



2023/2129(DEC)

13.2.2024

AMENDMENTS

181 - 364

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

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

Amendment 181
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 86 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

86 a. Is worried by the Court's finding regarding an ERDF programme in Slovakia aimed at renovating a public building's interior space, despite the fact that under that program only energy-efficiency measures were eligible; notes the Court's observation that this project should not have passed the evaluation phase, as in the application the threshold of at least 25 % of the expenditure for the project linked to energy efficiency was not met; notes similar cases identified by the Court that lack a Commission response;

Or. en

Amendment 182
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 88

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

88. Notes from the Annual Report on the Protection of the EU Financial Interests for the year 2022 (PIF Report)⁷ that from 2021 to 2022, the number of fraudulent irregularities relating to the Cohesion Policy **increased by 4,2 %**, while non-fraudulent irregularities increased by **10,2 %**; notes that the Commission requested audit authorities to pay particular attention to new risks related to the multiplication of Funds and additional funding under NGEU, in particular, 'double funding', conflicts of interest, fraud or corruption; notes the efforts made by the Commission to promote the use of the ARACHNE risk

88. Notes from the Annual Report on the Protection of the EU Financial Interests for the year 2022 (PIF Report)⁷ that from 2021 to 2022, the number of fraudulent irregularities relating to the Cohesion Policy **decreased by 11,6 % (233 reported in 2021 compared to 206 reported in 2022)**, while non-fraudulent irregularities increased by **9,3 %**; notes that the Commission requested audit authorities to pay particular attention to new risks related to the multiplication of Funds and additional funding under NGEU, in particular, 'double funding', conflicts of interest, fraud or corruption; notes the

scoring tool to the reluctant Member States, and to introduce improvements in the tool; notes that the audit authorities explicitly addressed the risk of fraud for 65 % of the audited operations in the 2014-2020 period, which is an improvement on the 38 % found in 2021 by the Court;

efforts made by the Commission to promote the use of the ARACHNE risk scoring tool to the reluctant Member States, and to introduce improvements in the tool; notes that the audit authorities explicitly addressed the risk of fraud for 65 % of the audited operations in the 2014-2020 period, which is an improvement on the 38 % found in 2021 by the Court;

⁷ *COM(2023) 464 final*

Or. en

Amendment 183
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 88 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

88 a. Stresses that the Court, OLAF and the EPPO should have access to a single integrated IT system for data-mining and risk-scoring provided by the Commission, in a proportionate manner, within the exercise of their respective competences, as is envisaged in the recast of the Financial Regulation;

Or. en

Amendment 184
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point i

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i) continue its cooperation with the Court in order to look for possible comparability of the results of their

(i) **proactively engage in constructive dialogue with the Court to overcome the growing number of situations where**

estimated error rates, as well as to align the interpretation of legal texts;

Commission's official response to the Court's findings is to 'agree to disagree' and continue its cooperation with the Court in order to look for possible comparability of the results of their estimated error rates, as well as to align the interpretation of legal texts;

Or. en

Amendment 185
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point i

Motion for a resolution

(i) continue its cooperation with the Court in order ***to look for possible comparability of*** the results of their estimated error rates, as well as to align the interpretation of legal texts;

Amendment

(i) continue its cooperation with the Court in order ***align*** the results of their estimated error rates, as well as to align the interpretation of legal texts;

Or. en

Amendment 186
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point i a (new)

Motion for a resolution

(i a) continue its close work with the audit authorities in order to strengthen their capacity to prevent and correct recurring errors, to better document their audit work and therefore to contribute to the assurance process;

Or. en

Amendment 187

Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point i a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i a) improve and strengthen Member States' management and control system to ensure member states declare only eligible expenditure to the Commission;

Or. en

Amendment 188
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point i b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i b) ensure that audit authorities have appropriate methods in place to check self-declarations by means of identifying good practices and issuing a guidance to Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 189
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point i c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i c) carry out specific targeted checks as part of the closure audits to ensure that Member States have applied the necessary financial corrections for errors detected;

Or. en

Amendment 190
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point i d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i d) grant the Court, OLAF and the EPPO access to a single integrated IT system for data-mining and risk-scoring provided by the Commission, in the terms agreed in the recast of the Financial Regulation;

Or. en

Amendment 191
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point ii

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(ii) pay particular attention in its audits to the risks linked to the flexibilities introduced with the CRII/CRII+ amendments;

(ii) pay particular attention in its audits to the risks linked to the flexibilities introduced with the CRII/CRII+ amendments; ***launch an immediate review of spending under these programmes to identify and correct systemic issues which have led to an abrupt increase of the error rate;***

Or. en

Amendment 192
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point iii

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(iii) continue its support to Member

(iii) continue its support to Member

States given the completion of the 2014-2020 programming period and the implementation of the current one, in particular by supporting administrative capacity building;

States *and at the same time prepare an action plan on how to best avoid the administrative over-burden towards the end of the MFF that will come on top of the planned RRF eligibility period*, given the completion of the 2014-2020 programming period and the implementation of the current one, in particular by supporting administrative capacity building;

Or. en

Amendment 193

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

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 89 – point iv

Motion for a resolution

(iv) continue the implementation of its *targeted “action* plan on public procurement” in cooperation with Member States to help programme authorities and contracting authorities to improve their practices in the area of public procurement, including how to avoid the most common errors in public procurement linked to the management of the ESI Funds, as well as targeted training sessions for Member States’ officials;

Amendment

(iv) continue the implementation of its *4th revision of the “action* plan on public procurement” in cooperation with Member States to help programme authorities and contracting authorities to improve their practices in the area of public procurement, including how to avoid the most common errors in public procurement linked to the management of the ESI Funds, as well as targeted training sessions for Member States’ officials;

Or. en

Amendment 194

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

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 89 – point iv a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(iv a) deliver on its promise to provide

both the Discharge authority as well as the general public with the list of EU funds' biggest final beneficiaries, where such a list considers the final beneficiary to be the natural person or an entity that, as the last in the chain of recipients, receives the EU funds;

Or. en

Amendment 195

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

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 89 – point v

Motion for a resolution

(v) further enhance simplification in the implementation of cohesion programmes *and work closely with Member States to identify best practices regarding the digitalisation of practices and procedures;*

Amendment

(v) further enhance simplification in the implementation of cohesion programmes; *furthermore encourages the Commission to implement tools for digitalisation of public procurement based on the the model of e.procurement , and to help Members states in this transition;*

Or. en

Amendment 196

Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 89 – point vi

Motion for a resolution

(vi) work, in order to achieve a successful uptake of SCOs, in parallel with all stakeholders, on methodological and assurance harmonisation so that there is sufficient predictability for the beneficiaries on how those options are expected to be implemented; and ensure that audits do not lead to further bureaucratisation of implementation and an

Amendment

(vi) work, in order to achieve a successful uptake of SCOs, in parallel with all stakeholders, on methodological and assurance harmonisation so that there is sufficient predictability for the beneficiaries on how those options are expected to be implemented; and ensure that audits do not lead to further bureaucratisation of implementation and an

unnecessary audit burden on beneficiaries;

unnecessary audit burden on beneficiaries;
ensure SCO are not implemented in a way that Member States gain excessive financial benefit, while guaranteeing an appropriate flexibility in the cost and price estimations;

Or. en

Amendment 197
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point vii

Motion for a resolution

(vii) work together with Member States' audit authorities to ensure that the specific risk of double funding, especially with the RRF financing, is ***well covered by*** national controls and audits; insists that the Commission performs thematic or compliance audits tailored to target high-risk areas and Member States; and

Amendment

(vii) work together with Member States' audit authorities to ensure that the specific risk of double funding, especially with the RRF financing, is ***reduced by adequate*** national controls and audits; insists that the Commission performs thematic or compliance audits tailored to target high-risk areas and Member States; and

Or. en

Amendment 198
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point viii

Motion for a resolution

(viii) establish a comprehensive mechanism for the use of cohesion funds in the event of exceptional or unforeseen circumstances using guiding provisions on its scope, funding availability, governance, audit and control, and application;

Amendment

(viii) establish a comprehensive mechanism for the use of cohesion funds in the event of exceptional or unforeseen circumstances using guiding provisions on its scope, funding availability, governance, audit and control, and application;
underlines that such use for exceptional circumstances should be restricted to specific and well defined situations, limited in time and scope and with an

increased degree of controls to mitigate risks;

Or. en

Amendment 199
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point viii a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(viii a) calls on the Commission to re-assess its decision to “unfreeze” 10.2 billion EUR of cohesion funds to Hungary, particularly in light of the national measures taken since its adoption, and to refrain from disbursing any funds until all of the relevant legislation has been fully implemented and the adopted measures have proven their effectiveness in practice;

Or. en

Amendment 200
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point viii b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(viii b) make the use of IT tools such as EDES and ARACHNE mandatory and systematic for all Union funds including shared management and ensure better use of new technology in order to increase controls and protect the Union budget against fraud and misuse of funds in the context of the concluded revision of the Financial Regulation;

