



2023/2129(DEC)

13.2.2024

AMENDMENTS

1 - 180

Draft report
Isabel García Muñoz
(PE753.552v01-00)

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

Amendment 1
Cristian Terheş

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022*** / Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Ryszard Czarnecki, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Cristian Terheş, Jorge Buxadé Villalba, Elżbieta Rafalska, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022*** / Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Ryszard Czarnecki, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Cristian Terheş, Elżbieta Rafalska, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner

Proposal for a decision 2
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

Amendment

1. ***Grants the Director of the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022*** / Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022;

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 4

Ryszard Czarnecki, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Cristian Terheş, Elżbieta Rafalska, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner

**Proposal for a decision 3
Paragraph 1**

Proposal for a decision

Amendment

1. ***Grants the Acting Director of the European Education and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022*** / Postpones its decision on granting the Acting Director of the European Education and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022;

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Acting Director of the European Education and Culture Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 5

Ryszard Czarnecki, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Cristian Terheş, Elżbieta Rafalska, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner

**Proposal for a decision 4
Paragraph 1**

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Director of the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022 /***
Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 6

Ryszard Czarnecki, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Cristian Terheş, Elżbieta Rafalska, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner

**Proposal for a decision 5
Paragraph 1**

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022 /***
Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Research Council Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 7

Ryszard Czarnecki, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Cristian Terheş, Elżbieta Rafalska, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner

**Proposal for a decision 6
Paragraph 1**

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Director of the European Health and Digital Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022*** / Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Health and Digital Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Health and Digital Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 8

Ryszard Czarnecki, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Cristian Terheş, Elżbieta Rafalska, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner

Proposal for a decision 7

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Director of the European Research Executive Agency discharge in relation to the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022*** / Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Director of the European Research Executive Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 9

Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution

Citation 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

– ***having regard to the Discharge***

1a

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0137_EN.html

Or. en

Amendment 10

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

2. Highlights the importance of the Union budget for achieving the Union's political priorities, as well as its role in assisting Member States in unforeseen circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic, international conflicts or crisis and their consequences; **notes** in this regard the **continuing** relevance of investments and support from the Union budget for reducing disparities between Member States and regions, for promoting economic growth and employment, for combating poverty and social exclusion, and thus for improving the daily life of Union citizens;

Amendment

2. Highlights the importance of the Union budget for achieving the Union's political priorities, as well as its role in assisting Member States in unforeseen circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic, international conflicts or crisis and their consequences; **stresses** in this regard the **urgent need for increasing** relevance of investments **aimed towards achieving goals set in the EU GreenDeal** and support from the Union budget for reducing disparities between Member States and regions, for promoting economic growth and employment, for combating poverty and social exclusion, and thus for improving the daily life of Union citizens;

Or. en

Amendment 11

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

2. Highlights the importance of the Union budget for achieving the Union's political priorities, as well as its role in assisting Member States in unforeseen circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic, international conflicts or crisis and their consequences; notes in this regard the continuing relevance of investments and support from the Union budget for reducing disparities between Member States and regions, for promoting economic growth and employment, for combating poverty and social exclusion, and thus for improving the daily life of Union citizens;

Amendment

2. Highlights the importance of the Union budget for achieving the Union's political priorities, as well as its role in assisting Member States in unforeseen circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic, international conflicts or crisis and their consequences; notes in this regard the continuing relevance of investments and support from the Union budget for reducing disparities between Member States and regions, for promoting economic growth and employment, for combating poverty and social exclusion, and thus for improving the daily life of Union citizens ***and economic impact within the EU***;

Or. en

Amendment 12

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 2 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2 a. Stresses the fact that in 2022 the EU has fallen much short of the level of efficiency needed to achieve the climate-related goals set for 2030, 2040 and 2050; urges the Commission not to water down the paste and ambition needed to lower the CO2 emissions and keep the global warming below 1,5% degrees above the pre-industrial times;

Or. en

Amendment 13

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Stresses that the sound and timely implementation of the budget contributes to addressing more efficiently and effectively the needs and challenges in different policy areas; warns that the implementation of the budget under time pressure may lead to an increase in errors and irregularities;

Amendment

3. Stresses that the sound and timely implementation of the budget contributes to addressing more efficiently and effectively the needs and challenges in different policy areas; warns that the implementation of the budget under time pressure may lead to an increase in errors and irregularities; ***recalls the role of the Commission as guardian of the treaty to protect the European financial interests;***

Or. en

Amendment 14
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Stresses that the sound and timely implementation of the budget contributes to addressing more efficiently and effectively the needs and challenges in different policy areas; warns that the implementation of ***the budget*** under time pressure may lead to an increase in errors ***and*** irregularities;

Amendment

3. Stresses that the sound and timely implementation of the budget contributes to addressing more efficiently and effectively the needs and challenges in different policy areas; warns that the ***simultaneous*** implementation of ***multiple instruments with different rules*** under time pressure may lead to ***a delay in implementation***, an increase in errors, irregularities, ***and fraud***;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Stresses that the sound and timely implementation of the budget contributes to addressing more efficiently and effectively the needs and challenges in different policy areas; **warns** that the implementation of the budget under time pressure **may lead** to an increase in errors and irregularities;

Amendment

3. Stresses that the sound and timely implementation of the budget contributes to addressing more efficiently and effectively the needs and challenges in different policy areas; **stresses** that the **late** implementation of the budget under time pressure **of the final closure of the 2014 - 2020 MFF led** to an increase in errors and irregularities;

Or. en

Amendment 16

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wieszik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Stresses the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)'s contribution to support Member States in recovering from the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and creating a resilient Union that can shoulder the challenges of the future; notes the contribution of the RRF and RePowerEU in addressing the energy-related challenges caused by the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; calls on the Commission and the Member States to implement the associated actions swiftly in accordance with the agreed milestones and targets;

Amendment

4. Stresses the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)'s contribution to support Member States in recovering from the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and creating a resilient Union that can shoulder the challenges of the future; notes the contribution of the RRF and RePowerEU in addressing the energy-related challenges caused by the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; calls on the Commission and the Member States to implement the associated actions swiftly in accordance with the agreed milestones and targets; **regrets that milestones have not been better defined and more strictly monitored by the Commission;**

Or. en

Amendment 17

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Stresses the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)'s contribution to support Member States in recovering from the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and creating a resilient Union that can shoulder the challenges of the future; notes the contribution of the RRF and RePowerEU in addressing the energy-related challenges caused by the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; calls on the Commission **and the Member States to implement** the associated actions swiftly in accordance with the agreed milestones and targets;

Amendment

4. Stresses the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)'s contribution to support Member States in recovering from the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and creating a resilient Union that can shoulder the challenges of the future; notes the contribution of the RRF and RePowerEU in addressing the energy-related challenges caused by the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; calls on the Commission **to monitor Member States' implementation of** the associated actions swiftly in accordance with the agreed milestones and targets;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Stresses the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)'s contribution to support Member States in recovering from the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and creating a resilient Union that can shoulder the challenges of the future; notes the contribution of the RRF and RePowerEU in addressing the energy-related challenges caused by **the** Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; calls on the Commission and the Member States to implement the associated actions swiftly in accordance with the agreed milestones and targets;

Amendment

4. Stresses the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)'s contribution to support Member States in recovering from the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and creating a resilient Union that can shoulder the challenges of the future; notes the contribution of the RRF and RePowerEU in addressing the energy-related challenges caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; calls on the Commission and the Member States to implement the associated actions swiftly in accordance with the agreed milestones and targets;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

5. Highlights the crucial role the Union budget played in 2022 in addressing the fall-out of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine to secure food supply chains, address energy-related challenges, support Member States in welcoming refugees, and provide assistance to Ukraine in caring for its citizens; notes that this has put pressure on the budget and that all available flexibility measures have been used; notes in that regard the proposals made by the Commission in the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) review to re-orient funds and to raise fresh funds, and calls on the Council to swiftly move forward with the adoption of the proposals;

Amendment

5. Highlights the crucial role the Union budget played in 2022 in addressing the fall-out of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine to secure food supply chains, address energy-related challenges, support Member States in welcoming refugees, and provide assistance to Ukraine in caring for its citizens; notes that this has put pressure on the budget and that all available flexibility measures have been used; notes in that regard the proposals made by the Commission in the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) review to re-orient funds and to raise fresh funds, and calls on the Council to swiftly move forward with the adoption of the proposals; ***stresses the importance to clarify how to repay EU debt;***

Or. en

Amendment 20
Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

5. Highlights the crucial role the Union budget played in 2022 in addressing the fall-out of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine to secure food supply chains, address energy-related challenges, support Member States in welcoming refugees, and provide assistance to Ukraine in caring for its citizens; notes that this has

Amendment

5. Highlights the crucial role the Union budget played in 2022 in addressing the fall-out of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine to secure food supply chains, address energy-related challenges, support Member States in welcoming ***Ukrainian*** refugees, and provide assistance to Ukraine in caring for its citizens; notes

put pressure on the budget and that all available flexibility measures have been used; notes in that regard the proposals made by the Commission in the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) review to re-orient funds and to raise fresh funds, and calls on the Council to swiftly move forward with the adoption of the proposals;

that this has put pressure on the budget and that all available flexibility measures have been used; notes in that regard the proposals made by the Commission in the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) review to re-orient funds and to raise fresh funds, and calls on the Council to swiftly move forward with the adoption of the proposals;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5 a. Reminds of the importance of a strict application of the financial rules of the EU in all programmes and on all beneficiaries, in order to avoid all forms of fraud, conflict of interests, corruption, double funding and money laundering; in this framework reminds of the key role played by the whole EU anti-fraud architecture and expresses some concerns about the refusal of some member states to cooperate with one of its elements, notably the EPPO;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Cristian Terheş, Ryszard Czarnecki, Elżbieta Rafalska, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5 a. Condemns the lack of transparency from the Commission and

pharmaceutical companies in the development, purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Sabrina Pignedoli

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5a. Condemns the Commission's failure to provide responses with regard to the Covid Vaccines Agreement between the European Commission and Pfizer. Is concerned that, unlike in the case of other contract negotiations, the EU executive has refused to provide records of the discussions with Pfizer, in the form of minutes, the names of experts consulted, the terms agreed or other evidence.

Or. it

Amendment 24
Cristian Terheş, Ryszard Czarnecki, Elżbieta Rafalska, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5 b. Notes with concern that, to date, the Commission has not make available, not only to the public, but not even to the Members of the European Parliament, the non-redacted versions of the contracts signed with the producers of the COVID-19 vaccine;

Or. en

Amendment 25
Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5 c. Notes that the EPPO has confirmed that there is an ongoing investigation into the acquisition of COVID-19 vaccines in the Union^{7a};

^{7a}

<https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/ongoing-eppo-investigation-acquisition-covid-19-vaccines-eu>

Or. en

Amendment 26
Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5 d. Notes that, based on an inquiry, the European Ombudsman concluded that the Commission's refusal of public access to text messages exchanged between the Commission President and the CEO of a pharmaceutical company on the purchase of a COVID 19 vaccine (case 1316/2021/MIG) constituted “maladministration”^{8a};

^{8a}

<https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/decision/en/158295>

Or. en

Amendment 27

Dominique Bilde, Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5a. Expresses its disappointment at the Commission's continuing lack of transparency with regard to the agreements it has concluded with the pharmaceutical companies that produce COVID-19 vaccines, as well as at the communications via text message between the President of the Commission and the CEO of a pharmaceutical company;

Or. fr

Amendment 28

Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6. Recalls the importance of carrying out ***an ex-post evaluation*** of financial programmes created to respond to a crisis concerning their effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value;

6. Recalls the importance of carrying out ***ex-post and mid-term evaluations*** of financial programmes created to respond to a crisis concerning their effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value; ***stresses that the speed and a quick response to the crisis should not be to the detriment of proper control over expenditure and calls therefore on the Commission to draw lessons from the crisis response instruments deployed for the Covid-19 crisis, notes that decisions were made quickly under enormous pressure on a program that ended up taking 6 years;***

Or. en

Amendment 29

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Recalls the importance of carrying out an ex-post evaluation of financial programmes created to respond to a crisis concerning their effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value;

Amendment

6. Recalls the ***utmost*** importance of carrying out an ex-post evaluation of financial programmes created to respond to a crisis concerning their effectiveness, ***economic impact and performance***, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value;

Or. en

Amendment 30

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Recalls the importance of carrying out an ex-post evaluation of financial programmes created to respond to a crisis concerning ***their*** effectiveness, ***efficiency***, relevance, coherence and Union added value;

Amendment

6. Recalls the importance of carrying out an ex-post evaluation of financial programmes created to respond to a crisis concerning ***the regularity of spending, achieved efficiency and*** effectiveness, relevance ***and*** coherence and Union added value;

Or. en

Amendment 31

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Recalls the importance of carrying out an ex-post evaluation of financial programmes created to respond to a crisis concerning their effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value;

Amendment

6. Recalls the importance of carrying out an ex-post evaluation of financial programmes created to respond to a crisis concerning their **compliance**, effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value;

Or. en

Amendment 32
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6 a. Recalls the importance of the RRF in facing the economic downturn following the COVID-19 pandemic, reminds that the RRF delivery model puts much, lighter requirements on the Commission, and reduces the control burden from the Commission towards the Member States; is concerned that the Court in its assessment of the RRF identified shortcomings in the Commission preliminary assessment and ex posts audits and considers that weaknesses remain in the member states' reporting and control systems; is worried that such weaknesses have led to the establishment of 'control milestones' indicating that the relevant member state systems were not fully functional when the plans started to be implemented, thus posing a risk to the regularity of RRF expenditure and the protection of the EU's financial interests;

Or. en

Amendment 33
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6 a. Underlines the risk of conflicts of interest when all actors involved in the implementation of the EU budget at any level, might be compromised for reasons beyond economic interest, particularly family, emotional life, political or national affinity; notes the highly fragmented legal framework across Member States and regions concerning the conflict of interest and welcomes the Commission guidance to promote a uniform interpretation and application; supports the Court's observation in its Special report 6/2023 that "data mining, by comparing information from different sources, has the potential to help detect possible conflicts of interest";

Or. en

Amendment 34
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7. Emphasises the role of the European anti-fraud office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) in the fight against corruption; calls for the capacities of the EPPO and OLAF, as well as cooperation between them, to be strengthened further; calls for common anti-corruption rules applicable to all staff of Union bodies;

7. Emphasises the role of the European anti-fraud office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) in the fight against corruption; calls for the capacities of the EPPO and OLAF, as well as cooperation between them, to be strengthened further; **reiterates the need to step up the efforts in the fight against fraud both at Union and Member State level, in close cooperation with the EPPO**

and OLAF; appreciates the efforts and stresses the role of the EPPO in the investigation and prosecution of fraud and other criminal offences affecting the financial interests of the Union; highlights the importance of the EPPO's full independence and impartiality for the effective exercise of its functions; recalls the importance of providing the EPPO and OLAF with sufficient financial and human resources calls for common anti-corruption rules applicable to all staff of Union bodies;

Or. en

Amendment 35

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wieszik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Emphasises the role of the European anti-fraud office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) in the fight against corruption; calls for the capacities of the EPPO and OLAF, *as well as cooperation between them*, to be strengthened further; calls for common anti-corruption rules applicable to all staff of Union bodies;

Amendment

7. Emphasises the role *and the importance of a strengthened cooperation* of the European anti-fraud office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) in the fight against corruption; calls for the capacities of the EPPO and OLAF, to be strengthened further; calls for common anti-corruption rules applicable to all staff of Union bodies *and calls to make the interinstitutional Transparency register mandatory for all EU institutions even agencies*;

