



2020/2149(DEC)

8.2.2021

AMENDMENTS

1 - 54

Draft report

Alin Mituța

(PE655.988v01-00)

2019 discharge: General budget of the EU - European External Action Service
(2020/2149(DEC))

Amendment 1

Tomáš Zdechovský, José Manuel Fernandes, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Notes that, according to the observations of the Court of Auditor's ('the Court's') annual report related to Chapter 9 'Administration - MFF heading 5', no specific issues were identified in the sample of transactions concerning the EEAS for the third consecutive year and no material level of error was identified in the EEAS's annual activity report;

Amendment

1. Notes **with satisfaction** that, according to the observations of the Court of Auditor's ('the Court's') annual report related to Chapter 9 'Administration - MFF heading 5', no specific issues were identified in the sample of transactions concerning the EEAS for the third consecutive year and no material level of error was identified in the EEAS's annual activity report;

Or. en

Amendment 2

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Notes that, according to the observations of the Court of Auditor's ('the Court's') annual report related to Chapter 9 'Administration - MFF heading 5', no specific issues were identified in the sample of transactions concerning the EEAS for the third consecutive year and no material level of error was identified in the EEAS's annual activity report;

Amendment

1. Notes **with satisfaction** that, according to the observations of the Court of Auditor's ('the Court's') annual report related to Chapter 9 'Administration - MFF heading 5', no specific issues were identified in the sample of transactions concerning the EEAS for the third consecutive year and no material level of error was identified in the EEAS's annual activity report;

Or. en

Amendment 3

Joachim Kuhs, Jean-François Jalkh, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

2. Notes the Court's general observations on the increase in the number of contract staff and the related budget appropriations from 2012 to 2018; ***observes that for the EEAS, such an increase was due to new tasks reflecting the placing of new operational and political responsibilities on the EEAS, in particular in the areas of the common security and defence policy, the implementation of the action plan against disinformation as well as the urgent priority to reinforce physical and IT security in EU Delegations; observes for the EEAS*** an overall increase in contract staff from 322 to 444 (i.e. a growth of 38 %);

Amendment

2. Notes the Court's general observations on the increase in the number of contract staff and the related budget appropriations from 2012 to 2018; ***condemns*** an overall increase in ***the EEAS*** contract staff from 322 to 444 (i.e. a growth of 38 %) ***given the adoption in 2014 of the revised Staff Regulations accompanied by a commitment of the institutions and bodies to gradually reduce the number of posts (officials and temporary staff) in their establishment plans by 5 % before 2018 compared with the situation in 2012;***

Or. en

Amendment 4

Tomáš Zdechovský, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

2. Notes the Court's general observations on the increase in the number of contract staff and the related budget appropriations from 2012 to 2018; observes that for the EEAS, such an increase was due to new tasks reflecting the placing of new operational and political responsibilities on the EEAS, in particular in the areas of the common security and defence policy, the implementation of the action plan against disinformation as well as the urgent priority to reinforce physical and IT security in EU Delegations; observes for the EEAS an overall increase in contract staff from 322 to 444 (i.e. a

Amendment

2. Notes the Court's general observations on the increase in the number of contract staff and the related budget appropriations from 2012 to 2018; observes that for the EEAS, such an increase was due to new tasks reflecting the placing of new operational and political responsibilities on the EEAS, in particular in the areas of the common security and defence policy, the implementation of the action plan against disinformation as well as the urgent priority to reinforce physical and IT security in EU Delegations; observes for the EEAS an overall increase in contract staff from 322 to 444 (i.e. a

growth of 38 %);

growth of 38 %); ***supports the EEAS efforts to strengthen its administration and asks EEAS to report back to the Budgetary Control Committee on the results and the impact of the increased contract staff numbers; encourages EEAS to create and divulge guidelines of the best practices on how to conduct recruitment procedures to ensure openness, fairness and transparency;***

Or. en

Amendment 5

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

5. Observes that at the end of 2019, the proportion of Member State diplomats in the total administrator population amounted to 33,37 %, representing a slight decrease compared to 33,76 % in 2018 with; notes the following slight fluctuations between 2014-2017: 32,83 % end 2017, 31,7 % end 2016, 32,9 % in 2015 and 33,8 % in 2014; ***invites*** the EEAS ***to stay*** in line with the staffing formula as set out in Decision 2010/427/EU⁶, namely a ratio of one third of staff from Member States and two thirds from Union's institutions;

⁶ Council Decision 2010/427/EU of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (EEAS) (OJ L 201, 3.8.2010, p. 30).

Amendment

5. Observes that at the end of 2019, the proportion of Member State diplomats in the total administrator population amounted to 33,37 %, representing a slight decrease compared to 33,76 % in 2018 with; notes the following slight fluctuations between 2014-2017: 32,83 % end 2017, 31,7 % end 2016, 32,9 % in 2015 and 33,8 % in 2014; ***congratulates*** the EEAS ***for staying*** in line with the staffing formula as set out in Decision 2010/427/EU⁶, namely a ratio of one third of staff from Member States and two thirds from Union's institutions;

⁶ Council Decision 2010/427/EU of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (EEAS) (OJ L 201, 3.8.2010, p. 30).

Or. en

Amendment 6

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. **Notes** the geographical imbalances in the composition of the EEAS staff; stresses that the EEAS, like all European institutions, must ensure that all Member States are proportionally represented while at the same time respecting the competences and merits of the candidates; **calls on** the EEAS to enhance the geographical balance in order to have a proper representation of nationals from all Member States, reflecting the diversity of Member States;

Amendment

6. **Is concerned about** the geographical imbalances in the composition of the EEAS staff; **notes considerable discrepancies between the representation of countries with comparable population size and between West and East European countries (in 2018, 347 posts out of 2491 were occupied by Belgian citizens, i.e. almost 14% of total EEAS jobs, whereas Belgian citizens represent only about 2,6% of all EU population)**; stresses that the EEAS, like all European institutions, must ensure that all Member States are proportionally represented while at the same time respecting the competences and merits of the candidates; **urges** the EEAS to enhance the geographical balance in order to have a proper representation of nationals from all Member States, reflecting the diversity of Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 7

Alin Mituța, Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. **Notes** the geographical imbalances in the composition of the EEAS staff; stresses that the EEAS, like all European institutions, must ensure that all Member States are proportionally represented while at the same time respecting the competences and merits of the candidates; **calls on** the EEAS to enhance the geographical balance in order to have a

Amendment

6. **Regrets that** the geographical imbalances in the composition of the EEAS staff **is a recurrent issue, especially concerning the positions of Heads of Delegations, middle and senior management**; stresses that the EEAS, like all European institutions, must ensure that all Member States are proportionally represented while at the same time

proper representation of nationals from all Member States, reflecting the diversity of Member States;

respecting the competences and merits of the candidates; ***urges*** the EEAS to enhance the geographical balance in order to have a proper representation of nationals from all Member States, reflecting the diversity of Member States, ***like indicated in the Article 27 of the Staff Regulations of Officials,***

Or. en

Amendment 8
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Notes the geographical imbalances in the composition of the EEAS staff; stresses that the EEAS, like all European institutions, must ensure that all Member States are proportionally represented while at the same time respecting the competences and merits of the candidates; calls on the EEAS to enhance the geographical balance in order to have a proper representation of nationals from all Member States, reflecting the diversity of Member States;

Amendment

6. Notes the geographical imbalances in the composition of the EEAS staff; stresses that the EEAS, like all European institutions, must ensure that all Member States are proportionally represented ***whenever possible,*** while at the same time respecting the competences and merits of the candidates; calls on the EEAS to enhance the geographical balance in order to have a proper representation of nationals from all Member States, reflecting the diversity of Member States; ***welcomes the EEAS' efforts informing the Human Resources Network of EU Member States about the staff composition, publishing the vacancies and promoting national efforts to increase the number of candidates;***

Or. en

Amendment 9
Ryszard Czarnecki

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Notes the geographical imbalances in the composition of the EEAS staff; stresses that the EEAS, like all European institutions, must ensure that all Member States are proportionally represented while at the same time respecting the competences and merits of the candidates; calls on the EEAS to enhance the geographical balance in order to have a proper representation of nationals from all Member States, reflecting the diversity of Member States;

Amendment

6. Notes the geographical imbalances in the composition of the EEAS staff, ***especially as regards to top grading posts***; stresses that the EEAS, like all European institutions, must ensure that all Member States are proportionally represented while at the same time respecting the competences and merits of the candidates; calls on the EEAS to enhance the geographical balance in order to have a proper representation of nationals from all Member States, reflecting the diversity of Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 10

Tomáš Zdechovský, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6 a. Calls on the EEAS to report on the distribution of nationalities in the selection committee responsible for hiring; invites the EEAS to consider developing further instruments to ensure proportion between merit-based and geographically balanced recruitment; asks the EEAS to provide statistics of the staff according to their nationality for the year 2019;