Or. en

Amendment 201
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point viii d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(viii d) report on the early preventive system audits (EPSA) performed at the beginning of the programming period, in order to confirm the effectiveness of the control systems in the Member States, including the system in place to prevent irregularities;

Or. en

Amendment 202
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point viii f (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(viii f) report to the discharge authority how the use of flexibility measures in Cohesion policy, that have improved absorption, has affected the structural cohesion objectives of convergence and cohesion;

Or. en

Amendment 203
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 89 – point viii g (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(viii g) match the Court's findings concerning Member States' declarations

with the information coming from the Commission's risk at payment and risk at closure exercise on managing authorities to identify error hotspots that need to be addressed with urgency;

Or. en

Amendment 204
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 90

Motion for a resolution

90. Notes that the budget for the programmes under MFF heading 3 'Natural resources' was EUR **58,1** billion (29,7 % of the Union budget) distributed as follows: 65,9 % for direct payments under the European Agricultural Guarantee fund (EAGF), 26,2 % for the Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EARDF), 4,7 % for market-related expenditure under the EAGF, 1,8 % for Maritime and Fisheries, 0,9 % for Environment and Climate (LIFE), and 0,5 % for other areas; notes that as of 31 December 2022, under MFF heading 3 'Natural Resources and Environment' the final adopted budget commitments appropriations were EUR **56 681,11** million and 98,92 % of them were implemented (EUR **56 069,86** million); notes further that the final adopted budget payment appropriations amounted to EUR **55 781,71** million and **98,95** % of them were implemented (EUR **55 197,56** million);

Amendment

90. Notes that the budget for the programmes under MFF heading 3 'Natural resources' was EUR **58,3** billion (29,7 % of the Union budget) distributed as follows: 65,9 % for direct payments under the European Agricultural Guarantee fund (EAGF), 26,2 % for the Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EARDF), 4,7 % for market-related expenditure under the EAGF, 1,8 % for Maritime and Fisheries, 0,9 % for Environment and Climate (LIFE), and 0,5 % for other areas; notes that as of 31 December 2022, under MFF heading 3 'Natural Resources and Environment' the final adopted budget commitments appropriations were EUR **56 681,11** million and 98,92 % of them were implemented (EUR **56 069,86** million); notes further that the final adopted budget payment appropriations amounted to EUR **55 826,77** million and **98,89** % of them were implemented (EUR **55 205,48** million);

Or. en

Amendment 205
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 91

Motion for a resolution

91. Notes that 2022 was the second and last year of the transitional period during which funds from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2021-2027 budget allocation and an additional EUR 8 billion of externally assigned revenue from the NextGenerationEU funds for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development Fund (EAFRD) could be ***used*** by Member States ***for continued payments to farmers and other CAP beneficiaries*** in anticipation of the entry into force of the new CAP on 1 January 2023;

Amendment

91. Notes that 2022 was the second and last year of the transitional period during which funds from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2021-2027 budget allocation and an additional EUR 8 billion of externally assigned revenue from the NextGenerationEU funds for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development Fund (EAFRD) could be ***committed*** by Member States in anticipation of the entry into force of the new CAP on 1 January 2023 ***and that the related payments by Member States to farmers and other CAP beneficiaries can be made until 31 December 2025;***

Or. en

Amendment 206
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 94

Motion for a resolution

94. Notes that the Court has examined a sample of 218 transactions covering the full range of spending under this MFF heading; notes that the Court also examined the regularity information given in the annual activity reports of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA), as well as selected systems in 17 Member States and the United Kingdom; notes that the Court estimates the level of error for 'Natural Resources' to be 2,2 % (1,8 % in **2022**) and that the majority of the errors found affected rural development transactions; notes that DG AGRI estimates a risk at payment of 1,76

Amendment

94. Notes that the Court has examined a sample of 218 transactions covering the full range of spending under this MFF heading; notes that the Court also examined the regularity information given in the annual activity reports of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA), as well as selected systems in 17 Member States and the United Kingdom; notes that the Court estimates the level of error for 'Natural Resources' to be 2,2 % (1,8 % in **2021**) and that the majority of the errors found affected rural development transactions; notes that DG AGRI estimates a risk at payment of 1,76

%;

%;

Or. en

Amendment 207

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 96

Motion for a resolution

96. Notes that the majority of errors found by the Court were related to the provision of inaccurate information on areas or animals (42 %) and ineligible beneficiary, activity, and project, expenditure; notes with concern, as in **2022**, that the Court found in several cases that the Member State authorities and the Commission had sufficient information to prevent, or to detect and correct the error before accepting the expenditure and that **this** would have **resulted in a lower error rate estimated at 1,3 %**;

Amendment

96. Notes that the majority of errors found by the Court were related to the provision of inaccurate information on areas or animals (42 %) and ineligible beneficiary, activity, and project, expenditure; notes with concern, as in **2021**, that the Court found in several cases that the Member State authorities and the Commission had sufficient information to prevent, or to detect and correct the error before accepting the expenditure and that, **had the Member States' authorities and the Commission made proper use of all the information at their disposal, the estimated level of error for this chapter would have been 1.3 percentage points** lower;

Or. en

Amendment 208

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

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 97

Motion for a resolution

97. **Welcomes** the Commission's statement that the 2023-2027 CAP delivery model aims to simplify rules and to emphasise the use of new technologies, such as the Area Monitoring System, that

Amendment

97. **Notes** the Commission's statement that the 2023-2027 CAP delivery model aims to simplify rules and to emphasise the use of new technologies, such as the Area Monitoring System, that will help reduce

will help reduce errors; notes that, together with errors made by the farmers, the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) is the basis for the geospatial aid application and recalls the significant potential benefits of technologies for monitoring area aid for farmers, administrations and the environment;

errors; notes that, together with errors made by the farmers, the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) is the basis for the geospatial aid application and recalls the significant potential benefits of technologies for monitoring area aid for farmers, administrations and the environment;

Or. en

Amendment 209

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

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 98

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

98. Notes the example of an incorrect declaration of agricultural activity presented by the Court in its annual report, quoted in several media as the “lemon trees’ case”, where a farmer declared to cultivate permanent crop, where in reality the plot was not cultivated for several years; notes the financial impact of this error was EUR 8 349,06 as reported by the Commission, along with the corrective actions taken by the responsible national authorities, including the recovery of the claimed amount; commends the thorough audit work of the Court and the Commission and the swift follow-up by the paying agency concerned; **deleted**

Or. en

Amendment 210

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 98

Motion for a resolution

98. Notes the example of an incorrect declaration of agricultural activity presented by the Court in its annual report, quoted in several media as the “lemon trees’ case”, where a farmer declared to cultivate permanent crop, where in reality the plot was not cultivated for several years; notes the financial impact of this error was EUR 8 349,06 as reported by the Commission, along with the corrective actions taken by the responsible national authorities, including the recovery of the claimed amount; commends the thorough audit work of the Court and the Commission and the swift follow-up by the paying agency concerned;

Amendment

98. Notes the example of an incorrect declaration of agricultural activity presented by the Court in its annual report, quoted in several media as the “lemon trees’ case”, where a farmer declared to cultivate permanent crop, where in reality the plot was not cultivated for several years; notes the financial impact of this error was EUR 8 349,06 as reported by the Commission, along with the corrective actions taken by the responsible national authorities, including the recovery of the claimed amount; commends the thorough audit work of the Court and the Commission and the swift follow-up by the paying agency concerned; ***stresses though that this case should not be understood as an rare and individual coincidence but rather as a risk of systematic way allowing for fraudulent way to receiving the EU funds and should thus not be underestimated;***

Or. en

Amendment 211
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 99

Motion for a resolution

99. Notes that SCOs are applied across the CAP, including in rural development where eligibility conditions are more complex and the risk of error is higher, and that there is still potential to simplify measures that are not based on area or animal declarations, where Member States can decide whether to reimburse actual costs or pay according to predefined outputs; notes that the Commission reports almost 92 % of Rural Development Programmes make use of SCOs;

Amendment

99. Notes that SCOs are applied across the CAP, including in rural development where eligibility conditions are more complex and the risk of error is higher, and that there is still potential to simplify measures that are not based on area or animal declarations, where Member States can decide whether to reimburse actual costs or pay according to predefined outputs; notes that the Commission reports almost 92 % of Rural Development Programmes make use of SCOs; ***calls on the Commission to disclose the amount***

disbursed through SCOs;

Or. en

Amendment 212

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

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 101

Motion for a resolution

101. ***Welcomes the increased interest in and use of the integrated IT tool for data mining ARACHNE by the Member States, with 13 Member States using the tool for at least some measures, and five Member States participating in a general introduction workshop on ARACHNE;*** notes the obstacles reported by Member States and ***the continued efforts of*** the Commission to improve ARACHNE;

Amendment

101. ***Regrets the fact that the*** use of the integrated IT tool for data mining ARACHNE by the Member States, ***is not compulsory***; notes the obstacles reported by Member States and ***asks*** the Commission to improve ARACHNE;

