

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

2008/2242(INI)

2.12.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on protection of the Communities' financial interests - Fight against fraud -
Annual report 2007
(2008/2242(INI))

Rapporteur: Vincent Peillon

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the fact that in 2007, other things being equal, the amount of the financial recoveries made by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) itself was markedly lower than in the previous financial year, falling from EUR 1 180 000 to 840 000;
2. Welcomes the fact that the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) is working well, noting however that the quantity and quality of the checks made under it should be stepped up in order to reinforce fraud deterrence;
3. Considers, however, that the financial sanctions against Member States should increase in the event of a structural failure, over several years, by Member States to fulfil their obligations with regard to expenditure control;
4. Welcomes the national management declarations issued by some Member States regarding European funds managed at national level; calls on the other Member States to carry out similar initiatives, and on the Commission to do all in its power to ensure that such national management declarations are introduced throughout the European Union;
5. Emphasises the need for greater harmonisation of methods for collecting and using information, with the aim of providing a standardised framework for evaluating more efficiently the risk of fraud as part of an intensified prevention strategy;
6. Considers it necessary to strengthen cooperation between the anti-fraud intelligence units of the Member States and also to improve collaboration with the candidate countries;
7. Regrets the increase in cases of fraud involving the origin of products, relating not only to the preferential tariff arrangements, but also to the GATT tariff quotas;
8. Invites the Commission to undertake a specific assessment of the potential for fraud, by product and by country, taking into consideration the possibility of carrying out systematic, targeted and, where appropriate, permanent, checks both in the country of origin and the country of destination, paying particular attention to the phenomenon of carousel fraud.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	2.12.2008
Result of final vote	+: 19 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Vincenzo Aita, Niels Busk, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Albert Deß, Gintaras Didžiokas, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Ioannis Gklavakis, Lutz Goepel, Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, Esther Herranz García, Lily Jacobs, Elisabeth Jeggle, Heinz Kindermann, Mairead McGuinness, Neil Parish, Agnes Schierhuber, Willem Schuth, Petya Stavreva
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Maria Petre