



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2012/2091(DEC)

12.11.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on Special Report No 5/2012 (Discharge 2011) - 'The Common External Relations Information System (CRIS)'
(C7-0116/2012 – 2012/2091(DEC))

Rapporteur: Alojz Peterle

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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 that the Court of Auditors considers that, in general, the Common External Relations Information System (CRIS) is mostly effective when it comes to the information needs of the Commission in the field of external actions;
2. Is concerned, however, over some critical shortcomings detected in the report;
3. Calls on the Commission to define the role of CRIS and its objectives, as they have not been updated since the system became operational in 2002, in spite of the numerous changes of its content;
4. Stresses that any change in the role and modification of CRIS should reflect the new challenges of the Union's external policy introduced by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, resulting in better quality and coherence of data;
5. Emphasises the need to adapt the reporting functions of CRIS to the competences of the European Parliament in the fields of external policy and budgetary control;
6. Considers that improvement of the data integrity between CRIS and the Commission's accounting system Accrual Based Accounting (ABAC) is a key challenge in order to report on the Union's external activities in a coherent, transparent, updated and reliable manner; stresses that a duplication of ABAC functions in CRIS should be avoided;
7. Notes, furthermore, that the functionality of CRIS should be updated in order to provide aggregated information on beneficiary countries, policy areas and financial instruments, which is currently difficult or even impossible; underlines the need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the system for the operators through the rationalisation and consolidation of data coding;
8. Is concerned about the insufficient security of the system; notes, furthermore, that the definition of responsibilities in the sphere of security remains undefined and unclear, resulting in serious risk to the safety of data; emphasises that data must be fully compliant with Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria;
9. Regrets that CRIS does not include a standard mechanism for layering the confidentiality of data and users' access rights;
10. Calls on the Commission to address all shortcomings and recommendations presented by the Court of Auditors of the European Union and Parliament without a further delay.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	6.11.2012
Result of final vote	+: 50 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Franziska Katharina Brantner, Frieda Brepoels, Elmar Brok, Marietta Giannakou, Ana Gomes, Takis Hadjigeorgiou, Anna Ibrisagic, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Tunne Kelam, Evgeni Kirilov, Maria Eleni Koppa, Andrey Kovatchev, Eduard Kukan, Vytautas Landsbergis, Sabine Lösing, Ulrike Lunacek, Mario Mauro, Francisco José Millán Mon, Alexander Mirsky, María Muñoz De Urquiza, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Norica Nicolai, Justas Vincas Paleckis, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Alojz Peterle, Bernd Posselt, Hans-Gert Pöttering, Cristian Dan Preda, Fiorello Provera, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Nikolaos Salavrakos, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, György Schöpflin, Marek Siwiec, Laurence J.A.J. Stassen, Charles Tannock, Inese Vaidere, Sir Graham Watson, Karim Zéríbi
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Laima Liucija Andrikiienė, Véronique De Keyser, Norbert Neuser, Alf Svensson, László Tőkés, Ivo Vajgl, Alejo Vidal-Quadras
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Leonidas Donskis, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Michèle Striffler, Rui Tavares, Róza Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein