AMENDMENTS
1 - 22

Draft opinion
Nikos Androulakis
(PE660.189v01-00)

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019 - European Commission (2020/2140(DEC))
Amendment 1
Jérôme Rivière, Thierry Mariani

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that no estimate of the level of error rate for spending under Heading 4 has been calculated for 2019 by the European Court of Auditors (ECA); emphasises that the ECA has identified limitations which may lead to an underestimation of the residual error rate (RER); fully supports the recommendations formulated by the ECA, in particular the need to disclose the limitations of the RER study in DG NEAR’s future annual activity reports, as well as strengthening DG NEAR’s checks of the external financing instruments’ (EFIs) by identifying and preventing recurrent errors;

Amendment

1. Notes that no estimate of the level of error rate for spending under Heading 4 has been calculated for 2019 by the European Court of Auditors (ECA); emphasises that the ECA has identified limitations which may lead to an underestimation of the residual error rate (RER); fully supports the recommendations formulated by the ECA, in particular the need to disclose the limitations of the RER study in DG NEAR’s future annual activity reports, as well as strengthening DG NEAR’s checks of the external financing instruments’ (EFIs) by identifying and preventing recurrent errors; calls for more effective checks on funds for Lebanon in light of the information showing that the endemic corruption in Lebanon has resulted in the non-implementation of projects initially financed by the European Union and that the relevant funds have moreover been misappropriated;

Or. fr

Amendment 2
Nikos Androulakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that no estimate of the level of error rate for spending under Heading 4 has been calculated for 2019 by the European Court of Auditors (ECA); emphasises that the ECA has identified limitations which may lead to an underestimation of the residual error rate

Amendment

1. Notes that no estimate of the level of error rate for spending under Heading 4 has been calculated for 2019 by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) as it was also the case in 2018; emphasises that the ECA has identified limitations which may lead to an underestimation of the
(RER); fully supports the recommendations formulated by the ECA, in particular the need to disclose the limitations of the RER study in DG NEAR’s future annual activity reports, as well as strengthening DG NEAR’s checks of the external financing instruments’ (EFIs) by identifying and preventing recurrent errors;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Nikos Androulakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

2a. Recalls that the main policy aims under heading 4 of the 2019 budget are among others the promotion of EU values abroad, such as democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for every EU funded action to respect those fundamental principles;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Nikos Androulakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

2b. Regrets that despite the call by the European Parliament on its resolution on 13 March 2019 calling the European Commission to use the funds currently allocated under the IPA II to support, through a dedicated envelope directly managed by the EU, Turkey’s civil society, human rights defenders and journalists and to increase opportunities
for people-to-people contacts, academic
dialogue and media platforms for
journalists with the objective of protecting
and promoting democratic values and
principles, human rights and the rule of
law, the later decided to implement action
IPA 2019/42258 co-financing the
purchase of 4 Turkish Coast Guard
vessels;

Amendment 5
Jérôme Rivière, Thierry Mariani

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Reiterates its position that external
assistance should be financed in full from
the Union’s budget and emphasises that
actions under the trust funds (EUTFs) are
only bridging solutions until their full
replacement by the future EFIs, in
particular the Neighbourhood Development
and International Cooperation Instrument
(NDICI) and the Instrument for Pre-
accession Assistance (IPA III); regrets that
humanitarian objectives, such as preserving
the dignity and human rights of migrants
and other vulnerable groups have not been
met in the implementation of actions under
the TFs such as EU TF Madad and EU TF
for Africa in several instances; recalls
furthermore that the respect for human
rights, fundamental freedoms, the
promotion of the rule of law, democratic
principles, transparency, good governance
and peace and stability are essential
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on the Commission to increase scrutiny of
the actions of the implementing partners in
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Amendment

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promotion of the rule of law, democratic
principles, transparency, good governance
and peace and stability are essential
elements of the EU TF for Colombia; calls
on the Commission to increase scrutiny of
the actions of the implementing partners in
this regard; calls for consideration to be
given to the reimbursement of funds paid
out under successive instruments since
2005, should Turkey’s accession process
be brought to a definitive end;

Or. fr

Amendment 6
Ioan-Rața Bogdan

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

3. Reiterates its position that external assistance should be financed in full from the Union’s budget and emphasises that actions under the trust funds (EUTFs) are only bridging solutions until their full replacement by the future EFIs, in particular the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III); regrets that humanitarian objectives, such as preserving the dignity and human rights of migrants and other vulnerable groups have not been met in the implementation of actions under the TFs such as EU TF Madad and EU TF for Africa in several instances; recalls furthermore that the respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, the protection of the rule of law, democratic principles, transparency, good governance and peace and stability are essential elements of the EU TF for Colombia; calls on the Commission to increase scrutiny of the actions of the implementing partners in this regard.