Or. en

Amendment 11

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Observes that the number of seconded national experts from Member States started to slightly increase after two years of stabilisation, from 449 in 2017-2018 to 461 in 2019, while noting an evolution towards more specialised profiles for civilians SNEs;

Amendment

7. Observes that the number of seconded national experts from Member States started to slightly increase after two years of stabilisation, from 449 in 2017-2018 to 461 in 2019, while noting an evolution towards more specialised profiles for civilians SNEs; ***notes with satisfaction the new internal policy on SNEs adopted in 2019 and several measures to rebalance the share of the SNEs' population, in addition to limiting the creation of new SNEs posts to specialists in specific areas;***

Or. en

Amendment 12

Ádám Kósa

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7 a. Welcomes the efforts of the EEAS working on a Disability Roadmap and development of the EEAS Disability Policy, asks the EEAS to inform the discharge authority on the development and execution of these policies, stresses the importance of promoting a more inclusive working environment through these policies;

Or. en

Amendment 13

Jeroen Lenaers

Motion for a resolution

Subheading 3

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Amendment 14

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. Notes the upward trend with regard to the proportion of women reaching management positions with 30,3 % (or 81 positions) compared to 27,1 % in 2018 and 24,5 % in 2017; takes also note of the increasing trend of the share of women posted as Heads of Delegation from 19,5 % in 2015 to 27,7 % in 2019 (or 38 postings out of 137); reiterates its support for the EEAS in continuing its efforts with Member States to introduce more women candidates; notes that overall women represented 47,7 % of EEAS staff; recalls that gender balance should also be considered with regard to the EU special representatives, two out of eight EU special representatives being women;

Amendment

8. Notes **with satisfaction** the upward trend with regard to the proportion of women reaching management positions with 30,3 % (or 81 positions) compared to 27,1 % in 2018 and 24,5 % in 2017; takes also note of the increasing trend of the share of women posted as Heads of Delegation from 19,5 % in 2015 to 27,7 % in 2019 (or 38 postings out of 137); reiterates its support for the EEAS in continuing its efforts with Member States to introduce more women candidates; notes that overall women represented 47,7 % of EEAS staff; recalls that gender balance should also be considered with regard to the EU special representatives, two out of eight EU special representatives being women;

Amendment 15

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. Notes the upward trend with regard to the proportion of women reaching management positions with 30,3 % (or 81 positions) compared to 27,1 % in 2018 and 24,5 % in 2017; takes also note of the

Amendment

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increasing trend of the share of women posted as Heads of Delegation from 19,5 % in 2015 to 27,7 % in 2019 (or 38 postings out of 137); reiterates its support for the EEAS in continuing its efforts with Member States to introduce more women candidates; notes that overall women represented 47,7 % of EEAS staff; recalls that gender balance should also be considered with regard to the EU special representatives, two out of eight EU special representatives being women;

increasing trend of the share of women posted as Heads of Delegation from 19,5 % in 2015 to 27,7 % in 2019 (or 38 postings out of 137); reiterates its support for the EEAS in continuing its efforts with Member States to introduce more women candidates; notes that overall women represented 47,7 % of EEAS staff; recalls that gender balance should also be considered with regard to the EU special representatives, **only** two out of eight EU special representatives being women;

Or. en

Amendment 16

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Acknowledges the operational difficulties encountered by the EEAS in the financial management of the EU network of Delegations due to various crisis situations; recognises that those difficult situations can lead to significant budgetary impact, namely in the management of certain administrative expenditure and costs such as security and evacuation costs, and further logistical costs linked to the COVID 19 pandemic;

Amendment

9. Acknowledges the operational difficulties encountered by the EEAS in the financial management of the EU network of Delegations due to various crisis situations; recognises that those difficult situations can lead to significant budgetary impact, namely in the management of certain administrative expenditure and costs such as security and evacuation costs, and further logistical costs linked to the COVID 19 pandemic; ***asks the EEAS to swiftly inform the Parliament Committee on Budgetary Control of the budgetary impacts and expenses incurred because of the pandemic;***

Or. en

Amendment 17

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

10. Notes that the total budget of the EEAS for 2019 amounted to EUR 694,8 million (i.e. an increase of 2,4 % compared to 2018) with the following split, namely EUR 249,7 million for EEAS headquarters and EUR **445,2** million for the Delegations;