Or. en

Amendment 213

Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 101

Motion for a resolution

101. Welcomes the increased interest in and use of the integrated IT tool for data mining ARACHNE by the Member States, with 13 Member States using the tool for at least some measures, and five Member States participating in a general introduction workshop on ARACHNE; notes the obstacles reported by Member States and the continued efforts of the Commission to improve ARACHNE;

Amendment

101. Welcomes the increased interest in and use of the integrated IT tool for data mining ARACHNE by the Member States, with 13 Member States using the tool for at least some measures, and five Member States participating in a general introduction workshop on ARACHNE; notes the obstacles reported by Member States and the continued efforts of the Commission to improve ARACHNE; ***regrets the selective adoption of ARACHNE by Member States;***

Amendment 214
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 102

Motion for a resolution

102. Notes that, in 2022, the Commission reported an implementation rate of 99,69 %, for commitments under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), a marked improvement from the 15,98 % implementation rate of *its predecessor, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)* in 2021; notes, however, that 94,76 % from the EUR 1 135,74 million committed appropriations in 2022 and 97,06 % from EUR 148,12 million in 2021 remained unpaid at the end of the corresponding year; notes further that the implementation rate of the authorised payment appropriations for EMFAF in 2022 was 99,99 % and for EMFF in 2021 was 86,55 %;

Amendment

102. Notes that, in 2022, the Commission reported an implementation rate of 99,69 %, for commitments under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), a marked improvement from the 15,98 % implementation rate of **EMFAF** in 2021; notes, however, that 94,76 % from the EUR 1 135,74 million committed appropriations in 2022 and 97,06 % from EUR 148,12 million in 2021 remained unpaid at the end of the corresponding year; notes further that the implementation rate of the authorised payment appropriations for EMFAF in 2022 was 99,99 % and for EMFF in 2021 was 86,55 %;

Or. en

Amendment 215
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 104 – point ii

Motion for a resolution

(ii) *explain to the discharge authority why the implementation rate of commitments under the EMFAF is so much higher than the implementation rate of its predecessor;*

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 216
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 104 – point iii a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(iii a) continue to promote the use of ARACHNE to increase both the number of Member States using the system, and to increase the extent of use to include all programmes in the context of the concluded revision of the Financial Regulation;

Or. en

Amendment 217
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 104 – point v

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(v) promote, provide incentives and support the Member States' paying agencies in using IT tools like ***checks by monitoring*** and other imaging technologies in the field of agri-monitoring;

(v) promote, provide incentives and support the Member States' paying agencies in using IT tools like ***Copernicus Satellite imagery*** and other imaging technologies in the field of agri-monitoring;

Or. en

Amendment 218
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 104 – point v a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(v a) make better use and encourage the use of AI and data from new technologies

such as the Union owned Copernicus Sentinel satellites to monitor and control the correct use of CAP funds;

Or. en

Amendment 219
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 105

Motion for a resolution

105. Notes that the budget for the programmes under MFF heading 4 ‘Migration and Border Management’ was EUR 3,4 billion (1,7 % of the Union budget) distributed as follows: 43,9 % for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), 23,1 % for the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF) and 33 % for three decentralised agencies: European Boarder Coast Agency (FRONTEX), European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (EU- LISA); notes that, as of 31 December 2022, the final budget commitment appropriations adopted amounted to EUR 3 410,39 million and 99,54 % of them had been implemented (EUR 3 394,69 million); notes further that the final adopted budget payment appropriations amounted to EUR 3 372,54 million and **97,61** % of them have been implemented (EUR 3 292,03 million);

Amendment

105. Notes that the budget for the programmes under MFF heading 4 ‘Migration and Border Management’ was EUR 3,4 billion (1,7 % of the Union budget) distributed as follows: 43,9 % for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), 23,1 % for the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF) and 33 % for three decentralised agencies: European Boarder Coast Agency (FRONTEX), European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (EU- LISA); notes that, as of 31 December 2022, the final budget commitment appropriations adopted amounted to EUR 3 410,39 million and 99,54 % of them had been implemented (EUR 3 394,69 million); notes further that the final adopted budget payment appropriations amounted to EUR 3 372,54 million and **97,61** % of them have been implemented (EUR 3 292,03 million);

Or. en

Amendment 220
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 108

Motion for a resolution

108. Notes that the Court examined a sample of 23 transactions that is not representative enough of the spending under MFF headings 4 and 5 and, therefore, cannot provide an estimate of the error rate; **notes** that the Court's audit results show that the expenditure is affected by eligibility and procurement issues and that it is a high-risk area (11 out of 23 transactions audited, i.e. 48 %, were affected by errors); notes that the Court quantified nine errors which had an impact on the amounts charged to the Union budget and that it also found four cases of non-compliance with legal and financial provisions, which had no impact on the Union budget; notes that the Commission concludes that the risk at payment is below 2% for the expenditure on migration and border management, as well as for security and defence;

Amendment

108. Notes that the Court examined a sample of 23 transactions that is not representative enough of the spending under MFF headings 4 and 5 and, therefore, cannot provide an estimate of the error rate; **considering** that the Court's audit results show that the expenditure is affected by eligibility and procurement issues and that it is a high-risk area (11 out of 23 transactions audited, i.e. 48 %, were affected by errors) **invites the Court to provide a clear estimation of the error rate for this chapter**; notes that the Court quantified nine errors which had an impact on the amounts charged to the Union budget and that it also found four cases of non-compliance with legal and financial provisions, which had no impact on the Union budget; notes that the Commission concludes that the risk at payment is below 2% for the expenditure on migration and border management, as well as for security and defence;

Or. en

Amendment 221

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 108

Motion for a resolution

108. Notes that the Court examined a sample of 23 transactions that is not representative enough of the spending under MFF headings 4 and 5 and, therefore, cannot provide an estimate of the error rate; **notes** that the Court's audit results show that the expenditure is affected by eligibility and procurement issues and that it is a high-risk area (11 out of 23 transactions audited, i.e. 48 %, were

Amendment

108. Notes that the Court examined a sample of 23 transactions that is not representative enough of the spending under MFF headings 4 and 5 and, therefore, cannot provide an estimate of the error rate; **stresses with great concern** that the Court's audit results show that the expenditure is affected by eligibility and procurement issues and that it is a high-risk area (11 out of 23 transactions audited, i.e.

affected by errors); notes that the Court quantified nine errors which had an impact on the amounts charged to the Union budget and that it also found four cases of non-compliance with legal and financial provisions, which had no impact on the Union budget; notes that the Commission concludes that the risk at payment is below 2% for the expenditure on migration and border management, as well as for security and defence;

48 %, were affected by errors); notes that the Court quantified nine errors which had an impact on the amounts charged to the Union budget and that it also found four cases of non-compliance with legal and financial provisions, which had no impact on the Union budget; notes that the Commission concludes that the risk at payment is below 2% for the expenditure on migration and border management, as well as for security and defence;

Or. en

Amendment 222

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 109

Motion for a resolution

109. Welcomes the progress identified by the Court in its review of the work done by six Member States' audit authorities in preparation for the 2021-2027 AMIF, the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI) and ISF annual accounts; notes the Court's observation that, at the time of its visits (between September 2022 and February 2023), the six Member States' audit strategies had not yet been adopted, which is a prerequisite for submitting an 'assurance package';

Amendment

109. Welcomes the progress identified by the Court in its review of the work done by six Member States' audit authorities in preparation for the 2021-2027 AMIF, the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI) and ISF annual accounts; notes the Court's observation that, at the time of its visits (between September 2022 and February 2023), the six Member States' audit strategies had not yet been adopted, which is a prerequisite for submitting an 'assurance package'; ***notes that, at the time of the Court's visit, the IT systems to store information and documentation needed for audits of the six Member States' managing authorities were either under development or yet to be developed;***

Or. en

Amendment 223

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 112

Motion for a resolution

112. Notes that more than 16 million people from Ukraine and Moldova have been recorded as having entered the Union since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, and over 4 million persons fleeing the war obtained protection in the Union; notes that the Commission provided financial support to the International Organisation for Migration to support the process, as part of a EUR 15 million project facilitating transfers of vulnerable **persons from Moldova** fleeing Ukraine; notes further that on 30 November 2022, the Commission announced the decision to award financial support of EUR 5,5 million to a project to be carried out by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support hosts and all those involved in providing private accommodation to displaced people, putting together good practices for future needs; takes note that, in 2022, in the context of financing Ukraine, the Commission adopted decisions authorising the use of the funding not linked to costs amounting to EUR 248 million (May 2022) and EUR 137 million (August 2022), as well as for smaller grants, safe homes and psychosocial support amounting to EUR 15 million;

