



2015/2203(DEC)

4.3.2016

AMENDMENTS

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Draft report
Claudia Schmidt
(PE571.494v01-00)

Discharge 2014: EU general budget - 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th EDFs
(2015/2203(DEC))

Amendment 1

Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Ryszard Czarnecki, Beata Gosiewska, Raffaele Fitto

Proposal for a decision 1

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014 / Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 2

Claudia Schmidt

Proposal for a decision 1

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014 / *Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014;*

Amendment

1. Grants the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014;

Or. de

Amendment 3
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014 / Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014;

Or. it

Amendment 4
Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Ryszard Czarnecki, Beata Gosiewska, Raffaele Fitto

Proposal for a decision 2
Paragraph 2

Proposal for a decision

2. Approves the closure of the accounts of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014 / Postpones the closure of the accounts of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

2. Postpones the closure of the accounts of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Claudia Schmidt

Proposal for a decision 2
Paragraph 2

Proposal for a decision

2. Approves the closure of the accounts of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014 / ***Postpones the closure of the accounts of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014;***

Amendment

2. Approves the closure of the accounts of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014;

Or. de

Amendment 6

Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Proposal for a decision 2

Paragraph 2

Proposal for a decision

2. ***Approves the closure of the accounts of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014*** / Postpones the closure of the accounts of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

2. Postpones the closure of the accounts of the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh European Development Funds for the financial year 2014;

Or. it

Amendment 7

Igor Šoltes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

1a. Is deeply concerned that the Court's estimated error rate for EDF expenditures has increased three years in a row from 3,0 to 3,8 % between 2012 and 2014; underlines that this error rate is still

Amendment

substantially lower than the error rates of EU expenditures managed by Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 8

Igor Šoltes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 1 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1b. Expresses concern that the Commission had sufficient information to prevent, detect and correct the quantifiable errors before validating and accepting the expenditure, which would have resulted in an error rate up to 2,3 percentage points lower, bringing it below the materiality threshold of 2%; notes that most of the errors stem from non-compliance with procurement rules; supports the Court's recommendation to improve ex-ante controls;

Or. en

Amendment 9

Igor Šoltes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2. Welcomes the efforts carried out by EuropeAid to decrease outstanding commitments - Reste A Liquider - to EUR 9,7 billion by 31.12.2014 (compared to EUR 12,5 billion by 31.12.2013 or a 23% decrease); notes also EuropAid's efforts to

2. Welcomes the efforts carried out by EuropeAid to decrease outstanding commitments - Reste A Liquider - to EUR 9,7 billion by 31.12.2014 (compared to EUR 12,5 billion by 31.12.2013 or a 23% decrease); notes also EuropAid's efforts to

reduce old pre-financing (46% achieved with a 25% target) and old unspent commitments (51,24% achieved with a 25% target) as well as the number of open expired contracts (15,52% achieved with a 15% target) but with less satisfactory progress for expired contracts under the EDFs; encourages the Commission to continue its efforts for shortening the average period of project implementation;

reduce old pre-financing (46% achieved with a 25% target) and old unspent commitments (51,24% achieved with a 25% target) as well as the number of open expired contracts (15,52% achieved with a 15% target) but with less satisfactory progress for expired contracts under the EDFs ***where 25% of all EDF contracts are open expired contracts with an aggregate sum of EUR 3,8 billion***; encourages the Commission to continue its efforts for shortening the average period of project implementation;

Or. en

Amendment 10 **Petri Sarvamaa**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 2**

Motion for a resolution

2. Welcomes the efforts carried out by EuropeAid to decrease outstanding commitments - Reste A Liquider - to EUR 9,7 billion by 31.12.2014 (compared to EUR 12,5 billion by 31.12.2013 or a 23% decrease); notes also EuropeAid's efforts to reduce old pre-financing (46% achieved with a 25% target) and old unspent commitments (51,24% achieved with a 25% target) as well as the number of open expired contracts (15,52% achieved with a 15% target) but with less satisfactory progress for expired contracts under the EDFs; encourages the Commission to continue its efforts for shortening the average period of project implementation;

Amendment

2. Welcomes the efforts carried out by EuropeAid to decrease ***the high level of*** outstanding commitments - Reste A Liquider - to EUR 9,7 billion by 31.12.2014 (compared to EUR 12,5 billion by 31.12.2013 or a 23% decrease); ***reminds, however, that further efforts are needed***; notes also EuropeAid's efforts to reduce old pre-financing (46% achieved with a 25% target) and old unspent commitments (51,24% achieved with a 25% target) as well as the number of open expired contracts (15,52% achieved with a 15% target) but with less satisfactory progress for expired contracts under the EDFs; encourages the Commission to continue its efforts for shortening the average period of project implementation;

Or. en

Amendment 11
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

11. Regrets that non-compliance with procurement rules by beneficiaries and the absence of supporting documents for expenditure are still the two main causes of errors representing 63% of the estimated level of error; considers it indispensable that consistent attention be devoted to the development of internal financial and control know-how;

