency (formerly the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency (formerly the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Derek Vaughan

Proposal for a decision 4
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency (formerly the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012 / ***Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency (formerly the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;***

Amendment

1. Grants the Director of the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency (formerly the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012

Or. en

Amendment 14

Ryszard Czarnecki, Philip Bradbourn, Marta Andreasen, Derk Jan Eppink

Proposal for a decision 5

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012 / Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;

Or. en

Amendment 15

Derek Vaughan

Proposal for a decision 5

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012 / ***Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;***

Amendment

1. Grants the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012

Or. en

Amendment 16

Ryszard Czarnecki, Philip Bradbourn, Marta Andreasen, Derk Jan Eppink

Proposal for a decision 6
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012 /
Postpones its Decision on granting the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;

Amendment

1. Postpones its Decision on granting the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Derek Vaughan

Proposal for a decision 6
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012 / ***Postpones its Decision on granting the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;***

Amendment

1. Grants the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012

Or. en

Amendment 18
Ryszard Czarnecki, Philip Bradbourn, Marta Andreasen, Derk Jan Eppink

Proposal for a decision 7
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (formerly the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012 /

Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;

Or. en

**Amendment 19
Derek Vaughan**

**Proposal for a decision 7
Paragraph 1**

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Director of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (formerly the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012 / ***Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012;***

Amendment

1. Grants the Director of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (formerly the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012

Or. en

**Amendment 20
Ryszard Czarnecki, Philip Bradbourn, Marta Andreasen, Derk Jan Eppink**

Proposal for a decision 8
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Approves*** the closure of the accounts of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Amendment

1. ***Postpones its decision on*** the closure of the accounts of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Citation 9

Motion for a resolution

– having regard to the Court of Auditors' Annual Report on the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2012, together with the institutions' replies⁸⁰ (Annual Report), and to the Court of Auditors' special reports,

Amendment

– having regard to the Court of Auditors' Annual Report on the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2012, together with the institutions' replies⁸⁰ (Annual Report), and to the Court of Auditors' special reports, ***in particular Special Report No 24/2012 of the Court of Auditors entitled "The European Union Solidarity Fund's response to the 2009 Abruzzi earthquake: The relevance and cost of operations" and its relevant working document;***

⁸⁰ OJ C 331, 14.11.2013, p. 1.

⁸⁰ OJ C 331, 14.11.2013, p. 1.

Or. en

Amendment 22
Elena B sescu

Motion for a resolution
Citation 18 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

- having regard to the previous discharge reports of the Parliament;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Citation 18 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

- having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006^{1a};

^{1a} OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

Or. en

Amendment 24
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Recital A

Motion for a resolution

A. whereas, for the 19th time in succession, the Court of Auditors was unable to grant a positive statement of assurance regarding the legality and regularity of the payments;

Amendment

A. whereas, for the 19th time in succession, the Court of Auditors was unable to grant a positive statement of assurance regarding the legality and regularity of the payments ***underlying the accounts***;

Or. fr

Amendment 25
Esther de Lange

Motion for a resolution
Recital A a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Aa. Whereas the continued absence of a positive statement of assurance risks eroding the legitimacy of Union spending and policies;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Recital G

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

G. whereas the Commission's management should be presented fairly with a view to reinforcing public trust in the Institutions;

G. whereas the Commission's management should be presented fairly, ***along with that of the Member States responsible under shared management of funds***, with a view to reinforcing public trust in the Institutions;

Or. en

Amendment 27
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Agricultural and regional policy, subject to political approval

deleted

Or. es

Amendment 28
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Agricultural and regional policy, subject to political approval

Priority troubleshooting measures in agricultural and regional policy

Or. de

Amendment 29
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Agricultural and regional policy, ***subject to political reservation***

Agricultural and regional policy, ***grounds for binding commitments from the (future) Commission and Member States;***

Or. en

Amendment 30

Jan Mulder, Michael Theurer, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Chris Davies

Motion for a resolution

Heading 1

Motion for a resolution

Agricultural and regional policy, *subject to political reservation*

Amendment

Reservations on agricultural and regional policy

Or. en

Amendment 31

Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution

Heading 1

Motion for a resolution

Agricultural and regional policy, *subject to political approval*

Amendment

Agricultural and regional policy -
management shortcomings on the part of the Commission and Member States

Or. de

Amendment 32

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Heading 1

Motion for a resolution

Agricultural and regional policy, *subject to political reservation*

Amendment

Evolution in 2012 and follow-up of DGs' reservations in agricultural and regional policy

Or. en

Amendment 33
Jan Olbrycht

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1

Motion for a resolution

Agricultural and regional policy, *subject to political reservation*

Amendment

Agricultural and regional policy

Or. en

Amendment 34
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1

Motion for a resolution

Agricultural and regional policy, *subject to political reservation*

Amendment

Agricultural and regional policy

Or. en

Amendment 35
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1

Motion for a resolution

Agricultural and regional policy, *subject to political reservation*

Amendment

Agricultural and regional policy

Or. fr

Amendment 36
Jan Mulder, Michael Theurer, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Chris Davies

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1 - Subheading 1

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

*Letter of 5 November 2013 from the
rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs to the
President of the Commission*

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 37
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1- Subheading 1

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Letter of 5 November 2013 from the
rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs to the
President of the Commission

Takes note of the letter of 5 November
2013 from the rapporteur and shadow
rapporteurs to the President of the
Commission, *in which:*

Or. es

Amendment 38
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1. Calls on the *Commission* to assume
greater and more substantial responsibility
for safeguarding the EU budget against
financial losses;

1. Calls on the *Member States, in the
context of shared management*, to assume
greater and more substantial responsibility
for safeguarding the EU budget against
financial losses;

Or. fr

Amendment 39
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Calls on the Commission to assume greater and more substantial responsibility for safeguarding the EU budget against financial losses;

Amendment

1. Calls on the Commission ***in view of repeated error concentration in a few Member States***, to assume greater and more substantial responsibility for safeguarding the EU budget against financial losses;

Or. de

Amendment 40
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2a. calls, therefore, on the Commission to apply Article 32(5) of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom No 966/2012 more strictly in case of a persistently high level of error, and consequently to identify the weaknesses in the control systems and take or propose appropriate action in terms of the possible simplification, the further strengthening of control systems and the redesign of programmes or delivery systems;

Or. en

Amendment 41
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2b. Is of the view that the risk of error of Union policy areas, in particular in the area of shared management, is higher if the related policies are particularly complex and Member States are reluctant to implement adequate control and reporting systems; urges all relevant actors involved in Union decision-making to simplify further, notably by drafting eligibility rules that are simple and verifiable, cutting red tape and devising appropriate and effective controls;

Or. en

Amendment 42
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3. Notes that, according to the Communication from the Commission on Protection of the European Union budget¹, eight Member States are responsible for 90% of the financial corrections in the fields under shared management;

deleted

¹ COM(2013) 682, 26 September 2013.

Or. es

Amendment 43
Jan Mulder, Michael Theurer, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Chris Davies

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Notes that, according to the Communication from the Commission on Protection of the European Union budget⁸⁶, eight Member States are responsible for 90% of the financial corrections in the fields under shared management;

⁸⁶ COM(2013) 682, 26 September 2013.

Amendment

3. Notes that, according to the Communication from the Commission on Protection of the European Union budget⁸⁶, eight Member States are responsible for 90 % of the financial corrections in the fields under shared management; ***urges the Commission therefore to direct its particular attention to those countries;***

⁸⁶ COM(2013) 682, 26 September 2013.

Or. en

Amendment 44
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Notes that, ***according to the Communication from the Commission on Protection of the European Union budget⁸⁶, eight*** Member States are responsible for ***90%*** of the financial corrections in the fields under shared management;

⁸⁶ ***COM(2013) 682, 26 September 2013.***

Amendment

3. Notes that ***only a limited number of*** Member States are responsible for ***80 %*** of the financial corrections in the fields under shared management;

Or. en

Amendment 45
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. **Recalls** that in the 2012 financial year the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs for the discharge to the Commission called for more stringent financial corrections to be imposed on those Member States whose **audit** systems display persistent and systematic weaknesses;

Amendment

4. **Notes** that in the 2012 financial year the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs for the discharge to the Commission called for more stringent financial corrections to be imposed on those Member States whose **management and monitoring** systems display persistent and systematic weaknesses;

Or. es

Amendment 46
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 – point a

Motion for a resolution

(a) step up supervision and control in those Member States with the **most dangerous** risk profile **for the implementation** of EU programmes,

Amendment

(a) step up supervision and control in those Member States with the **biggest** risk profile **in terms of management and control** of Union programmes,

Or. en

Amendment 47
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 – point b

Motion for a resolution

(b) suspend payments and halt programmes, if legally possible, in cases where serious shortcomings have occurred,

Amendment

(b) **further** suspend payments and halt programmes, if legally possible, in cases where serious shortcomings have occurred,

Or. de

Amendment 48
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 – point b

Motion for a resolution

(b) *suspend payments and halt programmes, if legally possible*, in cases where serious shortcomings have occurred,

Amendment

(b) *continue to suspend payments* in cases where serious shortcomings have occurred,

Or. en

Amendment 49
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 – point b

Motion for a resolution

(b) suspend payments and halt programmes, if legally possible, in cases where serious shortcomings have occurred,

Amendment

(b) *continue to* suspend payments and halt programmes, if legally possible, in cases where serious shortcomings have occurred,

Or. fr

Amendment 50
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 – point c

Motion for a resolution

(c) continue to supply *meaningful statistics*, which facilitate a thorough analysis of Member States;

Amendment

(c) continue to supply *necessary financial data*, which facilitates a thorough analysis of Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 51
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5a. Notes that Commissioner Semeta in the discussions in the Committee on Budgetary Control made the following promises and proposals;

- The DGs concerned will build up a new audit strategy based on the weaknesses found in in some Member States and regions year after year, which will trigger more preventive and corrective measures

- Increase the random sampling based audits, introducing the necessary delegated acts in cohesion policies on net financial corrections which will be based on objective and transparent criteria applied without discretion,

- Financial corrections will be detailed in the next annual report on the protection of the Union budget,

- Annual reports from the GDs will include information on risk analyses and the impact of Member-States audit reports,

- Conformity procedures will be shortened to two years,

- For France and Portugal, comprehensive action plans will be established in the field of agriculture in among other the updating of their LPIS systems,

- The introduction of a template and recommendations for national management declarations,

- Making better use of RAL and limiting the period covered by pre- financing;

Or. en

Amendment 52
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5b. Calls on the college to endorse the proposals from the Commissioner;

Or. en

Amendment 53
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5c. Strongly suggests that the President of Parliament will send all these commitments to the candidates for the post of next president of the Commission asking them to endorse them;

Or. en

Amendment 54
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5a. Welcomes the Commission communication on the protection of the EU budget, which for the first time gives an overview of the situation regarding financial adjustments in the individual

Member States, while calling for a more detailed annual assessment of the situation in each of them, indicating how much money could actually be channelled back into the EU budget;

Or. de

Amendment 55
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6a. Welcomes the new rules for the 2014-2020 programming period, decided through the co-decision procedure, including measures such as the designations of audit and certifying authorities, accreditations of audit authorities, audit examination and acceptance of accounts, financial corrections and net financial corrections, proportional control, ex-ante conditionalities that aim to further contribute to the reduction of the level of error; supports in this respect the growing results orientation and the thematic concentration of cohesion policy that should ensure high added-value of the co-financed operations; welcomes also the definition of serious deficiency and the anticipated increased level of corrections for repeated deficiencies;

Or. en

Amendment 56
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

PE529.709v01-00

26/211

AM\1018851EN.doc

Motion for a resolution

7. Notes that, in the new programming period 2014-2020, net financial corrections can be imposed in the event of serious shortcomings in the implementation of cohesion policy;

Amendment

7. Notes that, in the new programming period 2014-2020, net financial corrections can ***and must*** be imposed in the event of serious shortcomings in the implementation of cohesion policy ***and will continue to be the standard in the area of agriculture***;

Or. en

Amendment 57

Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. ***Notes*** that, in the new programming period 2014-2020, net financial corrections can be imposed in the event of serious shortcomings in the implementation of cohesion policy;

Amendment

7. ***Welcomes the fact*** that, in the new programming period 2014-2020, net financial corrections can be imposed in the event of serious shortcomings in the implementation of cohesion policy;

Or. de

Amendment 58

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Notes that, in the new programming period 2014-2020, net financial corrections can be imposed in the event of serious ***shortcomings*** in the implementation of cohesion policy;

Amendment

7. Notes that, in the new programming period 2014-2020, net financial corrections can be imposed in the event of serious ***deficiencies*** in the implementation of cohesion policy ***and will remain the standard in the area of agriculture***;

Amendment 59
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Notes that, ***in the new programming period 2014-2020***, net financial corrections ***can*** be imposed in the event of serious shortcomings in the implementation of cohesion policy;

Amendment

7. Notes that net financial corrections ***will*** be imposed in the event of serious shortcomings in the implementation of cohesion policy;

Or. fr

Amendment 60
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7a. Considers swift and correct applied net financial corrections an effective tool for protecting the Union budget and is of the view that recoveries and financial corrections have to be taken into account in any comprehensive assessment of the overall system of internal control; therefore asks the Court of Auditors to come to an agreement with the Commission on how to incorporate the impact of these corrective measures on the protection of the Union budget;

Or. en

Amendment 61
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1 - Subheading 3 - Sub-subheading 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Or. en

Amendment 62
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

8. Stresses that the application of net financial corrections in the field of agriculture *does not yet constitute the anticipated progress, as (a) the Commission's existing internal rules already stipulate that the duration of conformity procedures must not exceed two years and (b) the so-called 'new' criteria and methodology for applying financial corrections mentioned in Annex I to the Communication refer explicitly to guidelines that will be based on the existing ones* adopted by the Commission as long ago as 23 December 1997;

8. Notes that all financial corrections in the field of agriculture *are net corrections; considers it necessary, however, for improvements to be made in the criteria and methods of application of net financial corrections beyond the* guidelines adopted by the Commission on 23 December 1997;

Or. en

Amendment 63
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. ***Stresses that the application of net financial corrections in the field of agriculture does not yet constitute the anticipated progress, as (a) the Commission's existing internal rules already stipulate that the duration of conformity procedures must not exceed two years and (b) the so-called 'new' criteria and methodology for applying financial corrections mentioned in Annex I to the Communication refer explicitly to guidelines that will be based on the existing ones adopted by the Commission as long ago as 23 December 1997;***

Amendment

8. ***Urges the Commission to continue to focus on the application of net financial corrections as laid down in the internal rules relating to agriculture and in the new rules for cohesion policy for the 2014-2020 period;***

Or. es

Amendment 64
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. Stresses that the application of net financial corrections in the field of agriculture does not yet constitute the anticipated progress, as (a) the Commission's existing internal rules already stipulate that the duration of conformity procedures must not exceed two years ***and*** (b) the so-called 'new' criteria and methodology for applying financial corrections mentioned in Annex I to the Communication refer explicitly to guidelines that will be based on the existing ones adopted by the Commission as long ago as 23 December 1997;

Amendment

8. Stresses that the application of net financial corrections in the field of agriculture does not yet constitute the anticipated progress, as (a) the Commission's existing internal rules already stipulate that the duration of conformity procedures must not exceed two years, (b) the so-called 'new' criteria and methodology for applying financial corrections mentioned in Annex I to the Communication refer explicitly to guidelines that will be based on the existing ones adopted by the Commission as long ago as 23 December 1997Notes that, in the new programming period 2014-2020, net financial corrections can be imposed in the event of serious shortcomings in the implementation of

cohesion, *and (c) Member States fail to provide, quickly, simply and effectively, proof that the net financial correction envisaged by the Commission is not justified, the result being frequent delays in dealing with cases involving corrections;*

Or. fr

Amendment 65
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. Stresses that the application of net financial corrections in the field of agriculture does not yet constitute the anticipated progress, as (a) the **Commission's** existing internal **rules** already stipulate that the duration of conformity procedures must not exceed two years and (b) the so-called '**new**' criteria and methodology for **applying** financial corrections mentioned in Annex I to the Communication refer explicitly to guidelines that will be based on the existing ones adopted by the Commission as long ago as 23 December 1997;

Amendment

8. Stresses that the application of net financial corrections in the field of agriculture does not yet constitute the anticipated progress, as (a) the **Commission's** existing internal **indicative benchmarks** already stipulate that the duration of conformity procedures must not exceed two years and (b) the so-called '**new**' criteria and methodology for **determining the proportionality of the** financial corrections **to be applied, as** mentioned in Annex I to the Communication refer explicitly to guidelines that will be based on the existing ones adopted by the Commission as long ago as 23 December 1997; **is surprised that for almost 20 years the Commission has not been able to bring the duration of the clearance procedures below the self-inflicted benchmarks; considers it necessary, however, for the conformity procedure to have its full effect to accelerate the procedure and to further improve the criteria and methods for the application of financial corrections beyond the new guidelines foreseen;**

Amendment 66
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1 - Subheading 3 - Sub-subheading 1 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Cohesion Policy

Amendment 67
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9. Notes that it depends on many factors whether the new instrument will lead to more net corrections and hence to a lower error rate in cohesion policy; considers it problematic, moreover, that there are ways in which Member States can avoid net financial corrections (no limit on the replacement of projects until 15 February of year 'n+1', no time limit on notification by Member States of their own past errors, protracted objection procedures);

deleted

Amendment 68
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Notes that it depends on many factors whether the new instrument will lead to more net corrections and hence to a lower error rate in cohesion policy; ***considers it problematic, moreover, that there are ways in which Member States can avoid net financial corrections (no limit on the replacement of projects until 15 February of year 'n+1', no time limit on notification by Member States of their own past errors, protracted objection procedures)***;

Amendment

9. Notes that it depends on many factors whether the new instrument will lead to more net corrections and hence to a lower error rate in cohesion policy;

Or. en

Amendment 69
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9a. Asks the Commission to submit without delay a proposal on limiting if not banning replacement projects all together;

Or. en

Amendment 70
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10. Considers that the effectiveness of this instrument also cannot yet be assessed because its application depends on the drafting and adoption of a delegated act;

10. Considers that the effectiveness of this instrument ***for cohesion policy*** cannot yet be assessed because its application depends on the drafting and adoption of a delegated

act;

Or. de

Amendment 71
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

10. Considers that the effectiveness of this instrument also cannot yet be assessed because its application depends on the *drafting and adoption of* a delegated act;

Amendment

10. Considers that the effectiveness of this instrument also cannot yet be assessed because its application depends on the *detail adopted in* a delegated act *expected in April 2014*;

Or. en

Amendment 72
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

10. Considers that the effectiveness of this instrument *also cannot yet be assessed because its application* depends on the drafting and adoption of a delegated act;

Amendment

10. Considers that the effectiveness of this instrument *in the area of Cohesion policy also* depends on the drafting and adoption of a delegated act;

Or. en

Amendment 73
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11. Notes furthermore that the audit reports of the Member States, on which the Commission's risk analysis is based, are themselves often faulty and therefore unreliable; notes furthermore that the Court of Auditors only recently confirmed that '(...) the European Commission cannot unquestioningly rely on the results of audits performed by the Member States in relation to EU regional funding appropriations'²;

deleted

² Press release ECA/13/47 of the Court of Auditors on Special Report 16/2013 on the 'single audit', 18 December 2013.

Or. es

**Amendment 74
Derek Vaughan**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11. Notes furthermore that **the** audit reports of the Member States, **on which** the Commission's risk analysis **is based**, are themselves often faulty and therefore unreliable; notes furthermore that the Court of Auditors only recently confirmed that '(...) the European Commission cannot unquestioningly rely on the results of audits performed by the Member States in relation to EU regional funding appropriations'⁸⁸;

11. Notes furthermore that **some** audit reports of the Member States, **which constitute one of the elements feeding into** the Commission's risk analysis, are themselves often faulty and therefore unreliable; notes furthermore that the Court of Auditors only recently confirmed that '(...) the European Commission cannot unquestioningly rely on the results of audits performed by the Member States in relation to EU regional funding appropriations'⁸⁸;

⁸⁸ Press release ECA/13/47 of the Court of Auditors on Special Report 16/2013 on the

⁸⁸ Press release ECA/13/47 of the Court of Auditors on Special Report 16/2013 on the

'single audit', 18 December 2013.

'single audit', 18 December 2013.

Or. en

Amendment 75

Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

11. Notes furthermore that the audit reports of the Member States, on which the Commission's *risk analysis* is based, are themselves often faulty *and* therefore unreliable; notes furthermore that the Court of Auditors only recently confirmed that '(...) the European Commission cannot unquestioningly rely on the results of audits performed by the Member States in relation to EU regional funding appropriations'⁸⁸;

⁸⁸ Press release ECA/13/47 of the Court of Auditors on Special Report 16/2013 on the 'single audit', 18 December 2013.

Amendment

11. Notes furthermore that the audit reports of the Member States, on which the Commission's *declaration of assurance* is based, are themselves often faulty, *underestimate the level of risk and error and are* therefore *partially* unreliable^{87a}; notes furthermore that the Court of Auditors only recently confirmed that '(...) the European Commission cannot unquestioningly rely on the results of audits performed by the Member States in relation to EU regional funding appropriations'⁸⁸;

^{87a} *Commission Staff Working Document – Summary of Executive Summaries Internal Audit Engagements finalised by the IAS in 2012 (SWD(2013)0314 final), p. 22 ff as well as Annual Activity Report of the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, p. 6.;*

⁸⁸ Press release ECA/13/47 of the Court of Auditors on Special Report 16/2013 on the 'single audit', 18 December 2013.

Or. en

Amendment 76

Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

11. Notes furthermore that the audit reports of the Member States, on which the **Commission's** risk analysis is based, are **themselves** often **faulty and therefore** unreliable; notes furthermore that the Court of Auditors only recently confirmed that '(...) the European Commission cannot unquestioningly rely on the results of audits performed by the Member States in relation to EU regional funding appropriations'⁸⁸ ;

⁸⁸ Press release ECA/13/47 of the Court of Auditors on Special Report 16/2013 on the 'single audit', 18 December 2013.

Amendment

11. Notes furthermore that the audit reports of the Member States, on which the **Commission's** risk analysis is based, are often unreliable; notes furthermore that the Court of Auditors only recently confirmed that '(...) the European Commission cannot unquestioningly rely on the results of audits performed by the Member States in relation to EU regional funding appropriations'⁸⁸ ;

⁸⁸ Press release ECA/13/47 of the Court of Auditors on Special Report 16/2013 on the 'single audit', 18 December 2013.

Or. en

Amendment 77
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

11. Notes furthermore that the audit reports of the Member States, **on which the Commission's risk analysis is based**, are themselves often faulty and therefore unreliable; notes furthermore that the Court of Auditors only recently confirmed that '(...) the European Commission cannot unquestioningly rely on the results of audits performed by the Member States in relation to EU regional funding appropriations'²;

² Press release ECA/13/47 of the Court of

Amendment

11. Notes furthermore that the audit reports of the Member States are themselves often faulty and therefore unreliable; notes furthermore that the Court of Auditors only recently confirmed that '(...) the European Commission cannot unquestioningly rely on the results of audits performed by the Member States in relation to EU regional funding appropriations'²;

² Press release ECA/13/47 of the Court of

Auditors on Special Report 16/2013 on the
'single audit', 18 December 2013.

Auditors on Special Report 16/2013 on the
'single audit', 18 December 2013.

Or. fr

Amendment 78

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

Heading 1 - Subheading 4

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Grounds for the political reservation.

deleted

Or. de

Amendment 79

Jan Mulder, Michael Theurer, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy and Chris Davies

Motion for a resolution

Heading 1 - Subheading 4

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Grounds for the political reservation.

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 80

Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution

Heading 1 - Subheading 4

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Grounds for the political reservation. . .

deleted

Or. fr

Amendment 81
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1 - Subheading 4

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Grounds for the political reservation. . . *deleted*

Or. es

Amendment 82
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1 - Subheading 4

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Grounds for the political reservation. *deleted*

Or. en

Amendment 83
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1 - Subheading 4

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Grounds for the political reservation. *Specific concerns in 2012, including
Annual Activity Report reservations*

Or. en

Amendment 84
Paul Rübig

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1 - Subheading 4

Motion for a resolution

Grounds for *the political reservation*.

