



**2023/2129(DEC)**

23.11.2023

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

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

Rapporteur for opinion: Katalin Cseh

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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 into its motion for a resolution:

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;
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;
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;
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;
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;