Or. en

Amendment 36

Sabrina Pignedoli

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Emphasises the role of the European anti-fraud office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) in the fight against corruption; calls for the capacities of the EPPO and OLAF, as well as cooperation between them, to be strengthened further; calls for common anti-corruption rules applicable to all staff of Union bodies;

Amendment

7. Emphasises the role of the European anti-fraud office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) in the fight against corruption; calls for the capacities of the EPPO and OLAF, as well as cooperation between them, to be strengthened further; calls for ***their remits to be better defined, and for*** common anti-corruption rules applicable to all staff of Union bodies;

Or. it

Amendment 37
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. ***Welcomes the measures undertaken by the Commission in 2022 and 2023 under the Rule of Law conditionality mechanism for the protection of the Union budget and asks the Commission to continue to be vigilant and proactive in the current and future cases when the lack of respect for Union values and the Rule of Law affect or threaten to affect the Union's financial interests;***

Amendment

8. ***Emphasises the major importance of the Rule of Law conditionality mechanism for the protection of the Union budget; is extremely irritated by the very technocratic and contradictory handling of the mechanism in the case of Hungary across various financing instruments or legal acts in 2022 and 2023; urges the Commission to guarantee a unitary, comprehensive and integrated approach across different funds and legislative instruments; underlines that Union funds must not be used for anti-democratic activities or for strengthening authoritarianism; highlights the deterioration of Rule of Law in some Member States; calls on the Commission***

to promptly invoke the conditionality mechanism when breaches risk impacting the Union's financial interests; supports the blocking of EU funds as long as the conditions are not entirely fulfilled; encourages the Commission not to succumb to blackmailing by Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 38

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. Welcomes the measures undertaken by the Commission in 2022 **and 2023** under the Rule of Law conditionality mechanism for the protection of the Union budget and asks the Commission to ***continue to be vigilant and proactive*** in the current and future cases when the lack of respect for Union values and the Rule of Law affect or threaten to affect the Union's financial interests;

Amendment

8. Welcomes the measures undertaken by the Commission in 2022 under the Rule of Law conditionality mechanism for the protection of the Union budget and asks the Commission to ***conduct thorough assessments and ensure adequate control mechanisms to guarantee the sound financial management and the protection of the EU Budget*** in the current and future cases when the lack of respect for Union values and the Rule of Law affect or threaten to affect the Union's financial interests; ***call on the Commission to make full use of the tools available to address the clear risk of a serious breach of the EU values on which the Union is founded;***

Or. en

Amendment 39

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. ***Welcomes*** the measures undertaken by the Commission in 2022 and 2023 under the Rule of Law conditionality mechanism for the protection of the Union budget ***and*** asks the Commission to continue to be vigilant and proactive in the current and future cases when the lack of respect for Union values and the Rule of Law affect or threaten to affect the Union's financial interests;

Amendment

8. ***Considers*** the measures undertaken by the Commission in 2022 and 2023 under the Rule of Law conditionality mechanism for the protection of the Union budget ***to be inadequate, introduced with considerable delays and introduced following long lasting political considerations instead of acting as the independent and strong guardian of the Treaties;*** asks the Commission to continue to be vigilant and proactive in the current and future cases when the lack of respect for Union values and the Rule of Law affect or threaten to affect the Union's financial interests;

Or. en

Amendment 40
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

8 a. Strongly regrets the Commission's decision to consider that Hungary has fulfilled the horizontal enabling condition related to the Charter of Fundamental Rights, as regards judiciary independence, thus enabling the Hungarian authorities to submit reimbursement claims of up to EUR 10.2 billion without adequate control mechanisms or public procurement procedures in place to guarantee sound financial management and the protection of the EU budget; believes that this decision politically contradicts the decision to prolong the measures adopted under the Conditionality Regulation and expresses its disappointment that Parliament was not adequately informed during the process; underlines that the

Commission is tasked with independently and objectively assessing Hungary's compliance with applicable legislation, without compromising on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights; believes that even after the recent reforms, Hungary does not meet the standard of judicial independence set out in the Charter, as indicated by experts in Hungary and internationally, as the measures adopted do not ensure sufficient safeguards against political influence and can be either circumvented or inadequately applied; is concerned, in particular, about the persistence of obstacles to preliminary references, problems with the allocation of cases in the Kúria, and the deficient system for the nomination of President of the Kúria;

Or. en

Amendment 41
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

8 a. *Recalls that on 15 December 2022, the Council adopted Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary, including the suspension of 55 % of budgetary commitments under three operational cohesion policy programmes; notes that the Commission has been monitoring the implementation of the remedial measures proposed by Hungary in the framework of the ‘Conditionality Regulation’; notes that in December 2023, the Commission reassessed on its own motion the situation in Hungary and concluded that the Union’s budget remains at the same level of risk as there are still commitments that*

were neither correctly nor timely fulfilled;

Or. en

Amendment 42
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

8 b. *Notes that in 2022 the Council based on a Commission proposal agreed on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary; welcomes the temporarily suspension of 55% of commitments for certain cohesion policy programmes for the period 2021-2027; stresses that the decision was based on the Commission's concerns regarding severe issues related to the public procurement system in Hungary; stresses the importance that Union needs to protect its financial interests as well during pre-financing;*

Or. en

Amendment 43
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

8 b. *Notes that in December 2022, the Commission concluded that Hungary was not fulfilling the horizontal enabling conditions under the CPR on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter') with regard to judicial independence and the provisions of several laws posing serious risks to*

LGBTIQ+ rights, academic freedom and the right to asylum; is concerned about the Commission decision in December 2023 considering that the horizontal enabling condition of the Charter had been fulfilled in relation to judicial independence, thus enabling the Hungary authorities to submit reimbursement claims of up to EUR 10,2 billion; believes that this decision politically contradicts the decision to prolong the measures adopted under the Conditionality Regulation and reiterates the need of treating as a single, integral package all the measures required for the release of EU funding under the Conditionality Regulation, the CPRs and the RRF Regulation; expresses its disappointment that Parliament was not adequately informed during the process;

Or. en

Amendment 44

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9. Welcomes the agreement reached in the negotiations on the revised Union financial rules in December 2023; welcomes, in particular, the enhancements related to tracking Union funds through digital tools that will bolster the protection of the Union Financial Interests, the reference to the Rule of Law conditionality mechanism and Union values, the introduction of the principle of social conditionality, as well as the opportunity to streamline support for small and medium-sized enterprises and individual applicants by the introduction of very low-value grants;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 45
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Welcomes the agreement reached in the negotiations on the revised Union financial rules in December 2023; welcomes, in particular, the enhancements related to tracking Union funds through digital tools that will bolster the protection of the Union Financial Interests, the reference to the Rule of Law conditionality mechanism and Union values, ***the introduction of the principle of social conditionality***, as well as the opportunity to streamline support for small and medium-sized enterprises and individual applicants by the introduction of very low-value grants;

Amendment

9. Welcomes the agreement reached in the negotiations on the revised Union financial rules in December 2023; welcomes, in particular, the enhancements related to tracking Union funds through digital tools ***and interoperability*** that will bolster the protection of the Union Financial Interests, ***the targeted extension of the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) to shared management post MFF 2027***, the reference to the Rule of Law conditionality mechanism and Union values ***as enshrined in Article 2 TEU***, as well as the opportunity to streamline support for small and medium-sized enterprises and individual applicants by the introduction of very low-value grants;

Or. en

Amendment 46
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

10. Reminds the Commission that all legislative proposals that have a significant economic, social and environmental impact have to be accompanied by solid and thorough impact assessments, including their impact on gender-related issues, ***which will ensure that gender-mainstreaming in the Union Budget is successful***;

Amendment

10. Reminds the Commission that all legislative proposals that have a significant economic, social and environmental impact have to be accompanied by solid and thorough impact assessments, including their impact on ***the cost of living for EU citizens, the level of bureaucratization for beneficiaries and administration as well as gender-related issues, to guarantee a***

fair distribution of EU budget.; stresses that this is part of the Commission's better regulation agenda; underlines that Commission should conduct impact assessments in a completely neutral and impartial way; furthermore, expects the Commission to improve the costs and benefits analysis of the concerned options by enhancing the participation rate of different stakeholders with different views in open public consultations;

Or. en

Amendment 47
Ryszard Czarnecki
on behalf of the ECR Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

10. Reminds the Commission that all legislative proposals that have a significant economic, social and environmental impact have to be accompanied by solid and thorough impact assessments, *including their impact on gender-related issues, which will ensure that gender-mainstreaming in the Union Budget is successful;*

Amendment

10. Reminds the Commission that all legislative proposals that have a significant economic, social and environmental impact have to be accompanied by solid and thorough impact assessments;

Or. en

Amendment 48
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10 a. Recalls that spending areas subject to more complex rules and eligibility criteria are at higher risk of errors and

create an excessive administrative burden for recipients of support, specially newcomers; reiterates the need to implement simplification in EU spending programmes to the extent possible, striking a balance with robust checks and controls; stresses that the digitisation of the management, reporting and auditing of EU funds is essential to improve access for potential recipients in an equitable way and to make the management of funds more efficient and transparent for the citizens as a whole;

Or. en

Amendment 49
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

11. Is concerned that the late adoption of several sectoral regulations governing different Union policies, such as the Cohesion policy, resulted in a significant delay in the implementation of the 2021-2027 programming period; urges the Commission and the Member States once **moreto** take all the necessary measures to continue to speed up the implementation of the policies on the ground, while keeping a high focus on compliance with the rules, achievement of results and protection of the financial interests of the Union; highlights in this context the importance of avoiding decommitments which in turn would decrease the impact of the Union budget;

Amendment

11. Is concerned that the late adoption of several sectoral regulations governing different Union policies, such as the Cohesion policy, resulted in a significant delay in the implementation of the 2021-2027 programming period; urges the Commission and the Member States once **more to** take all the necessary measures to continue to speed up the implementation of the policies on the ground, while keeping a high focus on compliance with the rules, **quality of projects**, achievement of results and protection of the financial interests of the Union; highlights in this context the importance of avoiding decommitments which in turn would decrease the impact of the Union budget; **highlights in this context the risk that outstanding commitments bear on the Union budget, possibly generating significant decommitments which in turn would decrease the impact of the Union budget; demands that the Commission indicates to the discharge authority the measures it**

intends to take to avoid this situation;

Or. en

Amendment 50

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiek, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

11. Is concerned that the late adoption of several sectoral regulations governing different Union policies, such as the Cohesion policy, resulted in a significant delay in the implementation of the 2021-2027 programming period; urges the Commission and the Member States once more to take all the necessary measures to continue to speed up the implementation of the policies on the ground, while keeping a high focus on compliance with the rules, achievement of results and protection of the financial interests of the Union; highlights in this context the importance of avoiding decommitments which in turn would decrease the impact of the Union budget;

Amendment

11. Is concerned that the late adoption of several sectoral regulations governing different Union policies, such as the Cohesion policy, resulted in a significant delay in the implementation of the 2021-2027 programming period; urges the Commission and the Member States once more to take all the necessary measures to continue to speed up the implementation of the policies on the ground ***with a better geographical balance***, while keeping a high focus on compliance with the rules, achievement of results and protection of the financial interests of the Union; highlights in this context the importance of avoiding decommitments which in turn would decrease the impact of the Union budget;

Or. en

Amendment 51

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 11 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11 a. Regrets that again the Court issued an adverse opinion on the legality and regularity of expenditure, and found that the control mechanisms of the

Commission and Member States are simply not reliable enough; underlines the importance of reinforcing the control mechanisms of the Commission and Member States which are considered by the Court as not reliable therefore compromising the reliability of the AMPR; remind that the Commission should follow up in details on all Parliament's observations, including all the political priorities;

Or. en

Amendment 52

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11 a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11 a. Calls on the Commission to take initiatives such as technical assistance to increase the absorption rate in the Member States on a permanent basis; calls on the Commission to closely monitor the progress of implementation in Member States, in particular in the cases of under-implementation and low absorption rates and to deliver a country-analysis to the discharge authority, identifying the recurrent problems, as well as the measures taken to optimise the situation;

Or. en

Amendment 53

Isabel García Muñoz

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11 a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11 a. Stresses the importance of EU cohesion policy for economic and territorial convergence and development in the regions of the Union, as well as for supporting the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights; highlights the synergies of the cohesion funds in coordination with other EU programmes, particularly the RRF, to maximise the impact and efficiency of public spending;

Or. en

**Amendment 54
Monika Hohlmeier**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11 a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11 a. Calls on the Commission to implement the recommendations of the European Parliament in its resolution of 17 January 2024 on the transparency and accountability of non-governmental organisations funded from the EU budget (2023/2122 (INI));

Or. en

**Amendment 55
Monika Hohlmeier**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11 b (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11 b. Urges the Commission to stop all contracts, payments and grant agreements with NGO's, networks and other partners that include interest related lobbying or

influencing of the legislative processes on behalf of Commission DGs, Agencies and other entities; stresses that these actions violate the code of good conduct; asks the Commission to identify all contracts, agreements and partnerships of this kind and to involve the EDES Panel in cases of severe misconduct; asks the Commission to report to the CONT committee in autumn 2024;

Or. en

Amendment 56
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11 b. Welcomes the vital role played by NGOs in representing civil society and in promoting and defending the values enshrined in the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter') while implementing programmes and projects financed by the EU budget in full respect of the EU financial rules and the protection of the EU's financial interests;

Or. en

Amendment 57
Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11 a. Recalls that the Discharge on the General Budget of the EU and the European Commission for 2021 underlines the deep concern regarding the

funding of projects carried out by or involving NGOs with links to radical religious and political organisations ^{5c};

^{5c}

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0137_EN.html

Or. en

Amendment 58

Dominique Bilde, Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 11 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11a. *In this respect, expresses regret at the Commission's lack of transparency as regards the organisations – in particular non-governmental organisations – to which it gives funds to the tune of several billion per year, without any conditions in place or any ex-ante or ex-post checks being carried out on the entities concerned, on their status or on their links with terrorist organisations;*

Or. fr

Amendment 59

Dominique Bilde, Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 11 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11c. *Deplores the tardy, crude and incomplete nature of the information that the Commission provides on the financial transparency system;*

Or. fr

Amendment 60

Dominique Bilde, Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 11 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11b. Points out that the Qatargate scandal exposed civil society organisations as catalysts for corruption; regrets the fact that NGOs and civil society organisations are still exempt from most anti-money-laundering transparency and reporting obligations; emphasises that European Court of Auditors Special report No 35/2018 warns that NGOs are prone to be used for money laundering purposes; calls, therefore, for a definition of NGOs to be established at EU level and for NGOs to be brought within the scope of EU action to combat money laundering;

Or. fr

Amendment 61

Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 11 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11 c. Is extremely concerned about reports that EU taxpayers' money and funds of other donors distributed to UNRWA were misused by Hamas, instead of benefitting the Palestinian civilian population; is shocked about reports from the Israeli authorities on UNRWA employees being involved in acts of terror; is deeply concerned that the Commission did not act after multiple warnings by Parliament in 2022 about EU funds being misused for terrorist purposes; urges the

Commission to insist on controls and audits of UNRWA conducted by ECA, the Internal Audit Service, EU appointed independent external experts, and experienced international partners such as Global Affairs Canada; asks the Commission to use other trusted partners such as the WHO, UNICEF or the Egyptian Red Crescent in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), Gaza, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan for delivering funds and help to Palestinian civilians and refugees; asks the Commission to keep Parliament informed about new developments and efforts undertaken to provide direct support to Palestinian civilians and refugees and to prevent terrorist from diverting funds;

Or. en

Amendment 62
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

15. Notes that after the end of the transition period following the UK's withdrawal process, the Commission estimated that, at the balance sheet date, the Union accounts showed a net receivable due from the UK of EUR 23,9 billion (2021: 41,8 billion), of which it is estimated that EUR 9,1 billion will be paid in the 12 months following the reporting date;

Amendment

15. Notes that after the end of the transition period following the UK's withdrawal process, the Commission estimated that, at the balance sheet date, the Union accounts showed a net receivable due from the UK of EUR 23,9 billion (2021: 41,8 billion), of which it is estimated that EUR 9,1 billion will be paid in the 12 months following the reporting date; *considers that any amount in excess of the estimated EUR 9,1 billion should be used to reduce the borrowing- and lending activities of the Commission;*

Or. en

Amendment 63

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18

Motion for a resolution

18. Welcomes the Court's conclusion that the revenue is free from material error and that the systems for managing the revenue examined by the Court were generally effective; ***regrets the adverse opinion on the legality and regularity of the Union budget expenditure issued by the Court for the fourth year in a row;***

Amendment

18. ***Deeply regrets the adverse opinion on the legality and regularity of the Union budget expenditure issued by the Court for the fourth year in a row; demands the Commission takes all the necessary measures and administrative support to the Member States needed especially to improve their absorption capacity in order to avoid the worsening trend from 2007 - 2013, 2014 - 2020 to the 2020 - 2027 MFF and keeps the Discharge authority fully informed and in timely manner;*** welcomes the Court's conclusion that the revenue is free from material error and that the systems for managing the revenue examined by the Court were generally effective;

Or. en

Amendment 64
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18

Motion for a resolution

18. ***Welcomes*** the Court's conclusion that the revenue is free from material error and that the systems for managing the revenue examined by the Court were generally effective; regrets the adverse opinion on the legality and regularity of the Union budget expenditure issued by the Court for the fourth year in a row;

Amendment

18. ***Notes*** the Court's conclusion that the revenue is free from material error and that the systems for managing the revenue examined by the Court were generally effective; regrets the adverse opinion on the legality and regularity of the Union budget expenditure issued by the Court for the fourth year in a row;

Or. en

Amendment 65
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18

Motion for a resolution

18. Welcomes the Court's conclusion that the revenue is free from material error and that the systems for managing the revenue examined by the Court were generally effective; ***regrets the adverse opinion on the legality and regularity of the Union budget expenditure issued by the Court for the fourth year in a row;***

Amendment

18. ***Regrets the adverse opinion on the legality and regularity of the Union budget expenditure issued by the Court for the fourth year in a row;*** welcomes the Court's conclusion that the revenue is free from material error and that the systems for managing the revenue examined by the Court were generally effective;

Or. en

Amendment 66
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. ***Notes*** that the Court estimates the level of error for the 2022 expenditure to be 4,2 % (***3 % in 2021***), which is ***above*** the materiality threshold; notes ***the Commission's confidence that*** the risk at payment ***is estimated*** at 1.9 % for 2022 (similar to 2020, ***2021 and 2022***), ***is representative*** of the level of error ***at the time of payment***; notes that the Commission's estimation of the risk at closure, after ex-post controls and corrections have been applied, is 0.9 %; ***notes*** the divergence between the Court's overall error rate and the Commission's risk at payment, which is observed for the overall Union budget expenditure in 2022, although not in all expenditure areas;

Amendment

19. ***Expresses concern*** that the Court estimates the level of error for the 2022 expenditure to be 4,2 %, which is ***more than double*** the materiality threshold; notes ***that this is a further deterioration compared to the previous two years (3% in 2021 and 2.7% in 2020); notes that the Commission calculates*** the risk at payment at 1.9 % for 2022 (similar to 2020 ***and 2021***); ***is worried by the fact that, contrary to the Court, the Commission estimates its error rate to be both below the materiality threshold and the lower range of the estimated level of error of the Court, of 3.1%***; notes that the Commission's estimation of the risk at closure, after ex-post controls and corrections have been applied, is 0.9 %; ***regrets*** the divergence between the Court's overall error rate and the Commission's risk at payment, which is observed for the overall Union budget

expenditure in 2022, although not in all expenditure areas; *is particularly concerned that the Court's estimated error rate for 2022 (4,2 %) is mainly driven by 'Cohesion, resilience and values' (2,5 % of the overall error rate), 'Natural resources and environment (0,8 %), 'Neighbourhood and the world' (0,4 %), and 'Single market, innovation and digital' (0,3 %), all of them considered high-risk expenditure areas by the Court; notes that the Commission's risk at payment for 2022 is 1,9 %; Stresses the need to reduce the complexity of delivery models;*

Or. en

Amendment 67
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. *Notes* that the Court estimates the level of error for the 2022 expenditure to be 4,2 % (**3 % in 2021**), which is above the materiality threshold; notes the Commission's confidence that the risk at payment is estimated at 1.9 % for 2022 (similar to 2020, 2021 and 2022), is representative of the level of error at the time of payment; notes that the Commission's estimation of the risk at closure, after ex-post controls and corrections have been applied, is 0.9 %; notes the divergence between the Court's overall error rate and the Commission's risk at payment, which is observed for the overall Union budget expenditure in 2022, although not in all expenditure areas;

Amendment

19. *Is worried* that the Court estimates the level of error for the 2022 expenditure to be 4,2 %, which is *far* above the materiality threshold *and which represents a net increase in comparison to 2021 when the error rate was 3%*; notes the Commission's confidence that the risk at payment is estimated at 1.9 % for 2022 (similar to 2020, 2021 and 2022), is representative of the level of error at the time of payment; notes that the Commission's estimation of the risk at closure, after ex-post controls and corrections have been applied, is 0.9 %; notes the divergence between the Court's overall error rate and the Commission's risk at payment, which is observed for the overall Union budget expenditure in 2022, although not in all expenditure areas; *but particularly evident in heading 1 and 2 as in the past, remarks the fact that the Commission's estimates for risk at*

payment are consistently in the lower range or below the statistical estimations of the Court and is concerned that this represents a systematic underestimation of the existing error level by the Commission, which would not be able to effectively protect the financial interests of the union;

Or. en

Amendment 68

Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi, Dominique Bilde

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. Notes that the Court estimates the level of error for the 2022 expenditure to be 4,2 % (3 % in 2021), which is above the materiality threshold; notes the Commission's confidence that the risk at payment is estimated at 1.9 % for 2022 (similar to 2020, 2021 and 2022), is representative of the level of error at the time of payment; notes that the Commission's estimation of the risk at closure, after ex-post controls and corrections have been applied, is 0.9 %; notes the divergence between the Court's overall error rate and the Commission's risk at payment, which is observed for the overall Union budget expenditure in 2022, although not in all expenditure areas;

Amendment

19. Notes that the Court estimates the level of error for the 2022 expenditure to be 4,2 % (3 % in 2021), which is above the materiality threshold; notes the Commission's confidence that the risk at payment is estimated at 1.9 % for 2022 (similar to 2020, 2021 and 2022), is representative of the level of error at the time of payment; notes that the Commission's ***estimate of error is chronically below the ECA range, meaning that the Commission almost intentionally lowers the error rate in its annuals reports; notes that the Commission's*** estimation of the risk at closure, after ex-post controls and corrections have been applied, is 0.9 %; notes the divergence between the Court's overall error rate and the Commission's risk at payment, which is observed for the overall Union budget expenditure in 2022, although not in all expenditure areas;

Or. en

Amendment 69

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. Notes that the Court estimates the level of error for the 2022 expenditure to be 4,2 % (3 % in 2021), which is above the materiality threshold; notes the Commission's **confidence that** the risk at payment is **estimated at** 1.9 % for 2022 (similar to 2020, 2021 and 2022), **is representative of the level of error at the time of payment**; notes that the Commission's estimation of the risk at closure, after ex-post controls and corrections have been applied, is 0.9 %; notes the divergence between the Court's overall error rate and the Commission's risk at payment, **which is observed for the overall Union budget expenditure in 2022, although not in all expenditure areas**;

Amendment

19. Notes that the Court estimates the level of error for the 2022 expenditure to be 4,2 % (3 % in 2021), which is above the materiality threshold; notes the Commission's **own estimate of** the risk at payment is 1.9 % for 2022 (similar to 2020, 2021 and 2022); notes that the Commission's estimation of the risk at closure, after ex-post controls and corrections have been applied, is 0.9 %; notes the divergence between the Court's overall error rate and the Commission's risk at payment;

Or. en

Amendment 70

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. Notes that the Court estimates the level of error for the 2022 expenditure to be 4,2 % (3 % in 2021), which is above the materiality threshold; notes the Commission's confidence that the risk at payment is estimated at 1.9 % for 2022 (similar to 2020, 2021 and 2022), is representative of the level of error at the time of payment; notes that the Commission's estimation of the risk at closure, after ex-post controls and corrections have been applied, is 0.9 %;

Amendment

19. Notes that the Court estimates the level of error for the 2022 expenditure to be 4,2 % (3 % in 2021), which is above the materiality threshold; notes the Commission's confidence that the risk at payment is estimated at 1.9 % for 2022 (similar to 2020, 2021 and 2022), is representative of the level of error at the time of payment; notes that the Commission's estimation of the risk at closure, after ex-post controls and corrections have been applied, is 0.9 %;

notes the divergence between the Court's overall error rate and the Commission's risk at payment, which is observed for the overall Union budget expenditure in 2022, although not in all expenditure areas;

calls to find a common understanding to avoid such divergence between the Court's overall error rate and the Commission's risk at payment, which is observed for the overall Union budget expenditure in 2022, although not in all expenditure areas;

Or. en

Amendment 71

Dominique Bilde, Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. *Notes* that the Court estimates the level of error for the 2022 expenditure to be **4,2 %** (3 % in 2021), which is above the materiality threshold; notes the Commission's confidence that the risk at payment is estimated at 1.9 % for 2022 (similar to 2020, 2021 and 2022), is representative of the level of error at the time of payment; notes that the Commission's estimation of the risk at closure, after ex-post controls and corrections have been applied, is 0.9 %; notes the divergence between the Court's overall error rate and the Commission's risk at payment, which is observed for the overall Union budget expenditure in 2022, although not in all expenditure areas;

Amendment

19. *Is concerned* that the Court estimates the level of error for the 2022 expenditure to be **4.2 %** (3 % in 2021), which is above the materiality threshold; notes the Commission's confidence that the risk at payment is estimated at 1.9 % for 2022 (similar to 2020, 2021 and 2022), is representative of the level of error at the time of payment; notes that the Commission's estimation of the risk at closure, after ex-post controls and corrections have been applied, is 0.9 %; notes the divergence between the Court's overall error rate and the Commission's risk at payment, which is observed for the overall Union budget expenditure in 2022, although not in all expenditure areas;

Or. fr

Amendment 72

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 19 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

19 a. *Reiterates the concerns about the*

Court observation that the Commission's risk assessment is likely to underestimate the level of risk in several areas, revealing again weaknesses in the Commission's ex-post audits in Heading 1 'Single market, innovation and digital', underestimation of errors in Heading 2 'Cohesion, resilience and values', and underestimations of risk and a high number of errors in Heading 6 'Neighbourhood and the world', among other issues; is also worried by recurrent weaknesses identified by the court on Member States' ex post checks in heading 2, limiting the reliance that can be placed on their work, further questioning the existence of an effective managing control system which is indispensable to ensure the compliance but also the performance of operations;

Or. en

Amendment 73
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

19 a. Expresses its support for the audit approach and methodology of the Court; notes with concern the divergences between the error rates and risk at payment as calculated by the Court and the Commission; highlights that these differences do not occur in all expenditure areas; remarks the fact that the Commission's estimates for risk at payment are consistently in the lower range or below the statistical estimations of the Court and is concerned that this represents a systematic underestimation of the existing error level by the Commission; welcomes the sample based approach and methodology of the Court as important indicator for the existing

risks;

Or. en

Amendment 74

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 20

Motion for a resolution

20. Underlines that the general estimate of the level of error in the Union budget, as presented in the Court's Statement of Assurance, is an estimate of the money that should not have been paid out because it was not used in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations, and not a measure of fraud or of inefficiency or waste;

Amendment

20. Underlines that the general estimate of the level of error in the Union budget, as presented in the Court's Statement of Assurance, is an estimate of the money that should not have been paid out because it was not used in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations, and not a measure of fraud or of inefficiency or waste; ***regrets that the general estimate of the level of error in the Union budget gives each year a bad opinion to citizens on the management of EU funds even more before European elections;***

Or. en

Amendment 75

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 20

Motion for a resolution

20. Underlines that the general estimate of the level of error in the Union budget, as presented in the Court's Statement of Assurance, is an estimate of the money that should not have been paid out because it was not used in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations, and not a measure of fraud ***or of inefficiency or***

Amendment

20. Underlines that the general estimate of the level of error in the Union budget, as presented in the Court's Statement of Assurance, is an estimate of the money that should not have been paid out because it was not used in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations, and not a measure of fraud;

waste;

Or. en

Amendment 76
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 20

Motion for a resolution

20. Underlines that the general estimate of the level of error in the Union budget, as presented in the Court's Statement of Assurance, is an estimate of the money that should not have been paid out because it was not used in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations, and not *a measure* of fraud or *of inefficiency or waste*;

Amendment

20. Underlines that the general estimate of the level of error in the Union budget, as presented in the Court's Statement of Assurance, is an estimate of the money that should not have been paid out because it was not used in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations, and not *an indicator* of fraud or *corruption*;

Or. en

Amendment 77
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21

Motion for a resolution

21. Recalls that the audit approach and methodology of the Court are based on international audit standards that require the testing of a random, representative sample of transactions that result in an estimate of the error rate; recalls that the Court differentiates between low-risk expenditure, i.e. entitlement-based payments under simplified rules, and high-risk expenditure, i.e. reimbursement-based payments subject to complex rules; notes that for the 2022 expenditure, the Court has selected 66 % of its audit population from

Amendment

21. Recalls that the audit approach and methodology of the Court are based on international audit standards that require the testing of a random, representative sample of transactions that result in an estimate of the error rate; recalls that the Court differentiates between low-risk expenditure, i.e. entitlement-based payments under simplified rules, and high-risk expenditure, i.e. reimbursement-based payments subject to complex rules; notes that for the 2022 expenditure, the Court has selected 66 % of its audit population from

the high-risk expenditure (63,2 % in 2021), amounting to EUR 110,1 billion, and 34 % from the low-risk expenditure, amounting to EUR 56,7 billion; notes that the Court's estimated error rate for 2022 (4,2 %) is mainly driven by 'Cohesion, resilience and values' (2,5 % of the overall error rate), 'Natural resources and environment' (0,8 %), 'Neighbourhood and the world' (0,4 %), and 'Single market, innovation and digital' (0,3 %), all of them considered high-risk expenditure areas by the Court; ***notes that the Commission's risk at payment for 2022 is 1,9 %;***

the high-risk expenditure (63,2 % in 2021), amounting to EUR 110,1 billion, and 34 % from the low-risk expenditure, amounting to EUR 56,7 billion; notes that the Court's estimated error rate for 2022 (4,2 %) is mainly driven by 'Cohesion, resilience and values' (2,5 % of the overall error rate), 'Natural resources and environment' (0,8 %), 'Neighbourhood and the world' (0,4 %), and 'Single market, innovation and digital' (0,3 %), all of them considered high-risk expenditure areas by the Court;

Or. en

Amendment 78
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21

Motion for a resolution

21. Recalls that the audit approach and methodology of the Court are based on international audit standards that require the testing of a random, representative sample of transactions that result in an estimate of the error rate; recalls that the Court differentiates between low-risk expenditure, i.e. entitlement-based payments under simplified rules, and high-risk expenditure, i.e. reimbursement-based payments subject to complex rules; notes that for the 2022 expenditure, the Court has selected 66 % of its audit population from the high-risk expenditure (63,2 % in 2021), amounting to EUR 110,1 billion, and 34 % from the low-risk expenditure, amounting to EUR 56,7 billion; notes that the Court's estimated error rate for 2022 (4,2 %) is mainly driven by 'Cohesion, resilience and values' (2,5 % of the overall error rate), 'Natural resources and environment' (0,8 %), 'Neighbourhood and the world' (0,4 %), and 'Single market, innovation and

Amendment

21. Recalls that the audit approach and methodology of the Court are based on international audit standards that require the testing of a random, representative sample of transactions that result in an estimate of the error rate; recalls that the Court differentiates between low-risk expenditure, i.e. entitlement-based payments under simplified rules, and high-risk expenditure, i.e. reimbursement-based payments subject to complex rules; notes that for the 2022 expenditure, the Court has selected 66 % of its audit population from the high-risk expenditure (63,2 % in 2021), amounting to EUR 110,1 billion, and 34 % from the low-risk expenditure, amounting to EUR 56,7 billion; notes that the Court's estimated error rate for 2022 (4,2 %) is mainly driven by 'Cohesion, resilience and values' (2,5 % of the overall error rate), 'Natural resources and environment' (0,8 %), 'Neighbourhood and the world' (0,4 %), and 'Single market, innovation and

digital' (0,3 %), ***all of them*** considered high-risk expenditure areas by the Court; notes that the Commission's risk at payment for 2022 is 1,9 %;

digital' (0,3 %), ***for the most part*** considered high-risk expenditure areas by the Court; notes that the Commission's risk at payment for 2022 is 1,9 %;

Or. en

Amendment 79
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 21 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

21 a. Notes with concern however, that the Commission in its Annual Management and Performance Report categorises the expenditure into higher, medium and lower risk segments; emphasises that the use of different risk categories by the Court and the Commission hinders the possibility to make a comparative analysis between from errors and administrative errors of the discharge authority in making a comparative analysis of the respective reports; notes that the Court's use of the risk categories is in large part used to determine the sample size to ultimately support its opinion on the legality and regularity of expenditure, whereas the commission's use of risk categories serves to identify areas where additional managerial attention is needed to correct errors;

Or. en

Amendment 80
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 22

Motion for a resolution

22. Recalls that the Court's audit **efforts are** focused **only** on the year under review **and cannot take account of the** lifecycle of Union programmes and funds, as well as corrections and recoveries after the end of the year under review;

Amendment

22. Recalls that the Court's audit **report is** focused on the year under review; **nevertheless, the ECA annual report takes into account the findings of several years and deepens the controls on specific topics with its special reports; in contrast to this method, the Commission takes into account the whole** lifecycle of Union programmes and funds, as well as corrections and recoveries after the end of the year under review; **even though the different methodologies don't explain the large difference in the estimation of error rates;**

Or. en

Amendment 81

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 22

Motion for a resolution

22. Recalls that the Court's audit **efforts** are focused only on the year under review and cannot take account of the lifecycle of Union programmes and funds, as well as corrections and recoveries after the end of the year under review;

Amendment

22. Recalls that the Court's audit **based on international audit standards** are focused only on the year under review and cannot take account of the lifecycle of Union programmes and funds **covering multiple years**, as well as corrections and recoveries after the end of the year under review;

Or. en

Amendment 82

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 23

23. Recalls that Union spending programmes are multiannual by design and their related control systems and management cycles also cover multiple years; recalls that the Commission's estimates of the risk at closure have a multiannual perspective that takes account of corrections and recoveries over several years; notes that the Commission's approach is based on hundreds of thousands of tests as defined in control strategies, performed during substantive control and audit work which is primarily aimed at checking compliance with Union rules and regulations, applicable to given programmes, to ultimately establish whether funds need to be recovered from beneficiaries; notes that the range of the risk at payment, determined as part of this approach, resembles most of the Court's estimated error rate and is considered by the Commission as the best estimate to express the exposure to the Union budget;

deleted

Or. en

**Amendment 83
Monika Hohlmeier**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 23**

23. Recalls that Union spending programmes are multiannual by design and their related control systems and management cycles also cover multiple years; ***recalls that the Commission's estimates of the risk at closure have a multiannual perspective that takes account of corrections and recoveries over several years; notes that the Commission's approach is based on hundreds of thousands of tests as defined***

23. Recalls that Union spending programmes are multiannual by design and their related control systems and management cycles also cover multiple years;

in control strategies, performed during substantive control and audit work which is primarily aimed at checking compliance with Union rules and regulations, applicable to given programmes, to ultimately establish whether funds need to be recovered from beneficiaries; notes that the range of the risk at payment, determined as part of this approach, resembles most of the Court's estimated error rate and is considered by the Commission as the best estimate to express the exposure to the Union budget;

Or. en

Amendment 84

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 23

Motion for a resolution

23. Recalls that Union spending programmes are multiannual by design and their related control systems and management cycles also cover multiple years; recalls that the Commission's estimates of the risk at closure have a multiannual perspective that takes account of corrections and recoveries over several years; notes that the ***Commission's approach is based on hundreds of thousands of tests as defined in control strategies, performed during substantive control and audit work which is primarily aimed at checking compliance with Union rules and regulations, applicable to given programmes, to ultimately establish whether funds need to be recovered from beneficiaries; notes that the*** range of the risk at payment, determined as part of this approach, resembles most of the Court's estimated error rate and is considered by the Commission as the best estimate to

Amendment

23. Recalls that Union spending programmes are multiannual by design and their related control systems and management cycles also cover multiple years; recalls that the Commission's estimates of the risk at closure have a multiannual perspective that takes account of corrections and recoveries over several years; notes that the range of the risk at payment, determined as part of this approach, resembles most of the Court's estimated error rate and is considered by the Commission as the best estimate to express the exposure to the Union budget;

express the exposure to the Union budget;

Or. en

Amendment 85

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

24. Considers that both approaches serve different purposes and have their benefits, disadvantages, strengths, and weaknesses, and should be used to complement each other *while understanding the differences and particularities, such as the different concepts of error and the risk categorisation used by each institution; commends the Commission's approach for its sheer size and the resulting granularity in identifying where additional efforts are most beneficial and where improvements are needed; considers the Court's error rate to be an important indicator of compliance with legality and regularity of the implementation of the Union budget;* welcomes in this regard the Court's findings, observations and recommendations as a very useful contribution to the further improvement of the budget management and implementation under different management modes and by all relevant stakeholders;

Amendment

24. Considers that both approaches serve different purposes and have their benefits, disadvantages, strengths, and weaknesses, and should be used to complement each other; welcomes in this regard the Court's findings, observations and recommendations as a very useful contribution to the further improvement of the budget management and implementation under different management modes and by all relevant stakeholders;

Or. en

Amendment 86

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

24. Considers that both approaches serve different purposes and have their benefits, disadvantages, strengths, and weaknesses, and should be used to complement each other while understanding the differences and particularities, such as the different concepts of error and the risk categorisation used by each institution; ***commends the Commission's approach for its sheer size and the resulting granularity in identifying where additional efforts are most beneficial and where improvements are needed;*** considers the Court's error rate to be an important indicator of compliance with legality and regularity of the implementation of the Union budget; welcomes in this regard the Court's findings, observations and recommendations as a very useful contribution to the further improvement of the budget management and implementation under different management modes and by all relevant stakeholders;

Amendment

24. Considers that both approaches serve different purposes and have their benefits, disadvantages, strengths, and weaknesses, and should be used to complement each other while understanding the differences and particularities, such as the different concepts of error and the risk categorisation used by each institution; ***is worried that the great divergence in the rates provided by the Court and the Commission, in relation to the weaknesses identified on the Commission side, may indicate that the Commission is not taking its role in the protection of financial interests seriously*** considers the Court's error rate to be an important indicator of compliance with legality and regularity of the implementation of the Union budget; welcomes in this regard the Court's findings, observations and recommendations as a very useful contribution to the further improvement of the budget management and implementation under different management modes and by all relevant stakeholders;

Or. en

Amendment 87 **Monika Hohlmeier**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 24**

Motion for a resolution

24. Considers that both approaches serve different purposes and have their benefits, disadvantages, strengths, and weaknesses, and should be used to complement each other while understanding the differences and

Amendment

24. Considers that both approaches serve different purposes and have their benefits, disadvantages, strengths, and weaknesses, and should be used to complement each other while understanding the differences and

particularities, such as the different concepts of error and the risk categorisation used by each institution; ***commends the Commission's approach for its sheer size and the resulting granularity in identifying where additional efforts are most beneficial and where improvements are needed***; considers the Court's error rate to be an important indicator of compliance with legality and regularity of the implementation of the Union budget; welcomes in this regard the Court's findings, observations and recommendations as a very useful contribution to the further improvement of the budget management and implementation under different management modes and by all relevant stakeholders;

particularities, such as the different concepts of error and the risk categorisation used by each institution; Considers the Court's error rate to be an important indicator of compliance with legality and regularity of the implementation of the Union budget; welcomes in this regard the Court's findings, observations and recommendations as a very useful contribution to the further improvement of the budget management and implementation under different management modes and by all relevant stakeholders; ***deplores that Commissions analysis neglects the real performance, the quality, the sustainability and the European added value of implemented projects***;

Or. en

Amendment 88
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 24 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

24 a. Notes with concern that substantial issues were detected in reimbursement-based expenditure, which accounts for 66 % of the Court's audit population, in which the estimated level of error is 6 %; takes note that the effects of the errors found by the Court are estimated as both material and pervasive to the year's accepted expenditure;

Or. en

Amendment 89
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 24 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

24 a. Reiterates its support for the audit approach and methodology of the Court; invites again the Commission to rethink its methodology and cooperate with the Court with a view to increasing harmonisation and to providing for more comparable figures;

Or. en

Amendment 90

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wieszik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 25

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

25. Notes that, on several issues, the Court's and Commission's findings are aligned, most notably concerning the main sources of irregularities in 'Cohesion', and the higher risks for market measures and rural development in 'Natural resources and environment'; ***notes that specifically in 'Cohesion' some cases of eligibility errors identified and quantified by the Court do not allow the Commission to qualify the error as an irregularity to be corrected in line with the definition laid down in Article 2(36) of Regulation (EU) No 1060/2021 ('the Common Provisions Regulation' or CPR)² and thus, the Commission cannot pursue financial correction procedures, and such errors would not enter into the Commission's estimate of risk at payment;***

25. Notes that, on several issues, the Court's and Commission's findings are aligned, most notably concerning the main sources of irregularities in 'Cohesion', and the higher risks for market measures and rural development in 'Natural resources and environment';

² OJ L 231 30.6.2021, p. 159

Or. en

Amendment 91
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 25

Motion for a resolution

25. Notes that, on several issues, the Court's and Commission's findings are aligned, most notably concerning the main sources of irregularities in 'Cohesion', and the higher risks for market measures and rural development in 'Natural resources and environment'; notes that specifically in 'Cohesion' some cases of eligibility errors identified and quantified by the Court **do not allow** the Commission to qualify the error as an irregularity to be corrected in line with the definition laid down in Article 2(36) of Regulation (EU) No 1060/2021 ('the Common Provisions Regulation' or CPR)² and thus, the Commission cannot pursue financial correction procedures, and such errors would not enter into the Commission's estimate of risk at payment;

² OJ L 231 30.6.2021, p. 159

Amendment

25. Notes that, on several issues, the Court's and Commission's findings are aligned, most notably concerning the main sources of irregularities in 'Cohesion', and the higher risks for market measures and rural development in 'Natural resources and environment'; notes that specifically in 'Cohesion' some cases of eligibility errors identified and quantified by the Court **are not necessarily considered to be ineligible by the Commission; the Commission does not see a legal basis** to qualify the error as an irregularity to be corrected in line with the definition laid down in Article 2(36) of Regulation (EU) No 1060/2021 ('the Common Provisions Regulation' or CPR)² and thus, the Commission cannot pursue financial correction procedures, and such errors would not enter into the Commission's estimate of risk at payment;

² OJ L 231 30.6.2021, p. 159

Or. en

Amendment 92
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 27

Motion for a resolution

27. Notes that the Court, in the exercise of its mandate, does not investigate fraud but does take account of the risk of fraud; notes that the Court forwards to the EPPO

Amendment

27. Notes that the Court, in the exercise of its mandate, does not investigate fraud but does take account of the risk of fraud; notes that the Court forwards to the EPPO

suspicious of criminal offences falling in its competences and to OLAF suspicions of fraud, corruption or other illegal activity affecting the Union's financial interests identified while performing its audits; notes that, in 2022, the Court reported 14 cases of suspected fraud to OLAF, and in parallel reported 6 of these cases to the EPPO, resulting so far in 2 OLAF investigations and 3 EPPO investigations;

suspicious of criminal offences falling in its competences and to OLAF suspicions of fraud, corruption or other illegal activity affecting the Union's financial interests identified while performing its audits; notes that, in 2022, the Court reported 14 cases of suspected fraud to OLAF, and in parallel reported 6 of these cases to the EPPO, resulting so far in 6 OLAF investigations and 3 EPPO investigations;

Or. en

Amendment 93
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 28

Motion for a resolution

28. ***Welcomes*** that in 2022, 98,5% of the available commitment appropriations were used (EUR 179,4 billion out of EUR 182,2 billion); notes that the available appropriations were higher than the MFF ceiling of EUR 179,9 billion due to the use of special instruments, justified by unforeseen events, using all flexibility available under the MFF; notes that 98,1% of payment appropriations were used (EUR 167,3 billion of EUR 170,6 billion available); commends the Commission and the budgetary authority for its decisive and flexible budgetary response to the challenges faced in 2022;

Amendment

28. ***Highlights*** that in 2022, 98,5% of the available commitment appropriations were used (EUR 179,4 billion out of EUR 182,2 billion); notes that the available appropriations were higher than the MFF ceiling of EUR 179,9 billion due to the use of special instruments, justified by unforeseen events, using all flexibility available under the MFF; notes that 98,1% of payment appropriations were used (EUR 167,3 billion of EUR 170,6 billion available); commends the Commission and the budgetary authority for its decisive and flexible budgetary response to the challenges faced in 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 94
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 28 a (new)

28 a. Notes with concern that at the end of 2021, total outstanding commitments which are accumulated commitments made but not yet paid (RAL), reached a record high of EUR 341,6 billion; highlights that outstanding commitments are likely to exceed EUR 460 billion in 2023 but then will fall with the fulfilment of milestones and targets ; notes that commitments under MFF are still increasing and will continue to rise in the coming years due to the slow start of the programming period with payments following even later; Highlights that the time available for implementing shared-management funds under the 2021-2027 MFF is shorter than under previous MFFs because of the n+2 rule; is aware of the challenges in relation to managing and controlling all the funds under MFF and NGEU due to their pure volume and the different managing, programming, implementing and controlling mechanisms resulting in a very complex system; notes with concern the significant differences in absorption rates by Member States, and the fact that some Member States still have more than 20 % of their committed amounts to absorb in 2023 following the n+3 rule;

Or. en

Amendment 95
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 29

Motion for a resolution

29. Notes that the total outstanding commitments reached an all-time high of EUR 450 billion in 2022, caused by both increased commitments related to NGEU (with all National Recovery and Resilience

Amendment

29. Notes **with concern** that the total outstanding commitments reached an all-time high of EUR 450 billion in 2022, caused by both increased commitments related to NGEU (with all National

Plans adopted in 2022) and the start of the implementation of the 2021-2027 programming period; notes that the Commission expects this amount to further increase in 2023, and foresees a decrease from 2024 to 2027 when committed amounts for both NGEU and the 2021-2027 programming period should be paid out;