Amendment

Grounds for *demanding formal commitments by the Commission and Member States*.

Or. de

Amendment 85

Paul Rübig

Motion for a resolution

Heading 1 - Subheading 4

Motion for a resolution

Grounds for *the political reservation*.

Amendment

Grounds for *priority measures*.

Or. de

Amendment 86

Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Heading 1 - Subheading 4

Motion for a resolution

Grounds for *the political reservation*.

Amendment

Grounds for *demanding formal commitments by the Commission and Member States*.

Or. de

Amendment 87

Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution

Heading 1 - Subheading 4

Motion for a resolution

Grounds for the political reservation.

Amendment

Reasons for special political reservations.

Or. en

Amendment 88

Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 12

Motion for a resolution

12. Recalls that, *when it took office in 2005, the Barroso Commission made it one of its objectives to enhance accountability ‘by striving for a positive declaration of assurance from the European Court of Auditors’*⁸⁹ ;

⁸⁹ COM(2005) 12, p.6.

Amendment

12. Recalls that *the Commission has engaged itself to strive towards achieving a positive declaration of assurance from the European Court of Auditors; at the same time reminds Member States of their responsibility in soundly managing, controlling and supervising Union funds in areas under shared management;*

Or. en

Amendment 89

Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 12 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

12a. Recalls that good cooperation is vital, especially in the area of shared management; therefore, urges all relevant actors involved in Union decision making to increase efficiency, notably by drafting eligibility rules that are simple and verifiable, by establishing clear rules and

*procedures for accessing the Union funds,
by cutting red tape and by devising
appropriate and cost effective controls;*

Or. en

Amendment 90

Ryszard Czarnecki, Marta Andreasen, Philip Bradbourn, Derk Jan Eppink

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

13. *Observes* that in the 2012 financial year the error rate rose for the third time in succession;

Amendment

13. *Expresses concern* that in the 2012 financial year the error rate rose for the third time in succession;

Or. en

Amendment 91

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

13. Observes that in the 2012 financial year the error rate rose for the third time in succession;

Amendment

13. Observes that in the 2012 financial year the error rate rose for the third time in succession *even taking into account the new methodology of the Courts of Auditors;*

Or. en

Amendment 92

Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

13. ***Observes*** that in the 2012 financial year the error rate rose for the third time in succession;

Amendment

13. ***Regrets*** that in the 2012 financial year the error rate rose for the third time in succession, ***partly owing to a change in the methodology used***;

Or. es

Amendment 93
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 13 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

13a. Considers that the time lapsed since publication of the 2012 annual activity reports of the Commission Directorates-General should have allowed substantial progress to have been made in the fields covered by the reservations they contain; insists on being informed about such progress to date, and plans to resolve any outstanding areas of concern still extant and therefore highlights the following AAR reservations on which it seeks this information:

Agriculture

- Reservation concerning serious deficiencies in direct payments in Portugal, Bulgaria and France;

- Reservation concerning rural development expenditure;

- Reservation concerning deficiencies in the supervision and control of organic production.

Regional

- Reservation concerning ERDF/Cohesion Fund/ IPA management and control systems for the 2007-2013

programming period in 16 Member States and 12 European Territorial Cooperation programmes (AT BE CZ DE EE ES FR GR HU IE IT PL RO SW SI SK UK) (Ref table page 88).

- Reservation concerning ERDF/ Cohesion fund management and control systems for the 2000-2006 programming period in 5 Member States (Ref table page 88);

Or. en

Amendment 94
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14

Motion for a resolution

14. Is not prepared to accept the situation that for years the majority of the errors identified by the Court ought to be have been identified by the Member States themselves; considers, therefore, that in some Member States the audit results and procedures constitute an inadequate basis for assessments and financial corrections by the Commission;

Amendment

14. Is not prepared to accept the situation that for years the majority of the errors identified by the Court ought to be have been identified by the Member States themselves; considers, therefore, that in some Member States the ***control statistics***, audit results and procedures constitute an inadequate basis for assessments and financial corrections by the Commission;

Or. en

Amendment 95
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14

Motion for a resolution

14. ***Is not prepared to accept the situation*** that ***for years*** the majority of the errors identified by the Court ought to be have been identified by the Member States

Amendment

14. ***Emphasises*** that the majority of the errors identified by the Court ought to be have been identified by the Member States themselves; considers, therefore, that in

themselves; considers, therefore, that in some Member States the audit results and procedures constitute an inadequate basis for assessments and financial corrections by the Commission;

some Member States the audit results and procedures constitute an inadequate basis for assessments and financial corrections by the Commission;

Or. es

Amendment 96

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 14

Motion for a resolution

14. *Is not prepared to accept the situation* that for years the majority of the errors identified by the Court ought to be have been identified by the Member States themselves; considers, therefore, that in some Member States the audit results and procedures constitute an inadequate basis for assessments and financial corrections by the Commission;

Amendment

14. *Remains very concerned* that for years the majority of the errors identified by the Court ought to be have been identified by the Member States themselves; considers, therefore, that in some Member States the audit results and procedures constitute an inadequate basis for assessments and financial corrections by the Commission, ***and expects significant improvements in this regard in the funding period 2014-2020;***

Or. en

Amendment 97

Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

14a. Calls, therefore, pursuant to Article 287(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, for cooperation between national audit institutions and the Court of Auditors as regards shared-management controls to be stepped up;

Amendment

Or. fr

Amendment 98

Jan Mulder, Michael Theurer, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Chris Davies

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14a. Acknowledges, as the Commission over and over indicates, that around 80% of the funds are being spend under shared management; nevertheless recalls that TFUE article 317 stipulates that the Commission bears the ultimate responsibility for the implementation of the budget;

Or. en

Amendment 99

Paul Rübig

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14a. Regards mandatory reporting and improvement as an effective and appropriate budget discharge instrument designed to have tangible effects on error rates;

Or. de

Amendment 100

Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 14 a (new)

PE529.709v01-00

46/211

AM\1018851EN.doc

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14a. underlines that Parliament only delivers political reservation for areas for which it has not received adequate assurance from the Commission and/or the Court of Auditors to refute its concerns, deems it a priority that the Commission proves to Parliament in the case of a political reservation in which way convincing remedial measures has been taken to overcome the latter's concerns;

Or. en

Amendment 101
Ingeborg Gräble

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14a. Regards political reservations as a new and effective budgetary control instrument, being a commitment by Parliament to monitor closely the measures taken by the Commission and Member States to eliminate these problems, so as to justify in the eyes of the public in particular the decision to grant discharge;

Or. de

Amendment 102
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1 - Subheading 5

Motion for a resolution
in the field of agriculture

Amendment
deleted

Or. de

Amendment 103
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

15. Observes that the error rate in the field of rural development *is 7.9 %; is concerned that the Commission does not anticipate any improvement in the situation before 2014, although an action plan was adopted in 2012;*

Amendment

15. Observes that the error rate in the field of rural development, *environment, fisheries and health is 7.9 %; regrets that due to the delay between payment claims, payments, controls and reported statistics, no significant impact on the error rate can be expected before 2014 at the earliest;*

Or. en

Amendment 104
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

15. Observes that the error rate in the field of rural development is 7.9 %; *is concerned that the Commission does not anticipate any improvement in the situation before 2014, although an action plan was adopted in 2012;*

Amendment

15. Observes that the error rate in the field of rural development is 7.9 %; *expresses concern at the quality of audits in some Member States and that the comprehensive action plan drawn up by the Commission will be unable to make any significant impact on the residual error rate until at least the end of 2013;*

Or. es

Amendment 105
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

15. Observes that the error rate in the field of rural development is 7.9 %; **is concerned** that the Commission **does not anticipate any** improvement in the situation **before** 2014, **although an** action plan was adopted in 2012;

Amendment

15. Observes that the error rate in the field of rural development is 7,9 %; **notes** that the Commission **expects an** improvement in the situation **from** 2014, **as the results of the** action plan **which** was adopted in 2012 **could materialise by then**;

Or. en

Amendment 106
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

15a. Notes that the Internal Audit Service of the Commission (IAS) found that the audit strategy of DG AGRI was not sufficiently formalised, namely that there were gaps in the definition of the audit universe, the setting up of quantitative and measurable objectives (e.g. audit coverage), and the related capacity analysis; is worried about the IAS's finding that audit plans were not sufficiently supported by risk assessments and that there was a significant audit backlog (13 % of engagements of 2007-2010 still open), despite DG AGRI's efforts to reduce it;

Or. en

Amendment 107
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16

Motion for a resolution

16. Considers that the way in which the Commission addresses the deficiencies detected in the LPIS systems (excessively long conformity procedures leading to the flat-rate corrections with delayed action plans and reservations in the annual activity reports) creates a financial risk to the budget of the European Union;

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 108
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16

Motion for a resolution

16. Considers that the way in which the Commission addresses the deficiencies detected in the LPIS systems (excessively long conformity procedures leading to the flat-rate corrections with delayed action plans and reservations in the annual activity reports) ***creates*** a financial risk to the budget of the European Union;

Amendment

16. notes that the Commission reports the errors in the LPIS in France and Portugal since 2006; notes that before 2010 no own initiative action plan had been initiated in these countries; criticises the fact that "action plans" instigated by the Commission have only started in 2010 for Portugal and as late as in 2013 for France; considers that the way in which the Commission addresses the deficiencies detected in the LPIS systems (excessively long conformity procedures leading to the flat-rate corrections with delayed action plans and reservations in the annual activity reports) **could create** a financial risk to the budget of the European Union;

Or. en

Amendment 109
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16

Motion for a resolution

16. Considers that the way in which the Commission addresses ***the deficiencies detected in*** the LPIS systems (***excessively long*** conformity procedures ***leading to the flat-rate corrections with delayed*** action plans and reservations in the annual activity reports) ***creates a financial risk to the budget of the European Union;***

Amendment

16. Considers that, ***although*** the way in which the Commission addresses the LPIS systems ***in order to calculate the financial corrections gives rise to lengthy*** conformity procedures, ***delays in the adoption of*** action plans and reservations in the annual activity reports, ***it makes for real financial corrections, as called for by Parliament and the Court of Auditors, rather than flat-rate corrections which are open to challenge by the Member States and recipients; supports the Commission in its approach, and calls for the systems to be improved in any way possible, including the provision of training to staff, in order to enhance their effectiveness and rapidity;***

Or. fr

Amendment 110
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

16a. Would like to be informed on the total amount of the Union's subsidies, grants and other financial instruments that were spent in setting up and improving the LPIS system since the decision was taken, if possible divided by Member-State;

Amendment

Amendment 111
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. Points out in particular that, *despite decisions on flat-rate corrections*, the errors detected in 2006 in France and Portugal were still not fully remedied in 2012; stresses that from 2006 to 2013 direct payments were made whose legality and regularity were not fully guaranteed and highlights that European tax-payers' money has been wrongly paid to final beneficiaries *without recovery*;

Amendment

17. Points out in particular that the errors detected in 2006 in France and Portugal were still not fully remedied *by the two Member States* in 2012; stresses that from 2006 to 2013 direct payments were made whose legality and regularity were not fully guaranteed and highlights that European tax-payers' money has been wrongly paid to final beneficiaries; *notes that significant financial corrections have been imposed by the Commission on both Member States, and calls on the Commission to use further net corrections to cover the entire financial risk to the Union budget posed by these errors*;

Amendment 112
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. Points out in particular *that*, despite decisions on flat-rate corrections, the errors detected in 2006 in France and Portugal were still not fully remedied in 2012; stresses that from 2006 to 2013 direct payments were made whose legality and regularity were not fully guaranteed and highlights that European tax-payers' money has been paid to final beneficiaries

Amendment

17. Points out *with concern that*, in particular, despite decisions on flat-rate corrections, the errors detected in 2006 in France and Portugal were still not fully remedied in 2012; stresses that from 2006 to 2013 direct payments were made whose legality and regularity were not fully guaranteed and highlights that European tax-payers' money has been paid to final

without a legal basis and without being recovered;

beneficiaries without a legal basis and without being recovered;

Or. es

Amendment 113
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. Points out in particular that, despite decisions on flat-rate corrections, the errors detected in 2006 in France and Portugal were still not fully remedied in 2012; stresses that from 2006 to 2013 direct payments were made whose legality and regularity were not fully guaranteed and highlights that European tax-payers' money has been wrongly paid to final beneficiaries *without recovery*;

Amendment

17. Points out in particular that, despite decisions on flat-rate corrections, the errors detected in 2006 in France and Portugal were still not fully remedied in 2012; stresses that from 2006 to 2013 direct payments were made whose legality and regularity were not fully guaranteed and highlights that European tax-payers' money has been wrongly paid to final beneficiaries;

Or. fr

Amendment 114
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. Points out in particular that, despite decisions on flat-rate corrections, the errors detected in 2006 in France and Portugal were still not fully remedied in 2012; stresses that from 2006 to 2013 direct payments were made whose legality and regularity were not fully guaranteed *and highlights that European tax-payers' money has been paid to final beneficiaries without a legal basis and without being*

Amendment

17. Points out in particular that, despite decisions on flat-rate corrections *by the Member States*, the errors detected in 2006 *by the Court of Auditors* in France and Portugal *and confirmed by the Commission in 2008* were still not fully remedied in 2012; stresses that from 2006 to 2013 direct payments were made whose legality and regularity were not fully guaranteed ; *is concerned about the EU*

recovered;

budget because of failure to make the financial corrections in respect of mistakenly disbursed amounts in the years from 2008 to 2013 in France and from 2010 to 2013 in Portugal arising from continuing errors in the LPIS, which were discovered in 2006; notes, however that the Commission applied net financial corrections as early as 2008 in France and 2010 in Portugal; calls on the Commission to offset the entire financial risk of such errors in the EU budget through net corrections;

Or. de

Amendment 115
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18

Motion for a resolution

18. Observes that the conformity clearance procedures take far too long to protect the EU budget effectively;

Amendment

18. Observes that the conformity clearance procedures take far too long to protect the EU budget effectively; *regrets the administrative capacities that have been frozen for years and the loss in revenue and interest to the EU budget;*

Or. de

Amendment 116
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

18a. Notes that the Director-General for DG AGRI has maintained a reputational reservation concerning deficiencies in the supervision and control of certified organic products; expects remedial action of the Commission to ensure that the absence of sufficient controls does not lead to unfair distortion of competition between organic and conventional farmers;

Or. en

Amendment 117
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

18b. limits its reservation in the area of agriculture to:

- The expenditure in the area of rural development as the Commission itself maintains the reservation since it cannot be excluded that the residual error rate is higher than reported and above the materiality threshold;***
- The direct decoupled aid channelled through the paying agencies that exhibit a residual error rate beyond the materiality threshold^a ;***
- All expenditure that was not covered by the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) since the Commission does not yet consider that it has sufficiently reliable information that it can provide the error rate in the non-IACS population for each fund by each Member State as requested by the***

Committee on Budgetary Control^{2 a} ;
- the public spending for organic farming support;

^{1a} The Paying Agencies concerned are (using PA/MS-code according to Annex 7.II.N to the AAR of DG AGRI) AT01, BG01, DK02, ES, FI01, FR19, GR01, HU01, IE01, IT, LV01, NL03, PT03, RO02, SI01.

^{1b} see page 30 of the Written Questions to Commissioner Ciolos regarding the Hearing on 17 December 2013

Or. en

Amendment 118
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

18b. Notes that the DG AGRI Director-General identified in his Annual Activity Report weaknesses and errors; specifies the Parliaments political reservation in the area of agriculture to:

- Reservation concerning serious deficiencies in direct payments in Portugal, Bulgaria and France;

- Reservation concerning rural development expenditure;

- Reservation concerning deficiencies in the supervision and control of organic production.

acknowledges that the identification of reservations is the first step for achieving concrete improvement.

Or. en

Amendment 119
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1 - Subheading 6

Motion for a resolution
in the field of regional policy

Amendment
deleted

Or. de

Amendment 120
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1 - Subheading 6

Motion for a resolution
in the field of regional policy

Amendment
in the field of regional policy, *energy and transport*

Or. en

Amendment 121
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 20

Motion for a resolution
20. Observes that *there is no evidence that the* audit authorities of *some* Member States are carrying out their audits with the requisite thoroughness and that it is not sufficiently apparent whether and in what respect they are permanently improving their supervisory and control systems;

Amendment
20. Observes that *according to the audits of both the Court of Auditors and the Commission, some* audit authorities of Member States are *not* carrying out their audits with the requisite thoroughness and that it is not sufficiently apparent whether and in what respect they are permanently improving their supervisory and control systems;

Amendment 122
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 20

Motion for a resolution

20. Observes that ***there is no evidence that the*** audit authorities of ***some*** Member States are carrying out their audits with the requisite thoroughness and that it is not sufficiently apparent whether and in what respect they are permanently improving their supervisory and control systems;

Amendment

20. Observes that ***both the Court of Auditors and the Commission consider, based upon their audits, that some*** audit authorities of Member States are ***not*** carrying out their audits with the requisite thoroughness and that it is not sufficiently apparent whether and in what respect they are permanently improving their supervisory and control systems; ***stresses the inherent risk involved as the Commission depends heavily on Member States audit authorities;***

Amendment 123
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 20 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

20a. Notes that Member States' authorities have interpreted guidance in different ways, in particularly as regards statistical sampling and coverage of the audit universe; is deeply worried since the Internal Audit Service of the Commission found significant variations in the extent and depth of on-the-spot tests;

Amendment 124
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21

Motion for a resolution

21. **Observes that** the Commission *does not* conduct **enough** random sample audits of its own at national audit authorities and final beneficiaries;

Amendment

21. **Calls on** the Commission, **on the basis of risk analysis, to** conduct **more** random sample audits of its own at national audit authorities and final beneficiaries;

Or. de

Amendment 125
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21

Motion for a resolution

21. Observes that the Commission does not conduct enough random sample audits of its own at national **audit** authorities and final beneficiaries;

Amendment

21. Observes that the Commission does not conduct enough random sample audits of its own at national **management** authorities and final beneficiaries;

Or. en

Amendment 126
Jan Olbrycht

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21

Motion for a resolution

21. **Observes that** the Commission **does not conduct enough** random sample audits of its own at national audit authorities and final beneficiaries;

Amendment

21. **Encourages** the Commission **to continue conducting** random sample audits of its own at national audit authorities and final beneficiaries;

Amendment 127
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Heading 1 - Subheading 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

***in the field of the European Anti-fraud
Office (OLAF)***

Or. en

Amendment 128
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

21a. Notes that the DG REGIO Director-General identified in his Annual Activity Report weaknesses and errors; specifies the Parliaments political reservation in the area of regional policy to:

- The ERDF/Cohesion Fund expenditure from the 2007-2013 programming period disbursed within the 75 Operational Programmes in 16 Member States ^{1a} as the Commission itself maintains full or partial reservations for those programs;

- 12 European Territorial Cooperation Programmes ^{1b} as the Commission itself maintains a reservation;

- The ERDF/Cohesion Fund expenditure from the 2000-2006 programming period channelled through Paying Agencies in Spain, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Romania as the Commission itself maintains 9 reservations for ERDF Operational

Programmes and 2 reservations for the Cohesion Fund;

- The ESF expenditure from the 2007-2013 programming period channelled through the Paying Agencies in Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Poland, Romania;

acknowledges that the identification of reservations is the first step for achieving concrete improvement;

^{1a} Austria (5 OPs and 3 OPs reputational), Belgium (2 OP), Czech Republic (4 OPs, 2 OPs partial and 3 OPs reputational), Germany (1 OP, 2 OPs partial and 1 OP reputational), Estonia (1 OP reputational), Spain (18 OPs partial and 4 OPs reputational), France (1 OP), Greece (1 OP reputational), Hungary (3 OP), Italy (4 OPs, 2 OPs partial), Poland (1 OP), Romania (3 OPs), Sweden (3 OPs partial and 5 OPs reputational), Slovenia (2 OPs), Slovakia (1 OP), , United Kingdom (1 OP and 1 OP reputational).

^{1b} 7 OPs, 3 OPs partial and 2 reputational OPs, involving Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, the North Sea Region, Central Europe, the Adriatic Cross Border Programme and the Alpine Space.

Or. en

Amendment 129
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

21a. is worried about the high financial indicators for opening an investigation

included in the Investigative Policy Priorities of OLAF for the years 2012 and 2013 that are in the Customs sector: EUR 1 million, in the Agriculture sectors: EUR 100 000 for SAPARD and above EUR 250 000 for Agriculture; in the Structural Funds: EUR 500 000 in the European Social Fund as well as in the Cohesion Fund and EUR 1 million in ERDF, in the external aid and centralised expenditure sectors: EUR 50 000 and also in the Union staff sector: EUR 10 000; criticises that it is in the responsibility of the managing DGs to care about possible fraud cases below these financial indicators without having qualified staff at their disposal; sees taxpayers money and the financial interest of the Union endangered;

Or. en

Amendment 130
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

21b. notes that it has not received eight months after the adoption of Parliament's resolution^{1a} on the protection of the financial interest 2011 in plenary, the legal analysis of the legality of recordings of private phone conversations during administrative investigations concerning members of the Union institutions and Union officials conducted by OLAF requested in paragraph 75;

^{1a} *Texts adopted, P7_TA(2013)0318.*

Or. en

Amendment 131
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 22

Motion for a resolution

22. Calls, in the field of agricultural policy, *for* conformity clearance procedures ***to be completed in*** less than two years;

Amendment

22. Calls, in the field of agricultural policy, ***for efforts to be made to accelerate*** conformity clearance procedures ***and to complete standard cases within*** less than two years, ***expects that as soon as possible the necessary legal instruments will be submitted leading to the fact that no clearance procedure can last for more than two years;***

Or. en

Amendment 132
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 22

Motion for a resolution

22. Calls, in the field of agricultural policy, for conformity clearance procedures to be completed ***in less than*** two years;

Amendment

22. Calls, in the field of agricultural policy, for conformity clearance procedures ***in standard cases*** to be completed ***within*** two years;

Or. en

Amendment 133
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 22

Motion for a resolution

22. Calls, in the field of agricultural policy, for conformity clearance procedures to be completed in less than two years;

Amendment

22. Calls ***on the Commission***, in the field of agricultural policy, for conformity clearance procedures to be completed in less than two years ***as anticipated in its indicative benchmarks almost 20 years ago***;

Or. en

Amendment 134
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 22 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

22a. Calls on the Commission, in the field of agriculture, to resolve without delay the problems occurring in Paying Agencies whose residual risk of error lies above the materiality threshold of 2 % as identified by the Commission; suggests to focus its efforts especially on the Paying Agencies in France, Bulgaria, Romania, Portugal and Latvia;

Or. en

Amendment 135
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 23

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

23. Calls, in order to remedy shortcomings in LPIS systems, for ***conformity procedures to be shortened and*** action plans to be implemented promptly; calls, in

23. Calls, in order to remedy shortcomings in LPIS systems, for action plans to be implemented promptly; calls, in the event of failure to comply with the deadlines, for

the event of failure to comply with the deadlines, for *net corrections to be made in the action plans in the Member States concerned as part of the conformity clearance procedure*;

proportionate reduction and suspension of monthly or intermediate payments to the Member States concerned;

Or. en

Amendment 136 **Ingeborg Gräßle**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 23**

Motion for a resolution

23. Calls, in order to remedy shortcomings in LPIS systems, *for conformity procedures to be shortened and* action plans *to be* implemented promptly; calls, in the event of failure to comply with the deadlines, for net corrections to be made in the action plans in the Member States concerned as part of the *conformity clearance procedure*;

Amendment

23. Calls, in order to remedy shortcomings in LPIS systems, *that* action plans *are* implemented promptly *when deficiencies are detected*; calls, in the event of failure to comply with the deadlines, for net corrections to be made in the action plans in the Member States concerned as part of the *conformity clearance procedure*;

Or. en

Amendment 137 **Jean-Pierre Audy**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 23**

Motion for a resolution

23. Calls, in order to remedy shortcomings in LPIS systems, for conformity procedures to be shortened and action plans to be implemented promptly; calls, in the event of failure to comply with the deadlines, for *net corrections* to be *made* in the action plans in the Member States concerned as part of the conformity

