



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgetary Control

2012/2253(INI)

19.3.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgetary Control

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on a recommendation to the EEAS and to the Council on the 2013 review of
the organisation and the functioning of the EEAS
(2012/2253(INI))

Rapporteur: Ivailo Kalfin

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgetary Control calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that the EEAS is a recently created institution resulting from the consolidation of several different services and that 2011 was its first operational year, posing numerous technical challenges to be overcome, particularly in procurement, recruitment and institutional culture and practices;
2. Commends the excellent examples of coordination between the EEAS and other institutions and international donors, and recommends that these practices be upgraded to standards;
3. Points out that when the EEAS was set up two administrative areas were taken over on cost grounds by the Commission, namely internal audit and accounts; recognises that savings have indeed been made and advocates continuation of this cooperation;
4. Recommends that the EEAS constantly look for synergies and value added from its interaction with the Member States, both in terms of sharing information and analysis and in performing the functions of diplomatic representation in the respective third countries;
5. Notes the intensive period of recruitment in the EEAS's first year of operation to ensure full staffing capacity; notes, furthermore, that there are some particular delegations where posts are harder to fill, mainly because of the level of risk associated with their locations;
6. Considers it difficult to make detailed comparisons of the prevailing conditions in which the EEAS has to operate across 140 locations; recommends, therefore, that the benchmarks be defined in relation to the EU Member States' diplomatic services in the same country;
7. Regrets the geographical and gender imbalance existing within the EEAS, with a lower proportion of staff coming from the newer Member States than from the EU-15 (mostly at levels below head of delegation) and the relatively small number of women represented; urges the EEAS to take the necessary measures to improve this situation;
8. Notes with satisfaction the performance and management of 8 800 candidates, with 1 300 interviews conducted and 118 vacancies filled in 2011;
9. Notes that 39.5 % of Union ambassadors come from the Member States; recalls the agreement that one-third of posts should be filled by staff from Member States; asks that the High Representative implement that agreement, ensuring that it also covers middle and senior posts within the quota;
10. Points out that there is an imbalance in the delegations between EEAS and Commission staff members; calls for more EEAS staff to be transferred from headquarters to the delegations;
11. Insists on a review of the 36 delegations comprising only an ambassador, with a view

either to closing them or to increasing their staff where appropriate;

12. Strongly urges the EEAS, with respect to staff travel arrangements, to adopt practices similar to those applied by Member States in comparable circumstances;
13. Insists that, by revising Annex X to the Staff Regulations (third countries), the number of days of leave and other non-working days locally be brought into line with what is applicable to Member States' diplomatic representations there;
14. Believes that the review of the EEAS represents a forum in which a detailed analysis can be conducted of the compatibility between the resources available and the functions to be performed by the EEAS, as also of any changes required to ensure the highest level of efficiency in its operations; believes that an evaluation of property in use by the EEAS should involve comparisons with other diplomatic missions in the same location, rather than between EEAS facilities in very different countries;.
15. Calls for a multi-year plan to be submitted for EU buildings and staff safety and building security in all third countries with EU representations;
16. Insists on the need for an analysis of the efficiency of the service-level agreements between the EEAS and the Commission and the GSC respectively, and suggests amending the existing agreements and signing new ones where appropriate, in order to address the problems at the level of administrative management.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	18.3.2013
Result of final vote	+: 24 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Jean-Pierre Audy, Inés Ayala Sender, Zuzana Brzobohatá, Andrea Češková, Ryszard Czarnecki, Tamás Deutsch, Martin Ehrenhauser, Jens Geier, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Ingeborg Gräßle, Jan Mulder, Eva Ortiz Vilella, Monika Panayotova, Aldo Patriciello, Paul Rübig, Petri Sarvamaa, Bart Staes, Georgios Stavrakakis, Søren Bo Søndergaard
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Edit Herczog, Ivailo Kalfin, Olle Schmidt, Derek Vaughan
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Peter Jahr