Recovery and Resilience Plans adopted in 2022) and the *slow* start of the implementation of the 2021-2027 programming period; notes that the Commission expects this amount to further increase in 2023, and foresees a decrease from 2024 to 2027 when committed amounts for both NGEU and the 2021-2027 programming period should be paid out; ***recalls that the Commission and Member States are currently behind schedule for payments established with each Member State in the implementing decision approving their NRP, despite the number of payments requests received at the end of 2023; notes that approximately EUR 90 billion of unused loans will not be absorbed by Member States;***

Or. en

Amendment 96

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 29

Motion for a resolution

29. Notes that the total outstanding commitments reached an all-time high of EUR 450 billion in 2022, caused by both increased commitments related to NGEU (with all National Recovery and Resilience Plans adopted in 2022) and the start of the implementation of the 2021-2027 programming period; notes that the Commission expects this amount to further increase in 2023, and foresees a decrease from 2024 to 2027 when committed amounts for both NGEU and the 2021-2027 programming period should be paid out;

Amendment

29. Notes that the total outstanding commitments reached an all-time high of EUR 450 billion in 2022, caused by both increased commitments related to NGEU (with all National Recovery and Resilience Plans adopted in 2022) and the start of the implementation of the 2021-2027 programming period; notes that the Commission expects this amount to further increase in 2023, and foresees a decrease from 2024 to 2027 when committed amounts for both NGEU and the 2021-2027 programming period should be paid out; ***regrets the lack of initiatives taken by the Commission, in conjunction with the Member States, to increase the absorption capacity of the programs and thus bring about a sharp and lasting reduction in***

outstanding commitments;

Or. en

Amendment 97
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 29

Motion for a resolution

29. Notes that the total outstanding commitments reached an all-time high of EUR 450 billion in 2022, caused by both increased commitments related to NGEU (with all National Recovery and Resilience Plans adopted in 2022) and the start of the implementation of the 2021-2027 programming period; notes that the Commission expects this amount to further increase in 2023, and foresees a decrease from 2024 to 2027 when committed amounts for both NGEU and the 2021-2027 programming period should be paid out;

Amendment

29. Notes ***with concern*** that the total outstanding commitments, ***which represent future debts if not decommitted***, reached an all-time high of EUR 450 billion in 2022, caused by both increased commitments related to NGEU (with all National Recovery and Resilience Plans adopted in 2022) and the start of the implementation of the 2021-2027 programming period; notes that the Commission expects this amount to further increase in 2023, and foresees a decrease from 2024 to 2027 when committed amounts for both NGEU and the 2021-2027 programming period should be paid out;

Or. en

Amendment 98
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 29 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

29 a. Underlines that the Commission projections for the reduction of the outstanding commitments is based on the fundamental assumption, namely that Member States effectively makes more efforts to accelerate the absorption of the 2021-2027 shared management funds and

Amendment

that automatic technical adjustments of payments ceiling are sufficient to cover the payments needs; is worried that these 2 assumptions may not be fulfilled hence creating a very dangerous situation for the EU budget;

Or. en

Amendment 99
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 31

Motion for a resolution

31. Notes that Union debt increased from EUR 236,7 billion in 2021 to EUR 344,3 billion in 2022; notes that of the entire debt, only the share of NGEU non-repayable support (EUR 185,6 billion, 53,9 %) creates interest rate risk for the Union budget; notes that, due to growing market interest rates, the cost of new NGEU funding rose from 0,14 % in the second half of 2021 to 1,24% in the first half of 2022, and a further increase to 2.60% in the second half of 2022, resulting in EUR 0,5 billion of interest payments for NGEU in 2022, and a considerable increase was projected for 2023; recalls that the repayments of NGEU borrowing should start in 2028 and must be completed by 2058, which will require sufficient financial resources;

Amendment

31. Notes ***with concern*** that Union debt increased from EUR 236,7 billion in 2021 to EUR 344,3 billion in 2022; notes that of the entire debt, only the share of NGEU non-repayable support (EUR 185,6 billion, 53,9 %) creates interest rate risk for the Union budget; notes that, due to growing market interest rates, the cost of new NGEU funding rose from 0,14 % in the second half of 2021 to 1,24% in the first half of 2022, and a further increase to 2.60% in the second half of 2022, resulting in EUR 0,5 billion of interest payments for NGEU in 2022, and a considerable increase was projected for 2023; ***is worried about the strong increase of interests since 2020 resulting in a higher financial burden for the yearly budget;*** recalls that ***in addition*** the repayments of NGEU borrowing should start in 2028 and must be completed by 2058, which will require sufficient financial resources; ***notes that the maximum utilisation of the EU budget in 2022, using all available flexibility, does not allow any repayment of debts, unless cuts are made in other EU expenditures; calls on the members states to develop and agree on a repayment plan out of new own resources without damaging the new***

MFF;

Or. en

Amendment 100

Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi, Dominique Bilde

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 31 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

31 a. Reminds that once the NGEU borrowing will be entirely accomplished, the size of the EU debt stock of all borrowing programmes will be no less than 1.7 trillion EUR with €750 billion for NGEU, €100 billion for SURE, €50 billion outstanding from before and from new MFA arrangements, EFSF, EIB, ESM and adding inflation;

Or. en

Amendment 101

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 33 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

33 a. Supports the Court recommendation for the Commission to act more proactively to ensure the tools available to mitigate the exposure risks have sufficient capacity;

Or. en

Amendment 102

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 33 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

33 b. Notes that in 2022 the Commission has changed the disclosure of contingent liability in its consolidated accounts, making the comparison of year by year extremely complex and long; invites the Commission to report more clearly on its annual account, in order to facilitate conclusions and analysis also in view of the discharge procedure;

Or. en

Amendment 103

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 34

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

34. Notes that the exposure of the Union budget to Ukraine increased in 2022 to EUR 15,6 billion, with related provisions notes that for the MFA+ support to Ukraine with a value of EUR 18,0 billion, agreed at the end of 2022 and disbursed throughout 2023, no provisions were required in the CPF; draws attention that possible losses related to MFA+ will have to be covered by future Union budgets or by the budgetary ‘headroom’ between the MFF ceiling and the own resources ceiling;

34. Notes that the exposure of the Union budget to Ukraine increased in 2022 to EUR 15,6 billion, with related provisions; **notes *with concern* that for the MFA+ support to Ukraine with a value of EUR 18,0 billion, agreed at the end of 2022 and disbursed throughout 2023, no provisions were required in the CPF to cover the risks of default, posing a serious risk to the EU budget as expressed in the Opinion 07/2022; draws attention that possible losses related to MFA+ will have to be covered by future Union budgets or by the budgetary ‘headroom’ between the MFF ceiling and the own resources ceiling; invites the Commission to provide additional measures to protect the EU budget from future losses related to the MFA+;**

Or. en

Amendment 104
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 34 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

34 a. *Notes that during 2022 consumer price inflation increased significantly, affecting the EU budget in several ways, by reducing the relative size of the EU budget and reducing the efficiency of the EU finds not able to achieve the objectives to the same extent as initially planned; considers that high inflation affects the proportion of revenue from different sources, with a net reduction of the share of the GNI-based own resources; strongly supports the Court recommendation on the Commission to assess the impact on the EU budget of increasing inflation in order to proactively apply mitigating measures;*

Or. en

Amendment 105
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 34 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

34 a. *Welcomes the online based transparency platforms developed and maintained by the Commission which provide data on the implementation of the EU spending programmes and allow to search through the recipients of EU funding and projects, such as the Financial Transparency System, giving information about the EU funding under direct and indirect management, the RRF Scoreboard, the Cohesion Open Data Platform and Kohesio platform;*

Amendment 106
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 35 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

35 a. 34a. Calls on the Court of Auditors to:

(i) differentiate the types of errors and to make more transparent the rate of errors caused by severe misuse, fraud or other criminal activities and the errors caused by administrative oversight or inaccurate application of rules;

(ii) to assess more intensively also the quality, the European added value, the sustainability, the performance and the practicability of the implemented projects;

Or. en

Amendment 107
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 36 – point i

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i) *continue its discussions* with the Court in order to increase understanding *and* convergence of the *way both deal with the* irregularities;

(i) *engage* with the Court in order to increase understanding, convergence *and comparability* of the *two approaches to address* irregularities;

Or. en

Amendment 108
Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi, Dominique Bilde

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 36 – point i a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i a) clearly separate the role of Chief Risk Officer and of Deputy Director-General of DG BUDG in terms of NGEU risk management otherwise it may affect the effectiveness of their oversight of risk (ECA Special report 16/2023: NGEU debt management at the Commission: An encouraging start, but further alignment with best practice needed);

Or. en

Amendment 109

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 36 – point i a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i a) undergo an ex-post evaluation of the reliability of their own estimation of the risk at closure for the financial year for which the programs were closed and presents the results of such an evaluation to the Discharge authority;

Or. en

Amendment 110

Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi, Dominique Bilde

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 36 – point i b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i b) formulate clear debt management objectives and report on performance in their implementation (ECA Special report 16/2023: NGEU debt management at the

Commission: An encouraging start, but further alignment with best practice needed);

Or. en

Amendment 111

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wieszik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 36 – point ii

Motion for a resolution

(ii) continue to simplify rules and procedures without compromising the quality of the controls;

Amendment

(ii) continue to simplify rules and procedures without compromising the quality of the controls; ***and continue to digitalize audit procedures;***

Or. en

Amendment 112

Cristian Terheș

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 36 – point iii

Motion for a resolution

(iii) step up efforts to improve transparency in the use of funds, including as regards information on final beneficiaries;

Amendment

(iii) step up efforts to improve transparency in the use of funds, including as regards information on final beneficiaries ***and contracts with third parties and to be more proactive in publishing as much information as possible about tendering processes compared to its current practices;***

Or. en

Amendment 113

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 36 – point iii

Motion for a resolution

(iii) step up efforts to improve transparency in the use of funds, including as regards information on ***final beneficiaries***;

Amendment

(iii) step up efforts to improve transparency in the use of funds, including as regards information on ***recipients***;

Or. en

Amendment 114
Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 36 – point iv

Motion for a resolution

(iv) continue to support the administrative capacity of Member States' authorities;

Amendment

(iv) continue to support the administrative capacity of Member States' authorities; ***identify ways to help member states accelerate the use of EU funds, notably in shared management funds under the Common Provisions Regulation***;

Or. en

Amendment 115
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 36 – point iv

Motion for a resolution

(iv) continue to support the administrative capacity of Member States' authorities;

Amendment

(iv) continue to support the administrative capacity of Member States' authorities; ***also in view of accelerating the use of EU funds, and reducing the level of outstanding commitments***;

Or. en

Amendment 116
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 36 – point v

Motion for a resolution

(v) report as part of its disclosure on contingent liabilities and what the annual exposure of the Union budget is, arising from budgetary guarantees and from financial assistance to third countries;

Amendment

(v) report as part of its disclosure on contingent liabilities and what the annual exposure of the Union budget is, arising from budgetary guarantees and from financial assistance to third countries, ***making public its estimate of total annual exposure;***

Or. en

Amendment 117
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 36 – point v a (new)

Motion for a resolution

(v a) provide sufficient measures to protect the EU budget from the different risks identified in particular the RAL, the increasing debt, the increased budget exposure including to Ukraine, the increasing inflation etc;

Or. en

Amendment 118
Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 36 – point v a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(v a) urges the Commission to set up ex ante mechanisms clearly identifying

NGOs operating on Union territory and abroad that have acknowledged ties to religious fundamentalist or terrorist networks and push forward an agenda that is undermining the security of the EU citizens;

Or. en

Amendment 119

Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 36 – point v b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(v b) finally end the exemption of NGOs from Union anti-money laundering rules as non-obliged entities and to extend the definition of politically exposed persons to former politicians who take up management positions in NGOs receiving Union funding;

Or. en

Amendment 120

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wieszik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 36 – point vi

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(vi) continue monitoring the possible risk of corruption and fraud across all funds, using feedback from investigations by the EPPO and OLAF;

(vi) continue monitoring the possible risk of corruption and fraud across all funds, using feedback from investigations by the EPPO and OLAF; *and encourage the systematic use of Archane and EDES databases systems;*

Or. en

Amendment 121
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 36 – point vi a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(vi a) ensure the protection of the Union budget by making general and systematic use of digital and automated systems for reporting, monitoring and audit and urgently establish a compulsory integrated and interoperable system building on, but not limited to, existing tools and databases in the context of the concluded revision of the Financial Regulation; modify and improve the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard as well as the respective Commission RRF website to ensure that the implementation, the performance and fulfilment of indicators are regularly updated, accurate and, clearly structured and transparent; outcome of the audit are transparent; ensure that all Member States use the systems and central registers to report on beneficial owners and final beneficiaries;

Or. en

Amendment 122
Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 36 – point vi a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(vi a) assess the impact on the EU budget of high inflation continuing over several years and identify tools to mitigate resulting key risks;

Or. en

Amendment 123

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 39

Motion for a resolution

39. Considers the overview of special reports, which spans the largest part of chapter three of the Court's Annual report, gives a good overview of reports presented by the Court that relate to 2022 strategic areas ***but is limited and incomplete in terms of the content of those reports and the replies provided by the auditees; considers that an*** analysis of the performance of the Union budget ***requires more than a*** follow-up of the auditor recommendations, ***despite their undeniable value in terms of budgetary control***; notes the issue of timing concerning to the publication of the AMPR;

Amendment

39. Considers the overview of special reports, which spans the largest part of chapter three of the Court's Annual report, gives a good overview of reports presented by the Court that relate to 2022 strategic areas; ***a deep*** analysis of the performance of the Union budget ***could be an added value to the*** follow-up of the auditor recommendations; notes the issue of timing concerning to the publication of the AMPR;

Or. en

Amendment 124

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 41

Motion for a resolution

41. Notes the Court's review 06/2023 on the Commission's 2022 AMPR for the Union budget and its conclusion that Volume I of the 2022 AMPR followed the Commission's corporate management board strategic guidance when it presented the facts and achievements concerning budgetary management for 2022, and notes that there was scope to improve the quality of performance data; notes the Commission's replies to written questions on an IAS audit ***into data quality*** and the

Amendment

41. Notes the Court's review 06/2023 on the Commission's 2022 AMPR for the Union budget and its conclusion that Volume I of the 2022 AMPR followed the Commission's corporate management board strategic guidance when it presented the facts and achievements concerning budgetary management for 2022, and notes that there was scope to improve the quality of performance data; notes the Commission's replies to written questions on an IAS audit ***on the Commission's***

reassurance given that the identified issue is being dealt with;

control system in relation to the reliability of performance information and the reassurance given that the identified issue is being dealt with;

Or. en

Amendment 125
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 42 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

42 a. Recalls the findings of the Court's Special Report 09/2022 "Climate Spending in the 2014-2020 EU budget"; notes in addition the Court's Special Report 26/2023 on the Performance monitoring framework in the RRF; concludes that the Court identified in both special reports issues with the method the Commission presents performance information, both in the MFF and the RRF; notes in particular that disclosure about shortcomings in the performance monitoring methodologies show weaknesses in particular because of mixing estimates with actual numbers of achieved results and realised projects or blending budgeted amounts with actually paid amounts; considers that performance data presented by the Commission should not include estimations but only figures of realised actions; remains worried about the Court's finding that limited improvements are expected in the 2021-2027 climate reporting; regrets that the Commission has not yet addressed weaknesses in the reported figures of their new methodology;

Or. en

Amendment 126

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 44 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

