



2019/2055(DEC)

23.1.2020

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018, Section III - Commission and executive agencies
(2019/2055(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Charles Goerens

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Recalls that legality of Union spending is a key principle of sound financial management;
2. Stresses that the Union's ambition to forge a "partnership of equals" with its partner countries implies full respect of the "ownership principle", in line with the Union's international commitments on aid effectiveness; reiterates its concerns as regards the use of development funds for non-development objectives and underlines that funding which does not fulfil official development assistance criteria must be sourced from other instruments than the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI); in particular, urges the Union and its Member States to refrain from imposing aid conditionalities regarding migration and trade reforms, which contravenes the development effectiveness principles; underlines the importance of ensuring human rights standards in all cooperation under the DCI and insists that in order to successfully combat poverty in the long term, the Union must address the root causes of poverty and promote fairness of opportunity;
3. Regrets that, in spite of the Union's commitment to sustainability and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Special Report No 7/2019 of the Court of Auditors shows that the Commission does not report on, or monitor how, the Union budget and policies contribute to sustainable development and achieving the SDGs; notes that the Commission has recently published a reflection paper outlining scenarios for a sustainable Europe; regrets, however, that this paper does not include a gap analysis of what more the Union needs to do in terms of budget, policy and legislation, nor does it present the contribution of Union spending programmes towards the implementation of the SDGs;
4. Welcomes the fact that, up until 2018, 20.3% of Union-funded international cooperation and development aid had the purpose of combating climate change; recalls its position that in future, however, this should be more than doubled, so that at least 45% of the funding from the proposed 2021-2027 Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) is allocated to climate and environmental objectives; calls, in this context, for better access to renewable energy and support for investment in environmental technologies, as well as knowledge sharing, the development of sustainable supply chains and the further development of the circular economy, international partnerships for sustainable land, forest, water and resource use, and investment in civil protection and early warning systems;
5. Welcomes the use of budget support in general to assist developing countries in their reform efforts and in achieving the SDGs; urges, however, the Commission to assess more clearly the contribution of the Union budget support towards the achievement of the SDGs, in particular as regards SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality), and to enhance control mechanisms concerning recipient states' conduct in the fields of corruption, respect of human rights, rule of law and democracy; recalls that domestic resource mobilisation is

the centre-piece for sustainable financing of development and one of the five key development challenges to be addressed by budget support; calls on the Commission to adopt a trade and investment policy consistent with this goal, which entails, among others, taking into account least developed countries' concerns of economic partnership agreements regarding the erosion of revenues linked to the removal of custom duties and ensuring fair distribution of taxing rights while negotiating tax and investment treaties with developing countries, notably regarding redistribution of tax revenues from natural resources;

6. Calls for more accountability and efficiency in Union development spending, as development outcomes should not only be defined but also scrutinised and monitored in terms of tangible results and development impacts.
7. Urges the Union and its Member States to refrain from supporting practices which facilitate tax dodging by transnational corporations and individuals, in the pursuit of its objective to create a business-friendly environment for private investors in developing countries in the remit of the European Fund for Sustainable Development; in addition, stresses the risk of indebtedness linked to the increased Union recourse to blending, notably in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean countries with limited revenues to service their debt; calls on the Union and its Member States to tackle tax evasion, aggressive tax avoidance practices and harmful tax competition effectively and consistently, in line with the principle of Policy Coherence for Development;
8. Welcomes the commitments made by the Commissioner for International Partnerships, including the commitments to involve the European Parliament in the scrutiny of Union trust funds, to improve transparency with regard to all Union development cooperation and the use of funds for it, and to ensure coherence between different Union policies.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	22.1.2020
Result of final vote	+: 18 -: 2 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Hildegard Bentele, Dominique Bilde, Udo Bullmann, Catherine Chabaud, Charles Goerens, Mónica Silvana González, Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, György Hölvényi, Martin Horwood, Rasa Juknevičienė, Lukas Mandl, Erik Marquardt, Norbert Neuser, Michèle Rivasi, Marc Tarabella, Tomas Tobé, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Bernhard Zimniok
Substitutes present for the final vote	Stéphane Bijoux, Patrizia Toia

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

18	+
GUE/NGL	Miguel Urbán Crespo
PPE	Hildegard Bentele, György Hölvényi, Rasa Juknevičienė, Lukas Mandl, Tomas Tobé
RENEW	Stéphane Bijoux, Catherine Chabaud, Charles Goerens, Martin Horwood
S&D	Udo Bullmann, Mónica Silvana González, Norbert Neuser, Marc Tarabella, Patrizia Toia
VERTS/ALE	Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, Erik Marquardt, Michèle Rivasi

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ID	Dominique Bilde, Bernhard Zimniok

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention