



2023/2129(DEC)

18.12.2023

AMENDMENTS

1 - 31

Draft opinion

Katalin Cseh

(PE755.024v02-00)

2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Commission
((2023/2129(DEC))

AM_Com_NonLegOpinion

Amendment 1
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Calls attention to the fact that the current year of audit is the one during which Russia launched its war of aggression against Ukraine, the worldwide effects of which have dramatically increased pressure on many EU partners and the need for humanitarian assistance ; expresses satisfaction that the flexibility of the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe of the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-GE) allowed the Union to quickly adapt to the extraordinary set of circumstances; urges, however, the Commission and the EEAS to take further measures to ensure that the cushion of the Instrument in the future is used more as intended, since its excessive early use has resulted in its being depleted very quickly and used beyond its core purpose of responding to emerging challenges and priorities;

Amendment

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Or. en

Amendment 2
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

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which Russia launched its war of aggression against Ukraine, the worldwide effects of which have dramatically increased pressure on many EU partners and **increased** the need for **investments in sustainable development and** humanitarian assistance; expresses satisfaction that the flexibility of the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe of the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-GE) allowed the Union to quickly adapt to the extraordinary set of circumstances; urges, however, the Commission and the EEAS to take further measures to ensure that the cushion of the Instrument in the future is used more as intended, since its excessive early use has resulted in its being depleted very quickly and used beyond its core purpose of responding to emerging challenges and priorities;

Or. en

Amendment 3

Tineke Strik

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Calls attention to the fact that the current year of audit is the one during which Russia launched its war of aggression against Ukraine, the worldwide effects of which have dramatically increased pressure on many EU partners and the need for humanitarian assistance ; expresses satisfaction that the flexibility of the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe of the Neighbourhood, Development, and International

Amendment

1. Calls attention to the fact that the current year of audit is the one during which Russia launched its **full-scale** war of aggression against Ukraine, the worldwide effects of which have dramatically increased pressure on many EU partners and the need for humanitarian assistance ; expresses satisfaction that the flexibility of the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe of the Neighbourhood, Development, and International

Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-GE) allowed the Union to quickly adapt to the extraordinary set of circumstances; urges, however, the Commission and the EEAS to take further measures to ensure that the cushion of the Instrument in the future is used more as intended, since its excessive early use has resulted in its being depleted very quickly and used beyond its core purpose of responding to emerging challenges and priorities;

Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-GE) allowed the Union to quickly adapt to the extraordinary set of circumstances; urges, however, the Commission and the EEAS to take further measures to ensure that the cushion of the Instrument in the future is used more as intended, since its excessive early use has resulted in its being depleted very quickly and used beyond its core purpose of responding to emerging challenges and priorities;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Reiterates commitment to the goals of the NDICI-GE instrument namely eradicating poverty, combating climate change, addressing food insecurity and promoting sustainable human development; recalls that the EU and Member States' commitment to increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.7% of the gross national income by 2030, allocating at least 20% under the Instrument to social inclusion and human development, including inequalities, gender equality, education and women's empowerment;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Thierry Mariani, Jean-Lin Lacapelle, Susanna Ceccardi

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Considers that EU aid to third countries under the NDICI should be conditional on those third countries controlling their migration flows and on readmission agreements;

Or. fr

**Amendment 6
Katalin Cseh**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Recalls that the rule of law, the EU's fundamental values and the respect for human rights in recipient countries are embedded in the basic acts of IPA III and of NDICI-GE; calls on the Commission to modify assistance should threats to democracy, the rule of law, human rights of fundamental freedoms so require;

Or. en

**Amendment 7
Carina Ohlsson**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 b. Stresses the need for the EFSD+ to support investments for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); highlights the importance of a holistic approach to human security; calls accordingly for full implementation of the

EU Gender Action Plan III, operationalising the EU Global Health Strategy and Youth Action Plan in external action; emphasises the need to enhance the EU's efforts in promoting and protecting human rights, welcoming the mid-term review of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy; strongly supports the Council conclusions of May 4, 2023, on corruption as an obstacle to development;

Or. en

**Amendment 8
Katalin Cseh**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 b. Calls on the Commission to send clear signals to those candidate countries in which a backlash against rule of law standards - including limitations on the freedom of expression, the freedom of press, women's and minority rights, the harassment of NGOs and human rights defenders - is jeopardising or delaying their accession to the EU; invites the Commission to examine the efficiency of the funds spent on the improvement of the state of the Rule of Law in the accession countries and report back to the AFET and CONT committees;

Or. en

**Amendment 9
Michael Gahler**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 2**

Draft opinion

2. Takes note of the European Court of Auditors' Special Report regarding the programming comprehensively designed, addressing a broad range of partner country needs and EU priorities; highlights the identified deficiencies in the methodologies used for allocating funding to countries and in the setup of the monitoring framework; recommends therefore that the Commission and the EEAS improve the methodology for allocating funding and the assessment of the impact of EU support, focus the scope of the programming process, simplify and consistently use the indicators in the multiannual indicative programmes; suggests, in the framework of the mid term evaluation of the Instrument that the nomenclature be revised introducing a higher level of detail for transparency, predictability, accountability, scrutiny, and to enhance the budgetary authority's capacity to make choices reflecting political priorities; ***regrets the two different approaches applied by the Commission and EEAS within the Instrument for the allocation of funding to Neighbourhood and non-Neighbourhood countries and asks that they be standardised, comparable and transparent in order to facilitate the audit trail;***

Amendment

2. Takes note of the European Court of Auditors' Special Report regarding the programming comprehensively designed, addressing a broad range of partner country needs and EU priorities; highlights the identified deficiencies in the methodologies used for allocating funding to countries and in the setup of the monitoring framework; recommends therefore that the Commission and the EEAS improve the methodology for allocating funding and the assessment of the impact of EU support, focus the scope of the programming process, simplify and consistently use the indicators in the multiannual indicative programmes; suggests, in the framework of the mid term evaluation of the Instrument that the nomenclature be revised introducing a higher level of detail for transparency, predictability, accountability, scrutiny, and to enhance the budgetary authority's capacity to make choices reflecting political priorities;

Or. en

Amendment 10

Tineke Strik

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Takes note of the European Court

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Amendment

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of Auditors' Special Report regarding the programming comprehensively designed, addressing a broad range of partner country needs and EU priorities; highlights the identified deficiencies in the methodologies used for allocating funding to countries and in the setup of the monitoring framework; recommends therefore that the Commission and the EEAS improve the methodology for allocating funding and the assessment of the impact of EU support, focus the scope of the programming process, simplify and consistently use the indicators in the multiannual indicative programmes; suggests, in the framework of the mid term evaluation of the Instrument that the nomenclature be revised introducing a higher level of detail for transparency, predictability, accountability, scrutiny, and to enhance the budgetary authority's capacity to make choices reflecting political priorities; regrets the two different approaches applied by the Commission and EEAS within the Instrument for the allocation of funding to Neighbourhood and non-Neighbourhood countries and asks that they be standardised, comparable and transparent in order to facilitate the audit trail;

of Auditors' Special Report regarding the programming ***which concluded that it was*** comprehensively designed, addressing a broad range of partner country needs and EU priorities; highlights the identified deficiencies in the methodologies used for allocating funding to countries and in the setup of the monitoring framework; recommends therefore that the Commission and the EEAS improve the methodology for allocating funding and the assessment of the impact of EU support, focus the scope of the programming process, simplify and consistently use the indicators in the multiannual indicative programmes; suggests, in the framework of the mid term evaluation of the Instrument that the nomenclature be revised introducing a higher level of detail for transparency, predictability, accountability, scrutiny, and to enhance the budgetary authority's capacity to make choices reflecting political priorities; regrets the two different approaches applied by the Commission and EEAS within the Instrument for the allocation of funding to Neighbourhood and non-Neighbourhood countries and asks that they be standardised, comparable and transparent in order to facilitate the audit trail;

Or. en

Amendment 11
Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. Emphasises the significance of meeting all spending and program-related targets outlined in the NDICI-GE instrument and calls for comprehensive information to be provided on the progress achieved; expresses regret over

the significant shortfalls in reaching the Instrument's 30% climate target, in contributing to the 10% biodiversity target in the MFF for 2026 and 2027, and in ensuring that the EU's global financial commitments under the UN framework are fulfilled, in particular as regards the contribution to the Loss and Damage Fund; highlights the increasing pressure climate change puts on food production and access, particularly in vulnerable regions, impacting food security and nutrition; reminds that biodiversity is key in combating climate change, and its loss undermines progress on approximately 80% of the assessed targets for the SDGs; calls on the Commission for a detailed plan outlining how it intends to meet spending and gender targets by the end of the MFF;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Tineke Strik
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. *Reiterates its call on the Commission to implement the recommendations of the European Court of Auditors Special Report 01/2022 in order to ensure an effective impact of EU financial assistance in support for the rule of law in the Western Balkans, in particular by developing guidelines on the application of the provisions on modulation and conditionality under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) III;*

Or. en

Amendment 13
Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. *Notes the* mobilisation of the European Peace Facility in response to Russia's military aggression against Ukraine which *marks* a paradigm shift for EU foreign and security policy; notes the Special Report of the European Court of Auditors which recommends sequencing of existing EU defence planning and cooperation tools to assess how to further develop planning for EU defence funding;

Amendment

3. *Encourages further* mobilisation of the European Peace Facility in response to Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, which *sends a clear signal of* a paradigm shift for EU foreign and security policy; notes the Special Report of the European Court of Auditors which recommends sequencing of existing EU defence planning and cooperation tools to assess how to further develop planning for EU defence funding;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

3 a. *Welcomes the Commission's revised Code of Practice on Disinformation, adopted in 2022; calls for the established Task Force which meets on a regular basis to monitor and adapt the commitments in view of technological, societal, market and legislative developments; stresses the need for the EU to increase the visibility of its actions through a better, more strategic communication of its external actions towards its own citizens and beyond;*

Amendment

3 a. *Welcomes the Commission's revised Code of Practice on Disinformation, adopted in 2022; calls for the established Task Force which meets on a regular basis to monitor and adapt the commitments in view of technological, societal, market and legislative developments; stresses the need for the EU to increase the visibility of its actions through a better, more strategic communication of its external actions towards its own citizens and beyond;*

Or. en

Amendment 15
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Commends the Commission's adoption of the EUR 25 million assistance program "EU4Belarus: Supporting societal resilience and human capital development" which further strengthens the resilience and capacity of the Belarusian people to promote democratic changes in Belarus at the time of political crisis;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Tineke Strik
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. Underlines that the Union budget must continue to provide support to build peace and stability in the Middle East region, to combat hate and fundamentalism and to promote human rights; *awaits* the review the Commission *is conducting on the use of Union* funds;

4. Underlines that the Union budget must continue to provide support to build peace and stability in the Middle East region, to combat hate and fundamentalism and to promote human rights; ***takes positive note, in that light, of the results of the review of the Commission, which concluded that no EU funds went directly or indirectly to Hamas; urges the Commission to therefore swiftly disburse the EU funds to Palestine without additional conditionality, notably to Palestinian civil society, which plays a pivotal role in promoting human rights and secular values, as well as the fights against radicalisation; condemns the***

obstruction of the disbursement of funds under the Annual Action Plan for Palestine by Commissioner Varhelyi, despite institutional approval of the package in November 2022; regrets the Commission's recent proposal to allocate EUR 18 million of NDICI-GE funding to an implementing act related to the Abraham Accords, reminds the Commission that this is not in line with the development purposes of NDICI-GE;

Or. en

Amendment 17
David Lega

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Underlines that the Union budget must continue to provide support to build peace and stability in the Middle East region, to combat hate and fundamentalism and to promote human rights; *awaits the review the Commission is conducting on the use of* Union funds;

Amendment

4. Underlines that the Union budget must continue to provide support to build peace and stability in the Middle East region, to combat hate and fundamentalism and to promote human rights; *notes the conclusion of the Commission's internal review regarding the Union funds to Palestinians and calls for an objective, third party, independent audit of these EU funds;*

Or. en

Amendment 18
Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Underlines that the Union budget must continue to provide support to build

Amendment

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peace and stability in the Middle East region, to combat hate and fundamentalism and to promote human rights; *awaits the review the Commission is conducting on the use of Union funds;*

peace and stability in the Middle East region, to combat hate and fundamentalism and to promote human rights;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Underlines that the Union budget must continue to provide support to build peace and stability in the Middle East region, to combat hate and fundamentalism and to promote human rights; awaits the review the Commission is conducting on the use of Union funds;

Amendment

4. Underlines that the Union budget must continue to provide support to build peace and stability in the Middle East region, to combat hate and fundamentalism and to promote human rights; awaits the review the Commission is conducting on the use of Union funds; ***underlines the interlinkages between stability and sustainable development, particularly in fragile countries and regions;***

Or. en

Amendment 20
Tineke Strik
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Underlines that the EU's budget should be managed in compliance with the Treaties and EU acquis, including provisions related to fundamental rights compliance, transparency and accountability towards the European Parliament and EU citizens; regrets,

against that backdrop, the modus operandi of the Commission in its management of the external migration budget lines, notably the absence of fundamental rights impact assessments prior to migration projects in third countries, absence of publicly available overviews of budgets and projects and the Commission's systematic refusal to provide Parliament with budgetary migration related spending overviews per country and MOCADÉM related documentation, despite several formal requests and commitments under the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission: urges the Commission to significantly improve these practices with immediate effect, notably by performing ex ante human rights impact assessments before projects, creating a public overview of all migration related projects in third countries and systematically putting Parliament on equal footing with the Council in terms of the level of information provided;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. *Notes the Commission's published review on 21 November 2023 of EU financial assistance for Palestine, which concluded that the Commission controls and existing safeguards in place work well and found no evidence that money has been diverted for unintended purposes;*

Or. en

Amendment 22
Carina Ohlsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 b. Stresses the importance of education and the critical need to denounce and eradicate all manifestations of hate speech and violent actions on both sides; underscores that the suspension of funding should not occur arbitrarily or without transparent and independent evidence of misuse; commends the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) for its indispensable humanitarian endeavors in Gaza and its pivotal role in delivering quality education, with a specific emphasis on fostering a human rights culture, even in challenging times;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Tineke Strik
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 b. Urges the Commission to enhance the Rule of Law conditionality based approach of IPA III funding, in order for the instrument to serve its' purpose of effectively preparing accession countries to fulfil the conditions of becoming EU Member States, considers a particular emphasis on the Rule of Law and democracy related conditions to be of importance in this regard;

Amendment 24
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Highlights the importance of the Global Gateway initiative which can significantly contribute to initiatives on connectivity, green and digital cooperation and that it needs to be focused and clearly structured in order **for the** resources **to be used** in the best way possible;

Amendment

5. Highlights the importance of the Global Gateway initiative which can significantly contribute to initiatives on connectivity, green and digital cooperation and that it needs to be focused and clearly structured in order **to deliver transformational impact in partner countries while promoting universal values and using** resources in the best way possible; **strongly supports leveraging the EU budget and private sector involvement for contributing to Agenda 2030;**

Amendment 25
Tineke Strik
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Highlights the importance of the Global Gateway initiative which can significantly contribute to initiatives on connectivity, green and digital cooperation and that it needs to be focused and clearly structured in order for the resources to be used in the best way possible;

Amendment

5. Highlights the importance of the Global Gateway initiative which can significantly contribute to initiatives on connectivity, green and digital cooperation and that it needs to be focused and clearly structured in order for the resources to be used in the best way possible; **calls on the Commission to set a clear and transparent accountability mechanism for implementation of the strategy and to demonstrate clear rationale for the use of**

development finance for the projects branded under the Global Gateway strategy and its equal benefits to recipient countries' public and private sectors;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Highlights the importance of the Global Gateway *initiative* which can significantly contribute to initiatives on connectivity, green and digital cooperation and that it needs to be focused and clearly structured in order for the resources to be used in the best way possible;

Amendment

5. Highlights the importance of the Global Gateway *strategy* which can significantly contribute to initiatives on connectivity, green and digital cooperation and that it needs to be focused and clearly structured in order for the resources to be used in the best way possible;

Or. en

Amendment 27
Tineke Strik
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Recognises the multiple roles that Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play; recalls the EU's commitment to support CSOs in all external instruments and programmes and in all areas of cooperation, including through a flexible and tailor-made approach to funding in order to reach all types of CSOs; calls on the Commission to involve CSOs more systematically in the Global Gateway and Team Europe Initiatives;

Amendment 28
Thierry Mariani, Jean-Lin Lacapelle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Stresses that further enlargement of the European Union would entail enormous costs for the Union, the Member States and taxpayers in the event of the accession of some or all of the countries currently engaged in the accession process; stresses that such an enlargement would run counter to the interests of European citizens;

Or. fr

Amendment 29
Tineke Strik
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 b. Regrets the fact that the CFSP budget for civilian CSDP missions has only marginally increased from the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2014-2020 to the MFF 2021-2027 (from a starting point of approximately EUR 350 million per year), while at the same time the number and tasks of the missions have increased, the security environment has become more challenging, the cost of operations has increased, inflation has risen and the number of contracted personnel has increased, therefore limiting the potential for expanding the

current missions' mandates or possibly establishing new missions in response to urgent security needs; calls for a substantive increase of funding for the CFSP budget, while at the same time ensuring the efficient use of the funds allocated to the CSDP civilian missions, in order to make sure that they effectively respond to crisis situations and unforeseen events, and to actively identify where complementary projects and programmes could be funded from other relevant EU budgets, ensuring sound financial management and the careful prioritisation of existing resources;

Or. en

Amendment 30

Thierry Mariani, Jean-Lin Lacapelle, Susanna Ceccardi

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. Recalls that accession countries benefit from very significant financial investments from the EU; calls for a definitive end to all pre-accession funding for Türkiye;

Or. fr

Amendment 31

Tineke Strik

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 c. Calls also for the structure of the CFSP budget to be changed and for the

*generation of one budget line per civilian
CSDP mission, in order to allow for better
scrutiny and increased transparency;*

Or. en