44 a. Notes that the EU budget needs to respond to multiple challenges with additional financial programmes, such as the NGEU recovery instrument; notes that for 2022, the revenue from traditional own resources remained relatively stable, while budgetary guarantees for borrowing and lending operations were a substantial part of revenue; recalls in that regard Parliament's resolution of 10 May 2023 on own resources: a new start for EU finances, a new start for Europe;

Or. en

Amendment 127

Dominique Bilde, Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 46

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

46. Notes from the Annual Report on the Protection of the Union financial interests (PIF Report) that in 2022, the number of fraudulent irregularities relating to TOR (454) fell by **6,8** % and non-fraudulent irregularities (4 207) rose by **9,4** % compared to the 5-year average for 2018-2022; notes that most fraudulent cases reported in 2022 relate to incorrect value and incorrect classification or misdescription of goods, while smuggling remains one of the primary modus operandi; notes that most fraudulent cases are detected by inspections by national anti-fraud services together with customs release controls; notes that the recovery rate is currently 48 %, although it can be expected that it will go up in the future due

46. Notes from the Annual Report on the Protection of the Union financial interests (PIF Report) that in 2022, the number of fraudulent irregularities relating to TOR (454) fell by **6.8** % and non-fraudulent irregularities (4 207) rose by **9.4** % compared to the 5-year average for 2018-2022; notes that most fraudulent cases reported in 2022 relate to incorrect value and incorrect classification or misdescription of goods, while smuggling remains one of the primary modus operandi; notes that most fraudulent cases are detected by inspections by national anti-fraud services together with customs release controls; notes that the recovery rate is currently 48 %, although it can be expected that it will go up in the future due

to the length of the process;

to the length of the process; *points out that grants awarded to NGOs from the EU budget amounted to at least EUR 3.7 billion in 2022, making the EU one of the largest financial backers of civil society organisations; is concerned about fraud cases and irregularities in situations where EU-funded NGOs are at risk of conflicts of interest, double funding, corruption or money laundering; is concerned about the lack of publicly available data on the fraud cases involving NGOs;*

Or. fr

Amendment 128

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 47 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

47 a. Calls the Commission to conduct a deep analysis of all amounts recovered on the basis of EPPO notifications and to inform the discharge authority about the results; recalls that Commission plays the primary role in the follow up and recovery of damages to the EU budget, following EPPO notifications. Regrets that EPPO until now is not aware of the mechanisms set up by the Commission to that effect; notes that the issue of EPPO notifications has been raised in the Annual Meetings on the implementation of the Commission; welcomes the EPPO Working Arrangement and the set up of a working group to ensure that EPPO notifications will enable the Commission to maximize recovery to the EU budget;

Or. en

Amendment 129
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 48

Motion for a resolution

48. Welcomes the developments that have resulted in lifting both the quantified and unquantified reservation in the area of textiles and shoes imported from China; notes with satisfaction that the United Kingdom has now paid the total amount due (final payment of EUR 1,57 billion in January 2023) including interest (EUR 1,4 billion in February 2023); notes that **26** Member States made significant provisional payments for their expected amounts due to the Union budget and that in line with the CJEU judgment in the case C-213/19 the Commission will apply the same quantification method for these Member States as for the United Kingdom, which will result in recalculated amounts, allowing the Commission to finalise the exercise completely;

Amendment

48. Welcomes the developments that have resulted in lifting both the quantified and unquantified reservation in the area of textiles and shoes imported from China; notes with satisfaction that the United Kingdom has now paid the total amount due (final payment of EUR 1,57 billion in January 2023) including interest (EUR 1,4 billion in February 2023); notes that **by the end of 2023, 27** Member States **had** made significant provisional payments for their expected amounts due to the Union budget and that in line with the CJEU judgment in the case C-213/19 the Commission will apply the same quantification method for these Member States as for the United Kingdom, which will result in recalculated amounts, allowing the Commission to finalise the exercise completely;

Or. en

Amendment 130
Ryszard Czarnecki
on behalf of the ECR Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 49 – point i

Motion for a resolution

(i) take over the suggestions of the European Parliament in its resolutions on own resources in order to ensure resources to repay the investments made under NGEU;

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 131
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 49 – point i

Motion for a resolution

(i) take over the suggestions of the European Parliament in its resolutions on own resources in order to ensure resources to repay the investments made under NGEU;

Amendment

(i) take over the suggestions of the European Parliament in its resolutions on own resources in order to ensure **sufficient** resources to repay the investments made under NGEU;

Or. en

Amendment 132
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 49 – point iv a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(iv a) provide detailed explanations to the Budget authority on reasons why the Commission only partially implemented 13 % of the Court's recommendations from 2019 and has not implemented further 10 % of their recommendations;

Or. en

Amendment 133
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 54

Motion for a resolution

54. Notes that the Court estimates that the level of error in spending on 'Single Market, Innovation and Digital' in 2022 was material at 2,7 % ; notes with

Amendment

54. Notes that the Court estimates that the level of error in spending on 'Single Market, Innovation and Digital' in 2022 was material at 2,7 % ; notes with

satisfaction that this is a considerable decrease compared to 4,4 % in 2021; takes note of the Court's observation that the research and innovation expenditure is most affected by error, particularly in the area of personnel costs; *notes* that the Commission calculated an error rate of 1,5 % for this heading;

satisfaction that this is a considerable decrease compared to 4,4 % in 2021; takes note of the Court's observation that the research and innovation expenditure is most affected by error, particularly in the area of personnel costs; *is worried* that the Commission calculated an error rate of 1,5 % for this heading, *which is in the lower half of the range of the Court estimation; is concerned that the Courts observation of the underestimation of the rate by the commission persist since many years in a row, with a specific weakness identified in the Commission's ex post audits;*

Or. en

Amendment 134
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 55

Motion for a resolution

55. Notes that quantifiable errors relating to ineligible costs represent 98 % of the Court's estimated level of error in 2022; notes with concern, in particular, that the rules for declaring personnel costs under Horizon 2020 remain complex and that their calculation remains a significant source of error (67 % of the estimated error level in 2022); notes that the Commission has developed and promotes the use of the 'Personnel Costs Wizard' to help beneficiaries to declare their personnel costs correctly;

Amendment

55. Notes that quantifiable errors relating to ineligible costs represent 98 % of the Court's estimated level of error *of 2,7 %* in 2022; notes with concern, in particular, that the rules for declaring personnel costs under Horizon 2020 remain complex and that their calculation remains a significant source of error (67 % of the estimated error level in 2022); notes that the Commission has developed and promotes the use of the 'Personnel Costs Wizard' to help beneficiaries to declare their personnel costs correctly;

Or. en

Amendment 135
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 57

Motion for a resolution

57. Notes the remarks made by the Director-General for Research and Innovation in his discharge hearing that the Commission intends to increase the disbursement of Horizon Europe funds through lump sums from 2 % in 2022 to 50 % in 2027; notes, in that context, the Court's specific review of the Commission's procedures and guidance on lump-sum funded grants in research; notes the Commission's statement that the level of scrutiny in terms of economy, efficiency and effectiveness is higher in the evaluation of lump-sum proposals;

Amendment

57. Notes the remarks made by the Director-General for Research and Innovation in his discharge hearing that the Commission intends to increase the disbursement of Horizon Europe funds through lump sums from 2 % in 2022 to 50 % in 2027; notes, in that context, the Court's specific review of the Commission's procedures and guidance on lump-sum funded grants in research; notes the Commission's statement that the level of scrutiny in terms of economy, efficiency and effectiveness is higher in the evaluation of lump-sum proposals;
emphasises the need to check the actual implementation of projects using lump sums;

Or. en

Amendment 136
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 58

Motion for a resolution

58. Stresses the crucial role of the private sector in addressing the innovation gap in the Union and improving Union competitiveness and growth; believes, in particular, that it is imperative to keep promoting and facilitating as much as possible the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Union R&I funding programmes; notes the Court's conclusion that SMEs and newcomers are more prone to errors than other beneficiaries and welcomes the efforts made by the Commission to specifically support them, for example through information campaigns, contacts with the system of National Contact Points and the dedicated helpdesk of the Research

Amendment

58. Stresses the crucial role of the private sector in addressing the innovation gap in the Union and improving Union competitiveness and growth; believes, in particular, that it is imperative to keep promoting and facilitating as much as possible the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Union R&I funding programmes; notes the Court's conclusion that SMEs and newcomers are more prone to errors than other beneficiaries, ***since they lack the experience and resources to administer the funds,*** and welcomes the efforts made by the Commission to specifically support them, for example through information campaigns, contacts with the system of

Enquiry Service;

National Contact Points and the dedicated helpdesk of the Research Enquiry Service; *considers that the simplification of rules and procedures are the most important driver for increased participation of SMEs;*

Or. en

Amendment 137

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 58 a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

58 a. Stresses the importance to have transparent and clear rules applied to the selection procedure and to the public procurement procedures in all executive agencies; regrets the rise of complaints of researchers for non transparency notably for the Research Executive Agency; recalls that under the 2021-2027 EU long-term budget, the REA manages several EU programmes and support services; calls for Commission to conduct an assessment of all procedures and an ex-post evaluation of the added value of all their executive agencies in accordance with Art 3.1 of the Council Regulation (EC No 58/2003 of 19 December 2002 laying down the statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programmes (Official Journal L 011 , 16/01/2003 P. 0001 – 0008));

Or. en

**Amendment 138
Monika Hohlmeier**

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 59

Motion for a resolution

59. Notes that the R&I Family Fraud Risk Assessment was updated in 2022 as work preceding the 2023 update of the Common Anti-Fraud Strategy; notes the drafting and adoption in 2022 of the ‘Guidance on Horizon Europe ex-ante anti-fraud checks’, which is part of the Horizon Europe ex-ante control strategy; notes that the main forum of the R&I Family on anti-fraud matters is the *committee* for Fraud and Irregularities in Research (FAIR Committee)), that met two times in 2022; notes that DG RTD also updated its Anti-fraud Strategy in 2022;

Amendment

59. Notes that the R&I Family Fraud Risk Assessment was updated in 2022 as work preceding the 2023 update of the Common Anti-Fraud Strategy; notes the drafting and adoption in 2022 of the ‘Guidance on Horizon Europe ex-ante anti-fraud checks’, which is part of the Horizon Europe ex-ante control strategy; notes that the main forum of the R&I Family on anti-fraud matters is the *committee* for Fraud and Irregularities in Research (FAIR Committee)), that met two times in 2022; notes that DG RTD also updated its Anti-fraud Strategy in 2022; ***considers that a zero-tolerance policy for fraud is also necessary in the area of research; in light of the ongoing simplification efforts it is important to guarantee that all European grants and subsidies benefit the projected goals and to develop effective tools to identify fraud and fraud patterns in the context of lump sums; notes that one important element to avoid fraudulent misuse is the referral of respective cases to the Early Detection and Exclusion panel;***

Or. en

Amendment 139 Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 61

Motion for a resolution

61. Welcomes the role of the ERC in supporting top researchers in Europe, which is underlined by numerous awards, including 14 Nobel Prizes, 6 Fields Medals and 11 Wolf Prizes; welcomes the 2 300 patent applications and 400 spin-off companies generated thanks to ERC

Amendment

61. Welcomes the role of the ERC in supporting top researchers in Europe, which is underlined by numerous awards, including 14 Nobel Prizes, 6 Fields Medals and 11 Wolf Prizes; welcomes the 2 300 patent applications and 400 spin-off companies generated thanks to ERC

projects;

projects; *stresses the independence and autonomy of the ERC when fulfilling its role to support excellent research in the Union; recalls that the ERC requires a unique set-up to host ERCEA staff, the ERC Scientific Council and the experts responsible for the panel evaluations and that this configuration is indispensable for its work; is astonished by the Commission's plan to move several executive agencies and the ERCEA into new buildings without proper consultation and their agreement, while disregarding their actual office needs and thus endangering business continuity; highlights that even some Commission services were not adequately informed about these plans; stresses that the ERCEA has the right to sign lease contracts on its own and without the Commission's approval to maintain its extraordinary business model; underlines that the Commission must plan and collaborate with the ERCEA in good time to find suitable office spaces that fulfil their requirements and do not endanger their activities;*

Or. en

Amendment 140

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 65

Motion for a resolution

65. Notes that, in total, CEF Energy 1 and 2 (2014-**2023**) provided EUR **6,3** billion of support to energy projects (EUR **5,8** billion works, EUR 0.5 billion studies) to *more than 117* Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) and by the end of 2022, **107** actions that received support from CEF-1 Energy were completed;

Amendment

65. Notes that, in total, CEF Energy 1 and 2 (2014-**2022**) provided EUR **6,24** billion of support to energy projects (EUR **5,74** billion works, EUR 0.5 billion studies) to **118** Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) and by the end of 2022, **123** actions that received support from CEF-1 Energy were completed;

Or. en

Amendment 141
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 65 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

65 a. Notes that Russia's military invasion of Ukraine and weaponisation of energy upended energy markets in 2022, triggering price volatility and energy insecurity across the world EU's energy system; highlights the Commission's response to the crisis developing the REPowerEU Plan aiming to reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels and phase out Russian energy imports before 2030; notes that REPowerEU Plan mobilises close to EUR 300 billion, approximately EUR 72 billion in grants and EUR 225 billion in loans; notes that REPowerEU Plan has additionally provided a legal basis for both Member States and the Commission to modify national RRP's and to check whether M&Ts are well defined to clarify them where necessary;

Or. en

Amendment 142
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 66 – point -i (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(-i) include extra funds needed for Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe in the draft 2025 budget to improve on the current state where 7 out of 10 high-quality proposals still cannot be funded;

Amendment 143
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 66 – point i a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i a) continue to simplify rules and procedures in line with the new financial regulation, to support training sessions and practical information for applicants in member states, in particular for SMEs, spin-offs, start-ups, regional NGOs or local action groups;

Or. en

Amendment 144
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 66 – point v a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(v a) increase awareness, coherence, and sustainability of the support to SME internationalisation;

Or. en

Amendment 145
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 66 – point v b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(v b) check the actual implementation of projects using lump sums;

Amendment 146
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 66 – point v c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

- (v c) report to the discharge authority:**
- a. how many cases of suspected fraud have been referred by the competent Commission departments to the EDES panel, for what exclusion grounds, and how many of these cases have resulted in 1. an early detection decision, 2. an exclusion decision of the panel;**
 - b. for how long entities have been excluded from participation in EU funds;**
 - c. if any of the excluded entities has received EU funds after the exclusion decision had ended;**

Or. en

Amendment 147
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 69

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

69. Takes note that the absorption rate for cohesion policy funds under the programming period 2014-2020 reached 79,2 % at the end of 2022 (86 % at the end of 2023, including newly added Recovery assistance for cohesion and the territories of Europe (REACT-EU) in 2021-2022), having a similar level at the same point in time as in the period 2007-2013; notes that the 2014-2020 programmes account for over 1 million projects and that so far, they

69. Takes note that the absorption rate for cohesion policy funds under the programming period 2014-2020 reached 79,2 % at the end of 2022 (86 % at the end of 2023, including newly added Recovery assistance for cohesion and the territories of Europe (REACT-EU) in 2021-2022), having a similar level at the same point in time as in the period 2007-2013; **is concerned that this level of absorption was only achieved through a temporary 100%**

have supported 2,4 million businesses, created 370 000 new jobs, increased the energy performance of more than 540 000 households, created 6 000 megawatts of new renewable energy sources and that 6,3 million households benefited from broadband;