Amendment

10. Notes that the total budget of the EEAS for 2019 amounted to EUR 694,8 million (i.e. an increase of 2,4 % compared to 2018) with the following split, namely EUR 249,7 million for EEAS headquarters and EUR **445,1** million for the Delegations;

Or. en

Amendment 18

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 12

Motion for a resolution

12. Observes that the headquarters' budget amounted to EUR 250 million out of which EUR 161,8 million (i.e. 64,8 %) concerned the payment of salaries and other entitlements of statutory and external staff, EUR 32 million (i.e. 13 %) were for buildings and associated costs, and EUR 35,3 million (i.e. 14 %) were related to IT computer systems including classified information systems, equipment and furniture;

Amendment

12. Observes that the headquarters' budget amounted to **approximately** EUR 250 million out of which EUR 161,8 million (i.e. 64,8 %) concerned the payment of salaries and other entitlements of statutory and external staff, EUR 32 million (i.e. 13 %) were for buildings and associated costs, and EUR 35,3 million (i.e. 14 %) were related to IT computer systems including classified information systems, equipment and furniture;

Or. en

Amendment 19

Nathalie Loiseau, Pierre Karleskind, Sandro Gozi, Alin Mituța

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 13 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

13a. Calls on the EEAS to ensure that the EU delegation to the United Kingdom

has a permanent and stable status that is consistent with the European Treaties and that it is provided with the human and material resources to carry out its tasks, in particular with regard to compliance monitoring;

Or. fr

Amendment 20

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 18

Motion for a resolution

18. Acknowledges that the number of budget lines used to finance the operations related to Commission staff in the delegations (34 different lines originating in various Headings of the Commission budget, plus the EDF Funds) increases the complexity of budget management;

Amendment

18. Acknowledges that the number of budget lines used to finance the operations related to Commission staff in the delegations (34 different lines originating in various Headings of the Commission budget, plus the EDF Funds) increases the complexity of budget management; *invites the EEAS to consider better structuring its budget reporting to loosen the complexity;*

Or. en

Amendment 21

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. Encourages the EEAS therefore to continue discussing with the European Commission ways to streamline the budget nomenclature and lines when possible in order to facilitate the overall EEAS budget management; is of the opinion that the upcoming MFF and the related evolution in

Amendment

19. Encourages the EEAS therefore to continue discussing with the European Commission ways to streamline the budget nomenclature and lines when possible in order to facilitate the overall EEAS budget management; is of the opinion that the upcoming MFF and the related evolution in

their design and structure should speed up this process of budgetary simplification and rationalisation; considers that such an evolution is likely to improve budgetary costs control and minimize the risk of error;

their design and structure should speed up this process of budgetary simplification and rationalisation; considers that such an evolution is likely to improve budgetary costs control and minimize the risk of error; ***acknowledges the proposal made by the EEAS in early 2020 for a far-reaching simplification; acknowledges that this proposal has been postponed to 2022 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic but that the EEAS has submitted another simplifying proposal to the Commission in September 2020;***

Or. en

Amendment 22

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 21

Motion for a resolution

21. Calls on the EEAS to ***better illustrate*** its results-based management framework in the next annual activity report, based on a set of adequate key performance indicators (KPIs) for its different administrative areas, including the related number of human resources, in order to better assess the achievements of EEAS policy objectives;

Amendment

21. Calls on the EEAS to ***improve the definition of*** its results-based management framework in the next annual activity report, based on a set of adequate key performance indicators (KPIs) for its different administrative areas, including the related number of human resources, in order to better assess the achievements of EEAS policy objectives;

Or. en

Amendment 23

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

24. Believes that digitalisation of procurement and budget management is key; recalls that ‘Document management’ one of the weakest components identified in the previous internal control survey, deserves regular attention from all EEAS stakeholders for the benefit of institutional memory and the traceability of management operations;

24. Believes that digitalisation of procurement and budget management is key; recalls that ‘Document management’ one of the weakest components identified in the previous internal control survey, deserves regular attention from all EEAS stakeholders for the benefit of institutional memory and the traceability of management operations; ***therefore, calls on the EEAS to improve its digital systems and document management, introducing advanced management and archiving tools, as well as paperless document management processes where possible;***

Or. en

Amendment 24

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

24 a. Welcomes that the EEAS uses free and open-source software whenever possible; encourages the EEAS to prioritise open-source technologies in order to prevent vendor lock-in, retain control over its own technical systems, provide stronger safeguards for user’s privacy and data protection and increase security and transparency for the public;

Or. en

Amendment 25

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24 b (new)