Amendment

112. Notes that more than 16 million people from Ukraine and Moldova have been recorded as having entered the Union since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, and over 4 million persons fleeing the war obtained protection in the Union; notes that the Commission provided financial support to the International Organisation for Migration to support the process, as part of a EUR 15 million project facilitating transfers **from Moldova** of vulnerable **people** fleeing Ukraine; notes further that on 30 November 2022, the Commission announced the decision to award financial support of EUR 5,5 million to a project to be carried out by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support hosts and all those involved in providing private accommodation to displaced people, putting together good practices for future needs; takes note that, in 2022, in the context of financing Ukraine, the Commission adopted decisions authorising the use of the funding not linked to costs amounting to EUR 248 million (May 2022) and EUR 137 million (August 2022), as well as for smaller grants, safe homes and psychosocial support amounting to EUR 15 million;

Or. en

Amendment 224

Dominique Bilde, Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 113 – subparagraph 1 (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

calls for an end to the funding of NGOs undertaking search and rescue operations, which contribute to illegal

immigration towards European countries and facilitate people-smuggling; stresses the importance of providing adequate funding to build physical barriers along the European Union's external borders in order to prevent migrants from entering illegally; furthermore, asks the Commission to actively help Member States relocate the entire asylum procedure and to give them the means to do so;

Or. fr

Amendment 225

Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi, Dominique Bilde

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 113 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

113 a. Highlights that 331 553 illegal border crossings into the EU were registered in 2022, confirming the raise of 66% comparing to the year of 2021;

Or. en

Amendment 226

Sabrina Pignedoli

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 114

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

114. Welcomes that the participation of SMEs in the EDF (in particular the cross-border participation of SMEs in industrial consortia) is being facilitated through targeted EDF calls, financial bonuses, specific award criteria, and the use of SCOs to decrease the administrative burden; notes that in the 2022 EDF calls, 38,2 % of the participating entities were

deleted

SMEs, and 20 % of the total funding available through these calls will be for SMEs (EUR 166 million);

Or. it

Amendment 227

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

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 114**

Motion for a resolution

114. Welcomes that the participation of SMEs in the EDF (in particular the cross-border participation of SMEs in industrial consortia) is being facilitated through targeted EDF calls, financial bonuses, specific award criteria, and the use of SCOs to decrease the administrative burden; notes that in the 2022 EDF calls, 38,2 % of the participating entities were SMEs, and 20 % of the total funding available through these calls will be for SMEs (EUR 166 million);

Amendment

114. Welcomes that the participation of SMEs in the EDF (***European Defence Fund***) (in particular the cross-border participation of SMEs in industrial consortia) is being facilitated through targeted EDF calls, financial bonuses, specific award criteria, and the use of SCOs to decrease the administrative burden; notes that in the 2022 EDF calls, 38,2 % of the participating entities were SMEs, and 20 % of the total funding available through these calls will be for SMEs (EUR 166 million);

Or. en

**Amendment 228
Sabrina Pignedoli**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 115**

Motion for a resolution

115. Recalls that the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) was a precursor programme of the EDF with a budget of EUR 90 million that funded 18 research projects selected following calls for proposals in the years 2017 to 2019; notes with concern that the Court, in its

Amendment

deleted

Special Report 10/2023 ‘The Preparatory action on defence research’, observes that the Union still lacks a long-term strategy for the projects under the EDF, particularly in terms of impact, additional research, development, manufacturing, procurement, and other aspects; welcomes that the Commission has accepted all of the Court’s recommendations;

Or. it

Amendment 229
Sabrina Pignedoli

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 116

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

116. Notes the Court’s observations in its Special Report 10/2023 regarding the limited availability of human resources at the Commission and the subsequent risk for the EDF; notes that, as a result of security issues, the number of staff needed to manage defence projects is higher than for other projects; notes that the ever-growing number of proposals to evaluate and projects to manage puts considerable pressure on human resources and creates challenges in terms of recruiting qualified and suitably experienced staff;

deleted

Or. it

Amendment 230
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 117 – point -i (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(-i) develop a longer-term strategy for the EDF building on the experience with

Or. en

Amendment 231

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 117 – point i a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i a) focus its controls on expenditure found by the Court to be highly affected by eligibility and procurement issues in 2022 and asks the Court to expand a sample of audited transactions to be able to provide an estimate of the error rate;

Or. en

Amendment 232

Dominique Bilde, Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 118 – subparagraph 1 (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

stresses that any development aid granted to third countries is strictly conditional upon the effective implementation of return and readmission agreements;

Or. fr

Amendment 233

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 119

Motion for a resolution

119. Notes that the Court examined a sample of 72 transactions which is not representative enough of the spending under this MFF heading and, therefore, cannot provide an estimate of the error rate; notes that the Court's audit results show that this is a high-risk area (34 out of 72 transactions audited, i.e. 47 %, were affected by errors); notes that the Court found 25 errors that had a financial impact on the Union budget, relating to ineligible costs, absence of supporting documents, public procurement and expenditure not incurred;

Amendment

119. Notes that the Court examined a sample of 72 transactions which is not representative enough of the spending under this MFF heading and, therefore, cannot provide an estimate of the error rate; notes that the Court's audit results show that this is a high-risk area (34 out of 72 transactions audited, i.e. 47 %, were affected by errors); notes that the Court found 25 errors that had a financial impact on the Union budget, relating to ineligible costs, absence of supporting documents, public procurement and expenditure not incurred, ***areas that could point to risks of reliable functioning of the national authorities' control mechanism or even the administrative or political willingness to properly execute the EU financial rules;***

Or. en

Amendment 234 **Luke Ming Flanagan**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 119**

Motion for a resolution

119. Notes that the Court examined a sample of 72 transactions which is not representative enough of the spending under this MFF heading and, therefore, cannot provide an estimate of the error rate; ***notes*** that the Court's audit results show that this is a high-risk area (34 out of 72 transactions audited, i.e. 47 %, were affected by errors); notes that the Court found 25 errors that had a financial impact on the Union budget, relating to ineligible costs, absence of supporting documents, public procurement and expenditure not incurred;

Amendment

119. Notes that the Court examined a sample of 72 transactions which is not representative enough of the spending under this MFF heading and, therefore, cannot provide an estimate of the error rate; ***considering*** that the Court's audit results show that this is a high-risk area (34 out of 72 transactions audited, i.e. 47 %, were affected by errors) ***invites the Court to provide a clear estimation of the error rate for this chapter;*** notes that the Court found 25 errors that had a financial impact on the Union budget, relating to ineligible costs, absence of supporting documents, public procurement and expenditure not incurred;

Amendment 235

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 122

Motion for a resolution

122. ***Welcomes*** that the Commission implemented the Court's recommendations to disclose the limitations of the RER study in DG NEAR's AARs since 2021, to strengthen checks by identifying and preventing recurrent errors, and for DG NEAR to establish obligations for the RER study contractor to report to the Commission any suspected fraud against the Union budget detected during its work on the RER study;

Amendment

122. ***Notes*** that the Commission implemented the Court's recommendations to disclose the limitations of the RER study in DG NEAR's AARs since 2021, to strengthen checks by identifying and preventing recurrent errors, and for DG NEAR to establish obligations for the RER study contractor to report to the Commission any suspected fraud against the Union budget detected during its work on the RER study;

Or. en

Amendment 236

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 123

Motion for a resolution

123. Notes with concern that the AARs of DG NEAR and the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) reported difficulties in the implementation of the new operational information system OPSYS, which was at times unstable, failing to meet expectations, and requiring frequent intervention from DG DIGIT support teams, leading to it being identified as a critical risk in DG NEAR's risk assessment exercise;

Amendment

123. Notes with concern that the AARs of DG NEAR and the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) reported difficulties in the implementation of the new operational information system OPSYS, which was at times unstable, failing to meet expectations, and requiring frequent intervention from DG DIGIT support teams, leading to it being identified as a critical risk in DG NEAR's risk assessment exercise; ***notes the actions implemented by the Commission's services to improve the situation and its***

opinion that these difficulties did not result in unreliable data or incomplete management information;

Or. en

Amendment 237

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 124 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

124 a. Recognises the importance of NGOs in ensuring that the EU, as the largest donor of development aid in the world, continues to contribute to promoting stability and peace, overcoming poverty and advancing sustainable development; commends in particular the activity of NGOs in areas of conflict in ensuring that humanitarian aid reaches the civilian population in a rapid and effective manner; takes note of the control and audit, transparency and accountability requirements applicable to all EU funding and different stakeholders, but considers that there is always room for improvement, particularly by making the most of digitalisation;

Or. en

Amendment 238

Dominique Bilde, Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 125

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

125. Welcomes the implementation by the Commission of several mechanisms to mitigate risks and safeguard the proper use

125. Welcomes the implementation by the Commission of several mechanisms to mitigate risks and safeguard the proper use

of Union funds spent in unstable or conflict zones; *notes that the Commission systematically assesses corruption risks in partner countries and uses an array of tools to mitigate them, at the same time applies conditions and performance indicators to promote fiscal transparency and accountability through its budget support; welcomes the fact that, according to World Bank data, countries benefiting from Union budget support have improved in the control of corruption over time;*

of Union funds spent in unstable or conflict zones; *expresses its shock at the documented revelations concerning EU funding going to Hamas and more specifically to the University of Gaza, particularly in the light of recent events, and calls for this to end immediately and for EU funding to be transparent and accountable; noting that the European Union is one of the largest donors to UNRWA, which has recently been the subject of numerous allegations regarding the involvement of UNRWA staff in the terrorist attacks in Israel of 7 October 2023; following the call for transparency and decisive action by Commission, and the example of many Member States, calls for the suspension of EU funding to UNRWA; regrets the fact that the Commission is failing to assess corruption risks in partner countries properly and does not use an array of tools to mitigate those risks, and also regrets the fact that, as part of its budget support, the Commission does not apply real conditions and performance indicators to promote fiscal transparency and accountability;*