EU co-financing rate waiving any requirement for national co-financing of projects that have been a long-established principle of EU finances; notes that the 2014-2020 programmes account for over 1 million projects and that so far, they have supported 2,4 million businesses, created 370 000 new jobs, increased the energy performance of more than 540 000 households, created 6 000 megawatts of new renewable energy sources and that 6,3 million households benefited from broadband; ***notes that absorption in 2022 improved for a large part because of CRII, CRII+, CARE, and FAST-CARE for the purpose of crisis response, diminishing projects to support the structural cohesion objectives of creating convergence and cohesion in the EU;***

Or. en

Amendment 148

Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi, Dominique Bilde

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 69

Motion for a resolution

69. Takes note that the absorption rate for cohesion policy funds under the programming period 2014-2020 reached 79,2 % at the end of 2022 (86 % at the end of 2023, including newly added Recovery assistance for cohesion and the territories of Europe (REACT-EU) in 2021-2022), having a similar level at the same point in time as in the period 2007-2013; notes that the 2014-2020 programmes account for over 1 million projects and that so far, they have supported 2,4 million businesses, created 370 000 new jobs, increased the energy performance of more than 540 000 households, created 6 000 megawatts of new renewable energy sources and that 6,3 million households benefited from

Amendment

69. Takes note that the absorption rate for cohesion policy funds under the programming period 2014-2020 reached 79,2 % at the end of 2022 (86 % at the end of 2023, including newly added Recovery assistance for cohesion and the territories of Europe (REACT-EU) in 2021-2022), having a similar level at the same point in time as in the period 2007-2013; ***reminds that REACT-EU showed an absorption rate of only 45.5% at the end of August 2023;*** notes that the 2014-2020 programmes account for over 1 million projects and that so far, they have supported 2,4 million businesses, created 370 000 new jobs, increased the energy performance of more than 540 000 households, created 6 000 megawatts of

broadband;

new renewable energy sources and that 6,3 million households benefited from broadband;

Or. en

Amendment 149
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 71

Motion for a resolution

71. Notes that the Court has examined a sample of 260 transactions covering the full range of spending under MFF Heading 2; notes with concern that the Court's estimated overall level of error in 'Cohesion, resilience and values' in 2022 **was** 6,4 %, which is above the materiality threshold; draws attention to the marked increase in the overall level of error estimated by the Court in 2022 compared to previous years (3,6 % in 2021, 3,5 % in 2020) while the Commission estimates the payment risk for 2022 to be between 1,9 % and 2,7 %, remaining stable compared to previous years (1,9 %-2,5 % in 2021, 2,1 %-2,6 % in 2020);

Amendment

71. Notes that the Court has examined a sample of 260 transactions covering the full range of spending under MFF Heading 2; notes with concern that the Court's estimated overall level of error in 'Cohesion, resilience and values' in 2022 **has steeply increased to** 6,4 %, which is **significantly** above the materiality threshold; **notes that the Court estimated overall level of error of 6.4% has already taken into account corrections with a total value of 618 million Euros applied by member states in 2022**; draws attention to the marked increase in the overall level of error estimated by the Court in 2022 compared to previous years (3,6 % in 2021, 3,5 % in 2020) while the Commission estimates the payment risk for 2022 to be between 1,9 % and 2,7 %, remaining stable compared to previous years (1,9 %-2,5 % in 2021, 2,1 %-2,6 % in 2020); **draws attention to the Court's report that a majority of errors were made in expenditure originating from CRII and CRII+;**

Or. en

Amendment 150
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 71

Motion for a resolution

71. Notes that the Court has examined a sample of 260 transactions covering the full range of spending under MFF Heading 2; notes with concern that the Court's estimated overall level of error in 'Cohesion, resilience and values' in 2022 **was 6,4 %, which is** above the materiality threshold; draws attention to the marked increase in the overall level of error estimated by the Court in 2022 compared to previous years (3,6 % in 2021, 3,5 % in 2020) while the **Commission** estimates the payment risk for 2022 to be between 1,9 % and 2,7 %, **remaining stable compared to previous years** (1,9 %-2,5 % in 2021, 2,1 %-2,6 % in 2020);

Amendment

71. Notes that the Court has examined a sample of 260 transactions covering the full range of spending under MFF Heading 2; notes with **great** concern that the Court's estimated overall level of error in 'Cohesion, resilience and values' in 2022 **rose to 6,4 %, well** above the materiality threshold; draws attention to the marked increase in the overall level of error estimated by the Court in 2022 compared to previous years (3,6 % in 2021, 3,5 % in 2020); while the **Commission's** estimates **of** the payment risk for 2022 **on the other hand show** to be between 1,9 % and 2,7 %, (1,9 %-2,5 % in 2021, 2,1 %-2,6 % in 2020);

Or. en

Amendment 151
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 71 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

71 a. Is worried by the Courts persistent comments on the shortcoming identified in the way audit and managing authorities work (notably weaknesses in the ex post checks by the audit authorities and in controls by the managing authorities that do not always effectively prevent or detect irregularities in expenditure declared by beneficiaries) and the over-reliance of the Commission on the quality of programme authorities' work; related to inherent limitations in the Commission's desk reviews;

Or. en

Amendment 152
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 72

Motion for a resolution

72. *Notes* the Court's observation that approaching the end of the eligibility period for 2014-2020 programmes (31 December 2023) added absorption pressure and that during the COVID-19 period, the effectiveness of the checks and verifications by managing and audit authorities may have been reduced, potentially increasing the risk of undetected errors and irregularities; takes note that the Commission acknowledges that the specific situation and flexibilities given during COVID-19 may have played a role in the risk of irregularities due to the need to find alternative (remote) ways to control expenditure; stresses, however, that according to the Commission the risks and irregularities identified are rather linked to the type of actions implemented during the COVID-19 period or to the implementation or understanding of the flexibility introduced in public procurement rules;

Amendment

72. *Is concerned about* the Court's observation that approaching the end of the eligibility period for 2014-2020 programmes (31 December 2023) added absorption pressure and that during the COVID-19 period, the effectiveness of the checks and verifications by managing and audit authorities may have been reduced, potentially increasing the risk of undetected errors and irregularities; takes note that the Commission acknowledges that the specific situation and flexibilities given during COVID-19 may have played a role in the risk of irregularities due to the need to find alternative (remote) ways to control expenditure; stresses, however, that according to the Commission the risks and irregularities identified are rather linked to the type of actions implemented during the COVID-19 period or to the implementation or understanding of the flexibility introduced in public procurement rules;

Or. en

Amendment 153
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 73

Motion for a resolution

73. Notes the Court's explanations that its error rate refers to the share of expenditure declared, for which it considers that the conditions for payment set out in Regulation (EU, Euratom)

Amendment

73. Notes the Court's explanations that its error rate refers to the share of expenditure declared, for which it considers that the conditions for payment set out in Regulation (EU, Euratom)

2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation')⁵, the CPR and *in Directive (EU) 2017/1371* on the protection of the Union's financial interests ('PIF Directive')⁶ have not been fully met, leading to a direct and measurable financial impact on the payment amount authorised at the time from the Union budget; takes note of the Court's clarification that the error rate should not be interpreted as being equivalent to the potential amount of financial corrections the Commission can impose in accordance with the applicable rules;

⁵ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1

⁶ OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29–41

2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation')⁵, the CPR and *in Directive (EU) 2017/1371* on the protection of the Union's financial interests ('PIF Directive')⁶ have not been fully met, leading to a direct and measurable financial impact on the payment amount authorised at the time from the Union budget; takes note of the Court's clarification that the error rate should not be interpreted as being equivalent to the potential amount of financial corrections the Commission can impose in accordance with the applicable rules; ***considers that the high error rate indicates a waste of resources, in particular in cohesion policy, where many managing authorities are confronted with the parallel implementation of the RRF;***

Or. en

Amendment 154

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 74

Motion for a resolution

74. ***Notes that in the annual activity reports, the Commission reports error rates, for each programme and overall for the funds, that strictly refer to irregularities leading to financial corrections;*** notes that to impose financial corrections, the Commission needs to conclude that an irregularity within the meaning of the Article 2(36) of the CPR has occurred, while not all formal breaches and errors included by the Court as quantifiable errors in its estimated error rate lead to ineligible expenditure because they do not qualify as an irregularity as

Amendment

74. Notes that to impose financial corrections, the Commission needs to conclude that an irregularity within the meaning of the Article 2(36) of the CPR has occurred, while not all formal breaches and errors included by the Court as quantifiable errors in its estimated error rate lead to ineligible expenditure because they do not qualify as an irregularity as defined in Article 2(36) of the CPR;

defined in Article 2(36) of the CPR;

Or. en

Amendment 155
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 74

Motion for a resolution

74. Notes that in the annual activity reports, the Commission reports **error rates**, for each programme and overall for the funds, that strictly refer to irregularities leading to financial corrections; notes that to impose financial corrections, the Commission needs to conclude that an irregularity within the meaning of the Article 2(36) of the CPR has occurred, while not all formal breaches and errors included by the Court as quantifiable errors in its estimated error rate lead to ineligible expenditure because they do not qualify as an irregularity as defined in Article 2(36) of the CPR;

Amendment

74. Notes that in the annual activity reports, the Commission reports **the risk of payment**, for each programme and overall for the funds, that strictly refer to irregularities leading to financial corrections; notes that to impose financial corrections, the Commission needs to conclude that an irregularity within the meaning of the Article 2(36) of the CPR has occurred, while not all formal breaches and errors included by the Court as quantifiable errors in its estimated error rate lead to ineligible expenditure because they do not qualify as an irregularity as defined in Article 2(36) of the CPR; **notes that it is helpful for the discharge authority to have a managerial perspective on errors identified;**

Or. en

Amendment 156
Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 75

Motion for a resolution

75. ***Welcomes that the Commission accepts all recommendations of the Court and its commitment to clarify applicable rules and audit work required with all***

Amendment

deleted

stakeholders, including in close cooperation with the Court, to limit these divergences in future assessments and quantification of errors; encourages the two institutions, together with all relevant stakeholders, to work further to reduce divergences in order to ensure legal clarity and to ensure that audits do not lead to an excessive administrative burden on beneficiaries and, in this way, policy objectives are reached on the ground;

Or. en

Amendment 157
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 76

Motion for a resolution

76. Notes that the Court identified an increase in the specific types of errors, such as ineligible costs and projects and infringements of internal market rules, including public procurement and state aid rules, which are the same categories of irregularities identified by the Commission and the audit authorities based on their common typology; notes that 3 % of the Court's estimated 6,4 % error rate in Heading 2 is related to **100%** co-financed priorities under the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII+) which allowed for more flexible spending; notes that the Commission has not found audit evidence of a significant impact overall of the new types of measures and flexibilities introduced on the programme error rates and takes note **of the fact that** the Commission took measures to prevent such risk;

Amendment

76. Notes **with concern** that the Court identified an increase in the specific types of errors, such as ineligible costs and projects and infringements of internal market rules, including public procurement and state aid rules, which are the same categories of irregularities identified by the Commission and the audit authorities based on their common typology; notes that 3 % of the Court's estimated 6,4 % error rate in Heading 2 is related to **100 %** co-financed priorities under the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII+) which allowed for more flexible spending; **reiterates that more flexibility should never lead to compromising quality and controls; asks for a review from the Commission of the current situation in order to avoid similar situations in the future;** notes that the Commission has not found audit evidence of a significant impact overall of the new types of measures and flexibilities introduced on the programme error rates and takes note **despite the increased error rate** the Commission **claimed it** took measures to

prevent such risk;

Or. en

Amendment 158

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 76

Motion for a resolution

76. Notes that the Court identified an increase in the specific types of errors, such as ineligible costs and projects and infringements of internal market rules, including public procurement and state aid rules, ***which are the same categories of irregularities identified by the Commission and the audit authorities based on their common typology***; notes that 3 % of the Court's estimated 6,4 % error rate in Heading 2 is related to 100% co-financed priorities under the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII+) which allowed for more flexible spending; notes that the Commission has not found audit evidence of a significant impact overall of the new types of measures and flexibilities introduced on the programme error rates and takes note of the fact that the Commission took measures to prevent such risk;

Amendment

76. Notes that the Court identified an increase in the specific types of errors, such as ineligible costs and projects and infringements of internal market rules, including public procurement and state aid rules; ***stresses that these types of errors present a higher level or risks related to poor governance and corruption***; notes that 3 % of the Court's estimated 6,4 % error rate in Heading 2 is related to 100% co-financed priorities under the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII+) which allowed for more flexible spending; notes that the Commission has not found audit evidence of a significant impact overall of the new types of measures and flexibilities introduced on the programme error rates and takes note of the fact that the Commission took measures to prevent such risk;

Or. en

Amendment 159

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 76 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

76 a. *Notes that the Court identified cases of projects for which ineligible expenditure was accepted, as well as their contribution to the overall estimated level of error; stresses the importance of remedying the systemic root causes and the need for audit authorities to effectively assess the eligibility criteria;*

Or. en

Amendment 160
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 76 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

76 b. *Notes that the Commission considers that self-declarations are a useful tool to gain assurance when finding alternative supporting evidence would be difficult or administratively too costly for the beneficiaries; supports the Court's recommendation to improve checks by audit authorities of self-declarations issued by beneficiaries of the funds in order to ensure their validity and reliability;*

Or. en

Amendment 161
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 77

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

77. Takes note that for ERDF and CF, the Commission implemented financial corrections and withdrawals amounting to EUR 11 billion over the programming period, including EUR 2,4 billion for the

77. Takes note that for ERDF and CF, the Commission implemented financial corrections and withdrawals amounting to EUR 11 billion over the programming period, including EUR 2,4 billion for the

accounting year 2021-2022; notes further that the Commission continues the implementation of its targeted ‘action plan on public procurement’ in cooperation with Member States;

accounting year 2021-2022; notes further that the Commission continues the implementation of its targeted ‘action plan on public procurement **and State aid**’ in cooperation with Member States; ***acknowledges that national authorities are primarily responsible for making the financial corrections decided by the Commission but believes that additional checks shall be implemented in order to confirm that all corrections have been implemented correctly;***

Or. en

Amendment 162
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 77

Motion for a resolution

77. Takes note that for ERDF and CF, the Commission implemented financial corrections and withdrawals amounting to EUR 11 billion over the programming period, including EUR 2,4 billion for the accounting year 2021-2022; notes further that the Commission ***continues*** the implementation of its targeted ‘action plan on public procurement’ in cooperation with Member States;

Amendment

77. Takes note that for ERDF and CF, the Commission implemented financial corrections and withdrawals amounting to EUR 11 billion over the programming period, including EUR 2,4 billion for the accounting year 2021-2022; notes ***that these financial corrections so far have not resulted in any loss of funding for member states as the Commission has not yet implemented any net financial correction in the 2014-2020 period; notes*** further that the Commission ***plans to continue*** the implementation of its targeted ‘action plan on public procurement’ in cooperation with Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 163
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 79

Motion for a resolution

79. Notes that **complementarity characterises the relation between the** cohesion policy funds and the other Union funding instruments; recalls that the cohesion policy funds and the RRF are different in terms of general objectives, timeline, management mode and financing, **but** highlights that complementarity between **them** is possible and expected, provided the same costs are not covered twice;

Amendment

79. Notes that cohesion policy funds and the other Union funding instruments **compete with one another**; recalls that, **although in theory**, the cohesion policy funds and the RRF are different in terms of general objectives, timeline, management mode and financing, **current experience shows that several RRFs foresee investments which would have been eligible for financing under cohesion policy; questions in this respect the added value of such RRFs**; highlights that complementarity between **cohesion and RRF** is possible and expected, provided the same costs are not covered twice **and that the RRF brings real added value**; **underlines that the risk of overlaps will increase towards the end of the RRF lifetime**;