24 b. Encourages the EEAS to follow the EDPS recommendations to renegotiate the Inter-Institutional Licensing Agreement and implementation contract, signed between the Union institutions and Microsoft in 2018, with the objective to achieve digital sovereignty, avoid vendor lock-in and lack of control, as well as to ensure the protection of personal data;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 26

Motion for a resolution

26. Notes the rate of anomalies detected in ex ante verifications of commitments and payments (respectively, 308 errors out of 1193 and 394 out of 2119); is concerned that in both cases errors are of an administrative nature i.e. incorrect amounts for commitments or missing supporting documents for payments presented for ex-ante financial verification;

Amendment

26. Notes the rate of anomalies detected in ex ante verifications of commitments and payments (respectively, 308 errors out of 1193 and 394 out of 2119); is concerned that in both cases errors are of an administrative nature i.e. incorrect amounts for commitments or missing supporting documents for payments presented for ex-ante financial verification; ***acknowledges the implementation, from January 2020, of a revised list of anomaly codes aiming at better defining the error typology;***

Or. en

Amendment 27
Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 26

Motion for a resolution

26. Notes the rate of anomalies detected in ex ante verifications of commitments and payments (respectively, 308 errors out of 1 193 and 394 out of 2119); is concerned that in both cases errors are of an administrative nature i.e. incorrect amounts for commitments or missing supporting documents for payments presented for ex-ante financial verification;

Amendment

26. Notes the rate of anomalies detected in ex ante verifications of commitments and payments (respectively, 308 errors out of 1 193 and 394 out of 2119); is concerned that in both cases errors are of an administrative nature i.e. incorrect amounts for commitments or missing supporting documents for payments presented for ex-ante financial verification; ***calls on the EEAS to investigate and resolve cases of administrative errors and report back to the Parliament on its achievements;***

Or. en

Amendment 28

Tomáš Zdechovský, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 26

Motion for a resolution

26. Notes the rate of anomalies detected in ex ante verifications of commitments and payments (respectively, 308 errors out of 1 193 and 394 out of 2119); is concerned that in both cases errors are of an administrative nature i.e. incorrect amounts for commitments or missing supporting documents for payments presented for ex-ante financial verification;

Amendment

26. Notes the rate of anomalies detected in ex ante verifications of commitments and payments (respectively, 308 errors out of 1 193 and 394 out of 2119); is concerned that in both cases errors are of an administrative nature i.e. incorrect amounts for commitments or missing supporting documents for payments presented for ex-ante financial verification; ***calls for the implementation of measures that would contribute to a reduction of the level of errors in general terms;***

Or. en

Amendment 29

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 28 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

28 a. Asks the EEAS to continue providing for a follow-up report for the financial year 2019 in compliance with Article 262 of the Financial Regulation;

Or. en

Amendment 30

Jeroen Lenaers

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 29

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

29. Notes with appreciation the reinforcement of the EEAS's strategic communication capacity and toolkit in order to tackle disinformation threats and hybrid threats, with the setting-up of three task forces for the East, Western Balkans and South and the EEAS's participation in the rapid alert system established among the Union institutions and Member States; invites the EEAS to pursue the development of such a policy with the Parliament's new special committee on foreign interference in order to refine its capacity response;

29. Notes with appreciation the reinforcement of the EEAS's strategic communication capacity and toolkit in order to tackle disinformation threats and hybrid threats, with the setting-up of three task forces for the East, Western Balkans and South and the EEAS's participation in the rapid alert system established among the Union institutions and Member States; invites the EEAS to pursue the development of such a policy with the Parliament's new special committee on foreign interference in order to refine its capacity response; ***recognises and welcomes the cooperation between the EEAS and numerous European Parliament Liaison Offices (EPLO) to combat disinformation during the European election campaign 2019;***

Or. en

Amendment 31

Joachim Kuhs, Jean-François Jalkh

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 29 a (new)

29 a. Reminds of the common failure of the EEAS and the Commission to provide efficient budget support addressed to Morocco, namely due to sub-optimal focus and design of the support, difficulties in implementing and absence of significant impact for budget support programmes; therefore calls on the EEAS and the Commission to stop the practice of the budget support to the third countries regulated by legal provisions of a broad scope creating a risk of loose interpretation by the institutions regarding the meeting of general conditions;

Or. en

Amendment 32

Tomáš Zdechovský, José Manuel Fernandes, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 30

30. Underlines that the spread of deliberate, large-scale systematic disinformation is an acute strategic challenge for the Union's public diplomacy for which adequate financial, IT and human resources should be devoted in the **short-to-medium** term;