Or. fr

Amendment 239

Joachim Kuhs, Matteo Adinolfi, Dominique Bilde

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 125

Motion for a resolution

125. Welcomes the implementation by the Commission of several mechanisms to mitigate risks and safeguard the proper use of Union funds spent in unstable or conflict zones; notes that the Commission systematically assesses corruption risks in partner countries and uses an array of tools to mitigate them, at the same time applies conditions and performance indicators to

Amendment

125. Welcomes the implementation by the Commission of several mechanisms to mitigate risks and safeguard the proper use of Union funds spent in unstable or conflict zones; notes that the Commission systematically assesses corruption risks in partner countries and uses an array of tools to mitigate them, at the same time applies conditions and performance indicators to

promote fiscal transparency and accountability through its budget support; welcomes the fact that, according to World Bank data, countries benefiting from Union budget support have improved in the control of corruption over time;

promote fiscal transparency and accountability through its budget support; ***reminds that legal provisions leave broad scope for interpretation and therefore the Commission has considerable flexibility in deciding whether these general conditions have been met; highlights that the ECA's regularity audit cannot cover what happens beyond the moment the Commission pays budget support to the recipient country, since these funds then merge with that country's own budget resources;*** welcomes the fact that, according to World Bank data, countries benefiting from Union budget support have improved in the control of corruption over time;

Or. en

Amendment 240
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 126

Motion for a resolution

126. Notes with concern that the Court, in its Special Report 14/2023 “Programming the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe” found that, although the Commission and the EEAS had merged funding into a single instrument, the NDICI-Global Europe Instrument, which covers more than 70 % of the Union funding allocated for external action in the 2021-2027 financing period, they followed two different fund allocation methodologies for Neighbourhood and non-Neighbourhood countries, and that the multiannual indicative programmes did not ensure that the selected sectors of intervention were those in which Union funding could achieve **an** impact;

Amendment

126. Notes with concern that the Court, in its Special Report 14/2023 “Programming the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe” found that, although the Commission and the EEAS had merged funding into a single instrument, the NDICI-Global Europe Instrument, which covers more than 70 % of the Union funding allocated for external action in the 2021-2027 financing period, they followed two different fund allocation methodologies for Neighbourhood and non-Neighbourhood countries, and that the multiannual indicative programmes did not ensure that the selected sectors of intervention were those in which Union funding could achieve **a high** impact;

Or. en

Amendment 241

Ilana Cicurel, Frédérique Ries

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 127

Motion for a resolution

127. **Notes** that, following the despicable terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023, the Commission announced on 9 October 2023 its decision to review the Union's assistance for Palestine; **welcomes** that the review, finalised on 21 November 2023, has shown that the Commission has ex-ante and ex-post controls, and a system of safeguards in placethat work well and that no evidence has been found to date that money has been diverted for unintended purposes; highlights, furthermore, that according to the Commission's reply, the current rules in tender procedures and calls for proposals "make the participation of entities, individuals or groups affiliated with terrorist organisations categorically incompatible with any Union funding";

Amendment

127. **Stresses** that, following the despicable terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023, the Commission announced on 9 October 2023 its decision to review the Union's assistance for Palestine; **notes** that the review, finalised on 21 November 2023, has shown that the Commission has ex-ante and ex-post controls, and a system of safeguards in placethat work well and that no evidence has been found to date that money has been diverted for unintended purposes; **insists on the need for European funds to go only to beneficiaries that respect the fundamental values of the EU; recalls in this regard the Parliament's report 2023/2122 INI adopted the 17 January 2024 on transparency and accountability of non-governmental organisations funded from the EU budget calling for a reinforcement of the Commission control mechanisms and the development of a harmonised monitoring system aimed at tracking EU funds up to final beneficiaries**; highlights, furthermore, that according to the Commission's reply, the current rules in tender procedures and calls for proposals "make the participation of entities, individuals or groups affiliated with terrorist organisations categorically incompatible with any Union funding"; **recalls the essential role of humanitarian aid given to the Palestinian refugees throughout the Middle East ; is however appalled by the information made public by UNRWA on 26 January, according to which 12 employees are suspected of involvement in the Hamas terrorist attacks; notes that they have been**

dismissed and that an investigation has been launched and entrusted to a UN body; expects that UNRWA carries out an audit of the Agency to be conducted by EU appointed independent external experts; recalls in this context that 9 Member States have decided to temporarily suspend their financial contribution to UNRWA pending the outcome of the investigation; calls for full transparency regarding the conclusions of these investigations;

Or. en

Amendment 242

David Lega, Miriam Lexmann, Petras Auštrevičius, Lukas Mandl, Frédérique Ries, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Niclas Herbst, Andrey Kovatchev

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 127

Motion for a resolution

127. *Notes that, following the despicable terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023, the Commission announced on 9 October 2023 its decision to review the Union's assistance for Palestine; welcomes that the review, finalised on 21 November 2023, has shown that the Commission has ex-ante and ex-post controls, and a system of safeguards in place that work well and that no evidence has been found to date that money has been diverted for unintended purposes; highlights, furthermore, that according to the Commission's reply, the current rules in tender procedures and calls for proposals "make the participation of entities, individuals or groups affiliated with terrorist organisations categorically incompatible with any Union funding";*

Amendment

127. *Reaffirms its condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the despicable terrorist attacks committed by the terrorist group Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023; underlines that the Hamas terrorists who perpetrated the attack on Israel are graduates of the Palestinian education system, which is largely financed by the EU; points out, again, the incitement to violence, glorification of terrorism, and antisemitism taught in Palestinian schools via Palestinian Authority textbooks and additional material developed by the UNRWA, which are taught in both UNRWA schools and Hamas-run schools; expresses extreme worry about the credible reports regarding UNRWA staffers praising, facilitating or even assisting Hamas on 7 October; calls on the Commission to immediately stop EU funding to UNRWA, and demands that the humanitarian aid to Palestine is redirected to other organisations, as EU aid should under no circumstances -*

directly or indirectly - be financing terrorism; stresses that the EU should help the Palestinian civilian population and should foster peace in the region, hence it should not support any organisation or entity connected to Hamas or any other terror organisation; is ashamed of the Commissions own internal review, finalised on 21 November 2023, which has shown that the Commission has ex-ante and ex-post controls, and a system of safeguards in place that work well and that no evidence has been found to date that money has been diverted for unintended purposes; highlights, furthermore, that according to the Commission’s reply, the current rules in tender procedures and calls for proposals “make the participation of entities, individuals or groups affiliated with terrorist organisations categorically incompatible with any Union funding”;

Or. en

Amendment 243
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 127

Motion for a resolution

127. Notes that, following the despicable terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023, the Commission announced on 9 October 2023 its decision to review the Union’s assistance for Palestine; *welcomes that the review, finalised on 21 November 2023, has shown that the Commission has ex-ante and ex-post controls, and a system of safeguards in place that work well and that no evidence has been found to date that money has been diverted for unintended purposes; highlights, furthermore, that according to the Commission’s reply, the current rules in tender procedures and calls for proposals*

Amendment

127. Notes that, following the despicable terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023, the Commission announced on 9 October 2023 its decision to review the Union’s assistance for Palestine; *is extremely concerned about reports that EU taxpayers’ money and funds of other donors were misused by Hamas, instead of benefitting the Palestinian civilian population; is shocked about UN statements 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 by*

“make the participation of entities, individuals or groups affiliated with terrorist organisations categorically incompatible with any Union funding”;

terrorist organisations; 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 244
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 127

Motion for a resolution

127. Notes that, following the despicable terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023, the Commission announced on 9 October 2023 its decision to review the Union’s assistance for Palestine; welcomes that the review, finalised on 21 November 2023, has shown that the Commission ***has*** ex-ante and ex-post controls, ***and a system of*** safeguards in ***placethat work well*** and that no evidence has been found to date that money has been diverted for unintended purposes; highlights, furthermore, that according to the Commission’s reply, the current rules in tender procedures and calls for proposals “make the participation of entities, individuals or groups affiliated with terrorist organisations categorically

Amendment

127. Notes that, following the despicable terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023, the Commission announced on 9 October 2023 its decision to review the Union’s assistance for Palestine; welcomes that the review, finalised on 21 November 2023, has shown that the Commission ***applies adequate*** ex-ante and ex-post controls, ***that*** safeguards in ***place are effective*** and that no evidence has been found to date that money has been diverted for unintended purposes; highlights, furthermore, that according to the Commission’s reply, the current rules in tender procedures and calls for proposals “make the participation of entities, individuals or groups affiliated with terrorist organisations categorically

incompatible with any Union funding”;

incompatible with any Union funding”;