Amendment

23. Calls, in order to remedy shortcomings in LPIS systems, for conformity procedures to be shortened and action plans to be implemented promptly; calls, in the event of failure to comply with the deadlines, for *intermediate payments* to be *reduced proportionately or suspended* in the action plans in the Member States

clearance procedure;

concerned as part of the conformity
clearance procedure;

Or. fr

Amendment 138

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

24. Calls on the Commission to *demonstrate without delay that the problems identified in* France and Portugal *have been remedied*;

Amendment

24. Calls on the Commission to *report on the state of play of the implementation of the action plans for* France and Portugal, *before the deadline for amendments for the vote on the discharge in April 2014*;

Or. en

Amendment 139

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

24. Calls on the Commission to *demonstrate without delay that the problems identified in* France and Portugal *have been remedied*;

Amendment

24. Calls on the Commission to *report on progress in implementing action plans* in France and Portugal;

Or. de

Amendment 140

Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

24a. Calls on DG AGRI to develop and formalise its control strategy, re-engineer its risk assessments according to the targets established, and ensure proper monitoring through better quantitative and qualitative key performance indicators whose disclosure in the AAR should be improved;

Or. en

Amendment 141
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 24 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

24a. Takes the view that recurrent land parcel identification shortcomings must be met by progressively increasing corrective penalties well beyond existing net and flat-rate corrections; calls for a Commission proposal along these lines;

Or. de

Amendment 142
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 25

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

25. Calls, in the field of regional policy, for the Member States to drastically step up their first-level checks and render them

25. Calls, in the field of regional policy, ***following the Commission's and the Court of Auditors' recommendations***, for the Member States to drastically step up their

more stringent;

first-level checks and render them more stringent;

Or. en

Amendment 143

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 26

Motion for a resolution

26. Calls on the Commission, in the activity reports of the directorates-general, to ***indicate the percentage of*** Member States' audit reports ***which*** have been examined and the depth in which this has been done;

Amendment

26. Calls on the Commission, in the activity reports of the directorates-general, to ***report the extent to which*** Member States' ***control statistics or*** audit reports have been examined, ***verified and validated*** and the depth in which this has been done;

Or. en

Amendment 144

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 27

Motion for a resolution

27. Calls on the Commission, in its annual activity reports, to indicate how its own risk analyses have influenced the use of its own audit capacities, which countries were concerned and whether the shortcomings were remedied; ***calls for more*** direct audits of random samples taken from national granting authorities and final beneficiaries;

Amendment

27. Calls on the Commission, in its annual activity reports, to indicate how its own risk analyses have influenced the use of its own audit capacities, which countries were concerned and whether the shortcomings were remedied; ***acknowledges, however, that an increase in*** direct audits ***by the Commission*** of random samples taken from national granting authorities and final beneficiaries ***would excessively increase manning requirements in the Commission and be incompatible with its moves to cut back on costs and staffing;***

Amendment 145

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 27

Motion for a resolution

27. Calls on the Commission, in its annual activity reports, to indicate how its own risk analyses have influenced the use of its own audit capacities, which countries were concerned and whether the shortcomings were remedied; calls for more direct audits of random samples taken from national granting authorities and final beneficiaries;

Amendment

27. Calls on the Commission, in its annual activity reports, to indicate how its own risk analyses have influenced the use of its own audit capacities, which countries were concerned and whether the shortcomings were remedied; calls for more direct audits of random samples taken from national granting authorities and final beneficiaries *by making extra staff available*;

Amendment 146

Jan Mulder, Michael Theurer, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Chris Davies

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 27

Motion for a resolution

27. Calls on the Commission, in its annual activity reports, to indicate how its own risk analyses have influenced the use of its own audit capacities, which countries were concerned and whether the shortcomings were remedied; calls for more direct audits of random samples taken from national granting authorities and final beneficiaries;

Amendment

27. Calls on the Commission, in its annual activity reports, to indicate how its own risk analyses have influenced the use of its own audit capacities, which countries were concerned and whether the shortcomings were remedied; calls for more direct audits of random samples taken from national granting authorities and final beneficiaries; *furthermore urges the Commission to look at positive incentives vis-a-vis Member States that have low error rates for example by adjusting audit sample*

sizes;

Or. en

Amendment 147

Jan Olbrycht

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 27

Motion for a resolution

27. Calls on the Commission, in its annual activity reports, to indicate how its own risk analyses have influenced the use of its own audit capacities, which countries were concerned and whether the shortcomings were remedied; ***calls for more direct audits of random samples taken from national granting authorities and final beneficiaries;***

Amendment

27. Calls on the Commission, in its annual activity reports, to indicate how its own risk analyses have influenced the use of its own audit capacities, which countries were concerned and whether the shortcomings were remedied;

Or. en

Amendment 148

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 28

Motion for a resolution

28. Stresses that the guidelines for audits by the Commission itself ought to constitute a self-imposed obligation on the Commission; calls on the Commission already to present them as part of the 2013 budget discharge procedure; calls for clear indications, to this end, of the extent to which Member States and programmes which have attracted attention in the past have been subjected to a special audit approach and the extent to which net financial corrections can be

Amendment

deleted

accelerated; stresses that this approach should already be adopted in the impending delegated acts (February 2014);

Or. de

Amendment 149
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 28

Motion for a resolution

28. Stresses that the guidelines for audits by the Commission itself ought to constitute a self-imposed obligation on the Commission; calls on the Commission already to present them as part of the 2013 budget discharge procedure; calls for clear indications, to this end, of the extent to which Member States and programmes which have attracted attention in the past have been subjected to a special audit approach and the extent to which net financial corrections can be accelerated; stresses that this approach should already be adopted in the impending delegated acts (February 2014);

Amendment

28. Stresses that the guidelines for audits by the Commission itself ought to constitute a self-imposed obligation on the Commission; calls on the Commission already to present them as part of the 2013 budget discharge procedure; calls for clear indications, to this end, of the extent to which Member States and programmes which have attracted attention in the past have been subjected to a special audit approach and the extent to which net financial corrections can be accelerated; stresses that this approach should already be adopted in the impending delegated acts *and implementing acts* (February 2014);

Or. fr

Amendment 150
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 28 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

28a. expects that the Commission improves its own checks on the audit authorities' annual control reports, to

ensure that auditors are able to reach conclusions on the impact of the reliability of error rates from Member States' audits and to strengthen its assurance process; is of the opinion that these inconsistencies need to be addressed as soon as possible to minimise the risk of non-detection of system weaknesses and/or errors and irregularities;

Or. en

Amendment 151
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 29

Motion for a resolution

29. Is aware that forthcoming net financial corrections cannot entail automatic penalties, as this would be contrary to the rule of law; calls, therefore, on the Commission to do everything in its power to shorten the adversarial procedures preceding the imposition of net corrections or interruptions of payments; calls on the Commission to submit a report *and a proposal* on the subject; undertakes as of now that the European Parliament will support the Commission in this matter if Member States raise objections;

Amendment

29. Is aware that forthcoming net financial corrections cannot entail automatic penalties, as this would be contrary to the rule of law; calls, therefore, on the Commission to do everything in its power to shorten the adversarial procedures preceding the imposition of net corrections or interruptions of payments; calls on the Commission to submit a report on the subject; undertakes as of now that the European Parliament will support the Commission in this matter if Member States raise objections;

Or. en

Amendment 152
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 30

Motion for a resolution

30. Calls on the Commission to insert in the annual report on the protection of the EU budget a chapter on net financial corrections *in the various* Member *States*;

Amendment

30. Calls on the Commission to insert in the annual report on the protection of the EU budget a chapter on net financial corrections *per* Member *State*;

Or. en

Amendment 153
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 30 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

30a. Calls on the Commission to identify in this communication on shared fund management the three Member States with the highest error rates and financial corrections, which will subsequently receive a hearing from the discharge authority as part of the discharge procedure;

Or. de

Amendment 154
Jan Olbrycht

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 31

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

31. Calls on the legislative authority at the first opportunity to limit in time and in financial terms the option of replacing projects affected by errors with new projects before 15 February of year 'n+1';

deleted

Amendment 155

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 31

Motion for a resolution

31. Calls on the legislative authority at the first opportunity to ***limit in time and in financial terms the option of replacing*** projects affected by errors with new projects before 15 February of year 'n+1;

Amendment

31. Calls on the legislative authority at the first opportunity to ***amend the basic legal provisions in such a way that*** projects affected by errors ***may only be replaced by the Member State concerned*** with new projects before 15 February of year 'n+1 ***if the error was identified by its management and control authorities;***

Amendment 156

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 32

Motion for a resolution

32. Calls on the Court of Auditors to make more use of performance audits to compare expenditure programmes in a number of countries; calls once again for special country reports from the Court for Member States which are particularly prone to error (with federal administrative structures) and which have attracted particular attention (through high error rates);

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 157
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 32 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

32a. Calls on the Commission to establish a registry for all Union funds going to media in the Member States from the structural funds or agricultural funds including rural development;

Or. en

Amendment 158
Ryszard Czarnecki, Marta Andreasen, Philip Bradbourn, Derk Jan Eppink

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 32 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

32a. Calls for further investigation of the policies in question in order to clarify political reservations and considers such clarifications as a necessary condition to granting discharge;

Or. en

Amendment 159
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 32 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

32a. Stresses that it is the responsibility the Court of Auditors under the Treaty to examine the financial management of the Commission and not the individual

Member States; calls on the Commission therefore to concentrate on those Member States which are vulnerable or conspicuous in this respect;

Or. de

Amendment 160

Jan Mulder, Michael Theurer, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Chris Davies

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 32 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

32a. Calls on the Member States which did not already introduce a voluntary Member State Declaration to do so on the basis of the management declaration as foreseen by Article 59 of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012; urges the Commission to establish the template for the management declaration as soon as possible; reiterates in this respect the ongoing work of the interinstitutional working group on Member State Declarations which for its result is very dependent on the new content of the management declarations;

Or. en

Amendment 161

Esther de Lange

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 32 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

32a. Calls on the Commission to monitor the certification process of the national audit authorities in the Member States dealing with repeatedly high error rates more frequently; encourages the Commission to present a communication and legislative proposal to this end;

Or. en

Amendment 162
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 32 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

32b. Calls on the Commission to apply Article 32(5) of the new Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 if the level of error is persistently high, and consequently to identify the weaknesses in the control systems, analyse the costs and benefits of possible corrective measures and take or propose appropriate action in terms of simplification, improvement of control systems and redesign of programmes or delivery systems;

Or. en

Amendment 163
Esther de Lange

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 32 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

32b. Calls for significant reductions in

those reporting requirements and control densities for Member States that operate permanently with very low error rates; encourages the Commission to present a communication and legislative proposal to this end;

Or. en

Amendment 164
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 32 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

32c. Urges the Commission to tackle the problem of 'frontmen' being used for the purpose of obtaining public contracts and calls for every stage of public procurement procedures to be published on Internet, ensuring maximum transparency, and identifying subcontractors also;

Or. de

Amendment 165
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 32 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

32d. Calls on the Commission to examine its internal shared management arrangements and make recommendations to the European Parliament regarding the appointment of EU officials at the head of national payment, management and audit

*authorities in the Member States with
responsibility for the disbursement of EU
funds;*

Or. de

Amendment 166

Jan Mulder, Michael Theurer, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Chris Davies

Motion for a resolution

Heading 1 - Subheading 8

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

The newly elected Parliament

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 167

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

*33. Regards the newly elected Parliament
as being in a position to investigate the
reservations in the fields of agriculture
and regional policy and lift them if
appropriate progress is made;*

deleted

Or. de

Amendment 168

Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

33. Regards the newly elected Parliament as being in a position to investigate the reservations in the fields of agriculture and regional policy and lift them if appropriate progress is made;

deleted

Or. es

Amendment 169

Jan Mulder, Michael Theurer, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Chris Davies

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

33. Regards the newly elected Parliament as being in a position to investigate the reservations in the fields of agriculture and regional policy and lift them if appropriate progress is made;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 170

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

33. Regards the newly elected Parliament as being in a position to investigate ***the reservations*** in the fields of agriculture and regional policy and ***lift them*** if appropriate progress is made;

33. Regards the newly elected Parliament as being in a position to investigate ***guaranteed measures taken and to be taken*** in the fields of agriculture and regional policy and ***to determine*** if appropriate progress is made ***in order to make a well informed decision to grant or refuse discharge to the Commission on the execution of the budget for 2013 and***

2014;

Or. en

Amendment 171

Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

33. Regards the newly elected Parliament as being in a position to investigate *the* reservations in the fields of agriculture and regional policy and lift them if appropriate progress is made;

Amendment

33. Regards the newly elected Parliament as being in a position to investigate *individual* reservations in the fields of agriculture and regional policy and lift them if appropriate progress is made;

Or. de

Amendment 172

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

33. *Regards the newly elected Parliament as being in a position to investigate the reservations in the fields of agriculture and regional policy and lift them if appropriate progress is made;*

Amendment

33. *Calls on the Commission and all Member States to commit to implementing the actions called for in points [22-30] and to report on progress made; requires that the Commission presents its progress report to Parliament by the end of 2014; requests that the Council also reports on the implementation of the priority actions falling under Member States' responsibility when it adopts its next discharge recommendation;*

Or. en

Amendment 173
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

33. Regards the newly elected Parliament as being in a position to *investigate the reservations* in the fields of agriculture and regional policy and *lift them if appropriate* progress *is* made;

Amendment

33. Regards the newly elected Parliament as being in a position to *scrutinise the measures undertaken* in the fields of agriculture and regional policy and *conclude if sufficient* progress *was* made;"

Or. en

Amendment 174
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 34

Motion for a resolution

34. *Calls on* the newly elected Parliament *to* raise the issue of the weaknesses in the fields of agricultural and regional policy indicated here *at the hearings of the designated* members of the new Commission and *to* demand appropriate pledges in order to *improve* protection of the EU budget;

Amendment

34. *Recommends that the relevant committees in* the newly elected Parliament raise the issue of *control measures to address* the weaknesses in the fields of agricultural and regional policy indicated here *with* members of the new Commission and demand appropriate pledges in order to *continue improvement in the* protection of the EU budget;

Or. en

Amendment 175
Ingeborg Gräble

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 34

Motion for a resolution

34. Calls on the newly elected Parliament to raise the issue of the weaknesses in the fields of agricultural and regional policy indicated here at the hearings of the designated members of the new Commission and to demand appropriate pledges in order to improve protection of the EU budget;

Amendment

34. Urges the next Parliament to follow up on the remedial measures referred to under points [22]-[30] and to ensure that the designated members of the new Commission *commit formally, during their hearing, to implement these priority actions in full and within the defined timeframe;*

(The reference to points [22] - [30] in the suggested amendment above refers to the text under the subheading 'Measures to be taken' and is intended to be dynamic and should be adjusted after adoption with the corresponding numbers of the paragraphs.)

Or. en

**Amendment 176
Marian-Jean Marinescu**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 34**

Motion for a resolution

34. Calls on the newly elected Parliament to raise the issue of the weaknesses in the fields of agricultural and regional policy indicated here at the hearings of the designated members of the new Commission and to demand appropriate pledges in order to improve protection of the EU budget;

Amendment

34. The Commissioners should commit formally to improve protection of the Union budget, with special focus on policy areas that have proven weak and problematic in previous years

Or. en

**Amendment 177
Markus Pieper**

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 34 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

34a. Requests that the next Parliament follow up on the remedial measures referred to under points [22-30] and to ensure that the designated members of the new Commission commit formally, during their hearing, to implement these remedial measures in full and within the defined timeframe; considers those binding commitments of the Commission as a prerequisite to grant the next discharge without reservations;

([22 - 30] refer to text under subheading 'measures to be taken' and is intended to be dynamic, should be adjusted to relevant points after adoption of amendments)

Or. en

Amendment 178
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 35

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

35. Calls on the newly elected Parliament, in the spirit of the above, to probe all legal means of achieving further legislative improvements, if appropriate, in ***the context of the mid-term review*** of the ***Multiannual Financial Framework***;

35. Calls on the newly elected Parliament, in the spirit of the above, to probe all legal means of achieving further legislative improvements, if appropriate, in ***reviews*** of the ***relevant legislation***;

Or. en

Amendment 179
Jan Mulder, Michael Theurer, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Chris Davies

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 35 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

35a. Asks the Commission for a concise and comprehensive action plan that could also be endorsed by the new Commission in order to effectively respond to the reservations expressed in this discharge resolution;

Or. en

Amendment 180
Esther de Lange

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 35 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

35a. Expects the Commissioners-designate to explain in their hearing in front of the newly elected Parliament how they intend to address the reservations brought up in this discharge resolution.

Or. en

Amendment 181
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 36 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

36a. Points out that in addition to delivering one opinion on the reliability of the accounts, the Court of Auditors delivers three on the legality and regularity of the underlying operations; takes the view that this plethora of

opinions makes it more difficult for Members of the European Parliament to assess the Commission's implementation of the budget;

Or. fr

Amendment 182
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 36 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

36b. Regards it as abnormal that the annual accounts should show net assets of -EUR 40,4 million, and wonders whether the amounts to be called from Member States for staff pensions, which are estimated at EUR 42,5 billion, should not be entered as assets, given that this clearly constitutes a commitment; notes the Commission accounting officer's explanations to the effect that international public-sector accounting standards have been applied; calls for the Court of Auditors to state clearly its position on this matter; calls for a figure to be put on the risk of the above amount not being made available, in the light of the Member States' financial positions; proposes that consideration should be given to setting up a Community pension fund in order to get these financial commitments vis-à-vis staff off the balance sheet;

Or. fr

Amendment 183
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 39

Motion for a resolution

39. Deeply regrets that payments remain materially affected by error;

Amendment

39. Deeply regrets that payments remain materially affected by error; ***reminds the Commission that the Parliament has a zero-tolerance approach to errors;***

Or. en

Amendment 184
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 39 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

39a. Urges the Court of Auditors to assess the pertinence of an analysis based on the simple error rate and, in keeping with its independent status, to consider the materiality threshold^{1a};

^{1a} European Parliament resolution of 4 February 2014 on the future role of the Court of Auditors. The procedure on the appointment of Court of Auditors' Members: European Parliament consultation (Texts adopted, P7_TA(2014)0060).

Or. fr

Amendment 185
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 39 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

39b. Points out that, in accordance with international audit standards, the external auditor should set the materiality threshold for errors independently;

Or. fr

Amendment 186

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 40

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

40. Respects the Court's method of taking the random sample with different priority countries and programmes each year for the 'representative cross-section'; calls, however, in addition, for risk-based and programme-specific country reports;

deleted

Or. de

Amendment 187

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 40

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

40. Respects the Court's method of taking the random sample with different priority countries and programmes each year for the 'representative cross-section'; calls, however, in addition, for risk-based and programme-specific country reports;

40. Respects the Court's method of taking the random sample with different priority countries and programmes each year for the 'representative cross-section'; calls, however, in addition, for risk-based and programme-specific country reports *starting with the annual report for 2013;*

Or. en

Amendment 188
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 42 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

42a. Emphasises that a distinction must be drawn between errors and fraud, and considers that, in the vast majority of cases, errors stem from administrative mistakes, many of which are linked to the complexity of European and national rules, which can be corrected;

Or. fr

Amendment 189
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 43

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

43. Recalls that the most likely error rate for payments in the financial year 2011 was estimated at 3.9 %, in the financial year 2010 at 3.7 % and in the financial year 2009 at 3.3 %; deplores this increase because it reverses the positive trend observed in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009;

43. Recalls that the most likely error rate for payments in the financial year 2011 was estimated at 3.9 %, in the financial year 2010 at 3.7 % and in the financial year 2009 at 3.3 %; deplores this increase because it reverses the positive trend observed in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009; ***acknowledges, however, that the closing phase of programmes is associated with a rise in error rates;***

Or. en

Amendment 190
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 46

Motion for a resolution

46. Points out that the increases in the estimated error rate were greatest for the spending areas employment and social affairs, agriculture and direct support and regional policy energy and transport;

Amendment

46. Points out that the increases in the estimated error rate were greatest for the spending areas employment and social affairs, agriculture, ***market measures*** and direct support and regional policy energy and transport;

Or. fr

Amendment 191
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 49

Motion for a resolution

49. Welcomes the fact that the Court of Auditors decided in 2012 to treat serious procurement errors made by all Union institutions and bodies as quantifiable, as it already did for the Member States and international organisations; notes that the Court of Auditors has not backdated its approach to cover procurement activities by the Union institutions and bodies which took place before 2011;

Amendment

deleted

Or. de

Amendment 192
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 49 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

49a. Urges the Court, together with the

Commission, to adopt a jointly agreed method of counting errors, given that a divergent approach simply obscures the real impact of an error on the success of a project and hampers any realistic assessment thereof;

Or. de

Amendment 193

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 52 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

52a. Refers to the Commission's EU anti-corruption report (COM (2014)0038), which identifies public procurement as being particularly exposed to corruption; endorses, in this connection, calls for higher standards of integrity and improved control mechanisms in a number of Member States;

Or. de

Amendment 194

Jan Mulder, Michael Theurer, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Chris Davies

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 54

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

54. Welcomes the fact that the Commission succeeded in rapidly imposing a significant number of financial corrections in 2012 whilst many financial corrections are in general made many years after initial

54. Welcomes the fact that the Commission succeeded in rapidly imposing a significant number of financial corrections in 2012 whilst many financial corrections are in general made many years after initial

disbursement of funds; is critical of the fact that the EU budget incurs additional administrative costs and losses of revenue and interest due to excessively protracted procedures;

disbursement of funds; is critical of the fact that the EU budget incurs additional administrative costs and losses of revenue and interest due to excessively protracted procedures, *considers effective ex-ante controls a better way of protecting the Union budget than ex post financial corrections*;

Or. en

Amendment 195
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 54

Motion for a resolution

54. Welcomes the fact that the Commission succeeded in rapidly imposing a significant number o financial corrections in 2012 whilst many financial corrections are in general made many years after initial disbursement of funds; is critical of the fact that the EU budget incurs additional administrative costs *and losses of revenue and interest* due to excessively protracted procedures;

Amendment

54. Welcomes the fact that the Commission succeeded in rapidly imposing a significant number o financial corrections in 2012 whilst many financial corrections are in general made many years after initial disbursement of funds; is critical of the fact that the EU budget incurs additional administrative costs due to excessively protracted procedures, *thereby blocking budget resources*;

Or. de

Amendment 196
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 54

Motion for a resolution

54. Welcomes the fact that the Commission succeeded in rapidly imposing a significant number *o* financial corrections in 2012 *whilst many* financial corrections are *in*

Amendment

54. Welcomes the fact that *while* the Commission succeeded in rapidly imposing a significant number *of* financial corrections in 2012, *some* financial

general made many years after initial disbursement of funds; is critical of the fact that *the EU budget incurs* additional administrative costs *and losses of revenue and interest due to excessively protracted procedures*;

corrections are *made a number of* years after *the* initial disbursement of funds; is critical of the fact that *overly long procedures create* additional administrative costs;

Or. en

Amendment 197
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 58

Motion for a resolution

58. Notes that the 2012 accounts record a EUR 1.8 billion financial correction on the 2000-2006 use of cohesion policy funds in Spain, which corresponds to 49 % of the total corrections in 2012; *regrets that in accordance with current rules, authorities in Spain were entitled to further funding amounting to EUR 1 390 million*;

Amendment

58. Notes that the 2012 accounts record a EUR 1.8 billion financial correction on the 2000-2006 use of cohesion policy funds in Spain, which corresponds to 49 % of the total corrections in 2012;

Or. de

Amendment 198
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 58

Motion for a resolution

58. Notes that the 2012 accounts record a EUR 1.8 billion financial correction on the 2000-2006 use of cohesion policy funds in Spain, which corresponds to 49 % of the total corrections in 2012; *regrets that in accordance with current rules, authorities in Spain were entitled to further funding amounting to EUR 1 390 million*;

Amendment

58. Notes that the 2012 accounts record a EUR 1.8 billion financial correction on the 2000-2006 use of cohesion policy funds in Spain, which corresponds to 49 % of the total corrections in 2012 *and acknowledges this as an important example of corrective action being carried out where deficiencies were identified*;