30. Underlines that the spread of deliberate, large-scale systematic disinformation is an acute strategic challenge for the Union's public diplomacy for which adequate financial, IT and human resources should be devoted in the **short** term; **supports the reinforcement of the linkage between policy making, public diplomacy and strategic communication;**

Or. en

Amendment 33

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 30 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

30 a. *Is concerned by the findings from renown researchers that the EU Disinformation Review (EU vs Disinfo), operated by the EEAS, would allegedly not respect the International Fact-Checking Network's code of principles because its methodology is not transparent, it would violate the right to freedom of expression and of the press by labelling publishers and media outlets that report on third party opinions as "disinforming outlets", as well as it would fail to provide objective impartiality, as it does not provide the right to be heard; asks the EEAS to provide more information to the Parliament on the compliance of its review methodology with Union law and international standards;*

Or. en

Amendment 34
David Lega

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 30 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

30 a. *Stresses the need to communicate strategically, to fight malicious interference, including foreign disinformation, espionage, and propaganda; underlines the importance of the EEAS Strategic Communication Task Force, and calls for the creation of dedicated Strategic Communication Task Forces on interference emanating from China and the Middle East, in particular from Iran, and providing them with further necessary financial and human resources;*

Amendment 35

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 30 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

30 b. Notes that the EEAS makes use of the following proprietary social media channels: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, for which the number of followers increased significantly in 2019; encourages the EEAS to establish a presence on free and open-source social media networks, such as Mastodon, to achieve further transparency and broader outreach;

Or. en

Amendment 36

Tomáš Zdechovský, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 31

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

31. Notes that only two delegations provided motivated reservations, i.e. the Delegation to Syria (since 2017) and the Delegation in Djibouti in relation to the management of their administrative expenditure, in particular linked to procurement issues;

31. Notes that only two delegations provided motivated reservations, i.e. the Delegation to Syria (since 2017) and the Delegation in Djibouti in relation to the management of their administrative expenditure, in particular linked to procurement issues; ***calls on EEAS to undertake necessary steps to examine these issues;***

Or. en

Amendment 37

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 32

Motion for a resolution

32. Calls on the EEAS to provide further information in the EEAS annual activity report on the Inspections programme in order to get an overview of the performance and the functioning of the EU Delegations; considers also that it will be useful to better illustrate the articulation of inspections of Delegations with the EEAS assurance framework and to show how the use of the outcomes and recommendations of inspections contributed to greater coherence, homogeneity and efficiency in the Delegations' working methods;

Amendment

32. Calls on the EEAS to provide further information in the EEAS annual activity report on the Inspections programme in order to get an overview of the performance and the functioning of the EU Delegations; considers also that it will be useful to better illustrate the articulation of inspections of Delegations with the EEAS assurance framework and to show how the use of the outcomes and recommendations of inspections contributed to greater coherence, homogeneity and efficiency in the Delegations' working methods; ***highlights the importance of analysing the effectiveness and correctness of financial management in the respective Delegations;***

Or. en

Amendment 38

Tomáš Zdechovský, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

33. Welcomes the fact that the EEAS is continuously adapting its anti-fraud strategy in conjunction with all the RELEX directorates general and with a dedicated format with OLAF; believes that all necessary efforts have to be made to share and exchange information on their operational challenges to better identify risky areas in their activities and programmes;

Amendment

33. Welcomes the fact that the EEAS is continuously adapting its anti-fraud strategy in conjunction with all the RELEX directorates general and with a dedicated format with OLAF; believes that all necessary efforts have to be made to share and exchange information on their operational challenges to better identify risky areas in their activities and programmes; ***calls on the EEAS to identify***

any possible specific policy fields where tighter collaboration with OLAF might be needed to ensure an effective fraud prevention

Or. en

Amendment 39

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

33. Welcomes the fact that the EEAS is continuously adapting its anti-fraud strategy in conjunction with all the RELEX directorates general and with a dedicated format with OLAF; *believes* that all necessary efforts *have to* be made to share and exchange information on their operational challenges to better identify risky areas in their activities and programmes;

Amendment

33. Welcomes the fact that the EEAS is continuously adapting its anti-fraud strategy in conjunction with all the RELEX directorates general and with a dedicated format with OLAF; *stresses* that all necessary efforts *must* be made to share and exchange information on their operational challenges to better identify risky areas in their activities and programmes;

Or. en

Amendment 40

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 37 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