Or. en

Amendment 245

Ilana Cicurel, Olivier Chastel, Frédérique Ries

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 127 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

127 a. Recalls the EU strategy to promote and ensure quality education for children across the world, especially when specific EU financial support is provided; condemns the problematic and hateful contents encouraging violence, spreading antisemitism and inciting to hatred in Palestinian school textbooks drafted by EU funded civil servants as well as in supplementary educational materials developed by UNRWA staff and taught in its schools; reaffirms in the context of the despicable terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas on 7 October 2023, that education to hatred have direct and dramatic consequences on the security of Israelis as well as on the perspectives of a better future for young Palestinians; therefore requests the Commission to closely scrutinise that no funds are allocated or linked directly or indirectly to the use of such educational materials and that the Palestinian Authority (PA) modifies the full curriculum expeditiously as repeatedly requested in the discharge decisions in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial years 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021; stresses that financial support from the Union to the Palestinian Authority in the area of education shall be provided on the condition of a national Palestinian curriculum, with reference textbooks and educational material, that is free from anti-Semitic contents and incitement to

violence and complies with quality education ; calls in that regard the Commission and Member States to provide expertise, share knowledge, guidance and technical support to empower Palestinian teachers, trainers and experts towards the implementation of education that fully complies with UNESCO standards;

Or. en

Amendment 246

Niclas Herbst

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 127 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

127 a. Deplores the incitement to violence, eulogizing of terrorists, anti-Semitism and hate speech taught in Palestinian textbooks and additional teaching materials developed by UNRWA, taught in Palestinian schools which helped enable the dreadful terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas on Oct 7th. Stresses with great concern that the perpetrators of the Hamas attack on Israel included UNRWA employees and graduates of Palestinian schools, which utilize, teach and implement textbooks and teaching materials that are drafted by civil servants whose salaries are paid for by the EU; Stresses and reiterates the EP's position that textbooks drafted by Union funds, must be made conditional on full compliance with UNESCO standards of peace and tolerance; as already was decided upon by the EP in its 2023 recommendation on relations with the Palestinian Authority, and as repeatedly requested in its latest adopted resolutions on Prospects for the Two-State Solution, and in its discharge procedures adopted in 2023, 2022, 2021, and 2020;

Amendment 247
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 127 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

127 a. Is concerned by the serious allegations made by Israel that 12 employees of UNRWA might have participated in the despicable terrorist attacks in October 2023; notes that the Agency immediately terminated their contracts and welcomes the launch of an UN investigation; notes that the allegations involve 12 out of 13 000 local staff members of UNRWA in Gaza alone, who are themselves victims of the ongoing humanitarian tragedy while playing a critical role in distributing food, water, and medicine; notes that UNRWA has developed a specific framework to ensure the neutrality and independence of its operations in line with the UN standards, which includes vetting and due diligence measures, and shares the list of all its staff with the host countries, including Israel, on an annual basis;

Or. en

Amendment 248
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 127 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

127 b. Highlights that UNRWA is the backbone of the UN humanitarian response in Gaza and is the primary organization providing life-saving

assistance to over 2.2 million people; is worried that UNRWA's defunding would not only threaten the humanitarian response in Gaza, but would also jeopardize the regional stability as the Agency provides essential services such as education and healthcare to some 5,9 million Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon; recalls that the Union is one of the largest donors of humanitarian and development aid to Palestinians in Gaza and welcomes the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs confirmation that EU funding to UNRWA has not been suspended, and supports his stance that "defunding UNRWA would be both disproportionate and dangerous";

Or. en

Amendment 249
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 127 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

127 d. Recalls that the findings of the study commissioned by the Commission to Georg Eckert Institut on the Palestinian Textbooks revealed a complex picture where the textbooks (i) adhere to UNESCO standards and adopt criteria that are prominent in international education discourse, including a strong focus on human rights, (ii) express a narrative of resistance within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and (iii) display an antagonism towards Israel; notes that the Union does not fund the Palestinian Textbooks and that neither are they the responsibility of UNRWA, which works to deliver quality education with an emphasis on fostering a human rights culture, even in challenging times;

Amendment 250**Cristian Terheş****Motion for a resolution****Paragraph 127 a (new)***Motion for a resolution**Amendment*

127 a. Unequivocally denounces the antisemitic hate speech and incitement to violence in Palestinian school textbooks used by UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority which have still not been removed; underlines that education and pupils' access to peaceful and unbiased textbooks is essential, especially in the context of the rising implication of teenagers in terrorist attacks; Strongly condemning the use of such materials, which contribute to an environment of intolerance and extremism, and noting with deep concern that these materials may have played a role in facilitating the Hamas terror attack on Israel on October 7th, 2023, in which several perpetrators were reportedly UNRWA employees and graduates of Palestinian schools; stresses that financial support from the Union to the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA in the area of education shall be provided on the condition of removing all antisemitic references and examples that incite hatred and violence from the Palestinian curriculum with full adherence to UNESCO standards of peace and tolerance in education, as already was decided upon by the EP in its 2023 recommendation on relations with the Palestinian Authority, and as repeatedly requested in the resolutions accompanying the discharge decisions in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial years 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021; as well as in its latest adopted resolution on Prospects for the Two-State

Solution;

Or. en

Amendment 251

Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 127 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

127 b. Highlights that according to the answers of commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement for the 2021 Discharge Report the ongoing development portfolio for the Palestinians, under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Regulation, is EUR 681 million between 2021 and 2023, for the Palestinian Authority, UNRWA and development projects in the West Bank and Gaza; Notes that about one third of the funding benefitted projects in Gaza and two third in the West Bank; Underlines that the EU provided EUR 271 million to UNRWA for the provision of social services to the Palestinian refugees and in addition, the EU provided support to the Palestinian Authority's recurrent expenditures, mainly the salaries and pensions of civil servants, the social allowances paid through the cash transfer programme and part of the costs of referrals to the East Jerusalem Hospitals through the PEGASE mechanism; Notes with concern that there is no real control over these fundings;

Or. en

Amendment 252

Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 127 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

127 c. Underlines that the ECA AR 2022 highlights an example of ineligible expenditure included in the cost claim concerning a project in Palestine on the sustainable use of natural resources to support Palestine's transition to a green economy with an incentive component that was intended to support SMEs in the form of grants for 'green' projects in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy and pollution abatement; Underlines that 190.500 Euros had been approved of and paid to a development agency, with the task to monitor the implementation of the project by the final beneficiary, but the project was not realized^{11a};

11a

/https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/AR-2022/AR-2022_EN.pdf

Or. en

Amendment 253
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 127 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

127 a. Expresses deep concern over the recent announcement by some countries of suspension of funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA); calls for increased and sustained funding in recognition of the agency's crucial role in the humanitarian response in Gaza, and to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of vital services to a vulnerable population in the Middle

East;

Or. en

Amendment 254
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 127 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

127 c. Is concerned about the destruction and confiscation of Union-funded projects in the West Bank and notes that in 2022, 101 structures funded by the EU or EU Member States were demolished or seized by Israel with a value at EUR 337 019, representing the third highest financial injury since 2016; recalls that representatives of EU institutions, concerned Member States and other donors have requested on several occasions the return or compensation for EU-funded assets demolished, dismantled or confiscated; recalls the position of the Council expressing its commitment to ensure that all agreements between Israel and the Union must unequivocally and explicitly indicate the inapplicability to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, as well as to continue the effective implementation of existing Union law and bilateral arrangements applicable to settlement products;

Or. en

Amendment 255
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 128 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128 a. Notes the Reform Growth Plan for the Western Balkans which was proposed by the Commission to further support convergence efforts in the region; stresses the need for a more clarity on the use of different financial instruments toward the region, primarily among IPA III, Economic and Investment Plan, and the Reform Growth Plan; urges the Commission to provide the sub-national level to have more direct access to EU funds;

Or. en

Amendment 256

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 128 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128 a. Welcomes that the Ukraine Facility lays out provisions to ensure effective controls; recalls that on 7 April 2022, the Parliament called for the confiscation of Russian assets owned by Russian individuals and entities, frozen as a result of EU restrictive measures, in order to finance Ukraine's reconstruction;

Or. en

Amendment 257

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 128 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

128 b. Welcomes the Global Gateway

strategy as a concerted EU response to global challenges bringing together public and private investment; notes that 2022 was the first full year of the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy; stresses the need for more transparency, accountability and regular assessments of the Global Gateway implementation as well as for enhanced Parliament's involvement in respect of its democratic scrutiny role;

Or. en

Amendment 258
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 130 – point ii

Motion for a resolution

(ii) continue ensuring that all contracts involving Union funding fully respect applicable Union legislation, including accountability, transparency and protection of Union funds; make the participation of entities, individuals or groups affiliated with terrorist organisations categorically incompatible with any Union funding; and ensure that strict monitoring and control mechanisms make sure that all individuals involved in Union funded actions exclusively pursue the objectives and activities approved for Union funding;

