



2016/2160(DEC)

2.2.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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 2015, Section X - European External
Action Service
(2016/2160(DEC))

Rapporteur: Zigmantas Balčytis

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes with satisfaction that according to the European Court of Auditors (ECA) the overall level of error in Heading 5 (Administration), including the budget of the European External Action Service (EEAS), continues to be relatively low (0,6% in 2015);
2. Notes that the ECA found certain weaknesses in recruitment procedures of local agents in delegations and in procurement procedures organised by delegations and invites the EEAS to improve the quality of its procedures; points out the challenges of operations within a decentralised network of 139 delegations, with limited human resources and in diverse environments, and stresses the necessity to reduce the administrative burden faced by individual delegations; welcomes the pilot project on the regionalisation of the administrative support to Union delegations in Europe and calls for the centralisation of administrative tasks at Headquarters as far as possible, as well as for adequate training opportunities and ad-hoc support of the delegations;
3. Recalls the need to ensure full respect of the staffing formula on the ratio between EEAS staff drawn from Member States and from Union institutions as set out by the Council Decision on the organisation and functioning of the EEAS; welcomes the commitment of the Vice-President/High Representative made to the Parliament to address the existing overrepresentation of national diplomats in the positions of heads of delegations, and to present in the course of 2017 a review of the EEAS human resources policy, looking at issues such as gender balance and mobility of staff between institutions;
4. Notes ECA Special Report 07/2016 on the management of buildings by the EEAS; while recognising the challenges of building management in often complex environments, calls on the EEAS to address the individual cases of unoccupied or unnecessarily large premises that have been identified by the ECA as a matter of priority and to seek more efficient use of co-location with other EU bodies or Member State embassies; recommends to the EEAS to enhance support to the EU delegations in identifying suitable solutions to meet their needs.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

| | |
|---|--|
| Date adopted | 31.1.2017 |
| Result of final vote | +: 45 -: 7 0: 5 |
| Members present for the final vote | Francisco Assis, Petras Auštrevičius, Amjad Bashir, Bas Belder, Goffredo Maria Bettini, Mario Borghezio, Victor Boștinăru, Elmar Brok, Klaus Buchner, Javier Couso Permuy, Andi Cristea, Arnaud Danjean, Georgios Epitideios, Anna Elżbieta Fotyga, Eugen Freund, Michael Gahler, Sandra Kalniete, Manolis Kefalogiannis, Tunne Kelam, Afzal Khan, Janusz Korwin-Mikke, Andrey Kovatchev, Eduard Kukan, Barbara Lochbihler, Sabine Lösing, Andrejs Mamikins, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, Alex Mayer, David McAllister, Tamás Meszerics, Francisco José Millán Mon, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Tonino Picula, Cristian Dan Preda, Jozo Radoš, Sofia Sakorafa, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Alyn Smith, Jordi Solé, Jaromír Štětina, Dubravka Šuica, László Tökés, Ivo Vajgl, Elena Valenciano, Hilde Vautmans |
| Substitutes present for the final vote | Angel Dzhambazki, Mike Hookem, Othmar Karas, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Norica Nicolai, Urmas Paet, Soraya Post, György Schöpflin, Igor Šoltes, Željana Zovko |
| Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote | Raymond Finch, Jasenko Selimovic |