Amendment

11. Regrets that non-compliance with procurement rules by beneficiaries and the absence of supporting documents for expenditure are still the two main causes of errors representing 63% of the estimated level of error; considers it indispensable that consistent attention be devoted to the development of internal financial and control know-how, ***and calls for absolute transparency to be applied as regards beneficiaries and subcontractors;***

Or. it

Amendment 12
Igor Šoltes
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

18a. Considers it necessary to refrain from focusing on budgetary outturn as the sole management objective which can be detrimental to the principle of sound financial management and the achievement of results;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Iris Hoffmann

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 22

Motion for a resolution

22. **Reiterates strongly**, as in previous years, **that** the accountability of Union delegations staffed by the European External Action Service (EEAS) **needs to be increasingly enforced**; believes that this should be done in addition to the external assistance management reports (EAMR), which are prepared and signed by the heads of Union delegations; ;

Amendment

22. **Calls on the Commission**, as in previous years, **to further enforce** the accountability of Union delegations staffed by the European External Action Service (EEAS); believes that this should be done in addition to the external assistance management reports (EAMR), which are prepared and signed by the heads of Union delegations; ;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Iris Hoffmann

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 23

Motion for a resolution

23. **Takes the view** that heads of Union delegations **should be clearly reminded** of their duties and their management and oversight responsibilities in the management assurance related to their delegation portfolio of operations (key management processes, control management, adequate understanding and assessment of the key performance indicators) **and that they should not only concentrate on the political component of their duties**;

Amendment

23. **Acknowledges** that heads of Union delegations **must find and implement the balance between the political component** of their duties and their management and oversight responsibilities in the management assurance related to their delegation portfolio of operations (key management processes, control management, adequate understanding and assessment of the key performance indicators);

Or. en

Amendment 15
Iris Hoffmann

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 27

Motion for a resolution

27. Calls on EuropeAid and the EEAS to reinforce the supervision of the heads of delegations in their capacity as authorising officers by Sub-Delegation for the Commission in view of increasing their accountability by providing ***qualitative and exhaustive reporting*** in the annual activity report;

Amendment

27. Calls on EuropeAid and the EEAS to reinforce the supervision of the heads of delegations in their capacity as authorising officers by Sub-Delegation for the Commission in view of increasing their accountability by providing ***comprehensive and accurate information*** in the annual activity report;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Iris Hoffmann

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 31

Motion for a resolution

31. Welcomes the creation of the EU emergency trust fund for Africa and its funding allocation (amounting to EUR 1,8 billion) in order to allow for a ***rapid and*** comprehensive response to the refugees crisis and to address the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa;

Amendment

31. ***Welcomes the intention to disburse funds more quickly and flexibly in an emergency situation, and to bring together various sources of funding in order to address a crisis in its multiple dimensions;*** welcomes the creation of the EU emergency trust fund for Africa and its funding allocation (amounting to EUR 1,8 billion) in order to allow for a comprehensive response to the refugees crisis and to address the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Iris Hoffmann

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 31 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

31a. Stresses the Commission should not divert appropriations from the objectives and principles of the basic acts, and believes that any channelling through the trust fund should not go at the expense of the EDF and the long-term Union policies;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Iris Hoffmann

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 31 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

31b. Acknowledges the added value of pooling a large number of national contributions at Union level in addition to substantial contributions from the external financing instruments and the EDF; urges the Member States, however, to effectively match the Union contribution rather than provide the minimum required to obtain voting rights;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Iris Hoffmann

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 31 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

31c. Notes that trust funds are part of an ad hoc response which shows that the EDF, the Union budget and the Multiannual Financial Framework lack

the resources and flexibility needed for a rapid and comprehensive approach to major crises; deplores the fact that they result in bypassing the budgetary authority and undermining the unity of the budget;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Iris Hoffmann

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

33. Believes also that particular attention should be given to the effectiveness and political governance of *this* EU emergency trust fund for Africa, to a lack of guarantees and oversight on the final use of the allocated funds;

Amendment

33. Believes also that particular attention should be given to the effectiveness and political governance of *trust funds and in particular the* EU emergency trust fund for Africa, to a lack of guarantees and oversight on the final use of the allocated funds;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Iris Hoffmann

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 33 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

33a. Emphasises the importance of sufficient control mechanisms to ensure political scrutiny of budget implementation in the context of the discharge procedure; urges the Commission to take immediate steps to improve the involvement of the budgetary and budgetary control authority and to better align the trust funds and other mechanisms with the budgetary norm,

Amendment

notably by making them appear in the Union budget;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Iris Hoffmann

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 35 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

35a. Takes into consideration that the bulk of funding has so far come from the Union's budget and the EDF and that Member State contributions to the trust funds have to date been relatively low; urges Member States to match the Union budget and EDF contributions to the trust funds;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 37

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

37. Welcomes the first EIB report in 2014 on the results of its external operations and the use of the 3 Pillar Assessment Framework (3PA) and the Results Measurement (ReM) Framework by the EIB for the *ex ante* assessment of expected results from investment projects;