Amendment

(ii) continue ensuring that all contracts involving Union funding fully respect applicable Union legislation, including accountability, transparency and protection of Union funds; make the participation of entities, individuals or groups affiliated with terrorist organisations categorically incompatible with any Union funding; and ensure that strict monitoring and control mechanisms make sure that all individuals involved in Union funded actions exclusively pursue the objectives and activities approved for Union funding, *where necessary, request the restitution, or compensation for EU-funded assets that have been demolished, dismantled or confiscated;*

Or. en

Amendment 259
Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 130 – point ii

Motion for a resolution

(ii) continue ensuring that all contracts involving Union funding fully respect applicable Union legislation, including accountability, transparency and protection of Union funds; make the participation of entities, individuals or groups affiliated with terrorist organisations categorically incompatible with any Union funding; and ensure that strict monitoring and control mechanisms make sure that all individuals involved in Union funded actions exclusively pursue the objectives and activities approved for Union funding;

Amendment

(ii) continue ensuring that all contracts involving Union funding fully respect applicable ***UE values***, Union legislation, including accountability, transparency and protection of Union funds; make the participation of entities, ***NGOs***, individuals or groups affiliated with terrorist organisations ***or promoting hate speech and discrimination*** categorically incompatible with any Union funding; and ensure that strict monitoring and ***ex ante and ex post*** control mechanisms make sure that all individuals involved in Union funded actions exclusively pursue the ***EU*** objectives and activities approved for Union funding;

Or. en

Amendment 260
Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 130 – point ii a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(ii a) to intensify its communication with international organizations in order to provide the ECA with complete, unlimited and timely access to documents necessary to carry out its task in accordance with the TFEU, and not just in read-only format;

Or. en

Amendment 261
Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Ilana Cicurel, Michal Wieszik, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 130 – point iii

Motion for a resolution

(iii) put in place adequate control measures in unstable or conflict zones to ensure the proper control of spending of Union funds;

Amendment

(iii) put in place adequate ***ex ante and ex post*** control measures in unstable or conflict zones to ensure the proper control of spending of Union funds ***and ways to recover the EU funds***;

Or. en

Amendment 262
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 130 – point iii a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(iii a) ensures the proper, timely and thorough audit, including with the inclusion of the EPPO and European Court of Auditors, of all funds provided under the Ukraine Facility and the upcoming Western Balkans facility;

Or. en

Amendment 263
Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 130 – point iii a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(iii a) closely scrutinise and monitor that the Palestinian Authority (PA) modifies the full curriculum expeditiously;

Or. en

Amendment 264
Sabrina Pignedoli

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 131 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

131a. Repeats its call for a reduction in the salaries paid to European Commissioners, which constitute an absurd political privilege at a time when EU citizens are being asked to make sacrifices in the name of budgetary constraint;

Or. it

Amendment 265
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 136 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

136 a. Notes the adoption and implementation of an action plan to increase attractiveness of careers in Luxembourg; takes note of the Commission's considerations against introducing a correction coefficient for Luxembourg at this stage in its report assessing the evolution of purchasing power of remuneration and pensions of Union officials (COM(2022) 180 final); recalls its reiterated requests to the Commission to find ways to mitigate the growing problem of the purchase power disparity suffered by the staff members posted to Luxembourg, which is mainly due to the cost of living;

Or. en

Amendment 266

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 137 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

137 a. Recalls the Court's conclusion in its Special report 13/2019 that "any unethical behaviour by staff and Members of EU institutions and bodies is unacceptable and, even if it is only alleged, attracts high levels of public interest and reduces trust in the EU"; regrets the two cases of potential conflicts of interests involving high-ranked officials in DG MOVE for missions and DG NEAR for ownership reported by the press in 2022; takes note that the Commission implements effective internal control system in matters of ethics management according to the Court in its 2019 report and the European Ombudsman in its decision on the revolving doors inquiry; points out that unethical behaviour also has a budgetary cost for the institution concerned and reiterates its position and expectations of the EU's Ethics Body;

Or. en

Amendment 267
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 138

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

138. Notes that the new central corporate financial system of the Commission, SUMMA, was planned to go into production by the end of 2023 and had progressed in line with the objective of going live at the beginning of 2024; **notes** that the deadline for implementing the new accounting system was extended by one

138. Notes that the new central corporate financial system of the Commission, SUMMA, was planned to go into production by the end of 2023 and had progressed in line with the objective of going live at the beginning of 2024; **regrets** that the deadline for implementing the new accounting system was extended by one

year because implementing the connections of operational programmes (shared management, e-grants, e-procurement, staff payments) with SUMMA simultaneously has proven to be a more complex exercise than expected; stresses with concern that the cost of the SUMMA programme since its inception at the beginning of 2018 until the end of 2022 was around EUR 95 million and that its timeline extension will require additional resources in 2024, estimated at around EUR 7 million euro;

year because implementing the connections of operational programmes (shared management, e-grants, e-procurement, staff payments) with SUMMA simultaneously has proven to be a more complex exercise than expected; stresses with concern that the cost of the SUMMA programme since its inception at the beginning of 2018 until the end of 2022 was around EUR 95 million and that its timeline extension will require additional resources in 2024, estimated at around EUR 7 million euro;

Or. en

Amendment 268
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 138 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

138 a. Notes the adoption on 5 April 2022 of the ‘Communication on greening the Commission’, which aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2030, including an action plan to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions; notes the Commission intends to achieve these objectives by acquiring more energy efficient and greener buildings, shifting to dynamic collaborative workspaces and reducing the number of offices, and reiterates its warning that staff wellbeing and satisfaction should be taken into account in all future decisions in this regard;

Or. en

Amendment 269
Sabrina Pignedoli

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 139 a (new)

139a. Condemns the property transaction, of a value of EUR 1 billion, to rent office space in the Brussels Nord district. Views this as yet another case of waste by the EU and calls for termination of the negotiations between the Commission and the Belgian Government.

Or. it

Amendment 270
Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 139 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

139 a. Recalls that the European Parliament resolution of 13 July 2023 on public access to documents – annual report for the years 2019-2021 ^{3a} noted with great concern that, in 2021, following a request for public access to text messages between the Commission's President and the CEO of a pharmaceutical company regarding the Commission's purchase of COVID-19 vaccines, the Commission refused to acknowledge that such text messages fall within the definition of a 'document' under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001; recalls that registering a document is a consequence of the existence of a document and not a prerequisite for its existence; takes note of the Ombudsman's finding of maladministration by the Commission in this case ^{4a}; is concerned about the fact that the Commission has failed to follow up on the Ombudsman's recommendation following her inquiry to conduct another search for relevant text messages; expresses deep concern about the growing distance between citizens and the EU institutions, which this situation

has caused;

3a

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0295_EN.html

4a

<https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/case/en/59777>

Or. en

Amendment 271
Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 139 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

139 b. Recalls that the European Parliament resolution of 13 July 2023 on public access to documents – annual report for the years 2019-2021 ^{2a} underlined that the Commission has been deleting documents, including minutes from closed meetings, reports and internal documents; expresses its concern about the fact that this practice has led to the disappearance of important correspondence relevant to policy decisions and spending of public money;

2a

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0295_EN.html

Or. en

Amendment 272
Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 139 c (new)

139 c. Recalls that the European Parliament resolution of 13 July 2023 on public access to documents – annual report for the years 2019-2021^{15a} underlined that the Commission's internal policy is, in effect, not to register text messages, as it argues that text messages are 'short-lived documents' in nature and 'are not meant to contain important information relating to policies, activities and decisions of the Commission'; points out, however, that in practice, text messages are being used for this purpose;

^{15a}

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0295_EN.html

Or. en

Amendment 273
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 140

Motion for a resolution

140. Notes with satisfaction that the Court, in its Annual Report on the accounts for **he** European Schools for the 2022 financial year, found no material errors in the final consolidated annual accounts of the European Schools for 2022; welcomes further improvements highlighted by the Court in the quality of the final individual and consolidated accounts compared to previous years;

Amendment

140. Notes with satisfaction that the Court, in its Annual Report on the accounts for **the** European Schools for the 2022 financial year, found no material errors in the final consolidated annual accounts of the European Schools for 2022; welcomes further improvements highlighted by the Court in the quality of the final individual and consolidated accounts compared to previous years;

Or. en

Amendment 274

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 144 – point iv a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(iv a) address without further delay and in an efficient way the challenges faced by staff members who are assigned to and reside in Luxembourg;

Or. en

Amendment 275

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 145 – introductory part

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

145. Furthermore, calls on the Commission ***and*** the European Schools to:

145. Furthermore, calls on the Commission ***to continue to support*** the European Schools to:

Or. en

Amendment 276

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 145 – point iii

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(iii) feature the financial contributions from the Union to the European Schools as a separate budget line, in future Union budgets, in order to increase transparency, ensure strategic planning and facilitate parliamentary scrutiny under the discharge procedure;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 277