Amendment 199
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 58

Motion for a resolution

58. Notes that the 2012 accounts record a EUR 1.8 billion financial correction on the 2000-2006 use of cohesion policy funds in Spain, which corresponds to 49 % of the total corrections in 2012; ***regrets that in accordance with current rules, authorities in Spain were entitled to further funding amounting to EUR 1 390 million;***

Amendment

58. Notes that the 2012 accounts record a EUR 1.8 billion financial correction on the 2000-2006 use of cohesion policy funds in Spain, which corresponds to 49 % of the total corrections in 2012 ***owing to the extraordinary multiannual adjustment procedure for the closure of this accounting period and without prejudice to the Union budget;***

Or. es

Amendment 200
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 58

Motion for a resolution

58. Notes that the 2012 accounts record a EUR 1.8 billion financial correction on the 2000-2006 use of cohesion policy funds in Spain, which corresponds to 49 % of the total corrections in 2012; ***regrets*** that in accordance with current rules, authorities in Spain ***were*** entitled to further funding amounting to EUR 1 390 million;

Amendment

58. Notes that the 2012 accounts record a EUR 1.8 billion financial correction on the 2000-2006 use of cohesion policy funds in Spain, which corresponds to 49 % of the total corrections in 2012; ***welcomes and accepts the explanations offered by the Spanish authorities to the Committee on Budgetary Control in respect of this correction and recalls*** that, in accordance with current rules, ***the*** authorities in Spain ***are*** entitled to further funding amounting to EUR 1 390 million;

Or. es

Amendment 201
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 58 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

58a. In this respect, reiterates the need for both the Commission and the Court of Auditors to put forward an effective cut-off mechanism for multiannual periods, reflecting the actual state of both the Union budget and national budgets following application of the overall corrections for the whole budgetary period;

Or. es

Amendment 202
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 62

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

62. Takes note that **14** directors-general made a total of 23 quantified reservations related to the expenditure and that the Director-General of DG Budget qualified his declaration on revenue;

62. Takes note that **12** directors-general **and two directors of executive agencies** made a total of 23 quantified reservations related to the expenditure and that the Director-General of DG Budget qualified his declaration on revenue;

Or. en

Amendment 203
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 62

Motion for a resolution

62. Takes note that **14** directors-general made a total of 23 quantified reservations related to the expenditure and that the Director-General of DG Budget qualified his declaration on revenue;

Amendment

62. Takes note that **12** directors-general **and two directors of executive agencies** made a total of 23 quantified reservations related to the expenditure and that the Director-General of DG Budget qualified his declaration on revenue;

Or. en

Amendment 204
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 63

Motion for a resolution

63. Deplores the fact that the term ‘amounts at risk’ is not defined within the ‘Synthesis of the Commission’s management achievements in 2012’ (Synthesis Report) adopted by the Commission on 5 June 2013 and that such amounts are not calculated on a consistent basis by the various directorates-general;

Amendment

63. Deplores the fact that the term ‘amounts at risk’ is not defined within the ‘Synthesis of the Commission’s management achievements in 2012’ (Synthesis Report) adopted by the Commission on 5 June 2013 and that such amounts are not calculated on a consistent basis by the various directorates-general; ***calls on the Commission to develop a joint approach among the directorates-general with regard to establishing amounts at risk;***

Or. de

Amendment 205
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 64

Motion for a resolution

64. Points out that, **as** the Commission

Amendment

64. Points out that the Commission

quantifies the amount at risk at between 1.9 % (EUR 2.6 billion) and 2.6 % (EUR 3.5 billion) of total payments for the year, *it acknowledges* that the level of error in expenditure is *likely to be material, especially since the Commission itself states that amounts at risk in a number of areas, in particular rural development, are likely to be underestimated;*

quantifies the amount at risk at between 1,9 % (EUR 2,6 billion) and 2,6 % (EUR 3,5 billion) of total payments for the year; *notes* that the level of error in expenditure is *variable due to the different quality of audit and control at Member State level,*

Or. en

Amendment 206
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 64

Motion for a resolution

64. Points out that, as the Commission quantifies the amount at risk at between 1.9 % (EUR 2.6 billion) and 2.6 % (EUR 3.5 billion) of total payments for the year, it acknowledges that the level of error in expenditure is likely to be material, especially since the Commission itself states that amounts at risk in a number of areas, in particular rural development, are likely to be underestimated;

Amendment

64. Points out that, as the Commission quantifies the amount at risk at between 1,9 % (EUR 2,6 billion) and 2,6 % (EUR 3,5 billion) of total payments for the year, it acknowledges that the level of error in expenditure is likely to be material, especially since the Commission itself states that amounts at risk in a number of areas, in particular rural development, are likely to be underestimated; *urges the Commission to adequately protect the Union budget and finds the average level of past financial corrections and recoveries encouraging ;*

Or. en

Amendment 207
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 64

Motion for a resolution

64. Points out that, as the Commission quantifies the amount at risk at between 1.9 % (EUR 2.6 billion) and 2.6 % (EUR 3.5 billion) of total payments for the year, it acknowledges that the level of error in expenditure is likely to be material, especially since the Commission itself states that amounts at risk in a number of areas, in particular rural development, are likely to be underestimated;

Amendment

64. Points out that, as the Commission quantifies the amount at risk at between 1.9 % (EUR 2.6 billion) and 2.6 % (EUR 3.5 billion) of total payments for the year, it acknowledges that the level of error in expenditure is likely to be material, especially since the Commission itself states that amounts at risk in a number of areas, in particular rural development, are likely to be underestimated; ***emphasises, however, that these amounts do not include the potential future financial corrections, which substantially reduce the final risk;***

Or. fr

Amendment 208
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 65

Motion for a resolution

65. ***Considers*** that the ***comparison made by the Commission's Synthesis Report of the total for 'amounts at risk' with the average level of financial corrections over the last years*** should be ***put into*** context (***timing and impact*** of the ***financial corrections on Member States and beneficiaries, likely underestimation of the amounts at risk and*** re-use of the funds);

Amendment

65. ***Notes*** that the ***cumulative financial corrections implemented to end of 2012 for ERDF, Cohesion Fund and ESF programmes in the current programming period amount to 0,2%, and considers that the error rates in the Court of Auditors' Annual Report*** should be ***seen in the*** context of the ***EUR 4,5 billion in financial corrections implemented for 2012, for which there is no*** re-use of the funds);

Or. en

Amendment 209
Jan Mulder, Michael Theurer, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Chris Davies

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 65 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

65a. Regrets that the Commission continues to ignore Parliament's long standing request to add the individual Commissioner's signature to the annual activity reports of his/her related Directorate-General for which he/she is responsible; notes that the synthesis report is adopted by the College of Commissioners, but deems this unsatisfactory in the light of democratic accountability principles;

Or. en

Amendment 210
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 66

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

66. Notes with concern that the substantial gap between appropriations for commitment and payment, coupled with a large amount of underspending at the start of the **current** programming period, has caused a build-up equivalent to two years and three months' worth of unused commitments;

66. Notes the cuts in payments brought by the Council, which have resulted in decreases in payment appropriations as compared to the adopted budgets; underlines that Council keeps following its strategy to artificially cut the level of payments, without taking into consideration real needs, and notes with concern that the substantial gap between appropriations for commitment and payment, coupled with a large amount of underspending at the start of the **2007-2013** programming period, has caused a build-up equivalent to two years and three months' worth of unused commitments;

Or. en

Amendment 211
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 67

Motion for a resolution

67. Notes with deep concern that the Commission is finding it increasingly difficult to meet all requests for payments in the year within the budget appropriations for payment and that the cumulative total of appropriations available for payments over the period 2007-2013 has exceeded the cumulative total of payment appropriations available over the same period by EUR 114 million; notes that this is EUR 64 billion more than the difference of EUR 50 billion between the total of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations envisaged in the financial framework;

Amendment

67. Stresses that the recurrent shortages of payment appropriations have been the main cause of the unprecedentedly high level of RALs especially in the last years of the 2007 -2013 MFF; notes with deep concern that the Commission is finding it increasingly difficult to meet all requests for payments in the year within the budget appropriations for payment and that the cumulative total of appropriations available for payments over the period 2007-2013 has exceeded the cumulative total of payment appropriations available over the same period by EUR 114 million; notes that this is EUR 64 billion more than the difference of EUR 50 billion between the total of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations envisaged in the financial framework;

Or. en

Amendment 212
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 68

Motion for a resolution

68. Expresses concern over the fact that the **Commission's** outstanding budgetary commitments for which payments and/or decommitments have not yet been made increased by EUR 10 billion to EUR 217 billion and that EUR 16.2 billion of claims for payment were outstanding at the end of 2012 (EUR 10.7 billion at the end of 2011

Amendment

68. Expresses concern over the fact that the **Commission's** outstanding budgetary commitments for which payments and/or decommitments have not yet been made increased by EUR 10 billion to EUR 217 billion and that EUR 16.2 billion of claims for payment were outstanding at the end of 2012 (EUR 10.7 billion at the end of 2011

and EUR 6.4 billion at the end of 2010);

and EUR 6.4 billion at the end of 2010); *is further concerned that 52 % of the payment appropriations requested in the draft budget 2014 are devoted to the completion of 2007 - 2013 MFF programmes;*

Or. en

Amendment 213
Lorenzo Fontana

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 68 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

68a. Considers it unacceptable that, in response to the lack of funds for payments at the end of 2012, the Commission has introduced the ‘creative’ concept of suspended payments to conceal the actual shortfall in the budget, thus infringing Article 310(1) TFEU, which requires that the Union general budget be balanced;

Or. it

Amendment 214
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 68 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

68a. Deplores that the European Commission's DG for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection was unable to honour EUR 60 million of its payment obligations in a timely way in 2012 (and EUR 160 million in 2013) with grave consequences for both vulnerable people and those NGOs trying to support them; given the urgent lifesaving nature, rapid

project cycle and modest budget (EUR 2 per citizen per year) involved in the Union emergency response, calls on the Commission and the budgetary authority to recognise the exceptional nature and specificity of these actions by ensuring matching levels of commitment and payment appropriations for humanitarian aid in the annual budgetary cycle;

Or. en

Amendment 215
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 69

Motion for a resolution

69. Points out that gross pre-financing amounted to EUR **80.1** billion *at the end of 2012 and insists* that unnecessary extended periods of pre-financing can lead to an increased risk of error or loss;

Amendment

69. Points out that *as of 31 June 2013* gross pre-financing amounted to EUR **81** billion *of which 75 % (approximately EUR 61 billion) were older than 18 months and 20 % (EUR 16 billion) were older than six years; notes* that unnecessary extended periods of pre-financing can lead to an increased risk of error or loss; *notes that under shared management pre-financing payments are not conditioned by the existence of a guarantee; suggests therefore that the Commission should provide in the reports of the accounting officer a breakdown of pre-financing payments by year of their accrual and by Member State*

Or. en

Amendment 216
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 69

Motion for a resolution

69. Points out that gross pre-financing amounted to EUR 80.1 billion at the end of 2012 and insists that unnecessary extended periods of pre-financing can lead to an increased risk of error or loss;

Amendment

69. Points out that gross pre-financing amounted to EUR 80,1 billion at the end of 2012 and insists that unnecessary extended periods of pre-financing can lead to an increased risk of error or loss, ***is of the opinion that pre-financing can and should not exceed EUR 50 billion;***

Or. en

Amendment 217

Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 69 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

69a. is worried since EUR 4,8 billion from the previous programming period 2000-2006 was paid from the Union budget as pre-financing to projects in the structural domain as of 31 June 2013, which neither have been cleared nor had the amounts been recovered by the Commission or the Member States; demands information on the state of play of those projects and information about the schedule for recovery or clearance of those funds;

Or. en

Amendment 218

Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 69 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

69b. demands a detailed breakdown and a

detailed explanation of the EUR 2,3 billion of pre-financing that: (a) had been adjusted due to technical corrections made to the opening balance when accruals-based accounts were first prepared or (b) had been transferred from the Commissions balance sheet to other Union bodies (agencies and joint undertakings) at the time of their creation;

Or. en

Amendment 219
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 69 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

69c. is worried that the Commission received in the development and cooperation area only guarantees for a total of EUR 700 million while an amount of EUR 10,1 billion in pre-financing has already been paid; expects the Commission to undertake the necessary steps to minimise the credit risk; is convinced that NGOs, international organisations and other beneficiaries of grants or contracting parties should be subject to guarantee requirements for pre-financed amounts;

Or. en

Amendment 220
Ryszard Czarnecki, Marta Andreasen, Philip Bradbourn, Derk Jan Eppink

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 70 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

70a. Requests that the Commission submit to Parliament's competent committee by September 2014 a report on its activities to encourage whistle-blowing by the wider public;

Or. en

Amendment 221

Ryszard Czarnecki, Marta Andreasen, Philip Bradbourn, Derk Jan Eppink

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 70 b (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

70b. Recalls the Parliament's proposal for a full-time Commissioner for Budgetary Control;

Or. en

Amendment 222

Derek Vaughan

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 71**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

71. Deplores the fact that for the majority of transactions affected by error in shared management areas (e.g. agriculture and cohesion), the Member State authorities had sufficient information to detect and correct the errors; calls, therefore, on the Member States and the Commission once again to urgently reinforce first-level checks to address this unacceptably high level of mismanagement;

71. Deplores the fact that for the majority of transactions affected by error in shared management areas (e.g. agriculture and cohesion), the Member State authorities had sufficient information to detect and correct the errors; calls therefore, on the Member States and the Commission once again to urgently reinforce first-level checks to address this unacceptably high level of mismanagement; ***when weaknesses in the management and***

control systems in Member States are found, calls for the Commission to protect the Union budget by applying financial correction in these cases;

Or. en

Amendment 223
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 71

Motion for a resolution

71. *Deplores the fact that* for the majority of transactions affected by error in shared management areas (e.g. agriculture and cohesion), *the Member State authorities* had sufficient information to detect and correct the errors; calls, therefore, on the Member States and the Commission once again to urgently reinforce first-level checks to address this unacceptably high level of mismanagement;

Amendment

71. *Stresses that the authorities of the Member States* for the majority of transactions affected by error in shared management areas (e.g. agriculture and cohesion) had sufficient information to detect and correct the errors; *therefore, once again requests the Member States to urgently reinforce the primary controls to address this unacceptably high level of mismanagement; moreover, calls on the Commission to shield the Union budget from the resulting risk of irregular payment by applying financial corrections in the event that such weaknesses in Member States' management and control systems are found*; calls, therefore, on the Member States and the Commission once again to urgently reinforce first-level checks to address this unacceptably high level of mismanagement;

Or. en

Amendment 224
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 71 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

71a. Calls on the Court of Auditors, pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 287(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, to deliver an opinion on the independence of the national audit authorities with regard to shared management;

Or. fr

Amendment 225

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 72

Motion for a resolution

72. Notes that the lack of reliability of the first-level checks performed by some Member States undermines the credibility of the annual activity reports drafted by the Commission services and the Synthesis Report adopted by the Commission, as they are partially based on the results of the checks performed by the national authorities; ***reiterates, consequently, its previous demand that the Commission establish reliable and objective annual activity reports;***

Amendment

72. Notes that the lack of reliability of the first-level checks performed by some Member States undermines the credibility of the annual activity reports drafted by the Commission services and the Synthesis Report adopted by the Commission, as they are partially based on the results of the checks performed by the national authorities;

Or. de

Amendment 226

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 72

Motion for a resolution

72. Notes that the lack of reliability of the first-level checks performed by *some* Member States undermines the credibility of the annual activity reports drafted by the Commission services and the Synthesis Report adopted by the Commission, as they are partially based on the results of the checks performed by the national authorities; *reiterates, consequently, its previous demand that the Commission establish reliable and objective annual activity reports;*

Amendment

72. Notes that the lack of reliability of the first-level checks performed by *a limited number of* Member States undermines the credibility of the annual activity reports drafted by the Commission services and the Synthesis Report adopted by the Commission, as they are partially based on the results of the checks performed by the national authorities;

Or. en

Amendment 227
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 72 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

72a. Proposes that consideration be given to the possibility for national audit institutions, in their capacity as independent external auditors, and with due regard for international audit standards, to issue national audit certificates for the management of Union funds, which would be submitted to Member State governments with a view to being produced during the discharge process in accordance with an appropriate interinstitutional procedure to be introduced;

Or. fr

Amendment 228
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 74 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

74a. requests the Commission to forward each year to the Parliament the annual summaries of the final audit reports and of the controls carried out by the Member States pursuant to Article 59(5)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 at the latest two months after their receipt by the Commission under the necessary safeguards laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement between Parliament and the Commission; notes that Parliament's competent committee received those annual summaries for the financial year 2012 only on 19 February 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 229
Esther de Lange

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 75 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

75a. Requests the Commission, after the establishment of the template, to actively and constantly encourage the Member States to use that template in order to receive useful and reliable national declarations from all Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 230
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 75 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

75a. Calls for the Council to adopt a more critical position on the discharge and the ultimate use made of European tax revenue in the Member States, and welcomes in this connection the critical stance taken by Sweden, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands on the discharge for 2012; endorses the calls for voluntary national management declarations;

Or. de

Amendment 231
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Heading 2 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

The Council discharge recommendations

Or. de

Amendment 232
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 75 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

75a. Requests that the Council report on the implementation of the remedial measures falling under the Member States' responsibility, at the same time it adopts its next discharge recommendation;

Amendment 233
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 80

Motion for a resolution

80. Expresses its concern about the weaknesses of the Value Added Tax (VAT) systems of the Member States; refers in this connection to the findings of a study¹ which estimated losses of VAT revenue in 2011 due to infringements or failure to collect the tax at EUR 193 bn; notes that this is equivalent to 18 % of the theoretical VAT revenue; wishes therefore to be informed what measures the Commission has taken to remove existing reservations relating to the national VAT system of the Member States, which may date from as long ago as the 1990s;

¹ Study to quantify and analyse the VAT Gap in the EU-27 Member States – Final Report (TAXUD/2012//EN/316)
http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/vat/key_documents/reports_published/index_en.htm

Amendment

80. Expresses its concern about the weaknesses of the Value Added Tax (VAT) systems of the Member States; refers in this connection to the findings of a study¹ which estimated losses of VAT revenue in 2011 due to infringements or failure to collect the tax at EUR 193 bn **for public finances in the EU Member States**; notes that this is equivalent to 18 % of the theoretical VAT revenue; wishes therefore to be informed what measures the Commission has taken to remove existing reservations relating to the national VAT system of the Member States, which may date from as long ago as the 1990s;

¹ Study to quantify and analyse the VAT Gap in the EU-27 Member States – Final Report (TAXUD/2012//EN/316)
http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/vat/key_documents/reports_published/index_en.htm

Amendment 234
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 80

Motion for a resolution

80. Expresses its concern about the weaknesses of the Value Added Tax (VAT) systems of the Member States; refers in this connection to the findings of a study⁹⁴ which estimated losses of VAT revenue in 2011 due to infringements or failure to collect the tax at EUR 193 bn; notes that this is equivalent to 18 % of the theoretical VAT revenue; wishes therefore to be informed what measures the Commission has taken to remove existing reservations relating to the national VAT system of the Member States, which may date from as long ago as the 1990s;

⁹⁴ Study to quantify and analyse the VAT Gap in the EU-27 Member States – Final Report (TAXUD/2012//EN/316)
http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/vat/key_documents/reports_published/index_en.htm

Amendment

80. Expresses its concern about the weaknesses of the Value Added Tax (VAT) systems of the Member States; refers in this connection to the findings of a study⁹⁴ which estimated losses of VAT revenue in 2011 due to infringements or failure to collect the tax at EUR 193 bn; notes that this is equivalent to 18 % of the theoretical VAT revenue **or 1,5 % of GDP (0,5 % more than the present Union budget for 2014-2020)**; wishes therefore to be informed what measures the Commission has taken to remove existing reservations relating to the national VAT system of the Member States, which may date from as long ago as the 1990s;

⁹⁴ Study to quantify and analyse the VAT Gap in the EU-27 Member States – Final Report (TAXUD/2012//EN/316)
http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/vat/key_documents/reports_published/index_en.htm

Or. en

Amendment 235
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 80 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

80a. Takes note that the above mentioned study shows that Italy (EUR 36 billion), France (EUR 32 billion), Germany (EUR 26,9 billion) and the United Kingdom (EUR19 billion) contributed over half of the total VAT gap in quantitative terms, mainly because they are the largest Union economies; also notes that, in terms of

ratio to their own GDP, Romania (EUR 10 billion), Greece (EUR 9,7 billion) Lithuania (EUR 4,4 billion) and Latvia (EUR 0,9 billion) were the Member States with the largest VAT gap in 2001; takes note that the study also shows a marked upward trend in the VAT gap in many Member States since 2008, as a result of the economic crisis (this was especially the case in Spain, Greece, Latvia, Ireland, Portugal and Slovakia); notes that on average across the Union, the VAT gap increased by 5 percentage points once the economic crisis hit;

Or. en

Amendment 236
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 83

Motion for a resolution

83. Concludes from the above audits and from the Commission's audits in 2010 and 2011 that similar shortcomings could also exist in other countries, and therefore calls on Member States and the Commission to step up their customs surveillance; calls on the Commission to report on the matter during the preparation of the discharge for 2013;

Amendment

83. Concludes from the above audits and from the Commission's audits in 2010 and 2011 that similar shortcomings could also exist in other countries, and therefore calls on Member States and the Commission to step up their customs surveillance, *especially in the major ports*; calls on the Commission to report on the matter during the preparation of the discharge for 2013;

Or. es

Amendment 237
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 87 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

87a. Considers that VAT fraud, and in particular the so-called carousel or missing trader fraud, distorts competition, and deprives national budgets from significant resources and is detrimental to the Union budget; calls on the Commission to use all means to enforce the obligation of Member States to provide information in a timely manner to the Commission; welcomes in this regard the promise of the Commissioner to provide Parliament until 1 May 2014 with an overview of the developments of the initiatives taken to tackle tax evasion and avoidance taking place within the Union and in relation to third countries;

Or. en

Amendment 238
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 90

Motion for a resolution

90. Is deeply concerned about the fact that the critical observations made in the annual report of the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2012 and the systematic weaknesses detected by the latter have already been reported by the Court in its previous reports, and in particular, as regards the eligibility of permanent pasture, since 2007;

Amendment

90. Is deeply concerned about the fact that the critical observations made in the annual report of the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2012 and the systematic weaknesses detected by the latter have already been reported by the Court in its previous reports, and in particular, as regards the eligibility of permanent pasture, since 2007; ***notes the Commission's explanations and calls on the Commission and the Court of Auditors, in the context of the adversarial procedure, to reach agreement on the eligibility criteria for permanent pasture;***

Or. fr

Amendment 239
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 91

Motion for a resolution

91. In particular, points out that the most frequent accuracy errors relate to over-declarations of land and to administrative errors, and that the larger accuracy errors relate mostly to excessive payments for permanent pasture; regrets that cross-checks of declared parcels with the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) failed to detect over-declarations because the LPIS database is only *reliable to a limited extent*;

Amendment

91. In particular, points out that the most frequent accuracy errors relate to over-declarations of land and to administrative errors, and that the larger accuracy errors relate mostly to excessive payments for permanent pasture; regrets that cross-checks of declared parcels with the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) *in certain Member States* failed to detect *some* over-declarations because the LPIS database is only *partially reliable*;

Or. en

Amendment 240
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 91

Motion for a resolution

91. In particular, points out that the most frequent accuracy errors relate to *over-declarations of land and to* administrative errors, and that the *larger* accuracy errors relate mostly to excessive payments for permanent *pasture*; regrets that cross-checks of declared parcels *with* the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) *failed to detect over-declarations because* the LPIS database is only *reliable to a limited extent*;

Amendment

91. In particular, points out that the most frequent accuracy errors relate to *overstated area declarations and* administrative errors, and that the *bigger* accuracy errors relate mostly to excessive payments for permanent *grassland*; regrets that *overdeclarations in the* cross-checks of declared parcels *on the basis of* the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) *in certain Member States have not been discovered since* the LPIS database is only *partially reliable*;

Or. en

Amendment 241
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 93

Motion for a resolution

93. **Notes** that the Court of Auditors *also takes accounts of breaches of* cross-compliance *requirements in calculating* the error rate⁹⁸ ;

⁹⁸ Footnote 15, point 3.9 of the annual report of the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2012.