37. Welcomes the first EIB report in 2014 on the results of its external operations and the use of the 3 Pillar Assessment Framework (3PA) and the Results Measurement (ReM) Framework by the EIB for the *ex ante* assessment of expected results from investment projects; ***believes, however, that ex ante and ex post analyses need to be improved further in order to allow not only for economic indicators, but also for environmental protection and sustainable development criteria;***

Amendment 24

Igor Šoltes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 53

Motion for a resolution

53. Encourages the UN and relevant UN institutions to continue deepening their cooperation with the Union through continuous development of exhaustive monitoring and reporting systems; regrets that reporting to the Commission by its partner organisations entrusted with implementing the Union budget under indirect management is often incomplete or insufficiently results-oriented;

Amendment

53. Encourages the UN and relevant UN institutions to continue deepening their cooperation with the Union through continuous development of exhaustive monitoring and reporting systems; ***stresses that several types of reporting obligations and payment conditions from different international donors trigger a negative effect on aid effectiveness and efficiency***; regrets that reporting to the Commission by its partner organisations entrusted with implementing the Union budget under indirect management is often incomplete or insufficiently results-oriented;

Or. en

Amendment 25

Igor Šoltes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 56

Motion for a resolution

56. Considers it fundamental to ensure the Union's visibility, especially in co-financed and multi-donor initiatives, that regular information be swiftly provided on the pooling of funds to ensure traceability of Union funds;

Amendment

56. Considers it fundamental to ensure the Union's visibility, ***also in the light of results ownership***, especially in co-financed and multi-donor initiatives, that regular information be swiftly provided on the pooling of funds to ensure traceability of Union funds;

Or. en

Amendment 26

Igor Šoltes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 57 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

57a. Strongly encourages the setting of S.M.A.R.T. objectives in the planning phase of any EU-financed operation; stresses that only by doing so the ex-post evaluations of the outcomes and impacts achieved would provide Parliament with a clear and reliable report;

Or. en

Amendment 27

Ingeborg Gräßle

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 62 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

62a. Considers transparency to be urgently necessary; calls on the Commission, therefore, using electronic means, to provide Parliament annually with a list in Excel format arranged according to (a) recipients, (b) countries, (c) receiving organisations, (d) grants less than EUR 1 m, (e) grants from EUR 1 m to EUR 3 m, (f) grants from EUR 3 m to EUR 5 m, (g) grants from EUR 5 m to EUR 10 m, and (h) grants more than EUR 10 m:

Or. de

Amendment 28

Igor Šoltes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 65 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

65a. Calls on the Commission not to approve setting of another target date for the introduction of the FLEGT licencing system but sets a clear deadline for its implementation and links the future funding to the meeting of the set deadline;

Or. en

Amendment 29

Igor Šoltes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 70

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

70. Considers that the monitoring of projects and associated risks should be regularly performed and accompanied by rapid mitigation measures;

70. Considers that the monitoring of projects, **especially those clearly in difficulty**, and associated risks should be regularly performed and accompanied by rapid mitigation measures;

Or. en

Amendment 30

Benedek Jávor, Rebecca Harms

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 80

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

80. Is seriously concerned about the current **flow of refugees, particularly because of the fact that while the share of war refugees and asylum seekers is high, the**

80. Is seriously concerned about the current **asylum crisis and the high number of refugees fleeing from war zones;**

share of economic migrants is steadily growing;

Or. en

Amendment 31

Igor Šoltes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 81

Motion for a resolution

81. Is of the opinion that development aid needs to be disbursed much more efficiently and that it needs to fulfil criteria of value added; stresses that this is the only way to provide people with worthwhile living conditions *and to avoid an increase in flows of economic migration;*

Amendment

81. Is of the opinion that development aid needs to be disbursed much more efficiently and that it needs to fulfil criteria of value added; stresses that this is the only way to provide people with worthwhile living conditions;

Or. en

Amendment 32

Iris Hoffmann

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 83

Motion for a resolution

83. *Finds it worrying that* the heads of Union-delegations in the ACPs and OCTs, *under the responsibility of the EEAS*, are in charge of overseeing 917 projects, *of which 428 are delayed or have endangered objectives; finds it seriously concerning that the affected project value amounts to EUR 9 188 million ;*

Amendment

83. *Takes note that at the end of 2014* the heads of Union-delegations in the ACPs and OCTs, are in charge of overseeing 917 projects, *among* which 428 *have been identified as having implementation difficulties and need corrective measures;*

Or. en

Amendment 33
Iris Hoffmann

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 85

Motion for a resolution

85. *Is of the opinion that one fourth of the 11th EDF's funds should be earmarked for migration crisis prevention and the management of already existing migration flows;*

Amendment

85. *Acknowledges that EDF's funds are contributing to address the root causes of the current global refugee and migration crisis; underlines that EDF's funds shall not be misused for purposes other than determined in the provisions such as security border control and effective return measures; calls the Commission to engage constructively to achieve synergies between the Union budget, the EDF and bilateral cooperation in order to address issues concerning migration crisis prevention;*

Or. en