

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Budgets

2007/2138(INI)

7.2.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Development

on the implementation of the programming of the 10th European Development Fund
(2007/2138(INI))

Draftsman: Reimer Böge

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to take account of the following remarks:

Firstly, the Budgets Committee has supported the integration of the EDF into the general budget on the basis of the principle of unity of the budget and for reasons of transparency, accountability and effective implementation. The current fragmentation of financial resources available for the external relations of the Union makes this much more difficult.

The committee has also, in order to promote effective implementation of financial resources, underlined that, through budgetisation, the unsatisfactory situation of having different financial regulations and different implementing rules could be overcome.

Nevertheless, the committee as well as the Parliament as a whole, have also pointed out that budgetisation should not jeopardise other policies financially and would therefore have to be considered in the context of the financial framework, which would need to be adjusted so as to bring the corresponding additional resources into the general budget. It is too early to say, realistically, when this might be achievable for the EDF given the attitude of the Council.

Let me take the opportunity to recall the successful cooperation between our committees as concerns the combination of legislative and budgetary powers to achieve development objectives. The use of the budget, in strategic cases such as the issue over benchmarking targets for the Commission and sufficient involvement of the Parliament in the definition of strategic documents, has been a very useful tool. We are certainly supportive of your efforts to achieve similar guidelines and parliamentary scrutiny also for EDF funds.

Also in the EDF, the Commission has over the last 10 years increasingly used direct budgetary aid as a preferred delivery mechanism for EU funds. The Budgets Committee has pointed out that this can have benefits, for example as regards "empowerment" of the development process in partner countries and in donor coordination of budgets. Nevertheless, we have also consistently pointed out that this instrument needs to be balanced against whether sufficiently developed budgetary and financial management systems are present in the partner countries concerned.

The committee is of the opinion that this should necessarily be a key factor in the programming of the 10th EDF, as many ACP countries still have poor public financial management and budgetary systems. We therefore believe that a high degree of individuality is needed in the programming process to ensure that risk is minimised and that the appropriate delivery mechanisms are carefully tailored.

In doing so, we are hopeful that the Union's development objectives can be effectively pursued under the 10th EDF while maintaining a satisfactory level of supervision of and accountability of EU spending.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	23.1.2008
Result of final vote	+: 28 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Reimer Böge, Costas Botopoulos, Simon Busuttil, Daniel Dăianu, Gérard Deprez, Brigitte Douay, Hynek Fajmon, Ingeborg Gräßle, Catherine Guy-Quint, Jutta Haug, Monica Maria Iacob-Ridzi, Anne E. Jensen, Wiesław Stefan Kuc, Janusz Lewandowski, Vladimír Maňka, Jan Mulder, Cătălin-Ioan Nechifor, Gérard Onesta, Margaritis Schinas, Nina Škottová, Theodor Dumitru Stolojan, László Surján, Gary Titley, Kyösti Virrankoski, Ralf Walter
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Esther De Lange, Hans-Peter Martin