Amendment

93. **Points out** that the Court of Auditors *includes deficiencies in the area of the* cross-compliance *in their calculation of* the error rate *while noting that, in the view of the Commission, cross-compliance does not concern the eligibility to payments but only triggers administrative penalties*⁹⁸ ;

⁹⁸ Footnote 15, point 3.9 of the annual report of the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2012.

Or. en

Amendment 242
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 93

Motion for a resolution

93. Notes that the Court of Auditors also takes *accounts* of breaches of cross-compliance *requirements in* calculating *the* error rate⁹⁸ ;

⁹⁸ Footnote 15, point 3.9 of the annual report of the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2012.

Amendment

93. **While taking note of the Commission's view that cross-compliance triggers administrative penalties**, notes that the Court of Auditors also takes *into account* breaches of cross-compliance *requirement when* calculating error rate⁹⁸ ;

⁹⁸ Footnote 15, point 3.9 of the annual report of the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2012.

Or. en

Amendment 243
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 98

Motion for a resolution

98. Deplores the fact that the results of this new approach confirm that only limited assurance can be gained from *the* Member States' inspection statistics, from the declarations of the directors of paying agencies and from the work carried out by the certification bodies;

Amendment

98. Deplores the fact that the results of this new approach confirm that only limited assurance can be gained from *certain* Member States' inspection statistics, from the declarations of the directors of paying agencies and from the work carried out by the certification bodies; *calls for this new approach to extend to all CAP expenditure in DG AGRI's next Annual Activity Report;*

Or. en

Amendment 244
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 98

Motion for a resolution

98. Deplores the fact that the results of this new approach confirm that only limited assurance can be gained from *the* Member States' inspection statistics, from the declarations of the directors of paying agencies and from the work carried out by the certification bodies;

Amendment

98. Deplores the fact that the results of this new approach confirm that only limited assurance can be gained from *certain* Member States' inspection statistics, from the declarations of the directors of paying agencies and from the work carried out by the certification bodies;

Or. en

Amendment 245
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 99

Motion for a resolution

99. *Deeply* regrets that *the Commission has not fully implemented the* recommendations issued by the Court of Auditors in its annual reports for the financial years 2009 and 2010;

Amendment

99. Regrets that *out of seven* recommendations issued by the Court of Auditors in its annual reports for the financial years 2009 and 2010, *only two were implemented in most respects and four in some respects by the Commission;*

Or. en

Amendment 246
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 100

Motion for a resolution

100. Endorses the recommendation made by the Court of Auditors that the eligibility of land and in particular permanent pasture be properly recorded in LPIS (see paragraphs 3.13, 3.25 and box 3.3. of the annual report of the Court of Auditors for 2012);

Amendment

100. Endorses the recommendation made by the Court of Auditors that the eligibility of land and in particular permanent pasture be properly recorded in LPIS (see paragraphs 3.13, 3.25 and box 3.3. of the annual report of the Court of Auditors for 2012);); *urges the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, to address the problems with regard to permanent pasture and ensure that it is correctly recorded in the LPIS; urges the Commission to inform Parliament on a six months basis on progress made;*

Or. en

Amendment 247
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 102

Motion for a resolution

102. Deplores in this regard that deficiencies were detected by the Court of Auditors and the Commission in the LPIS systems in ***Portugal and in*** France in the course of the 2006/2007 audits, whilst the Director-General of DG AGRI only entered a reservation accompanied by an action plan on these grounds ***as regards Portugal in his DG's annual activity report of 2011 and*** as regards France in 2012;

Amendment

102. Deplores in this regard that deficiencies were detected by the Court of Auditors and the Commission in the LPIS systems in France in the course of the 2006/2007 audits, whilst the Director-General of DG AGRI only entered a reservation accompanied by an action plan on these grounds as regards France in 2012;

Or. en

Amendment 248
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 103

Motion for a resolution

103. Considers that ***this practice of delaying the reservation accompanied by an action plan does not fully guarantee that the budget of the European Union is well protected***, and points out that the Commission bears particular responsibility in this regard;

Amendment

103. Considers that ***the adverse effects on effective Union budget protection can result from any delay in making the reservation to be accompanied by a request for an action plan*** and points out that the Commission bears particular responsibility in this regard;

Or. en

Amendment 249
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 104

Motion for a resolution

104. States with deep concern that the Court found systemic deficiencies in the

Amendment

104. States with deep concern that the Court found systemic deficiencies in the

LPIS audited in Italy and Spain in 2008, 2009 and 2010 and that since 2007 deficiencies were found in the LPIS of 12 Member States¹;

¹ Lithuania, Slovakia, Cyprus, Malta, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, France, Greece, Portugal, Austria, Sweden (see the annual reports of the ECA since 2007).

LPIS audited in Italy and Spain in 2008, 2009 and 2010 and that since 2007 deficiencies were found in the LPIS of 12 Member States¹; notes the reply by the Commission and the Spanish authorities to the effect that, despite the limited extent of the deficiencies, an error correction system is being applied, involving the incorporation of an eligibility coefficient into regulation of the next period;

¹ Lithuania, Slovakia, Cyprus, Malta, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, France, Greece, Portugal, Austria, Sweden (see the annual reports of the ECA since 2007).

Or. es

Amendment 250

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 105

Motion for a resolution

105. Shares the concern voiced by the Court of Auditors as regards the length of the conformity procedure leading to the financial corrections (paragraph 4.31 of the annual report of the ECA for 2012) and deeply deplores the fact that a sample of conformity procedures showed that in 2012 the actual time, more than four years, was twice ***that set down*** in the Commission's internal guidelines, ***resulting*** in a considerable backlog ***and therefore ultimately substantial losses to the EU budget***¹⁰¹;

¹⁰¹ See also the answer to Written Question No 12 to Commissioner Ciolo , hearing of

Amendment

105. Shares the concern voiced by the Court of Auditors as regards the length of the conformity procedure leading to the financial corrections (paragraph 4.31 of the annual report of the ECA for 2012) and deeply deplores the fact that a sample of conformity procedures showed that in 2012 the actual time, more than four years, was twice ***as long as*** in the Commission's internal guidelines, ***which resulted*** in a considerable backlog ; ***calls on the Commission to take all possible steps to ensure that the duration of conformity procedures is reduced to a maximum of two years***¹⁰¹;

¹⁰¹ See also the answer to Written Question No 12 to Commissioner Ciolo , hearing of

17 December 2013: average duration of audits with financial corrections after conciliation procedure 1124 days.

17 December 2013: average duration of audits with financial corrections after conciliation procedure 1124 days.

Or. en

Amendment 251
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 105

Motion for a resolution

105. Shares the concern voiced by the Court of Auditors as regards ***the length of the conformity procedure leading to the*** financial corrections (paragraph 4.31 of the annual report of the ECA for 2012) and ***deeply deplores the fact*** that a sample of conformity procedures showed that in 2012 the actual ***time***, more than four years, was twice ***that set down in*** the Commission's internal ***guidelines, resulting in*** a considerable backlog ***and therefore ultimately substantial losses to the EU budget***¹⁰¹;

¹⁰¹ See also the answer to Written Question No 12 to Commissioner Ciolo , hearing of 17 December 2013: average duration of audits with financial corrections after conciliation procedure 1124 days.

Amendment

105. Shares the concern voiced by the Court of Auditors as regards ***the slowness of conformity procedures resulting in*** financial corrections (paragraph 4.31 of the annual report of the ECA for 2012) and ***regrets*** that a sample of conformity procedures showed that in 2012 the actual ***duration*** (more than four years) was twice ***as long as*** the Commission's internal ***benchmark, which therefore ultimately led to*** a considerable backlog; ***takes note of the fact that the contradictory procedure, the conciliation mechanism and the for calculation of corrections makes it difficult to close conformity clearance procedures in time; expects the Commission to make all efforts to reduce the duration of the conformity procedure in standard cases to maximum two years***¹⁰¹;

¹⁰¹ See also the answer to Written Question No 12 to Commissioner Ciolo , hearing of 17 December 2013: average duration of audits with financial corrections after conciliation procedure 1124 days.

Or. en

Amendment 252
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 112

Motion for a resolution

112. Reiterates its regret that the Commission *follows* different methodologies to quantify public procurement errors in the policy areas of agriculture and cohesion, both of which furthermore are not in line with the Court of Auditors' methodology, and calls on the Commission and the Court of Auditors to harmonise the treatment of public procurement errors in *these two policy areas* without delay;

Amendment

112. Reiterates its regret that the Commission *applied* different methodologies to quantify public procurement errors in the policy areas of agriculture and cohesion, both of which furthermore are not in line with the Court of Auditors' methodology, and calls on the Commission and the Court of Auditors to harmonise the treatment of public procurement errors in *shared management* without delay;

Or. en

Amendment 253
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 112

Motion for a resolution

112. Reiterates its regret that the Commission *follows* different methodologies to quantify public procurement errors in the policy areas of agriculture and cohesion, both of which furthermore are not in line with the Court of Auditors' methodology, and calls on the Commission and the Court of Auditors to harmonise the treatment of public procurement errors *in these two policy areas without delay*;

Amendment

112. Reiterates its regret that *in 2012* the Commission *followed* different methodologies to quantify public procurement errors in the policy areas of agriculture and cohesion, both of which furthermore are not in line with the Court of Auditors' methodology, and calls on the Commission and the Court of Auditors to harmonise the treatment of public procurement errors *and to report to the discharge authority on the changes*;

Or. en

Amendment 254
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 115

Motion for a resolution

115. Notes with concern that the weaknesses detected in 2012 in the above-mentioned Member States were *very* similar to those found and reported in the six different Member States which were audited in 2011 (*Denmark, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Austria and Finland*);

Amendment

115. Notes with concern that the weaknesses detected in 2012 in the above-mentioned Member States were similar to those found and reported in the six different Member States which were audited in 2011;

Or. es

Amendment 255
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 118

Motion for a resolution

118. Regrets that the Court *found that* the results of the conformity audits were not sufficiently taken into account for the financial clearance decision *and agrees that it reduces the reliability of this financial clearance*;

Amendment

118. Regrets that, *on account of differences in approach between the Court and the Commission on the issue of financial clearance, Parliament cannot assess with accuracy its impact on the legality and regularity of the underlying operations; notes that, according to the Court of Auditors*, the results of the conformity audits were not sufficiently taken into account for the financial clearance decision; *calls on the Commission and the Court of Auditors, in the context of the adversarial procedure, to reach agreement on the financial clearance procedure*;

Or. fr

Amendment 256
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 120

Motion for a resolution

120. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has increased the total amount of financial corrections in recent years whilst reducing the proportion of flat-rate corrections significantly in 2012;

Amendment

120. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has increased the total amount of financial corrections in recent years whilst reducing the proportion of flat-rate corrections significantly in 2012;
recognises that under certain circumstances flat-rate corrections can also be an appropriate means to protect the Union budget;

Or. en

Amendment 257
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 120

Motion for a resolution

120. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has increased the total amount of financial corrections in recent years whilst reducing the proportion of flat-rate corrections significantly in 2012;

Amendment

120. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has increased the total amount of financial corrections in recent years whilst reducing the proportion of flat-rate corrections significantly in 2012;
recognises at the same time that flat-rate corrections, under certain circumstances, can also be an appropriate means to protect the Union budget

Or. en

Amendment 258
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 121

Motion for a resolution

121. Shares nevertheless the concern expressed by the Court of Auditors that the use of flat-rate corrections does not sufficiently take into account the nature and gravity of the infringement and that the length of the procedure is a persistent problem with conformity decisions;

Amendment

121. Shares nevertheless the concern expressed by the Court of Auditors that the use of flat-rate corrections does not sufficiently take into account the nature and gravity of the infringement and that the length of the procedure is a persistent problem with conformity decisions; ***deems flat-rate corrections however a necessary tool for situations where a more precise calculation is not feasible; therefore requests that the Commission set out criteria for the calculation of flat rate corrections that will ensure that the nature and gravity of the deficiency is adequately taken into account;***

Or. en

Amendment 259
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 121

Motion for a resolution

121. Shares nevertheless the concern expressed by the Court of Auditors that the use of flat-rate corrections does not sufficiently take into account the nature and gravity of the infringement ***and*** that the ***length of the procedure is a persistent problem with conformity decisions;***

Amendment

121. Shares nevertheless the concern expressed by the Court of Auditors that the use of flat-rate corrections does not sufficiently take into account the nature and gravity of the infringement; ***considers*** that the ***criteria for imposing flat rate corrections should be strengthened in order to address this weakness;***

Or. en

Amendment 260
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 126

Motion for a resolution

126. Calls on the Commission to ***draw up an action plan in order to*** reduce the error rate in rural development not only by providing guidance and assistance to the Member States by means of best practice but also by means of systematic interruptions of payments, ***imposition of*** financial corrections geared to the seriousness of the errors, and short-term and ad hoc action plans;

Amendment

126. Calls on the Commission to reduce the error rate in rural development not only by providing guidance and assistance to the Member States by means of best practice but also by means of systematic interruptions ***and suspensions of*** payments, ***by imposing*** financial corrections geared to the seriousness of the errors, and ***by drawing up long term,*** short-term and ad hoc action plans;

Or. en

Amendment 261
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 126

Motion for a resolution

126. Calls on the Commission to ***draw up an action plan in order to reduce the error rate in rural development not only by providing*** guidance and assistance to ***the*** Member States by means of best practice ***but also by means of*** systematic interruptions of payments, ***imposition of*** financial corrections ***geared*** to the ***seriousness*** of the ***errors, and short-term*** and ad hoc action plans;

Amendment

126. Calls on the Commission to ***continue to provide*** guidance and assistance to Member States by means of best practice, ***through*** systematic interruptions of payments, financial corrections ***according*** to the ***severity*** of the ***error and also, in addition, by drawing up short term*** and ad hoc action plans;

Or. en

Amendment 262
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 126 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

126a. Calls on the Commission to ensure in the area of rural development that uniform standards and procedures are being equally applied and observed both by its approving and auditing bodies; stresses that the application of different standards between approving and auditing bodies has consequently led to confusion at the level of national paying agencies and project applicants in the past, resulting in delays and restrictions in project applications; stresses that any changes in the application and approval procedure for an EAFRD contribution may only be binding for the future and thus shall not apply to any previously approved projects;

Or. en

Amendment 263
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 126 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

126b. Calls on the Commission to ensure that any future guidelines on eligibility conditions and selection criteria for the new programming period 2014-2020 of EAFRD are being equally set as a common standard not only for national competent bodies and paying agencies but also for its approving and auditing bodies; stresses that those guidelines should be constructed in a way that practicable implementation on the ground is possible;

Or. en

Amendment 264
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 128

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128. Stresses that this assertion makes it difficult for the budgetary authority to reach objective conclusions as to whether or not to grant the discharge;

deleted

Or. de

Amendment 265
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 128

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128. Stresses that this assertion makes it difficult for the budgetary authority to reach objective conclusions as to whether or not to grant the discharge;

deleted

Or. fr

Amendment 266
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 128

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128. Stresses that this assertion makes it difficult for the budgetary authority to reach objective conclusions as to whether or not to grant the discharge;

128. Calls on the Commission and Member States to formally pledge to the discharge authority that they will implement the actions referred to under

points [22-30] in order to aim for a reduction of the error rates in the future;

Or. en

Amendment 267

Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 128

Motion for a resolution

128. Stresses that this assertion *makes it difficult for the budgetary authority to reach objective conclusions as to whether or not to grant the discharge;*

Amendment

128. Stresses that this assertion *justifies that the discharge authority requires formal commitments with binding requirements and deadlines for the Commission and certain Member States to implement in full all remedial measures referred to under points [22-30], leading to a reduction of the error rates in the future;*

([22 - 30] refers to text under subheading 'measures to be taken' and is intended to be dynamic and should be adjusted to relevant points after adoption of amendments)

Or. en

Amendment 268

Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 128

Motion for a resolution

128. *Stresses that this assertion makes it difficult for the budgetary authority to reach objective conclusions as to whether or not to grant the discharge;*

Amendment

128. *Demands that the Commission seriously reassess the viability of the action plans it implements; moreover, urges the Commission to further enhance the cooperation with the Member States and to produce future action plans that will enable immediate and significant*

impact on the error rate in the area of agriculture and not only;

Or. en

Amendment 269
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 128 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128a. Notes that the amounts declared irrecoverable from the EAGF due to insolvency of the beneficiary amount to EUR 351,6 million since 2007 as reported by the Commission; notes also that a further EUR 6 million have not been recovered since 2007 for the reason that the costs exceeded the benefits of the recovery; expects the Commission to provide those amounts each year in its Annual Activity report and elaborate ways how Member States can diminish the risk of funding beneficiaries at the brink to insolvency;

Or. en

Amendment 270
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 128 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128b. Notes that in accordance with Article 33(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 (EAFRD) a Member State may decide to halt the recovery procedure subject to the conditions laid down in Article 32(6) of that Regulation, only after

closure of the programme; notes that all amounts in relation to EAFRD debts declared irrecoverable in the financial years 2007-2012, i.e. EUR 0,9 million of debts, do not have any valid justification; asks the Commission to explain what it is planning to do in this regard;

Or. en

Amendment 271
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 128 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128c. Observes that some Member States ran multiannual programs in the MFF 2007-2013 and some Paying Agencies were obliged to undertake recoveries from beneficiaries even when small amounts of no more than some Cents were concerned (since Article 33 (7) in connection with Article 32 (6) of Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 was only applicable after closure of a rural development program); is worried since for these small amounts costs for the recovery clearly exceeded the amounts to be recovered; notes that for the financial year 2013 and 2014 no changes are in sight for the Member States concerned; notes that the Commission was informed about the problem early on; is surprised that the Commission has not reacted faster to remedy the embarrassing situation for the Union; calls on the Commission to take a more pro-active approach in solving such nuisances in the coming MFF when they come to the Commission's attention;

Or. en

Amendment 272
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 129 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

129a. Supports the recommendations and good practices to reduce errors by addressing gold-plating as suggested in the Parliament's study on "Gold-Plating in the EAFRD: To what extent do national rules unnecessarily add to complexity and, as a result, increase the risk of errors?"; notes that there are forms of gold-plating where benefits outweigh the costs and where regulation is justified ('good' gold-plating practices), whereas numerous other practices of gold-plating appear to be disproportionate and costs outweigh the benefits ('bad' gold-plating practices); demands that the latter gold-plating forms be addressed;

Or. en

Amendment 273
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 129 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

129b. Requests in this respect the immediate implementation of the so-called "quick wins" to assess potential costs together with expected policy benefits when introducing ambitious requirements and commitments, to tackle problematic administrative and procedural requirements, as well as to avoid ambiguous and unclear requirements;

Amendment 274
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 129 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

129c. Asks also for structural changes leading to long-term solutions such as a permanent knowledge-sharing platform among managing authorities and paying agencies across the Union so that EAFRD specific bodies can learn by examples and best practices when discussing areas of ambiguity as well as overly complex requirements and controls; demands in this respect the accessibility to this platform in all Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 275
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 130

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

130. Considers that the way in which the Commission addresses the deficiencies detected in the LPIS system (excessively long conformity procedures leading to the flat-rate corrections with delayed inclusion of action plans and reservations in the annual activity reports) creates a financial risk to the budget of the European Union;

130. Calls, in order to remedy shortcomings in LPIS systems, for action plans to be implemented promptly; calls, in the event of failure to comply with the deadlines, for proportionate reduction and suspension of monthly or intermediate payments to the Member States concerned in order to avoid creating a financial risk to the budget of the European Union.

Or. en

Amendment 276
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 131

Motion for a resolution

131. Points out in particular that, ***despite decisions on flat-rate corrections***, the errors detected in 2006 in France and Portugal were still not fully remedied in 2012; stresses that from 2006 to 2013 direct payments were made whose legality and regularity were not fully guaranteed and highlights that European tax-payers' money has been paid to final beneficiaries ***without a legal basis and without being recovered***;

Amendment

131. Points out in particular that the errors detected in 2006 in France and Portugal were still not fully remedied ***by the two Member States*** in 2012; stresses that from 2006 to 2013 direct payments were made whose legality and regularity were not fully guaranteed and highlights that European tax-payers' money has been ***wrongly*** paid to final beneficiaries; ***notes that significant financial corrections have been imposed by the Commission on both Member States, and calls on the Commission to use further net corrections to cover the entire financial risk to the Union budget posed by those errors***;

Or. en

Amendment 277
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 131

Motion for a resolution

131. Points out in particular that, despite decisions on flat-rate corrections, the errors detected in 2006 in France and Portugal were still not fully remedied in 2012; stresses that from 2006 to 2013 direct payments were made whose legality and regularity were not fully guaranteed ***and highlights that European tax-payers' money has been paid to final beneficiaries without a legal basis and without being***

Amendment

131. Points out in particular that despite decisions on flat rate corrections the errors detected ***by the Court of Auditors*** in 2006 in France and Portugal ***and confirmed by the Commission in 2008*** were still not fully remedied ***by the Member States*** in 2012; stresses that from 2006 to 2013 direct payments were made whose legality and regularity were not fully guaranteed; ***is concerned about the EU budget, since***

recovered;

financial corrections have not yet been made for wrongly paid appropriations between 2008 and 2013 in France and between 2010 and 2013 in Portugal, as a result of persistent errors in the LPIS that were detected in 2006; notes, however, that the Commission has already applied net financial corrections in both Member States, in 2008 in France and 2010 in Portugal; calls on the Commission to cover the entire financial risk of such errors in the EU budget through net corrections, and to make higher recovery claims in the event of recurrent problems;

Or. de

Amendment 278
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 133

Motion for a resolution

133. *Stresses nevertheless that these commitments concerning the application of net financial corrections do not represent considerable progress since (a) the current internal rules of the Commission already stipulate that the duration of the conformity procedures should not exceed two years¹⁰⁶ and (b) the so-called new 'criteria and methodology for applying financial corrections' mentioned in Annex I to the Communication on the application of net financial corrections on Member States for Agriculture and Cohesion policy, COM (2013) 934, refer explicitly to new guidelines that will be based on the existing ones adopted by the Commission on 23 December 1997¹⁰⁷;*

Amendment

133. *Notes that all financial corrections in the field of agriculture are net financial corrections; considers it necessary, however, for the conformity procedure to have its full effect to accelerate the procedure and to further improve the criteria and methods for the application of net financial corrections beyond the new guidelines foreseen that will be based on the existing guidelines as decided on by the Commission already on 23 December 1997¹⁰⁷,*

¹⁰⁶ *The Commission has set an indicative*

internal target by which it aims to complete the conformity clearance procedure. It provides for the entire procedure to be completed within 450 days after the audit took place (without conciliation) and 645 days if the Member State requests conciliation. See ECA special report 7/2010, 'Audits of the clearance of accounts', paragraphs 68 to 73 and 98.

¹⁰⁷ The precise description for each CAP measure of the key and ancillary controls and the level of flat rates to be applied for each situation resulting from the criteria described in the annex should be fixed in Commission guidelines based on the existing ones which are solidly established and have allowed the Commission to obtain positive rulings from the Court of Justice on most of the cases contested by the Member States.

¹⁰⁷ The precise description for each CAP measure of the key and ancillary controls and the level of flat rates to be applied for each situation resulting from the criteria described in the annex should be fixed in Commission guidelines based on the existing ones which are solidly established and have allowed the Commission to obtain positive rulings from the Court of Justice on most of the cases contested by the Member States.