37 a. Encourages the EEAS to urgently devote efforts to organise systematic trainings and awareness sessions in the field of proper conduct (ethics, anti-fraud, anti-corruption, anti-harassment, confidentiality levels) to its staff; believes such session should be part of compulsory on-boarding trainings for newly recruited

staff;

Or. en

Amendment 41

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 38 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

38 a. Strongly recommends for the EEAS to join the EU Transparency Register, on the basis of a service level agreement, in order to improve transparency by disclosing all meetings with all lobby organisations that try to influence the law-making and policy implementation process of the Union institutions; does not agree with the EEAS' opinion that an obligation to record meetings with lobbyists in third countries, would make it difficult for Heads of Union Delegations to engage with Union's economic interests in third countries; believes that citizens should be allowed to know which organisations Union Ambassadors are meeting;

Or. en

Amendment 42

Mikuláš Peksa, Daniel Freund

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 39

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

39. Underlines that post-public employment and 'revolving door' conflict of interests situations is a recurring issue in

39. Underlines that post-public employment and 'revolving door' conflict of interests situations is a recurring issue in

the EU institutions; calls for the EEAS for the effective and consistent application of the Staff Regulations, in particular Article 16 thereof, in order to prevent conflicts of interests, in particular – but not only – concerning senior officials;

the EU institutions; calls for the EEAS for the effective and consistent application of the Staff Regulations, in particular Article 16 thereof, in order to prevent conflicts of interests, in particular – but not only – concerning senior officials; ***is concerned about the EEAS' seeming lack of commitment in this regard as became evident through its handling of recent revolving door cases; calls on the EEAS to systematically review potentially problematic transitions to the private sector or to third countries organisations and to continue to monitor the occupation of the former senior official until the end of the mandatory cooling-off period;***

Or. en

Amendment 43

Tomáš Zdechovský, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 39

Motion for a resolution

39. Underlines that post-public employment and ‘revolving door’ conflict of interests situations is a recurring issue in the EU institutions; calls for the EEAS for the effective and consistent application of the Staff Regulations, in particular Article 16 thereof, in order to prevent conflicts of interests, in particular – but not only – concerning senior officials;

Amendment

39. Underlines that post-public employment and ‘revolving door’ conflict of interests situations is a recurring issue in the EU institutions; calls for the EEAS for the effective and consistent application of the Staff Regulations, in particular Article 16 thereof, in order to prevent conflicts of interests, in particular – but not only – concerning senior officials ***and seconded national experts;***

Or. en

Amendment 44

Daniel Freund, Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 40

Motion for a resolution

40. ***Insists in this regard*** that the EEAS ***publishes annually*** its decisions on occupational activities of former senior officials and that it monitors on a constant basis whether they adhere to the conditions imposed on them and, if appropriate, take decisive action to enforce compliance with these conditions;

Amendment

40. ***Deeply regrets*** that the EEAS ***has not published any of*** its decisions on occupational activities of former senior officials ***for six years, including 2019, in breach of its obligations under Article 16 of the Staff Regulation; welcomes that it has started to publish them in 2020, including the retrospective publishing of decisions from previous years; insists in this regard that the EEAS from now on publishes its decisions on occupational activities of former senior officials on an annual basis*** and that it monitors on a constant basis whether they adhere to the conditions imposed on them and, if appropriate, take decisive action to enforce compliance with these conditions;

Or. en

Amendment 45

Daniel Freund, Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 41 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

41 a. Underlines that Article 16 enables Union institutions to turn down a former official's request to take a specific job if restrictions are not sufficient to protect the legitimate interests of the institutions; fears that it is often not possible to enforce conditions imposed upon post-public employment activities; encourages Union institutions and agencies, therefore, to consider the full range of tools made available under Article 16 of the Staff Regulation;

Or. en

Amendment 46

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 43

Motion for a resolution

43. Encourages the EEAS to continue in this direction of pooling of means with Member States in the management of buildings and to further developing local co-operation, with specific attention to be devoted to best value for money, security issues and the Union's image and visibility;

Amendment

43. Encourages the EEAS to continue in this direction of pooling of means with Member States in the management of buildings and to further developing local co-operation, with specific attention to be devoted to best value for money, security issues and the Union's image and visibility, ***as well as budget optimisation;***

Or. en

Amendment 47

Tomáš Zdechovský, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 44

Motion for a resolution

44. Notes with appreciation that this increase in colocations has been coupled with a consolidation and standardisation of the system of recovery of costs through further centralisation of incurred colocations' revenues and the application of administrative fees in the agreed service level agreements; observes that approximately EUR 10 million of revenues were generated in 2019;

