

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Committee on Foreign Affairs*

**2008/2186(DEC)**

11.2.2009

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the European Union general  
budget for the financial year 2007  
(SEC(2008)2359 – C6-0415/2008 - 2008/2186(DEC))

Section III – Commission

Rapporteur: István Szent-Iványi

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes the Court's assessment that the supervisory and control systems for external relations, enlargement and humanitarian aid are partially effective; accepts that many of the errors detected concern advance payments and are then rectified when final payments are made; nevertheless, invites the Commission to undertake the necessary improvements in its monitoring and verification procedures, especially at the level of implementing organisations, without this leading to unnecessary administrative burdens for the end beneficiaries; recognises at the same time the progress made by the Commission and the United Nations to date;
2. Regrets the continuing lack of transparency concerning the use of Community funds channelled through United Nations organisations; supports the Commission's efforts to find a solution and to ensure that the Court of Auditors receives all requested information in a timely fashion; welcomes the increasing number of verification missions performed by the Commission under the FAFA agreement; expects these missions to further enhance the transparency and visibility of Community contributions to UN-led activities;
3. Calls on the Commission to further improve, and to define more clearly, the conditions and performance indicators used for the disbursement of budgetary support to third countries, so as to provide for clear, unambiguous and measurable assessment criteria with a specific timetable, if applicable;
4. Takes note of the Court of Auditors' assessment that urgent steps are required to correct the weaknesses in the management of EU funds in Bulgaria and that the necessary monitoring mechanisms must be maintained in Turkey; calls on the national authorities to increase their efforts in order to comply with the applicable regulations;
5. Looks forward to seeing tangible results from the application of new terms of reference for expenditure verification via external audits launched by the beneficiaries or the Commission;
6. Notes the Court's special report 5/2007 on the Commission's management of the CARDS programme; emphasises the importance of reinforced strategic guidance on behalf of the Commission to ensure, in close cooperation and dialogue with Parliament, an appropriate focus in selecting key areas of intervention within the framework of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance; calls on the Commission to devise a comprehensive strategy to improve local ownership in the design and implementation of projects;
7. Expects to be regularly informed about steps taken by the Commission concerning the implementation of the significant pledge made in support of Georgia's post-conflict recovery and future development during the international donors' conference held on 22 October 2008;
8. Reiterates its request that the Commission regularly present to Parliament specific

measures to further increase EU ownership of its external actions in their geographical contexts, in accordance with the principles of efficiency, accountability and visibility.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	11.2.2009
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 60 -: 1 0: 2
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Sir Robert Atkins, Angelika Beer, Bastiaan Belder, André Brie, Colm Burke, Véronique De Keyser, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos, Michael Gahler, Jas Gawronski, Alfred Gomolka, Richard Howitt, Jana Hybášková, Anna Ibrisagic, Ioannis Kasoulides, Metin Kazak, Maria Eleni Koppa, Helmut Kuhne, Joost Lagendijk, Willy Meyer Pleite, Francisco José Millán Mon, Pasqualina Napoletano, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Vural Öger, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, João de Deus Pinheiro, Hubert Pirker, Samuli Pohjamo, Pierre Pribetich, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, Libor Rouček, Christian Rovsing, Flaviu Călin Rus, György Schöpflin, Marek Siwiec, Hannes Swoboda, Konrad Szymański, Charles Tannock, Inese Vaidere, Kristian Vigenin, Andrzej Wielowieyski, Jan Marinus Wiersma, Zbigniew Zaleski, Josef Zieleniec
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Alexandra Dobolyi, Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Martí Grau i Segú, Milan Horáček, Aurelio Juri, Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Marios Matsakis, Nickolay Mladenov, Alexandru Nazare, Doris Pack, Athanasios Pafilis, Rihards Pīks, Jean Spautz
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	Emine Bozkurt, Ioannis Gklavakis, José Albino Silva Peneda, Antonios Trakatellis, Nikolaos Vakalis