Or. en

Amendment 279 **Derek Vaughan**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 133**

Motion for a resolution

133. Stresses nevertheless that these commitments concerning the application of net financial corrections do not represent considerable progress since (a) the current internal rules of the Commission already stipulate that the duration of the conformity procedures should not exceed two years¹⁰⁶ and (b) the so-called new 'criteria and methodology for applying financial corrections' mentioned in Annex I to the Communication on the application of net financial corrections on Member States for

Amendment

133. Notes that all financial corrections in the field of Agriculture are net corrections: considers it necessary, however, for improvements to be made in the criteria and methods of application of net financial corrections beyond the guidelines adopted by the Commission on 23 December 1997¹⁰⁷ ;

Agriculture and Cohesion policy, COM (2013) 934, refer explicitly to new guidelines that will be based on the existing ones adopted by the Commission on 23 December 1997¹⁰⁷ ;

¹⁰⁶ *The Commission has set an indicative internal target by which it aims to complete the conformity clearance procedure. It provides for the entire procedure to be completed within 450 days after the audit took place (without conciliation) and 645 days if the Member State requests conciliation. See ECA special report 7/2010, 'Audits of the clearance of accounts', paragraphs 68 to 73 and 98.*

¹⁰⁷ The precise description for each CAP measure of the key and ancillary controls and the level of flat rates to be applied for each situation resulting from the criteria described in the annex should be fixed in Commission guidelines based on the existing ones which are solidly established and have allowed the Commission to obtain positive rulings from the Court of Justice on most of the cases contested by the Member States.

¹⁰⁷ The precise description for each CAP measure of the key and ancillary controls and the level of flat rates to be applied for each situation resulting from the criteria described in the annex should be fixed in Commission guidelines based on the existing ones which are solidly established and have allowed the Commission to obtain positive rulings from the Court of Justice on most of the cases contested by the Member States.

Or. en

Amendment 280
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 134

Motion for a resolution

134. Stresses in particular that the shortening of the conformity procedure leading to financial corrections announced by the Commission cannot be evaluated before mid-2016, which means that Parliament will engage with the matter in

Amendment

134. Stresses in particular that the shortening of the conformity procedure leading to financial corrections announced by the Commission cannot be evaluated before mid-2016, which means that Parliament will engage with the matter

the course of the discharge procedure in 2017/2018; *stresses that this makes it extremely difficult for the discharge authority to reach objective conclusions as to whether or not the discharge can be granted*; acknowledges, however, that the Commission has devised a reliable approach, and recalls that the same conclusions should be drawn regarding the rural development situation;

only as soon as in the course of the discharge procedure in *the years 2017 and 2018*;

Or. en

Amendment 281
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 134

Motion for a resolution

134. Stresses in particular that the shortening of the conformity procedure leading to financial corrections announced by the Commission cannot be evaluated before *mid*-2016, which means that Parliament will engage with the matter in the course of the discharge procedure in 2017/2018; *stresses that this makes it extremely difficult for the discharge authority to reach objective conclusions as to whether or not the discharge can be granted*; acknowledges, however, that the Commission has devised a reliable approach, and recalls that the same conclusions should be drawn regarding the rural development situation;

Amendment

134. Stresses in particular that the shortening of the conformity procedure leading to financial corrections announced by the Commission cannot be evaluated before *late* 2016, which means that Parliament will engage with the matter in the course of the discharge procedure in 2017/2018; acknowledges, however, that the Commission has devised a reliable approach, and recalls that the same conclusions should be drawn regarding the rural development situation;

Or. en

Amendment 282
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 134

Motion for a resolution

134. Stresses in particular that the shortening of the conformity procedure leading to financial corrections announced by the Commission cannot be evaluated before mid-2016, which means that Parliament will engage with the matter in the course of the discharge procedure in 2017/2018; ***stresses that this makes it extremely difficult for the discharge authority to reach objective conclusions as to whether or not the discharge can be granted***; acknowledges, ***however***, that the Commission has devised a reliable approach, and recalls that the same conclusions should be drawn regarding the rural development situation;

Amendment

134. Stresses in particular that the shortening of the conformity procedure leading to financial corrections announced by the Commission cannot be evaluated before mid-2016, which means that Parliament will engage with the matter in the course of the discharge procedure in 2017/2018; acknowledges that the Commission has devised a reliable approach, and recalls that the same conclusions should be drawn regarding the rural development situation;

Or. en

Amendment 283
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 135

Motion for a resolution

135. Is gratified to observe that simplification measures adopted by the Commission have already reduced the error rate in this field;

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 284
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 136

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

136. For this reason, reserves its position as regards the regularity of transactions and the effectiveness of systems in the common agricultural policy (direct payments and rural development); will lift this reservation only on the basis of a commitment to fully protect the budget of the European Union given by the relevant Commissioners-designate during the parliamentary hearing preceding their appointment as Members of the Commission in 2014 and on condition that convincing plans for doing so are presented; *deleted*

Or. es

Amendment 285

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 136

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

136. For this reason, reserves its position as regards the regularity of transactions and the effectiveness of systems in the common agricultural policy (direct payments and rural development); will lift this reservation only on the basis of a commitment to fully protect the budget of the European Union given by the relevant Commissioners-designate during the parliamentary hearing preceding their appointment as Members of the Commission in 2014 and on condition that convincing plans for doing so are presented; *deleted*

Or. de

Amendment 286
Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 136

Motion for a resolution

136. *For this reason, reserves its position as regards* the regularity of transactions and the effectiveness of systems in the common agricultural policy (direct payments and rural development); *will lift this reservation only on the basis of a* commitment to fully protect the budget of the European Union given by *the relevant Commissioners-designate during the parliamentary hearing preceding their appointment as Members of the Commission in 2014 and on condition that convincing plans for doing so are presented;*

Amendment

136. *taking into account the substantial problems with* the regularity of transactions and the effectiveness of systems in the common agricultural policy (direct payments and rural development); *seeks a commitment to fully protect the budget of the Union to be given by all candidates for the post of President of the next Commission by endorsing the actions and commitments made by the actual commission and by striving for an error rate below the 2% threshold in all policy areas;*

Or. en

Amendment 287
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 136

Motion for a resolution

136. *For this reason, reserves its position as regards the regularity of transactions and the effectiveness of systems in the common agricultural policy (direct payments and rural development); will lift this reservation only on the basis of a* commitment to fully protect the budget of the European Union given by *the relevant Commissioners-designate during the parliamentary hearing preceding their appointment as Members of the Commission in 2014 and on condition that convincing plans for doing so are*

Amendment

136. *Calls on the newly elected Parliament to demand appropriate pledges from the Commission and Member States in order to improve protection of the Union budget*

presented;

Or. en

Amendment 288
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 136

Motion for a resolution

136. For this reason, *reserves its position as regards the regularity of transactions and the effectiveness of systems in the common agricultural policy (direct payments and rural development); will lift this reservation only on the basis of a commitment to fully protect the budget of the European Union given by the relevant Commissioners-designate during the parliamentary hearing preceding their appointment as Members of the Commission in 2014 and on condition that convincing plans for doing so are presented;*

Amendment

136. For this reason, *urges the next Parliament to demand from the relevant Commissioners designate during the parliamentary hearing preceding their appointment as Members of the Commission in 2014, a commitment, accompanied by a presentation of convincing and viable plans in that regard, to fully protect the budget of the Union and to further improve its financial management;*

Or. en

Amendment 289
Jean-Pierre Audy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 136

Motion for a resolution

136. For this reason, reserves its position as regards the regularity of transactions and the effectiveness of systems in the common agricultural policy (direct payments and rural development); *will lift this reservation only* on the basis of a commitment to fully protect the budget of

Amendment

136. For this reason, reserves its position as regards the regularity of transactions and the effectiveness of systems in the common agricultural policy (direct payments and rural development); *the next Parliament will have to be very demanding vis-à-vis the Commissioners-designate, in*

the European Union *given by the relevant Commissioners-designate during the parliamentary hearing preceding their appointment as Members of the Commission in 2014 and on condition that convincing plans for doing so are presented;*

particular those with responsibility for agriculture and auditing, who will be required to give a commitment to fully protect the budget of the European Union *at the parliamentary hearing preceding their appointment as Members of the Commission in 2014, on the basis of convincing plans;*

Or. fr

Amendment 290
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 136

Motion for a resolution

136. For this reason, reserves its position as regards the regularity of transactions and the effectiveness of *systems in* the common agricultural policy (direct payments and rural development); *will lift this reservation only on the basis of a commitment to fully protect the budget of the European Union given by the relevant Commissioners-designate during the parliamentary hearing preceding their appointment as Members of the Commission in 2014 and on condition that convincing plans for doing so are presented;*

Amendment

136. For this reason, *and in the light of the Commission's reservations [paragraph 18a new]*, reserves its position as regards the regularity of transactions and the effectiveness of *specific instruments of* the common agricultural policy (direct payments and rural developments); *calls on the next Parliament to demand that the relevant candidates for the post of Member of the Commission give a binding commitment at their parliamentary hearings to implement the measures listed in paragraphs [22-30]; expects the Commission to reach binding bilateral agreements with Member States which have attracted particular attention, along the lines of the European Semester; regards corresponding binding pledges by the future Commissioners as a precondition if it is to be able to grant the next discharge without reservations;*

([22 - 30] refers to text under subheading 'measures to be taken' and is intended to be dynamic and should be adjusted to relevant points after adoption of amendments [18 a new refers to amendment introduced on the reservations of DG AGRI])

Amendment 291
Esther de Lange

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 136 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

136a. Highlights the risks of a higher error rate within the reformed CAP, in particular through the introduction of compulsory greening measures within the First Pillar; calls on the new Commissioner to present a plan, during the parliamentary hearing preceding his or her appointment as a Member of the Commission, to lower the error rate within the CAP despite the reform;

Amendment 292
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 140

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

140. Considers it unacceptable that, for years, errors of the same kind continue to be identified, often in the same Member States;

140. Considers it unacceptable that, for years, errors of the same kind continue to be identified, often in the same Member States; ***calls on the Commission to step up monitoring of national and regional management and control systems in the light of this finding, and to ease monitoring in countries where management and control systems have proved reliable;***

Amendment 293
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 140

Motion for a resolution

140. Considers it unacceptable that, for years, errors of the same kind continue to be identified, often in the same Member States;

Amendment

140. Considers it unacceptable that, for years, errors of the same kind continue to be identified, often in the same Member States ***and acknowledges that the increasing level of suspension and interruption of payments by the Commission ensures that corrective actions are systematically carried out in cases where deficiencies are identified;***

Or. en

Amendment 294
Ryszard Czarnecki, Marta Andreasen, Philip Bradbourn, Derk Jan Eppink

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 141

Motion for a resolution

141. Agrees with the Court of Auditors that Member States ***bear primary responsibility for preventing or detecting and correcting*** irregular expenditure and reporting on this subject to the Commission; observes that the administrative and certification authorities in the Member States therefore have a key role to play in ensuring the regularity of the expenditure reimbursed by the Commission (Paragraph 5.12 of the Annual Report);

Amendment

141. Agrees with the Court of Auditors that Member States ***have a duty to prevent or detect and correct*** irregular expenditure and reporting on this subject to the Commission; observes that the administrative and certification authorities in the Member States therefore have a key role to play in ensuring the regularity of the expenditure reimbursed by the Commission (Paragraph 5.12 of the Annual Report);

Or. en

Amendment 295
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 142

Motion for a resolution

142. Observes that the Court audited the supervisory and control systems of four audit authorities in four countries, finding the systems in Belgium (Wallonia), Malta and the United Kingdom (England) to be only partially effective, while it found the systems in Slovakia to be effective;

Amendment

142. Observes that the Court audited the supervisory and control systems of four audit authorities in four countries, finding the systems in Belgium (Wallonia), Malta and the United Kingdom (England, ***in the case of ESF***) to be only partially effective, while it found the systems in Slovakia to be effective;

Or. en

Amendment 296
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 142

Motion for a resolution

142. Observes that the Court audited the supervisory and control systems of four audit authorities in four countries, finding the systems in Belgium (Wallonia), Malta and the United Kingdom (England) to be only partially effective, while it found the systems in Slovakia to be effective;

Amendment

142. Observes that the Court audited the supervisory and control systems of four audit authorities in four countries, finding the systems in Belgium (Wallonia), Malta and the United Kingdom (England ***in the case of ESF***) to be only partially effective, while it found the systems in Slovakia to be effective;

Or. en

Amendment 297
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 143

Motion for a resolution

143. **Acknowledges** that, since 2009, 62 of the 112 audit authorities have been checked by the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; observes that these audit authorities are responsible for 257 of the 317 ERDF/CF operational programmes and 48 of the 117 ESF operational programmes; observes, furthermore, that the audit authorities examined during the four-year period were responsible for 95 % of the ERDF/CF appropriations for the 2007-2013 programming period;

Amendment

143. **Welcomes** that, since 2009, 62 of the 112 audit authorities have been checked by the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; observes that these audit authorities are responsible for 257 of the 317 ERDF/CF operational programmes and 48 of the 117 ESF operational programmes; observes, furthermore, that the audit authorities examined during the four-year period were responsible for 95 % of the ERDF/CF appropriations for the 2007-2013 programming period;

Or. en

Amendment 298
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 144

Motion for a resolution

144. **Observes** with concern that the Court audited the reports by national audit authorities on 138 ERDF/CF and ESF operational programmes and in many cases found shortcomings in them; notes that the Commission stresses in this connection that in cases in which the Commission judged the reported error rate to be unreliable, flat-rate corrections were made where appropriate;

Amendment

144. **Notes** with concern that the Court audited the reports by national audit authorities on 138 ERDF/CF and ESF operational programmes and in many cases found shortcomings in them; notes that the Commission stresses in this connection that in cases in which the Commission judged the reported error rate to be unreliable, flat-rate corrections were made where appropriate;

Or. en

Amendment 299
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 147

Motion for a resolution

147. ***Calls on the Commission, during the 2014-2020 programming period, itself to audit, by means of random samples taken by itself, all operational programmes*** which have attracted attention because of the level of funding, the frequency of errors or shortcomings in supervisory and control systems;

Amendment

147. ***Welcomes the audit strategy for the 2014-2020 programming period which will include random samples of all operational programmes, together with risk based audits of those*** which have attracted attention because of the level of funding, the frequency of errors or shortcomings in supervisory and control systems;

Or. en

Amendment 300
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 148

Motion for a resolution

148. ***Would consider it right for the guidelines for audits by the Commission itself to be laid down in the form of an obligation imposed on itself by the Commission; calls on the Commission already to present them in the run-up to the 2013 budget discharge procedure; calls for clear indications, to this end,*** of the extent to which Member States and programmes which have attracted attention in the past are being subjected to a special audit approach and the extent to which net financial corrections can be accelerated; considers that this approach should also be reflected in forthcoming delegated acts;

Amendment

148. ***Recognises that the new regulations place audit obligations on*** the Commission; calls on the Commission for clear indications of the extent to which Member States and programmes which have attracted attention in the past are being subjected to a special audit approach and the extent to which net financial corrections can be accelerated; considers that this approach should also be reflected in forthcoming delegated acts;

Or. en

Amendment 301
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 150

Motion for a resolution

150. **Notes** further that between mid-2010 and November 2013 the Commission performed additional checks on audit authorities, intermediate bodies and beneficiaries (77 audits on more than 70 operational programmes in 16 Member States) to verify the quality of administrative audits;

Amendment

150. **Welcomes** further that between mid-2010 and November 2013 the Commission performed additional checks on audit authorities, intermediate bodies and beneficiaries (77 audits on more than 70 operational programmes in 16 Member States) to verify the quality of administrative audits;

Or. en

Amendment 302
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 151

Motion for a resolution

151. Stresses that, according to statistics from the 2012 activity report of DG REGIO, risk-affected payments ranged between EUR 755.8 million (minimum) and 1 706.8 million (maximum); observes that, in this context, the Commission expressed 61 reservations for programmes or parts thereof and 25 reputation reservations, primarily concerning Spain, Sweden, European territorial cooperation and the Czech Republic;

Amendment

151. Stresses that, according to statistics from the 2012 activity report of DG REGIO, risk-affected payments ranged between EUR 755.8 million (minimum) and 1 706.8 million (maximum); observes that, in this context, the Commission expressed 61 reservations for programmes or parts thereof and 25 reputation reservations, primarily concerning Spain, Sweden, European territorial cooperation and the Czech Republic; ***impresses on the Commission that it needs to continue to pursue the greatest possible simplification in order to avoid to the maximum any possibility of error;***

Or. es

Amendment 303
Jan Olbrycht

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 152

Motion for a resolution

152. Welcomes the fact that the new **ERDF** Regulation¹⁰⁸ introduces a series of improvements: payment of the first instalment only after adoption of the operational programme; decommitment three years after expiry of the programme ('n+3'); reduction of advance payments; 10% of the calculated amount of invoices is withheld from payments until the final statement has been approved; country-specific recommendations may be included in partnership agreements;

¹⁰⁸ Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

Amendment

152. Welcomes the fact that the new **Common Provisions** Regulation¹⁰⁸ introduces a series of improvements: payment of the first instalment only after adoption of the operational programme; decommitment three years after expiry of the programme ('n+3'); reduction of advance payments; 10% of the calculated amount of invoices is withheld from payments until the final statement has been approved; country-specific recommendations may be included in partnership agreements;

¹⁰⁸ Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

Or. en

Amendment 304
Jan Olbrycht

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 152

Motion for a resolution

152. Welcomes the fact that the new ERDF Regulation¹⁰⁸ introduces a series of improvements: payment of the first instalment only after adoption of the

Amendment

152. Welcomes the fact that the new ERDF Regulation¹⁰⁸ introduces a series of improvements: payment of the first instalment only after adoption of the

operational programme; decommitment three years after expiry of the programme ('n+3'); reduction of advance payments; 10% of the calculated amount of invoices is withheld from payments until the final statement has been approved; country-specific recommendations may be included in partnership agreements;

¹⁰⁸ Regulation (EU) No **1301/2013** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund **and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal** and repealing Regulation (EC) No **1080/2006** (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

operational programme; decommitment three years after expiry of the programme ('n+3'); reduction of advance payments; 10% of the calculated amount of invoices is withheld from payments until the final statement has been approved; country-specific recommendations may be included in partnership agreements;

¹⁰⁸ Regulation (EU) No **1303/2013** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 **laying down common provisions** on the European Regional Development Fund, **the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund** and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No **1083/2006**

Or. en

Amendment 305 **Jan Olbrycht**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 153**

Motion for a resolution

153. Regrets, however, that, under the new ERDF Regulation too, Member States may replace projects affected by errors which were identified in year 'n' with new projects, eliminating an essential incentive for the careful use of appropriations; considers that this arrangement should be restricted at the earliest opportunity and fundamentally re-regulated by 2020 at the latest;

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 306
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 153

Motion for a resolution

153. ***Regrets, however, that, under the new ERDF Regulation too, Member States may replace projects affected by errors which were identified in year 'n' with new projects, eliminating an essential incentive for the careful use of appropriations; considers that this arrangement should be restricted at the earliest opportunity and fundamentally re-regulated by 2020 at the latest;***

Amendment

153. ***Stresses*** that Member States may ***only*** replace projects affected by errors which were identified in year 'n' with new projects ***if the error was detected by their own management and control systems;*** considers that this ***provides a crucial incentive for optimising Member States' management and control systems;***

Amendment 307
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 153

Motion for a resolution

153. ***Regrets, however, that, under the new ERDF Regulation too, Member States may replace projects affected by errors which were identified in year 'n' with new projects, eliminating an essential incentive for the careful use of appropriations; considers that this arrangement should be restricted at the earliest opportunity and fundamentally re-regulated by 2020 at the latest;***

Amendment

153. ***Takes note that*** Member States ***can only*** replace projects affected by errors which were identified in year '***n***' with new projects ***only until 15 February of the following year and calls for*** this arrangement ***to be carefully monitored with a view to a possible re-regulation*** by 2020 at the latest;

Amendment 308
Jan Olbrycht

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 154

Motion for a resolution

154. ***Regrets furthermore that the term ‘serious deficiency’, the discovery of which would lead to net corrections, was not conclusively defined in the Regulation, but left to be fleshed out by a delegated act; now, however, has great expectations of the formulation and implementation of this act;***

Amendment

154. ***Expects the detailed and operational criteria that will allow the Commission to apply the notion of ‘serious deficiency’, which would lead to net corrections as defined in the recently adopted regulation, to be laid down in a delegated act;***

Or. en

Amendment 309
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 154

Motion for a resolution

154. Regrets furthermore that the ***term ‘serious deficiency’, the discovery of which would lead to net corrections, was not conclusively defined in the Regulation, but left to be fleshed out by a delegated act; now, however, has great expectations of the formulation and implementation of this act;***

Amendment

154. Regrets furthermore that the ***criteria for assessing the systems and for establishing the level of flat rate corrections were not conclusively defined in the Regulation, but left to be fleshed out by a delegated act; now, however, has great expectations of the formulation and implementation of this act;***

Or. en

Amendment 310
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 154

Motion for a resolution

154. Regrets furthermore that the ***term ‘serious deficiency’, the discovery of which would lead to net*** corrections, ***was*** not conclusively defined in the Regulation, but left to be fleshed out by a delegated act; now, however, has great expectations of the formulation and implementation of this act;

Amendment

154. Regrets furthermore that the ***criteria for assessing the systems ('serious deficiencies') and for establishing the level of flat rate financial*** corrections ***were*** not conclusively defined in the Regulation, but left to be fleshed out by a delegated act; now, however, has great expectations of the formulation and implementation of this act;

Or. en

Amendment 311
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 154 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

154a. Recognises that in the course of the discharge procedure a number of bilateral meetings have taken place between the rapporteur and the Commission on horizontal issues of the delegated act specifying further how "serious deficiencies" could be more clearly defined and on how financial corrections could be tightened in case of persisting serious deficiencies; regrets that the rapporteur's proposals on the level of financial corrections (adding a 50% and a 75% rate) were not taken into consideration; deplores that in the latest draft delegated act (of 4 February 2014) the initial automatism for inflicting financial corrections at a higher level, if the same serious deficiency is identified in a subsequent accounting year, has become optional and, as a consequence, the requirement for Member States to put

*in place supervisory and control systems
guaranteeing sound financial
management has been weakened;*

Or. en

Amendment 312
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 155 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

155a. Calls, in light of the high levels of public procurement errors in cohesion policy and with regard to the Court of Auditor's seminar on EU public procurement in January 2014, for a stronger and immediate implementation of existing rules in this area in the Member States; calls furthermore for a better coordination of public procurement rules at the level of all stakeholders and a simplification and harmonisation of rules and financial corrections;

Or. en

Amendment 313
Jan Olbrycht

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 156 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

156a. Calls on the Commission to define and take rapid action to address the weaknesses of the audit system in the policy areas of agriculture and cohesion;

Or. en

Amendment 314
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 157

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

157. Reserves its final judgment of this policy sector in the light of the above considerations, particularly for the following reasons: **deleted**

(a) it is not clear that the audit authorities of some Member States take their auditing task seriously and that they make lasting improvements to supervisory and control systems;

(b) it is not clear that the Commission, on the basis of an independent audit procedure, is performing more audits of final beneficiaries and granting authorities in year 'n' in those Member States which have attracted attention because of shortcomings in administrative and audit systems in year 'n-1';

(c) it is not clear that the Commission itself audits all operational programmes at least once in the course of a programming period;

(d) the time limits in adversarial procedures are too long, and

(e) it is uncertain whether the operational application of the term 'serious deficiencies' will lead to any improvement;

calls on the newly elected Parliament to inquire into the weaknesses in regional policy which have been highlighted here during the hearings of the designated members of the new Commission in order to protect the EU budget more effectively;

Or. es

Amendment 315
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 157

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

157. Reserves its final judgment of this policy sector in the light of the above considerations, particularly for the following reasons: ***deleted***

(a) it is not clear that the audit authorities of some Member States take their auditing task seriously and that they make lasting improvements to supervisory and control systems;

(b) it is not clear that the Commission, on the basis of an independent audit procedure, is performing more audits of final beneficiaries and granting authorities in year 'n' in those Member States which have attracted attention because of shortcomings in administrative and audit systems in year 'n-1';

(c) it is not clear that the Commission itself audits all operational programmes at least once in the course of a programming period;

(d) the time limits in adversarial procedures are too long, and

(e) it is uncertain whether the operational application of the term 'serious deficiencies' will lead to any improvement;