Amendment

44. Notes with appreciation that this increase in colocations has been coupled with a consolidation and standardisation of the system of recovery of costs through further centralisation of incurred colocations' revenues and the application of administrative fees in the agreed service level agreements; observes that approximately EUR 10 million of revenues were generated in 2019; ***calls on the EEAS to present an overview of the allocation of this revenues to ensure transparency;***

Or. en

Amendment 48

Ádám Kósa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 44 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

44 a. Regrets the findings of the Court of Auditors, that only a small number of Union delegations are fully accessible to disabled people, asks the EEAS to consider where technically and financially possible and where required by local legislation to adapt their offices to improve the accessibility for people with reduced mobility;

Or. en

Amendment 49
Ádám Kósa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 48

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

48. Invites the EEAS to make further progress in relation to the remaining open recommendations on the need to obtain a portfolio overview by monitoring market rates for offices and residences and to start designing a medium-long-term plan in addition to its current Annual Working Document; recalls that the 35m² office space per member of staff should remain and serve as a recurrent benchmark in upcoming building planning or relocations; calls on the EEAS to keep Parliament informed about any further improvements;

48. Invites the EEAS to make further progress in relation to the remaining open recommendations on the need to obtain a portfolio overview by monitoring market rates for offices and residences and to start designing a medium-long-term plan in addition to its current Annual Working Document; recalls that the 35m² office space per member of staff should remain and serve as a recurrent benchmark ***and access for those with disabilities should be systematically assessed*** in upcoming building planning or relocations; calls on the EEAS to keep Parliament informed about any further improvements;

Or. en

Amendment 50
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 49

Motion for a resolution

49. **Regrets** the fact that there is an increase in cases reported to the mediation service, reaching 183 in 2019 (compared to 135 cases in 2018);

Amendment

49. **Notes** the fact that there is an increase in cases reported to the mediation service ***concerning either unsolved disagreements around rights and obligations or different kinds of conflict at work***, reaching 183 in 2019 (compared to 135 cases in 2018); ***understands that the increase of the cases brought to the mediation service is a sign of a proper functioning; acknowledges the adoption of a new Decision on the EEAS Mediation Service in 2020 in order to strengthen the mechanisms in place;***

Or. en

Amendment 51
Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 49

Motion for a resolution

49. **Regrets** the fact that there is an increase in cases reported to the mediation service, reaching 183 in 2019 (compared to 135 cases in 2018);

Amendment

49. ***Is concerned by*** the fact that there is an increase in cases reported to the mediation service, reaching 183 in 2019 (compared to 135 cases in 2018), ***including five requests for assistance for psychological harassment; asks the EEAS to review and remedy the issues that arose by transferring the cases, which require additional investigation, to OLAF without any delay;***

Or. en

Amendment 52
Tomáš Zdechovský, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou, Jeroen Lenaers

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 50

Motion for a resolution

50. Regrets the fact that there are still unpaid trainees in EU delegations; encourages the EEAS to take step to assure that trainees have means to support themselves;

Amendment

50. Regrets the fact that there are still unpaid trainees in EU delegations; encourages the EEAS to take step to assure that trainees have means to support themselves; ***urges the EEAS to follow the recommendation of the European Ombudsman to pay all trainees an appropriate allowance;***

Or. en

Amendment 53
Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 50

Motion for a resolution

50. ***Regrets the fact*** that there are still unpaid trainees in EU delegations; ***encourages the*** EEAS to ***take step to assure that*** trainees ***have means to support themselves;***

Amendment

50. ***Is highly concerned*** that there are still unpaid trainees in ***the*** EU Delegations; ***calls on*** EEAS to ***always hire*** trainees ***on a paid contract with an allowance that covers at least the living costs;*** ***recommends to allocate more budget to pay trainees;***

Or. en

Amendment 54
Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 51

Motion for a resolution

51. Notes with appreciation that in

Amendment

51. Notes with appreciation that in

2019 the EEAS adopted a mandate to set up an environmental management system for EEAS headquarters with the intention to extend it to the network of delegations.

2019 the EEAS adopted a mandate to set up an environmental management system for EEAS headquarters with the intention to extend it to the network of delegations;
urges the EEAS to take all the necessary measures to decrease the carbon footprint of the Headquarters and in the Union Delegations by implementing paperless processes and with emphasis on its energy mix, promoting and renewable sources of energy;

Or. en