Or. en

Amendment 7
Peter van Dalen

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

3. Reiterates its position that external assistance should be financed in full from the Union’s budget and emphasises that actions under the trust funds (EUTFs) are only bridging solutions until their full replacement by the future EFIs, in particular the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III); regrets that humanitarian objectives, such as preserving the dignity and human rights of migrants and other vulnerable groups, such as children and women, have not been met in the implementation of actions under the TFs such as EU TF Madad and EU TF for Africa in several instances; emphasises that the protection of human rights requires decisive action; recalls furthermore that the respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, the promotion of the rule of law, democratic principles, transparency, good governance and peace and stability are essential elements of the EU TF for Colombia; calls on the Commission to increase scrutiny of the actions of the implementing partners in this regard.

Or. en
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Amendment 8
Emmanuel Maurel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

3a. Notes that many Commission communications and documents are only available in English; notes further that working meetings were held without the possibility of interpretation; calls on the European Commission to respect the principles, rights and obligations enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Regulation No 1/1958, as well
as in internal guidelines and decisions, such as the Code of Good Administrative Behaviour; calls, therefore, for the European Commission to make available the human resources necessary to respect multilingualism, by increasing the number of persons in charge of translation and interpreting.

Amendment 9
Nikos Androulakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. Invites the Commission to assess the legality of withdrawing the budgetary function from the European Parliament through the Council decisions on establishing the EDA and PESCO; recalls that the relevant articles 45(2) and 46(2) TEU provide for the decisions to be adopted by a qualified majority without a veto provision; recalls that the withdrawal of the budgetary function of the EP under Article 42 TEU is possible for the operating expenditure only and requires a unanimous decision by the Council; underlines that the Council has never taken such a decision.

Amendment 10
Ernest Urtasun
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. Strongly commends the efforts of civil society worldwide in promoting and
defending human rights, especially at a time of shrinking civil society space and the questioning of the universality of human rights; while agreeing on the importance of the principles of transparency and accountability in relation to the spending of public funds for civil society, stresses the importance of preventing bureaucratic overreach and the fuelling of unfounded suspicion;

Amendment 11
Vangelis Meimarakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Commends the efforts of civil society worldwide in promoting and defending human rights, especially at a time of shrinking civil society space and the questioning of the universality of human rights;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Urmas Paet

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Notes with concern the complicated situation in Belarus, it is important to review EU funding and ensure that it is not directed to Lukashenko regime, but towards support of civil society in Belarus;

Or. en
Amendment 13
Nikos Androulakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

3b. Deplores the lack of flexibility in the administrative and budgetary/financial procedures concerning civilian CSDP missions; reiterates its opinion that the Commission should introduce specific procurement rules to the crisis management measures under the CSDP in order to facilitate the rapid and flexible conduct of missions;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Ernest Urtasun
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

3b. Calls for more independent and publicly available assessments of EU civilian and military security and military measures, in particular EU military training missions, capacity building of military actors in third countries (CBSD via IcSP), and border and migration management measures;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Emmanuel Maurel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)
3b. Calls for public procurement procedures awarded by the European Commission and for its funding programmes to comply with a ‘Buy European Act’, providing for a minimum threshold for European materials, equipment or services;

Or. fr

Amendment 16
Vangelis Meimarakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

3b. Insists on the need to closely monitor the use of funds of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, ensuring that these funds are accurately targeting refugee projects and not used for any other purposes;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Urmas Paet

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

3b. Highlights the importance of increasing visibility, transparency, effectiveness and accountability in EU foreign funding in light of the restructuring of external financing instruments;

Or. en
Draft opinion
Paragraph 3c (new)

3c. Welcomes the ECA's Review of "the EU’s response to China’s state-driven investment strategy" of September 2020; emphasises that the ECA identified shortcomings in the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of actions within the current EU-China strategy including EU financing of projects under the Chinese investment strategy which are not in line with the principles of the EU's connectivity strategy; calls for providing further necessary financial and human resources for the implementation of the EU's connectivity strategy;

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3c (new)

3c. Is concerned by the lack of visibility of the Union financed projects, emphasises the need to improve visibility and to strengthen the complementarity of the Union's financial instruments;

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3d (new)
3d. Expresses its disappointment about the lower than expected budget allocation for the EDF in the current draft of the MFF 2021-2027, and therefore underlines the need to spend the available military budgets in the most efficient manner possible;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Vangelis Meimarakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 e (new)

3e. Points to the fact that the ENI’s performance has been more successful in the EU’s Eastern neighbourhood, and in this light calls for increased efforts be directed towards the EU’s Southern neighbourhood in order to address the many challenges it faces;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Vangelis Meimarakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 f (new)

3f. Welcomes the ECA finding about a generally positive trend in terms of poverty reduction, gender equality in education, number of agreements with neighbouring countries; expresses concern however about the worsening trend in terms of consolidation of democracy, rule of law and political stability;