



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Foreign Affairs*

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**2009/2068(DEC)**

23.2.2010

# **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 2008, Section III – Commission and executive agencies  
(SEC(2009)1089 – C7-0172/2009 – 2009/2068(DEC))

Rapporteur: Michael Gahler

PA\_NonLeg

## 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. Welcomes the positive developments in terms of transparency, goals and international donor coordination brought about by the establishment of the PEGASE mechanism<sup>1</sup>, which was built upon the TIM<sup>2</sup> but which is wider in scope as it covers both TIM expenditure and expenses relating to the re-launching of economic activities – budgetary support, the financing of infrastructures and social issues – in line with the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan;
2. Notes the ongoing trend of increasing contributions to the multi-donor funds and in particular to the UN, in line with the principles of good donor cooperation; however, expresses its dissatisfaction concerning the persisting problems faced by the Court of Auditors in accessing the financial documents emanating from the UN agencies; welcomes the steps taken by the Commission to facilitate the Court auditing processes and calls for further measures in order to fully safeguard the financial interests of the European Union and to increase the transparency of the process including, if necessary, modifications to the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA);
3. Notes the Court's recommendation that clear strategic objectives and measurable performance indicators should be established in the strategy programming documents for the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument; considers that similar steps should also be taken in relation to other external instruments, which continue to be very general in scope;
4. Suggests that the Commission draw up a study assessing the scope for making external policy budgets more flexible; considers that, in view of the budget surpluses which have arisen to date and the still growing needs in this field of policy, scope for greater flexibility should be provided for in advance, although not at the expense of proper budgeting and budgetary control;
5. Takes note of Special Report No 16/2009 of the Court of Auditors, published on 13 January 2010, which identifies a series of weaknesses in the management of the pre-accession assistance to Turkey; notes that the report covers the period before implementation of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), and acknowledges that the implementation of that instrument has brought about improvements in the Commission's programming, implementation and monitoring of EU assistance in the candidate and potential candidate countries; none the less, stresses the importance of effective and timely management of the IPA for the reforms process in the countries concerned and calls on the Commission to take due account of the recommendations of the Court of Auditors when implementing assistance under that instrument;
6. Takes note of the use by the Commission of budget support payments, which is fully in

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<sup>1</sup> Mécanisme "Palestino Européen de Gestion et d'Aide Socio-Economique".

<sup>2</sup> Temporary International Mechanism.

line with the strategy of the assumption of ownership by the recipient countries; underlines, however, that, in order to be successful, that form of assistance should be accompanied by clear implementation strategies and appropriate control mechanisms, in terms of both fulfilling the payment conditions and achieving the Union's strategic objectives with regard to the recipients.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	23.2.2010
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+:           50 -:            0 0:            3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Gabriele Albertini, Bastiaan Belder, Frieda Brepoels, Arnaud Danjean, Mário David, Michael Gahler, Marietta Giannakou, Andrzej Grzyb, Heidi Hautala, Richard Howitt, Anna Ibrisagic, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Jelko Kacin, Ioannis Kasoulides, Tunne Kelam, Maria Eleni Koppa, Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler, Eduard Kukan, Krzysztof Lisek, Sabine Lösing, Mario Mauro, Kyriakos Mavronikolas, Willy Meyer, Francisco José Millán Mon, Alexander Mirsky, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Norica Nicolai, Raimon Obiols, Kristiina Ojuland, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Cristian Dan Preda, Libor Rouček, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Werner Schulz, Adrian Severin, Marek Siwiec, Ernst Strasser, Charles Tannock, Zoran Thaler, Inese Vaidere, Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Graham Watson
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Elena Băsescu, Malika Benarab-Attou, Carlo Casini, Marije Cornelissen, Andrew Duff, Lorenzo Fontana, Roberto Gualtieri, Georgios Koumoutsakos, Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Bas Eickhout