Calls on the newly elected Parliament to raise the issue of the weaknesses in the fields of agricultural and regional policy indicated here at the hearings of the designated members of the new Commission and to demand appropriate pledges in order to improve protection of the EU budget;

Or. de

Amendment 316
Jan Olbrycht

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 157

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

157. Reserves its final judgment of this policy sector in the light of the above considerations, particularly for the following reasons: **deleted**

(a) it is not clear that the audit authorities of some Member States take their auditing task seriously and that they make lasting improvements to supervisory and control systems;

(b) it is not clear that the Commission, on the basis of an independent audit procedure, is performing more audits of final beneficiaries and granting authorities in year 'n' in those Member States which have attracted attention because of shortcomings in administrative and audit systems in year 'n-1';

(c) it is not clear that the Commission itself audits all operational programmes at least once in the course of a programming period;

(d) the time limits in adversarial procedures are too long, and

(e) it is uncertain whether the operational application of the term 'serious deficiencies' will lead to any improvement;

calls on the newly elected Parliament to inquire into the weaknesses in regional policy which have been highlighted here during the hearings of the designated members of the new Commission in order to protect the EU budget more effectively;

Or. en

Amendment 317
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 157 – introductory part

Motion for a resolution

157. *Reserves its final judgment of this policy sector in the light of the above considerations, particularly for the following reasons:*

Amendment

157. *Calls on the Commission and Member States to commit to the following:*

Or. en

Amendment 318
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 157 – introductory part

Motion for a resolution

157. Reserves its *final judgment of this policy sector in the light of the above considerations*, particularly for the following reasons:

Amendment

157. Reserves its *position on the correct implementation of some sectors of the Structural Funds*, particularly for the following reasons:

Or. de

Amendment 319
Paul Rübzig

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 157 – introductory part

Motion for a resolution

157. *Reserves its final judgment of this policy sector* in the light of the above considerations, *particularly for the following reasons:*

Amendment

157. *Calls on the Commission*, in the light of the above considerations *and in the context of reporting and improvement obligations, to examine the following facts*

in particular detail:

Or. de

Amendment 320
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 157 – introductory part

Motion for a resolution

157. *Reserves its final judgment of this policy sector in the light of the above considerations, particularly for the following reasons:*

Amendment

157. *Emphasises* the following *shortcomings:*

Or. en

Amendment 321
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 157 – point a

Motion for a resolution

(a) *it is not clear that the* audit authorities of *some* Member States take their auditing task seriously *and that they make* lasting improvements to supervisory and control systems;

Amendment

(a) audit authorities of *all* Member States *should* take their auditing task seriously *in order to bring about* lasting improvements to supervisory and control systems;

Or. en

Amendment 322
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 157 – point b

Motion for a resolution

(b) *it is not clear that* the Commission, *on the basis of an independent audit procedure, is performing more* audits of final beneficiaries and granting authorities in year 'n' in *those* Member States *which have attracted attention because of shortcomings* in administrative and audit systems in year 'n-1';

Amendment

(b) the Commission *should continue to perform* audits of final beneficiaries and granting authorities in year 'n' in Member States *where shortcomings have been found* in administrative and audit systems in year 'n-1';

Or. en

Amendment 323

Paul Rübig

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 157 – point b

Motion for a resolution

(b) *it is not clear* that the Commission, on the basis of an independent audit procedure, is performing more audits of final beneficiaries and granting authorities in year 'n' in those Member States which have attracted attention because of shortcomings in administrative and audit systems in year 'n-1';

Amendment

(b) that the Commission, on the basis of an independent audit procedure, is performing more audits of final beneficiaries and granting authorities in year 'n' in those Member States which have attracted attention because of shortcomings in administrative and audit systems in year 'n-1';

Or. de

Amendment 324

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 157 – point c

Motion for a resolution

(c) *it is not clear that* the Commission *itself audits* all operational programmes at least once in the course of a programming

Amendment

(c) the Commission *should continue to audit* all operational programmes at least once in the course of a programming

period;

period;

Or. en

Amendment 325

Paul Rübig

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 157 – point c

Motion for a resolution

(c) *it is not clear* that the Commission itself audits all operational programmes at least once in the course of a programming period;

Amendment

(c) that the Commission itself audits all operational programmes at least once in the course of a programming period;

Or. de

Amendment 326

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 157 – point d

Motion for a resolution

(d) the time limits in adversarial procedures are too long, and

Amendment

(d) the time limits in adversarial procedures are too long *and should therefore be shortened*, and

Or. en

Amendment 327

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 157 – point e

Motion for a resolution

(e) *it is uncertain whether the operational*

Amendment

deleted

application of the term ‘serious deficiencies’ will lead to any improvement;

Or. en

Amendment 328
Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 157 – subparagraph 1

Motion for a resolution

calls on the newly elected Parliament to inquire into the weaknesses in regional policy which have been highlighted here during the hearings of the designated members of the new Commission in order to protect the EU budget more effectively;

Amendment

urges the next Parliament to require from the relevant Commissioners-designate during the parliamentary hearings a formal commitment to implement in full all priority actions referred to under points [22-24] and [26-30];

Or. en

Amendment 329
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 157 – point e a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(ea) with regard to [Art. 21a] the reservations of DG REGIO

([21 a] refers to new tabled Art. 21 a on the reservations of DG REGIO)

Or. de

Amendment 330
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 158

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

158. *Regards the newly elected Parliament as being in a position to investigate the reservations in the fields of agriculture and regional policy and lift them if appropriate progress is made;*

deleted

Or. es

**Amendment 331
Jan Olbrycht**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 158**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

158. *Regards the newly elected Parliament as being in a position to investigate the reservations in the fields of agriculture and regional policy and lift them if appropriate progress is made;*

deleted

Or. en

**Amendment 332
Jens Geier**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 158**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

158. *Regards the newly elected Parliament as being in a position to investigate the reservations in the fields of agriculture and regional policy and lift them if appropriate progress is made;*

158. *Calls on the newly elected Parliament to establish action to remedy the weaknesses detected in the fields of agriculture and regional policy as urgent tasks in the new European Commission's work programme;*

Or. de

Amendment 333
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 158 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

158a. Calls on the next Parliament to demand that the relevant candidates for the post of Member of the Commission give a binding commitment at their parliamentary hearings to implement the measures listed in paragraphs [22-30]; expects the Commission to reach binding bilateral agreements with Member States which have attracted particular attention, along the lines of the European Semester; regards corresponding binding pledges by the future Commissioners as a precondition if it is to be able to grant the next discharge without reservations;

([22 - 30] refers to text under subheading 'measures to be taken' and is intended to be dynamic and should be adjusted to relevant points after adoption of amendments)

Or. de

Amendment 334
Jan Olbrycht

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 159

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

159. Calls on the newly elected Parliament to raise the issue of the weaknesses in the fields of agricultural and regional policy indicated here at the hearings of the designated members of the new Commission and to demand appropriate pledges in order to improve

deleted

protection of the EU budget;

Or. en

Amendment 335
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 159

Motion for a resolution

159. ***Calls on*** the newly elected Parliament ***to*** raise the issue of the weaknesses in the fields of agricultural and regional policy indicated ***here at the hearings of the designated*** members of the new Commission and to demand appropriate pledges in order to ***improve*** protection of the EU budget;

Amendment

159. ***Recommends that the relevant committees in*** the newly elected Parliament raise the issue of ***control measures to address*** the weaknesses in the fields of agricultural and regional policy indicated ***in this resolution with*** members of the new Commission and to demand appropriate pledges in order to ***continue improvement in the*** protection of the Union budget;

Or. en

Amendment 336
Jan Olbrycht

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 160

Motion for a resolution

160. ***Calls on the newly elected Parliament, in the spirit of the above, to probe all legal means of achieving further legislative improvements, if appropriate, in the context of the mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework;***

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 337
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Heading 5 – Subheading 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

The European Union Solidarity Fund

Or. en

Amendment 338
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 160 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

160 a. Appreciates the work of the Task Force for Greece; notes that of the 181 priority projects identified by the Group the following projects amounting to EUR 415,7 million are at risk:

- New port of Igoumenitsa, phase C with an approved volume of EUR 81,25 million***
- Suburban train section Piraeus-3 Gefyres with a co-financed budget of EUR 70 million***
- Construction of pier in Symi port with an approved volume of EUR 4,1 million***
- National Registry with an approved volume of EUR 41,9 million***
- Cadastre with a co-financed budget of EUR 130 million***
- E-ticket with an approved volume of EUR 34,76 million***
- Rehabilitation of Karla lake with an approved volume of EUR 41 million***
- Improvement of the access road to the landfill of the 2nd Geographical unity of the Prefecture of Aitolos Akarnania with an***

approved volume of EUR 11,4 million

- Improvement - Widening of Provincial Road Velo - Stimagka - Koutsi – Nemea with an approved volume of EUR 7,1 million

- Replacement of the central water mains of Zakynthos with an approved volume of EUR 9,6 million

requests the Commission to inform Parliament in detail about the problems encountered with those projects;

Or. en

Amendment 339

Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 160 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

160a. Notes that the EUSF is an important instrument in responding to major natural disasters in the Union and an expression of European solidarity to disaster-stricken regions within the Union; observes that Italy received EUR 493,8 million in response to the Abruzzi earthquake;

Or. en

Amendment 340

Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 160 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

160b. Requests that the Commission evaluate the possibility to establish a Task

*Force for all Member States that struggle
with the implementation of Union funds;*

Or. en

Amendment 341
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 160 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

160b. Notes that the Court of Auditors' Special Report 24/2012 identifies serious deficiencies and irregularities in the management of the Union funds in the Abruzzi region after the 2009 earthquake; deeply regrets the fact that the Court of Auditors found that around 70 % of the contribution from the Union was used in violation of the EUSF Regulation;

Or. en

Amendment 342
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 160 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

160c. Believes that the EUSF Regulation must be safeguarded; is deeply concerned that the violation of the regulation and the serious deficiencies in the implementation of the funds have made the EUSF contribution to the earthquake victims less effective;

Or. en

Amendment 343
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 160 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

160d. Notes the observation by the Court of Auditors that the cost of the construction work for re-housing the victims of the earthquake was 158% over the market price, and also regrets that the solidarity aid has benefited fewer victims than it should have done. Also regrets the many instances of substandard building work which have even led to at least one whole apartment block having to be evacuated as unsuitable for human habitation.

Or. da

Amendment 344
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 160 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

160e. Deeply regrets that it is still waiting for answers from the Commission in connection with the implementation of the EUSF for Abruzzi; reserves for this reason its final judgement of the EUSF response to Abruzzi;

Or. en

Amendment 345
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 162

Motion for a resolution

162. Observes that, of the 180 transactions audited by the Court of Auditors, 63 (35 %) were affected by errors; observes that, on the basis of the errors quantified by the Court in 31 transactions, it estimates the likely error rate to be 3.2 %, which means an increase of 1 % in comparison with the previous year; notes that the Commission observes that the error rates would have remained unaltered – i.e. close to the materiality threshold – if the Court had taken account of flat-rate corrections;

Amendment

162. Observes that, of the 180 transactions audited by the Court of Auditors, 63 (35 %) were affected by errors; observes that, on the basis of the errors quantified by the Court in 31 transactions, it estimates the likely error rate to be 3.2 %, which means an increase of 1 % in comparison with the previous year; notes that the Commission observes that the error rates would have remained unaltered – i.e. close to the materiality threshold – if the Court had taken account of flat-rate corrections ***implemented in 2012, and which were especially high (a 25% flat rate) in one Member State;***

Or. en

Amendment 346
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 164

Motion for a resolution

164. Supports the Commission in its objective of introducing across the board in accounts the 'simplified cost option', which has existed since 2007, as projects will be less prone to error as a result, as the Court confirms;

Amendment

164. Supports the Commission in its objective of introducing across the board in accounts the 'simplified cost option', which has existed since 2007, ***and calls on Member States to apply simplified costs wherever possible*** as projects will be less prone to error as a result, as the Court confirms;

Or. en

Amendment 347
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 166

Motion for a resolution

166. Considers that the **Commission's** plan to use the simplified cost option for 50 % of ESF transactions by 2017 **is not ambitious enough**; calls on the Commission to report on progress in **implementing** the simplified cost option in the run-up to the 2013 discharge procedure;

Amendment

166. Considers that the **Commission's** plan to use the simplified cost option for 50 % of ESF transactions by 2017 **should be regarded as a minimum and calls on all Member States to ensure that the figure is exceeded by implementing simplified costs** ; calls on the Commission to report on progress in **implementation of** the simplified cost option **by Member States** in the run-up to the 2013 discharge procedure;

Or. en

Amendment 348
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 168

Motion for a resolution

168. Welcomes the submission of the 'Overview Report on the Results of the Thematic Audit on Management Verifications Conducted by Member States'; observes that the report indicates that the audit authorities display substantial deficiencies: that the reporting lines of the administrative authorities and intermediate bodies display weaknesses, that audits are often purely formal, that public procurement rules are being breached, that the assignment of tasks is not accompanied by training and supervision and that administrative capacities and guidance are lacking;

Amendment

168. Welcomes the submission of the 'Overview Report on the Results of the Thematic Audit on Management Verifications Conducted by Member States'; observes that the report indicates that the audit authorities display substantial deficiencies: that the reporting lines of the administrative authorities and intermediate bodies display weaknesses, that audits are often purely formal, that public procurement rules are being breached, that the assignment of tasks is not accompanied by training and supervision and that administrative capacities and guidance are lacking, **and welcomes the recommendations therein, including simplified cost implementation with simplification seminars in all Member States, enhanced management through**

dedicated cost verification teams, more on-the-spot controls of beneficiaries, better supervision of delegated bodies and management bodies limiting approvals to what can actually be managed, and action plans whenever deficiencies are found;

Or. en

Amendment 349
Markus Pieper

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 169

Motion for a resolution

169. Is very concerned that DG EMPL adjusted the error rate reported by the Member States in the case of **31** out of 117 annual audit reports for 2012 or dubbed them unreliable (in 2011 this had been the case for 42 of the 117 annual audit reports); considers this particular cause for concern because the Commission takes the opinions, the annual audit reports and the management declarations of the Member States as a basis for its risk analysis and for its own audits;

Amendment

169. Is very concerned that DG EMPL adjusted the error rate reported by the Member States in the case of **13** out of 117 annual audit reports for 2012 or dubbed them unreliable (in 2011 this had been the case for 42 of the 117 annual audit reports); considers this particular cause for concern because the Commission takes the opinions, the annual audit reports and the management declarations of the Member States as a basis for its risk analysis and for its own audits;

Or. de

Amendment 350
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 171

Motion for a resolution

171. Regrets that the 2012 activity report of DG EMPL contains a reservation relating to EUR 68 million of the payments made for the 2007-2013 programming

Amendment

171. Regrets that the 2012 activity report of DG EMPL contains a reservation relating to EUR 68 million of the payments made for the 2007-2013 programming

period, pertaining to 27 out of 117 operational programmes (Spain 9, Italy 4, United Kingdom 3);

period, pertaining to 27 out of 117 operational programmes (Spain 9, Italy 4, United Kingdom 3) ***and notes that interruption and suspension procedures were adopted where required;***

Or. en

Amendment 351
Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 171

Motion for a resolution

171. Regrets that the 2012 activity report of DG EMPL contains a reservation relating to EUR 68 million of the payments made for the 2007-2013 programming period, pertaining to 27 out of 117 operational programmes (Spain 9, Italy 4, United Kingdom 3);

Amendment

171. Regrets that the 2012 activity report of DG EMPL contains a reservation relating to EUR 68 million of the payments made for the 2007-2013 programming period, pertaining to 27 out of 117 operational programmes (Spain 9, Italy 4, United Kingdom 3) ***and insists on the need for simplification;***

Or. es

Amendment 352
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 172

Motion for a resolution

172. Welcomes the strict application of interruptions to and cessation of payments; agrees with the Commission that these are extremely effective instruments; observes that, according to the 2012 activity report of DG EMPL, during the reporting period 38 interruptions to payments, with a total value of EUR 881.7 million, were imposed (the corresponding figure for 2013 being 29 with a value of EUR 389.5 million) and

Amendment

172. Welcomes the strict application of interruptions to and cessation of payments; agrees with the Commission that these are extremely effective instruments; observes that, according to the 2012 activity report of DG EMPL, during the reporting period 38 interruptions to payments, with a total value of EUR 881.7 million, were imposed (the corresponding figure for 2013 being 29 with a value of EUR 389.5 million) and

two cessations of payment (*the corresponding figure for 2013 being 11*);

two cessations of payment *as of 31 December 2012 (Germany)*;;

Or. es

Amendment 353

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 174

Motion for a resolution

174. Stresses that serious conflicts between the powers of Member States and of the European Union are increasingly common in the field of social policy, calls on the Commission to respect the principle of the welfare state, which is enshrined in the constitutions of many Member States, and considers that there is considerable potential for savings on the EU budget here;

Amendment

174. Recalls that the Union's pursuit of strengthening social cohesion is set out in Article 174 TFEU, and the Union's obligation to support this goal through European Social Fund is set out in Article 175 TFEU, along with the Commission's obligation to report on progress towards strong social cohesion and how Union funds have contributed to it;

Or. en

Amendment 354

Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 175

Motion for a resolution

175. Calls for a policy to reduce youth unemployment which possesses European added value; regards the role of the EU as being in particular to improve infrastructure for vocational training and further training; calls, in this regard, for an 'honest' European subsidy policy which focuses far more on transfers of know-how from Member States with low youth unemployment rates to Member States where those rates are high, but

Amendment

deleted

without further arousing false expectations and without further making promises on matters for which the European Union cannot assume primary responsibility;

Or. es

Amendment 355

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 175

Motion for a resolution

175. Calls for a policy to reduce youth unemployment which *possesses* European added value; regards the role of the EU as being *in particular* to improve infrastructure for vocational training and further training; calls, *in this regard, for an ‘honest’ European subsidy policy which focuses far more on* transfers of know-how from Member States with low youth unemployment rates to Member States where those rates are high, *but without further arousing false expectations and without further making promises on matters for which the European Union cannot assume primary responsibility;*

Amendment

175. Calls for a policy to reduce youth unemployment which *increases* European added value; regards the role of the EU as being, *inter-alia*, to improve infrastructure for vocational training and further training; calls, *for more* transfers of know-how from Member States with low youth unemployment rates to Member States where those rates are high,

Or. en

Amendment 356

Eva Ortiz Vilella

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 177

Motion for a resolution

177. Observes that European citizens and tax-payers cannot be shown what has

Amendment

deleted

been achieved by making payments amounting to billions from the ESF and Structural Funds to combat youth unemployment; draws attention to the fact that those carrying out labour market measures on the ground dispute the alleged failure to keep statistics on them; reminds the Commission of its accountability for the use of European tax revenue for young unemployed people, and considers the results of European subsidy policies to be inadequate, particularly in relation to the expectations which have been aroused in terms of reducing youth unemployment;

Or. es

Amendment 357
Monika Panayotova

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 177

Motion for a resolution

177. Observes that European citizens and tax-payers cannot be shown what has been achieved by making payments amounting to billions from the ESF and Structural Funds to combat youth unemployment; draws attention to the fact that those carrying out labour market measures on the ground dispute the alleged failure to keep statistics on them; reminds the Commission of its accountability for the use of European tax revenue for young unemployed people, and considers the results of European subsidy policies to be inadequate, particularly in relation to the expectations which have been aroused in terms of reducing youth unemployment;

Amendment

177. Observes that European citizens and tax-payers cannot be shown what has been achieved by making payments amounting to billions from the ESF and Structural Funds to combat youth unemployment; draws attention to the fact that those carrying out labour market measures on the ground dispute the alleged failure to keep statistics on them; ***in this regard notes the important role of the Member States in providing statistics and regular reports on the basis of impact indicators of Union funds used for tackling youth unemployment***; reminds the Commission of its accountability for the use of European tax revenue for young unemployed people, and considers the results of European subsidy policies to be inadequate, particularly in relation to the expectations which have been aroused in

terms of reducing youth unemployment;

Or. en

Amendment 358

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 177

Motion for a resolution

177. Observes that European citizens and tax-payers cannot be shown what has been achieved by *making payments amounting to billions from the* ESF and Structural Funds to combat youth unemployment; *draws attention to the fact that* those carrying out labour market measures on the ground dispute the alleged failure to keep statistics on them; reminds the Commission of its accountability for the use of European tax revenue for young unemployed people, and considers the results of European subsidy policies to be inadequate, particularly in relation to the expectations which have been aroused in terms of reducing youth unemployment;

Amendment

177. *Notes that Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 did not provide for reporting specifically regarding measures directed at young people during the 2007-2013 period, and therefore* observes that European citizens and tax-payers cannot be *fully* shown what has been achieved by *use of* ESF and Structural Funds to combat youth unemployment; *notes that some of* those carrying out labour market measures on the ground dispute the alleged failure to keep statistics on them; *fully expects that the output and result indicators in the 2014-2020 ESF Regulation will deliver such information, and* reminds the Commission of its accountability for the use of European tax revenue for young unemployed people, and considers *information on* the results of European subsidy policies to be inadequate, particularly in relation to the expectations which have been aroused in terms of reducing youth unemployment;

Or. en

Amendment 359

Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution

Heading 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Troika and ESM

Or. en

Amendment 360
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 177 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

177a. Notes with concern the participation of the Commission, together with the IMF and ECB, in the so-called Troika in designing and supervision of the adjustment programs for the European deficit countries;

Or. en

Amendment 361
Monika Panayotova

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 177 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

177a. Notes the need for integrated approach and complementarity of measures tackling youth unemployment at Union and national level as well as with other Union funded programmes and instruments that could help decrease the levels of youth unemployment, such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus+ and Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs; considers that this will ensure the effective and efficient use of Union funds and the added value of national policies to efforts at Union

level.