Or. en

Amendment 164

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 79

Motion for a resolution

79. Notes that complementarity characterises the relation between the cohesion policy funds and the other Union funding instruments; recalls that the cohesion policy funds and the RRF are different in terms of general objectives, timeline, management mode and financing, but highlights that complementarity between them is possible and expected, provided the same costs are not covered twice;

Amendment

79. Notes that complementarity characterises the relation between the cohesion policy funds and the other Union funding instruments; recalls that the cohesion policy funds and the RRF are different in terms of general objectives, timeline, management mode and financing, but highlights that complementarity between them is possible and expected, provided the same costs are not covered twice **and points to the Commission to do its utmost to mitigate these risks**;

Or. en

Amendment 165
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 80

Motion for a resolution

80. Notes that the Commission is ***closely*** monitoring the situation, in particular when RRF national coordinating authorities are the same as for cohesion policy funds, and insisted on having sufficient additional administrative capacity and human resources allocated to the different strands of Union funding;

Amendment

80. Notes that the Commission is monitoring the situation, in particular when RRF national coordinating authorities are the same as for cohesion policy funds, and insisted on having sufficient additional administrative capacity and human resources allocated to the different strands of Union funding; ***nevertheless, is concerned that this parallelism may lead to unidentified cases of double funding; calls on the Commission to draw lessons from the experiences out of two different funding models;***

Or. en

Amendment 166
Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wieszik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 80

Motion for a resolution

80. ***Notes that*** the Commission ***is*** closely ***monitoring*** the situation, in particular when RRF national coordinating authorities are the same as for cohesion policy funds, and insisted on having sufficient additional administrative capacity and human resources allocated to the different strands of Union funding;

Amendment

80. ***Urges*** the Commission ***to monitor*** closely the situation, in particular when RRF national coordinating authorities are the same as for cohesion policy funds, and insisted on having sufficient additional administrative capacity and human resources allocated to the different strands of Union funding;

Or. en

Amendment 167
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 81

Motion for a resolution

81. Welcomes that neither the Court nor the Commission identify any cases where the obligatory national co-funding of a cohesion project was paid for by RRF funds in the 2022 RRF disbursements;

Amendment

81. Welcomes that neither the Court nor the Commission identify any cases where the obligatory national co-funding of a cohesion project was paid for by RRF funds in the 2022 RRF disbursements;
urges the Commission to continue to monitor the situation and prevent such financing to happen;

Or. en

Amendment 168
Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 81

Motion for a resolution

81. Welcomes that neither the Court nor the Commission identify any cases where the obligatory national co-funding of a cohesion project was paid for by RRF funds in the 2022 RRF disbursements;

Amendment

81. Welcomes that ***for the moment*** neither the Court nor the Commission identify any cases where the obligatory national co-funding of a cohesion project was paid for by RRF funds in the 2022 RRF disbursements;

Or. en

Amendment 169
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 82

Motion for a resolution

82. Notes ***that the Court considers*** that

Amendment

82. Notes that the Commission's

the Commission's *desk reviews and compliance audits have inherent limitations in confirming the validity of the residual total error rates reported by audit authorities; takes note of the Commission's reply* that its assessment, based on a combination of desk and on-the-spot audit work covering the different individual programmes and assurance packages, enables it to establish a reasonable and fair estimate of the error rates for each programme, every year, and cumulatively for cohesion policy funds;

considers that its assessment, based on a combination of desk and on-the-spot audit work covering the different individual programmes and assurance packages, enables it to establish a reasonable and fair estimate of the error rates for each programme, every year, and cumulatively for cohesion policy funds; *however is concerned that the Court considers that the Commission's desk reviews and compliance audits have inherent limitations in confirming the validity of the residual total error rates reported by audit authorities; notes that these weaknesses also affect the Commission's estimated risk at closure, as the Commission may not in all cases carry out the necessary corrections to bring the residual error rate below materiality;*

Or. en

Amendment 170

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 82

Motion for a resolution

82. Notes that the Court considers that the Commission's desk reviews and compliance audits have inherent limitations in confirming the validity of the residual total error rates reported by audit authorities; *takes note of the Commission's reply that its assessment, based on a combination of desk and on-the-spot audit work covering the different individual programmes and assurance packages, enables it* to establish a reasonable and fair estimate of the error rates for each programme, every year, and cumulatively for cohesion policy funds;

Amendment

82. Notes that the Court considers that the Commission's desk reviews and compliance audits have inherent limitations in confirming the validity of the residual total error rates reported by audit authorities; *calls on the Commission* to establish a reasonable and fair estimate of the error rates for each programme, every year, and cumulatively for cohesion policy funds;

Or. en

Amendment 171

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 82

Motion for a resolution

82. **Notes that** the Court considers that the Commission's desk reviews and compliance audits have inherent limitations in confirming the validity of the residual total error rates reported by audit authorities; takes note of the Commission's reply that its assessment, based on a combination of desk and on-the-spot audit work covering the different individual programmes and assurance packages, enables it to establish a reasonable and fair estimate of the error rates for each programme, every year, and cumulatively for cohesion policy funds;

Amendment

82. **Agrees with** the Court **who** considers that the Commission's desk reviews and compliance audits have inherent limitations in confirming the validity of the residual total error rates reported by audit authorities; takes note of the Commission's reply that its assessment, based on a combination of desk and on-the-spot audit work covering the different individual programmes and assurance packages, enables it to establish a reasonable and fair estimate of the error rates for each programme, every year, and cumulatively for cohesion policy funds;

Or. en

Amendment 172

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 82

Motion for a resolution

82. Notes that the Court considers that the Commission's desk reviews **and compliance audits** have inherent limitations in confirming the validity of the residual total error rates reported by audit authorities; takes note of the Commission's reply that its assessment, based on a combination of desk and on-the-spot audit work covering the different individual programmes and assurance packages, enables it to establish a reasonable and fair estimate of the error rates for each

Amendment

82. Notes that the Court considers that the Commission's desk reviews have inherent limitations in confirming the validity of the residual total error rates reported by audit authorities; takes note of the Commission's reply that its assessment, based on a combination of desk and on-the-spot audit work covering the different individual programmes and assurance packages, enables it to establish a reasonable and fair estimate of the error rates for each programme, every year, and

programme, every year, and cumulatively for cohesion policy funds;

cumulatively for cohesion policy funds;

Or. en

Amendment 173

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 83

Motion for a resolution

83. *Notes* the Court's finding that the proportion of assurance packages with residual error rates of above 2 % reached a peak of 61 % of the expenditure in the Court's sample in 2022 compared to 39 % in the previous year, reflecting the persistent shortcomings in the work of the audit authorities; stresses with concern that the Court's audit results over the last six years demonstrate that the controls currently in place do not yet sufficiently offset the high inherent risk of error in cohesion, and that managing authorities do not always effectively prevent or detect irregularities in expenditure declared by beneficiaries; notes with concern that the errors found by the Court represent significant weaknesses in the audit authorities' work on verifying the eligibility of expenditures and projects, and the compliance with internal market rules; notes that a part of the residual error rates recalculated by the Court above 2 % in the audited assurance packages are attributable to the aforementioned divergences;

Amendment

83. *Stresses with great concern that* the Court's finding that the proportion of assurance packages with residual error rates of above 2 % reached a peak of 61 % of the expenditure in the Court's sample in 2022 compared to 39 % in the previous year, reflecting the persistent shortcomings in the work of the audit authorities; stresses with concern that the Court's audit results over the last six years demonstrate that the controls currently in place do not yet sufficiently offset the high inherent risk of error in cohesion, and that managing authorities do not always effectively prevent or detect irregularities in expenditure declared by beneficiaries; notes with concern that the errors found by the Court represent significant weaknesses in the audit authorities' work on verifying the eligibility of expenditures and projects, and the compliance with internal market rules; notes that a part of the residual error rates recalculated by the Court above 2 % in the audited assurance packages are attributable to the aforementioned divergences;

Or. en

Amendment 174

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 83

Motion for a resolution

83. Notes the Court's finding that the proportion of assurance packages with residual error rates of above 2 % reached a peak of 61 % of the expenditure in the Court's sample in 2022 compared to 39 % in the previous year, reflecting the persistent shortcomings in the work of the audit authorities; stresses with concern that the Court's audit results over the last six years demonstrate that the controls currently in place do not yet sufficiently offset the high inherent risk of error in cohesion, and that managing authorities do not always effectively prevent or detect irregularities in expenditure declared by beneficiaries; notes with concern that the errors found by the Court represent significant weaknesses in the audit authorities' work on verifying the eligibility of expenditures and projects, and the compliance with internal market rules; notes that a part of the residual error rates recalculated by the Court above 2 % in the audited assurance packages are attributable to the aforementioned divergences;

Amendment

83. Notes **with concern** the Court's finding that the proportion of assurance packages with residual error rates of above 2 % reached a peak of 61 % of the expenditure in the Court's sample in 2022 compared to 39 % in the previous year, reflecting the persistent shortcomings in the work of the audit authorities; stresses with concern that the Court's audit results over the last six years demonstrate that the controls currently in place do not yet sufficiently offset the high inherent risk of error in cohesion, and that managing authorities do not always effectively prevent or detect irregularities in expenditure declared by beneficiaries; notes with concern that the errors found by the Court represent significant weaknesses in the audit authorities' work on verifying the eligibility of expenditures and projects, and the compliance with internal market rules; notes that a part of the residual error rates recalculated by the Court above 2 % in the audited assurance packages are attributable to the aforementioned divergences;

Or. en

Amendment 175
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 84

Motion for a resolution

84. Is concerned about the persistent shortcomings observed by the Court in the national audits, which can be due to inadequate scope, unclear documentation of audits and sample filtering performed by

Amendment

84. Is concerned about the persistent shortcomings observed by the Court in the national audits, which can be due to inadequate scope, unclear documentation of audits and sample filtering performed by

national audit authorities, as well as resource issues, including inadequate funding and a lack of a skilled workforce within national audit authorities; notes that the *Commission considers the work of the majority of the audit authorities to be reliable and that only 7 out of 81 audit authorities need serious improvements*;

national audit authorities, as well as resource issues, including inadequate funding and a lack of a skilled workforce within national audit authorities; notes that the *Court has observed a marked increase in shortcomings in the scope, quality and documentation of audit authorities' work; stresses its concern that the Court observed weaknesses in a wide range, for example concerning the audit authorities' work on verifying eligibility of expenditure, including cases where that the audit authority did not carry out sufficient checks on information provided by beneficiaries on the eligibility of projects, on the compliance with internal market rules and on the risk of fraud and conflict of interest*;

Or. en

Amendment 176

Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiek, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 84

Motion for a resolution

84. Is concerned about the persistent shortcomings observed by the Court in the national audits, which can be due to inadequate scope, unclear documentation of audits and sample filtering performed by national audit authorities, as well as resource issues, including inadequate funding and a lack of a skilled workforce within national audit authorities; notes that the Commission considers the work of the majority of the audit authorities to be reliable and that only 7 out of 81 audit authorities need serious improvements;

Amendment

84. Is concerned about the persistent shortcomings observed by the Court in the national audits, which can be due to inadequate scope, unclear documentation of audits and sample filtering performed by national audit authorities, as well as resource issues, including inadequate funding and a lack of a skilled workforce within national audit authorities; ***recalls the recommendations in the INI report 2022/2020 on possibilities to increase the reliability of audits and controls by national authorities in shared management***; notes that the Commission considers the work of the majority of the audit authorities to be reliable and that only 7 out of 81 audit authorities need serious

improvements;

Or. en

Amendment 177
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 84

Motion for a resolution

84. Is concerned about the persistent shortcomings observed by the Court in the national audits, which can be due to inadequate scope, unclear documentation of audits and sample filtering performed by national audit authorities, as well as resource issues, including inadequate funding and a lack of a skilled workforce within national audit authorities; notes that the Commission considers the work of the majority of the audit authorities to be reliable and that only **7** out of **81** audit authorities need serious improvements;

Amendment

84. Is concerned about the persistent shortcomings observed by the Court in the national audits, which can be due to inadequate scope, unclear documentation of audits and sample filtering performed by national audit authorities, as well as resource issues, including inadequate funding and a lack of a skilled workforce within national audit authorities; notes that the Commission considers the work of the majority of the audit authorities to be reliable and that only **10** out of **116 of Cohesion** audit authorities need serious improvements;

Or. en

Amendment 178
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 84

Motion for a resolution

84. Is concerned about the persistent shortcomings observed by the Court in the national audits, which can be due to inadequate scope, unclear documentation of audits and sample filtering performed by national audit authorities, as well as resource issues, including inadequate funding and a lack of a skilled workforce

Amendment

84. Is **greatly** concerned about the persistent shortcomings observed by the Court in the national audits, which can be due to inadequate scope, unclear documentation of audits and sample filtering performed by national audit authorities, as well as resource issues, including inadequate funding and a lack of

within national audit authorities; notes that the Commission considers the work of the majority of the audit authorities to be reliable and that only 7 out of 81 audit authorities need serious improvements;

a skilled workforce within national audit authorities; notes that the Commission, ***on the other hand***, considers the work of the majority of the audit authorities to be reliable and that only 7 out of 81 audit authorities need serious improvements;

Or. en

Amendment 179
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 85

Motion for a resolution

85. Notes the Court's finding that, as a way to simplify expenditure, beneficiaries of cohesion policy funding used SCOs for 77 transactions, or 30% of its sample, applying either flat rates, standard sales of unit costs or a combination of both; stresses that SCOs are one of the most important measures to reduce administrative costs and burdens for the beneficiaries and thus, to facilitate the access of small beneficiaries to the funding and focus more on the achievement of the objectives while reducing the error rate;

Amendment

85. Notes the Court's finding that, as a way to simplify expenditure, beneficiaries of cohesion policy funding used SCOs for 77 transactions, or 30% of its sample, applying either flat rates, standard sales of unit costs or a combination of both; stresses that SCOs are one of the most important measures to reduce administrative costs and burdens for the beneficiaries and thus, to facilitate the access of small beneficiaries to the funding and focus more on the achievement of the objectives while reducing the error rate; ***highlights that the Court considers that SCO's are not always adequately implemented and shares the Court's audit conclusion that SCOs should not result in an excessive financial benefit for a member state; on the other side SCO should in practice lead to real reductions of bureaucratic burden and not to an exhaustive ex-ante and ex-post control; notes that slight variations of prices in SCO estimates compared to the prices identified during ex-post controls should be acceptable;***

Or. en

Amendment 180
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 86

Motion for a resolution

86. Notes that, for 2021-2027 programmes, the Commission has encouraged the use by programme authorities of the simplification measures foreseen under the CPR, in particular, the use of SCOs and financing not linked to costs (FNLC) schemes to tackle eligibility issues, ease management verifications and control the burden on beneficiaries; notes that, as a result of this effort, for the ERDF and the CF for example, 120 SCO schemes at programme level were adopted so far in 11 Member States and for Interreg programmes (EUR 5,7 billion of total contribution) as well as 4 FNLC schemes in 4 Member States (for EUR 1,2 billion of total contribution);

Amendment

86. Notes that, for 2021-2027 programmes, the Commission has encouraged the use by programme authorities of the simplification measures foreseen under the CPR, in particular, the use of SCOs and financing not linked to costs (FNLC) schemes to tackle eligibility issues, ease management verifications and control the burden on beneficiaries; notes that, as a result of this effort, for the ERDF and the CF for example, 120 SCO schemes at programme level were adopted so far in 11 Member States and for Interreg programmes (EUR 5,7 billion of total contribution) as well as 4 FNLC schemes in 4 Member States (for EUR 1,2 billion of total contribution); ***underlines that urgently further simplification and flexibility is needed; calls on the Commission to find the right balance between necessary flexibility for slight price variations and on the other side inappropriate intentional cost and price overestimations;***

Or. en