Or. en

Amendment 362
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 177 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

177a. Demands clarification regarding a major case of fraud in connection with the ESF in Spain; notes that the fraud involved the organisation of educational and training events that are alleged to have been entirely fictional, held over the Internet with non-existent participants, with the level of grants depending on the number of registered participants; is concerned, since several million euros are involved; expects the Commission to provide information that might explain why this case was not noticed by any of the bodies responsible for control in the hierarchy of control obligations established by the regulation governing the fund (Madrid Court of Auditors, Spanish Court of Auditors, European Commission – DG EMPL, European Court of Auditors), and whether OLAF was involved; demands clarification as to whether the European Court of Auditors was aware of this case; demands to know how many similar cases have occurred in the past (cases in the Netherlands for example, and in other Member States);

Or. de

Amendment 363
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 177 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

177b. Believes it to be deeply undemocratic that the Commission assumes ever greater powers to control national budgets, without any serious oversight by Parliament;

Or. en

Amendment 364
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 177 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

177c. Points out that the targets of the adjustment programs are unrealistic since they underestimate the implications of the deepening recession especially in Greece where the estimated public deficit will not fall below 3 % of GDP until 2020, while the public debt will reach 178 % of GDP in 2013 and 152 % in 2020 and the reasons offered for these divergences are the 'longer and more severe recession' than expected because the GDP has declined by more than 10 % since the start of the programme and it will continue to decline; notes furthermore that the policy recommendations remain unchanged and in the meantime unemployment has risen from 8,3 % of the labour force in 2007 to nearly 17 % in 2011 and more than 26 % in 2012;

Or. en

Amendment 365
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 177 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

177d. Is highly concerned that Commissions' austerity policies are also blighting the lives of millions of Europeans, most especially in the South and East European Member States of the periphery; notes that the official unemployment rate in 2011 was in Greece 17,7 % and in Spain 21,7 %; is highly concerned about the increase of the rates in 2012 in Spain to 26,1 % and in Greece to 26,8 % while the youth unemployment rate for the Union was 22,7 % in Spain and Greece it was over 50 %; therefore urgently invites the Commission to change its politics by giving up their austerity orientation in order to fight unemployment;

Or. en

Amendment 366
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 177 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

177e. Strongly criticises that Commission's policy on austerity has focussed on expenditure cuts and privatisations resulting in the postponement or cancellation of infrastructure projects as well as reductions in recurrent expenditure in healthcare, education, social provision and welfare benefits; therefore public employment has been reduced

significantly in many countries and, due to the recession and the impact of austerity policies, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of the population at risk of poverty; deplores that the poorest sectors have been hit hardest but, in the crisis stricken Member States, many middle-class citizens have also been affected;

Or. en

Amendment 367
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 177 f (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

177f. Notes that historically, social policies in Europe have been provided by managing or removing the market in the provision of services, through food subsidies or the free provision of health services and certain levels of education; deplores that now the de-commodification of public services is being reversed through the introduction of vouchers and user fees for health and education services;

Or. en

Amendment 368
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 177 g (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

177g. Criticises that the Commission advocates with its adjustments programs

the flexibility of labour markets, pay freezes, cuts in pensions and increased retirement ages, together with an easing of restrictions on layoffs and limits on unemployment benefits; is of the opinion that all these represent a further weakening of the provisions of Europe's vaunted social model;

Or. en

Amendment 369
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 177 h (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

177h. Notes with concern the pressure currently exerted by the Troika on Cyprus and Greece to privatise the water sector; recalls that recent water privatisation policies in the United Kingdom and Portugal show that privatisation generally leads to cost increases, rather than cost reductions; is concerned about the potential risks for public health of this development; therefore urges the Troika to reconsider their policies and not to demand the privatisation of the water sector;

Or. en

Amendment 370
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 177 i (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

177i. Notes that the programs of

memoranda of understanding in all cases were presented as one-way road: they were used on the one hand to save and to shield the financial sector, recapitalizing the banks and converting private debt into public debt and on the other to repay the speculative rates of the accumulated debt; the programs of understanding did not finance the real economy nor used for public and productive investment in order to lead the economy into a growth path, but on the opposite with the tough fiscal austerity measures imposed have led to a more profound and lasting recession and social misery; calls for a breakaway from these policies so that the problems of economic sustainable growth, unemployment, poverty, social exclusion, and income inequalities can be truly addressed and combated;

Or. en

Amendment 371
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 184 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

184a. Notes that both the EFSF and the ESM benefit from the service of prominent Union institutions, such as the Commission and the ECB, while their respective relationship do not find a sufficient legal basis and control of the institutions according to the procedure laid down in the TFEU; underlines that the creation outside the institutions of the Union represents a setback from the evolution of the Union, essentially at the expense of Parliament, the Court of Auditors and the Court of Justice;

Or. en

Amendment 372
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 184 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

184b. Criticises the fact that the ESM Treaty lacks sufficient provisions for ensuring effective external audit; regrets that in Article 24 (Board of Auditors) of the bylaws of the Treaty only one member can be nominated by the Court of Auditors while two members upon the proposal of the Chairperson;

Or. en

Amendment 373
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 184 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

184c. Is concerned by the regulation of paragraph 6 of Article 24 of the by-laws of the Treaty with the agreed procedure only to inform Parliament by sending the annual report of the Board of Auditors to Parliament; underlines the right of Parliament to have a debate on the annual report with the Board of Auditors in presence of the Board of Governors of the ESM;

Or. en

Amendment 374
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 188

Motion for a resolution

188. Welcomes the performance audits produced by the European Court of Auditors, in particular in its special reports concerning the European **Union's** aid to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt and Palestine, as they assess whether the management of the Commission accords with the principles of efficiency, effectiveness and economy;

Amendment

188. Welcomes the performance audits produced by the European Court of Auditors, in particular in its special reports concerning the European **Union's** aid to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt and Palestine, as they assess whether the management of the Commission accords with the principles of efficiency, effectiveness and economy; ***suggests, in light of these reports, that the Commission and the Court of Auditors work closely together to further develop both measurable indicators and the methodology of performance audits, regarding Union funded projects with a high political nature, such as those oriented towards strengthening the respect for human rights, the rule of law and democracy, where a decision to continue or discontinue a project does not only depend on actual results in a given time frame;***

Or. en

Amendment 375
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Heading 7 - Subheading 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Key performance indicators and EAMRs

Or. en

Amendment 376
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 188 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

188a. Points out that international organisations can receive contracts directly from the Commission under certain conditions, without tender procedures, and this gives international organisations a considerable competitive advantage; considers the procedure through which the International Management Group (IMG) acquired the status of an international organisation to be questionable; points out that, in 2004 and again in 2008, the IMG was awarded this status by the Director-General of EuropeAid acting alone, in purely internal Commission procedures; regards this as justification of tendering errors; points out that a 'four-pillar assessment' was not carried out until 2010, by the firm Ernst & Young, which did not however correspond to an audit in line with internationally recognised auditing standards and did not go beyond the simple collection of information provided by the auditee itself; calls for detailed clarification as regards the legal basis on which the status of international organisation was granted in 2004, apart from the founding document dating from 1994, and information explaining why the 'four-pillar assessment' was carried out retrospectively in 2010;

Or. de

Amendment 377
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 188 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

188a. Points out that the data quality of the key performance indicators (KPIs) within the External Assistance Monitoring Reports (EAMRs) submitted to DG DEVCO by the Heads of Union Delegations are of low quality, because:

- some delegations were not required to provide data for certain KPIs;***
- some delegations did simply not comply to provide the KPI data requested;***
- system settings rounded figures automatically and made aggregation error prone;***
- the system was prone to human errors in calculations;***
- there was no common understanding of how to calculate certain KPIs;***
- the KPIs were not clearly defined;***

Or. en

Amendment 378
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 188 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

188b. Points with extreme concern to the Commission's uneconomical and uncritical procedures for awarding contracts, from which the same allegedly international organisation has been benefiting for years, with the result that EU delegations are becoming dependent; notes the self-criticism expressed by the Commission and welcomes the fact that

the Commission is tackling these problems; points out, however, that the Committee on Budgetary Control had already criticised the Commission's awarding of contracts to the same international organisation in 2008, based on similar arguments; strongly urges the Commission, therefore, finally to act and ensure that those responsible are held liable;

Or. de

Amendment 379
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 188 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

188b. Points furthermore out that the concept of KPIs is systematically flawed, since the KPIs can by definition not be aggregated, compared and they make it impossible to draw firm and valid conclusions from them;

Or. en

Amendment 380
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 188 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

188c. Notes that the Commission plays an active part in the International Management Group's Steering Committee; calls on the Commission to provide Parliament with a list of names of Commission staff who have attended

meetings of the Steering Committee since 2000, as well as information showing when and how often these meetings took place and whether any kind of payment was made; calls, further, for the composition of the Steering Committee and minutes of its meetings to be forwarded to Parliament;

Or. de

Amendment 381
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 188 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

188c. Expects that the Commission provides and presents during 2014 to the responsible committees in Parliament the overhauled system of KPIs; demands that the revised KPIs be aggregated and compared across delegations and years; expects furthermore that the Commission provides Parliament until the end of 2014 with a benchmarking report comparing the performance of Union Delegations along the revised system of KPIs;

Or. en

Amendment 382
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 188 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

188d. Refers to the appointment procedure of the General Manager who "shall be appointed by a two thirds

majority of the Standing Committee. The term of the Office will be one year [and] renewable [...].The General Manager shall serve under a contract signed either by the State or the institution seconding him to IMG or by the Presidency of IMG. In this last case the contract shall be approved by the Standing Committee" (see Article 12 Statute of IMG); asks the Commission to inform Parliament about the appointment procedure of the current General Manager, his remuneration, how long he is already in office and when his contract will end;

Or. en

Amendment 383
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 188 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

188d. Suggests that the Commission develops furthermore a system to rank delegations according to their performance in each year and presents during 2014 an action plan to achieve this goal;

Or. en

Amendment 384
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 188 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

188e. Points out that conflicts of interest might occur because of close family links

between staff members of the Finance and Contract section in Union Delegations and IMG as beneficiary; recalls Parliament's demand to have access to the CVs of the persons concerned and asks therefore the Commission again to forward these CVs confidentially to the Parliament;

Or. en

Amendment 385
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 188 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

188e. Expects that the Commission will provide the KPIs to Parliament in a machine readable format such as Excel tables or CSV-files together with the EAMRs so that they can be easily analysed;

Or. en

Amendment 386
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 201

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

201. Observes that the President of the Commission still has not accounted to Parliament for the **removal from** office of Health Commissioner John Dalli on 16 October 2012 **and** that the serious accusations of corruption levelled at the Commissioner by the tobacco industry, which he has always rejected, remain

201. Observes that the President of the Commission still has not accounted to Parliament **in plenary** for the **loss of** office of Health Commissioner John Dalli on 16 October 2012; **insists on the necessity of respecting the presumption of innocence and notes** that the serious accusations of corruption levelled at the Commissioner by

unproven to this day;

the tobacco industry, which he has always rejected, remain unproven to this day;

Or. en

Amendment 387

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 201

Motion for a resolution

201. Observes that the President of the Commission *still has not accounted to Parliament for the removal from office of Health Commissioner John Dalli on 16 October 2012 and* that the serious accusations of corruption levelled at the Commissioner by the tobacco industry, which he has always rejected, remain unproven to this day;

Amendment

201. Observes that the President of the Commission *explained the resignation of Mr Dalli to the Conference of Presidents in November 2012 insisting on the necessity of respecting the presumption of innocence and notes* that the serious accusations of corruption levelled at the Commissioner by the tobacco industry, which he has always rejected, remain unproven to this day;

Or. en

Amendment 388

Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 201 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

201a. Is deeply concerned about the reporting of the OLAF Supervisory Committee on the Dalli case; finds it unacceptable that OLAF has undertaken investigative measures that go beyond those explicitly listed in Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 which was in force at that time; notes that these investigative measures include: preparing the content of a telephone conversation

for a third party to have with a person subject to the investigation; being present during such a conversation and having it recorded; and requesting national administrative authorities to provide OLAF with information not directly held by those authorities and which could be considered to relate to the right to respect for private life and communications or to the subsequent use, collection and storage of such information by OLAF;

Or. en

Amendment 389
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 201 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

201b. Is shocked by such actions, given that, according to the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, the use of such methods can be seen as 'interference by a public authority' with the exercise of the right to respect for 'private life', 'correspondence' and/or 'communications', which is required to be 'in accordance with the law' (Article 7 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which corresponds to Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights);

Or. en

Amendment 390
Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 202

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

202. Strongly deplores the fact that OLAF's investigation of the accusations has been seriously flawed, according to an analysis by the OLAF Supervisory Committee, and that OLAF refuses to explain matters and is also not being called to account in this respect;

deleted

Or. de

**Amendment 391
Derek Vaughan**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 202**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

202. Strongly deplores the fact that OLAF's investigation of the accusations has been seriously flawed, according to an analysis by the OLAF Supervisory Committee, and that OLAF refuses to explain matters and is also not being called to account in this respect;

202. Takes note of differing legal views between OLAF and its Supervisory Committee as regards some investigation methods used in the case of the former Commissioner John Dalli; notes that there are several legal cases pending in three Member States in the context of the OLAF investigation of ex-Commissioner Dalli; respects the independence of the courts and the principle of non-interference with ongoing legal proceedings; looks forward to receiving the verdicts of the courts which may shed more light into this case of alleged bribery;

Or. en

**Amendment 392
Derek Vaughan**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 203**

Motion for a resolution

203. Draws attention to the ***reversal of the burden of proof in this case, such that the focus is not on the culpability of the accused but it is necessary for the accused himself to seek to prove his innocence before a series of courts, which could result in actions for compensation to the detriment of the tax-payer;***

Amendment

203. Draws attention to the ***fact that Mr Dalli has contested the voluntary character and the lawfulness of his resignation before the General Court of the European Court of Justice which might result in an award of damages to the detriment of the taxpayer and has also launched an action in defamation against Swedish Match before the Belgian authorities;***

Or. en

Amendment 393

Jens Geier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 204

Motion for a resolution

204. Calls for complete clarification and for full and prompt cooperation by the Commission with the courts in Belgium and Malta in the Dalli case and for an independent inquiry into the methods used by OLAF in this case;

Amendment

204. Calls for complete clarification and for full and prompt cooperation by the Commission with the courts in Belgium and Malta in the Dalli case and for an independent inquiry into the methods used by OLAF in this case; ***asks all those who consider themselves to have been adversely affected by OLAF's actions to lodge a complaint against OLAF, so that the methods used by OLAF in this case can be examined in court as soon as possible;***

Or. de

Amendment 394

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 204

Motion for a resolution

204. Calls for complete clarification and for full and prompt cooperation by the Commission with the courts in Belgium and Malta in the Dalli case ***and for an independent inquiry into the methods used by OLAF in this case;***

Amendment

204. Calls for complete clarification and for full and prompt cooperation by the Commission with the courts in Belgium and Malta in the Dalli case

Or. en

Amendment 395
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 204 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

204a. Is deeply concerned about the findings of the Supervisory Committee that OLAF has not established a prior legality check for investigative measures other than those specifically listed in OLAF's Instructions to Staff on Investigative Procedures (ISIP); notes that this endangers respect for the fundamental rights of, and procedural guarantees relating to, the persons concerned;

Or. en

Amendment 396
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 204 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

204b. Notes that breaches of essential procedural requirements during

preparatory investigations could affect the legality of the final decision taken on the basis of investigations by OLAF; assesses this as potentially high-risk, since breaches would thus incur the legal liability of the Commission;

Or. en

Amendment 397
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 204 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

204c. Deems the direct participation of OLAF's Director-General in some investigative tasks, inter alia interviews of witnesses, unacceptable; points out that the Director-General could be faced with a conflict of interest, since, under Article 90(a) of the Staff Regulations and Article 23(1) of the ISIP he is the authority who receives complaints against OLAF's investigations and decides whether or not appropriate action is taken with regard to any failure to respect procedural guarantees;

Or. en

Amendment 398
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 205

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

205. Notes with concern the large number of suspected fraud cases which the Commission has reported to OLAF but

205. Notes with concern the large number of suspected fraud cases which the Commission has reported to OLAF but

which OLAF **has** referred back to the Commission; observes that no record is kept of the follow-up measures taken by the Commission; calls on OLAF at least to monitor the follow-up measures to these cases; calls for an analysis of the suspected fraud cases referred back to the Commission in 2012 and 2013;

which OLAF **dismissed and** referred back to the Commission; observes that no record is kept of the follow-up measures taken by the Commission; calls on OLAF at least to monitor the follow-up measures to these cases; calls for an analysis of the suspected fraud cases **dismissed and** referred back to the Commission in 2012 and 2013;

Or. en

Amendment 399
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 205

Motion for a resolution

205. *Notes with concern the large number of suspected fraud cases which the Commission has reported to OLAF but which OLAF has referred back to the Commission; observes that no record is kept of the follow-up measures taken by the Commission; calls on OLAF at least to monitor the follow-up measures to these cases; calls for an analysis of the suspected fraud cases referred back to the Commission in 2012 and 2013;*

Amendment

205. *Calls for an analysis of the suspected fraud cases referred back to the Commission in 2012 and 2013; calls on OLAF to monitor the follow up measures to these cases;*

Or. en

Amendment 400
Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 206

Motion for a resolution

206. *Is alarmed by the results of two surveys among OLAF staff and the shortcomings which have become*

Amendment

206. Calls on the Court of Auditors to perform a follow-up audit and to follow up its Special Report 2/2011 *on the*

apparent in the functioning of OLAF since the reorganisations; calls on the Court of Auditors to perform a follow-up audit and to follow up its Special Report 2/2011 in order to *investigate* the impact of the reorganisation;

Management of the European Anti-Fraud Office in order to *assess developments in the organisation and* the impact of the 2012 reorganisation *on investigative capacity and effectiveness and on results;*

Or. en

Amendment 401
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 206 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

206a. Requests that the Commission provide the Committee on Budgetary Control with a non-redacted version of the document D/000955 from the 5 February 2009 produced by OLAF on the misuse of Union funds by a high-ranking member of a Union institution;

Or. en

Amendment 402
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 206 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

206b. Expects to be informed by the Commission about all Clearing House meetings in 2012 and 2013 in regard to the participants at these meetings and the agendas; is worried about the independence of OLAF and requests that the Supervisory Committee analyse how far the Clearing House meetings endanger the independence of OLAF;

Amendment 403

Derek Vaughan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 207

Motion for a resolution

207. Calls for an assessment of the existing agreements with the four tobacco groups (Philip Morris International Corporation Inc. (PMI), Japan Tobacco International Corporation, British American Tobacco Corporation and Imperial Tobacco Corporation), taking into account the new Directive on Tobacco Products¹¹⁵, the ratification of the FCTC Convention¹¹⁶ **and Parliament's codecision** on the issue of whether and, if appropriate, how the tobacco cooperation agreement with PMI is to be extended;

¹¹⁵ Directive 2014/.../EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... 2014 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products and repealing Directive 2001/37/EC (OJ L ...).

¹¹⁶ WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Amendment

207. Calls for an assessment of the existing agreements with the four tobacco groups (Philip Morris International Corporation Inc. (PMI), Japan Tobacco International Corporation, British American Tobacco Corporation and Imperial Tobacco Corporation), taking into account the new Directive on Tobacco Products¹¹⁵, the ratification of **the Protocol to** the FCTC Convention¹¹⁶ **and Parliament's view** on the issue of whether and, if appropriate, how the tobacco cooperation agreement with PMI is to be extended;

¹¹⁵ Directive 2014/.../EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... 2014 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products and repealing Directive 2001/37/EC (OJ L ...).

¹¹⁶ WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Amendment 404

Bart Staes

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 209

Motion for a resolution

209. Calls on the Commission to describe what measures need to be taken in the EU to control the market for tobacco leaves **and** cut raw tobacco, in order to combat illegal cigarette factories;

Amendment

209. Calls on the Commission to describe what measures need to be taken in the EU to control the market for tobacco leaves, cut raw tobacco **and mechanical equipment for the production of cigarettes**, in order to combat illegal cigarette factories;

Or. en

Amendment 405

Ivailo Kalfin

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 210

Motion for a resolution

210. ***Welcomes the clear*** statements by the Commission in the progress report of 22 January 2013 on developments in Bulgaria; is very concerned about the lack of progress under the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism, which is now seven years old, and about the persistently high prevalence of corruption and the general difficulty observed there in assigning responsibilities and correcting errors; ***calls on the Commission to adopt a resolute attitude towards Bulgaria and to seriously examine whether it is even possible for EU funds to be deployed in accordance with the rules in such an environment;***

Amendment

210. ***Acknowledges the*** statements by the Commission in the progress report of 22 January 2013 on developments in Bulgaria; is very concerned about the lack of progress under the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism, which is now seven years old, and about the persistently high prevalence of corruption and the general difficulty observed there in assigning responsibilities and correcting errors;

Or. en

Amendment 406

Marian-Jean Marinescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 211

Motion for a resolution

211. Welcomes the findings in the *Commission's* progress report of 22 January **2013** on developments in Romania; is very concerned about the slow progress made by Romania under the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism, ***which is now seven years old***; draws attention to ***amendments to rules concerning*** conflicts of interest for locally elected office-holders and an amnesty for Members of Parliament guilty of corruption; considers that it is hardly possible, in the light of this development, to deploy EU funds in accordance with the rules in such an environment, ***and calls for a review of whether EU funds should be suspended until a withdrawal***;

Amendment

211. Welcomes the findings in the *Commission's* progress report of 22 January **2014** on developments in Romania; is very concerned about the slow progress made by Romania under the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism; draws attention to ***proposals to amend the Penal Code on issues regarding*** conflicts of interest for locally elected office-holders and an amnesty for Members of Parliament guilty of corruption; considers that it is hardly possible, in the light of this development, to deploy EU funds in accordance with the rules in such an environment

Or. en

Amendment 407
Bart Staes, Amelia Andersdotter

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 212 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

212a. Calls on the European Commission to explore open source, well-audited solutions for e-mail and calendaring, including end-user softwares; reminds the Commission that also other parts of the stack not normally visible to end-users such as firewalls, web servers etc. can be considered from an open source, secure perspective if a public tender relies on functional specifications rather than brand-name products;

Or. en

Amendment 408
Bart Staes, Amelia Andersdotter

Motion for a resolution
Heading 13 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

IT policies

Or. en

Amendment 409
Bart Staes, Amelia Andersdotter

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 213 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

213a. Is concerned with the situation of effective captivity of the Union institutions with specific software-vendors; deplores that the Commission despite this realization has made no steps in 2012 towards preparing open, public tenders for ICT, based on transparent criteria and functional specifications rather than brand-names;

Or. en

Amendment 410
Bart Staes, Amelia Andersdotter

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 213 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

213b. Recalls that the size of the SACHA II contract, and the full set of specific

brand name products defined therein, was so large that only a very small number of contractors (two) could participate in the open, public tender; urges the Commission to prepare smaller open, public tenders to enable more actors to participate in such procurement and with a larger diversity of offers;

Or. en

Amendment 411
Bart Staes, Amelia Andersdotter

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 213 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

213c. Suggests that the Commission invests in more in-house corporate ICT expertise in order to ensure that coordination and preparation of such projects does not become dependent only on external vendors; takes note of the fact that on-going consolidation projects between the different institutional systems can make it more difficult for the Commission to switch from one vendor to a different vendor, if the Commission does not ensure that document and database formats are based on open, interoperable standards;

Or. en

Amendment 412
Bart Staes, Amelia Andersdotter

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 213 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

213d. Urges the Commission to ensure that any consolidation endeavours in the ICT architecture goes towards well-accepted, open standards that are used by multiple vendors and which can be implemented by open source software; recalls that it is easier to ensure that on-premise e-mail storage is not accessed by foreign interests, because of its geographical location;

Or. en

Amendment 413
Martin Ehrenhauser

Motion for a resolution
Heading 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Central Exclusion Database

Or. en

Amendment 414
Martin Ehrenhauser

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 223 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

223a. Recalls that in order to ensure the sound financial management of Union funds, the Commission administers the Central Exclusion Database—a database of entities excluded from Union funding for reasons such as insolvency, final court judgments for fraud, corruption, decisions of a contracting authority for grave professional misconduct and conflict of

interest; regrets that the Central Exclusion Database administered by the Commission is not accessible to the public or to the Members of the European Parliament; recalls that a similar database of debarred firms administered by the World Banks is public; calls on the Commission to make the Central Exclusion Database public;

Or. en

Amendment 415
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Heading 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Studies and advice/consultation from external providers

Or. en

Amendment 416
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 223 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

223a. Notes that the Commission was not able to provide Parliament with a clear, concise list in a machine readable format from the Commissions ABAC system such as an Excel table or a .CSV-file that includes the topics of all studies as well as the specific issue of any external advice/consultation carried out for the Commission by external providers with the names of these providers as well as the country where the respective provider has its seat while also indicating the date the

authorising officers committed the budget appropriations for the studies or the external advice broken down by years starting in 2009 ending 2013; expects that list to be submitted to the Committee on Budgetary Control until 1 May 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 417
Rina Ronja Kari

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 223 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

223a. Calls on the Court of Auditors to include in its next annual report a review of the follow-up by the Commission of Parliament's recommendations in this resolution;

Or. en

Amendment 418
Martin Ehrenhauser

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 223 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

223a. Takes the view that public access to Union data makes innovations possible, brings about considerable overall economic benefits, and makes administration more efficient; calls for the Commission's data to be made permanently available in machine-readable form, without charge, so as to make them freely reusable;

Or. de

Amendment 419
Martin Ehrenhauser

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 223 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

223b. Is of the opinion that the data must not be constrained because of platform- or system-specific architecture and that the data format must be based on widely used and freely accessible standards and be supported and maintained by organisations which are independent of manufacturers; stresses that full documentation relating to format and all extensions must be made freely available;

Or. de

Amendment 420
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Heading 14 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

European Schools

Or. en

Amendment 421
Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 223 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

223b. Notes that in June 2012 the accountant of the Brussels I School was

removed from his post; expects that the Commission provides Parliament's Budgetary Control Committee with a detailed and comprehensive report on the irregular payments made and the follow-up of the case;

Or. en

Amendment 422
Ingeborg Gräble

Motion for a resolution
Heading 14 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

*Regulation on the Registration,
Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction
of Chemicals (REACH)*

Or. en

Amendment 423
Ingeborg Gräble

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 223 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

*223c. Requests that the Commission
provide a report on the problems
encountered during the implementation
process of REACH and the steps
undertaken to dissolve those problems;*

Or. en