Ilana Cicurel, Olivier Chastel

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 145 – point iii a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(iii a) perform an in-depth review under an independent chairperson of the governance and management structures across the System of European Schools and involve the Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sports and Culture of the Commission;

Or. en

Amendment 278

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 146

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

146. Recalls that the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 abruptly changed the economic and social outlook of the Union and led to a unified effort to launch the recovery package for Europe, consisting of the 2021-2027 MFF and NGEU, of which the cornerstone is the RRF; recalls that the objective of the RRF is to provide Member States with financial support to mitigate the serious economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient, inclusive and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions; recalls that the RRF is an innovative, **temporary** instrument **based on performance, which** means that payments are linked to the satisfactory

146. Recalls that the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 abruptly changed the economic and social outlook of the Union and led to a unified effort to launch the recovery package for Europe, consisting of the 2021-2027 MFF and NGEU, of which the cornerstone is the RRF; recalls that the objective of the RRF is to provide Member States with financial support to mitigate the serious economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient, inclusive and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions; recalls that the RRF is an innovative instrument **where** means that payments are linked to the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets

fulfilment of milestones and targets (M&Ts) reflecting progress on reforms and investments included in the national recovery and resilience plans (RRPs), which are set in a Council Implementation Decision;

(M&Ts) reflecting progress on reforms and investments included in the national recovery and resilience plans (RRPs), which are set in a Council Implementation Decision;

Or. en

Amendment 279
Sabrina Pignedoli

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 147 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

147a. Recalls that transparency and accountability in the implementation of the EU Budget is key; stresses in this context the need for further efforts, both from the Commission and the Member States, to ensure better transparency of the use of EU taxpayers' money;

Or. it

Amendment 280
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 148

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

148. Notes that the REPowerEU Plan was launched in May 2022 to help the Union to reduce its dependency on Russian fossil fuels by saving energy, producing clean energy and diversifying its energy supplies, ***which is aligned with the green transition***; notes that the amendments introduced to Regulation (EU) 2021/241 ('the RRF Regulation')¹¹ by Regulation (EU) 2023/435 on REPower EU¹² added

148. Notes that the REPowerEU Plan was launched in May 2022 to help the Union to reduce its dependency on Russian fossil fuels by saving energy, producing clean energy and diversifying its energy supplies; notes that the amendments introduced to Regulation (EU) 2021/241 ('the RRF Regulation')¹¹ by Regulation (EU) 2023/435 on REPower EU¹² added additional financing and priorities to the

additional financing and priorities to the RRF; notes that all 27 Member States have submitted modified RRP to include REPowerEU chapters, but also to request additional loan support, to make adjustments following the update of the maximum financial contribution or to make amendments due to objective circumstances, as enabled by the RRF Regulation; notes that the revision of the RRP are subject to the same assessment criteria as the original plans, together with specific requirements applicable to the REPowerEU chapters;

¹¹ OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17–75

¹² OJ L 63, 28.2.2023, p. 1–27

RRF; notes that all 27 Member States have submitted modified RRP to include REPowerEU chapters, but also to request additional loan support, to make adjustments following the update of the maximum financial contribution or to make amendments due to objective circumstances, as enabled by the RRF Regulation; notes that the revision of the RRP are subject to the same assessment criteria as the original plans, together with specific requirements applicable to the REPowerEU chapters;

¹¹ OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17–75

¹² OJ L 63, 28.2.2023, p. 1–27

Or. en

Amendment 281

Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 149

Motion for a resolution

149. Recalls that, under NGEU, the Commission can raise up to EUR 806,9 billion between mid-2021 and 2026 through the issuance of EU-bonds; notes that in June 2022, the Commission announced a funding plan for the period June to end-December 2022 and raised an additional EUR 50 billion in long-term funding for NGEU, complemented by short-term EU-bills issuances, bringing the total outstanding amount of NGEU bonds to EUR 171 billion, of which EUR 36,5 were raised by issuing green bonds;

Amendment

149. Recalls that, under NGEU, the Commission can raise up to EUR 806,9 billion between mid-2021 and 2026 through the issuance of EU-bonds; notes that in June 2022, the Commission announced a funding plan for the period June to end-December 2022 and raised an additional EUR 50 billion in long-term funding for NGEU, complemented by short-term EU-bills issuances, bringing the total outstanding amount of NGEU bonds to EUR 171 billion, of which EUR 36,5 were raised by issuing green bonds; ***notes that this debt consists of borrowed amounts with different maturities, ranging from 1 year to more than 25 years; remarks that this means that even though repayment of NGEU debt will only start after 2030; notes with concern***

borrowed amounts need to be repaid and borrowing activities remain needed not only to raise new funds, but also to replace existing debt;

Or. en

Amendment 282

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 149 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

149 a. Welcomes the Commission's estimate that the full implementation of quantifiable milestones and targets up until the end of 2026 funded by NGEU Green Bonds, corresponding to 57% of the NGEU Green Bond eligible expenditure, can reduce GHG emissions by 44 million tonnes of CO2 per annum – equivalent to 1.2% of aggregate 2022 EU GHG emissions - and insists on proper implementation; stresses furthermore the importance that reforms and investments under the Recovery and Resilience Plans meet the climate targets of the regulation and fully respect the “do no significant harm” principle;

Or. en

Amendment 283

Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 150

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

150. Notes that, in 2020, an amount of EUR 14,9 billion was planned in the MFF 2021-2027 to cover the interest payments

150. Notes that, in 2020, an amount of EUR 14,9 billion was planned in the MFF 2021-2027 to cover the interest payments

for NGEU non-repayable support; is concerned about the impact of the higher interest rates on the purchasing power of the Union budget, with the interest rates on 10-year EU-Bonds increasing from 0,09 % in 2021 to 3,2 % in 2023; notes the Commission's statement that the Union will meet its obligations towards bondholders in all circumstances and its proposal for a technical modification to the MFF to optimise the budgetary treatment of NGEU borrowing costs;

for NGEU non-repayable support; is concerned about the impact of the higher interest rates on the purchasing power of the Union budget, with the interest rates on 10-year EU-Bonds increasing from 0,09 % in 2021 to 3,2 % in 2023; ***expresses concern about the large amount of money that the Commission is borrowing in order to pay for the Recovery and Resilience Facility, is concerned in particular about the strong rise in the interest rates ; regrets that the Commission did not borrow important parts of the money designated for the RRF directly after the agreement between Parliament and Council was concluded, and at a time when interest rates were much lower***; notes the Commission's statement that the Union will meet its obligations towards bondholders in all circumstances and its proposal for a technical modification to the MFF to optimise the budgetary treatment of NGEU borrowing costs; ***requests that the Commission provide more information to the European Parliament on how repayment will be made and from which institutions funds are being borrowed; emphasizes that this debt burdens the EU budget***;

Or. en

Amendment 284 **Monika Hohlmeier**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 151**

Motion for a resolution

151. ***Welcomes that the RRF expenditure in 2022 is legal and regular in all material aspects, except for the effects of the quantitative findings in 11 payments and the material error in 6 payments estimated by the Court, which are the basis for its qualified opinion concerning***

Amendment

151. ***Notes that the Court issued a qualified opinion on the legality and regularity of the RRF expenditure in 2022; is concerned that the Court identified that 11 out of the 13 RRF payments were affected by quantitative findings and that 6 of these payments were affected by***

the RRF expenditure; notes that *the nature of the RRF spending model relies on the judgements to be made by the Commission and thus*, the Court does not provide an error rate but estimates the minimum financial impact of its findings to be below, but close to the materiality threshold;

material error; *finds it worrisome that* the Court *considers the number of errors in* RRF expenditure *to be close to the materiality threshold*, notes that the Court does not provide an error rate but estimates the minimum financial impact of its findings to be below, but close to the materiality threshold;

Or. en

Amendment 285

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 151

Motion for a resolution

151. Welcomes that the RRF expenditure in 2022 is legal and regular in all material aspects, except for the effects of the quantitative findings in 11 payments and the material error in 6 payments estimated by the Court, which are the basis for its qualified opinion concerning the RRF expenditure; notes that the nature of the RRF spending model relies on the *judgements* to be made by the Commission and thus, the Court does not provide an error rate but estimates the minimum financial impact of its findings to be below, but close to the materiality threshold;

Amendment

151. Welcomes that the RRF expenditure in 2022 is legal and regular in all material aspects, except for the effects of the quantitative findings in 11 payments and the material error in 6 payments estimated by the Court, which are the basis for its qualified opinion concerning the RRF expenditure; notes that the nature of the RRF spending model relies on the *assessments* to be made by the Commission and thus, the Court does not provide an error rate but estimates the minimum financial impact of its findings to be below, but close to the materiality threshold;

Or. en

Amendment 286

Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 151 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

151 a. Reminds that RRF funds,

according to the RRF regulation (EU) 2021/241, article 5, paragraph 1, shall not be used to finance recurring budgetary expenditure; is particularly concerned about the Court's observation regarding one target which represents a substitution of recurring national budgetary expenditure; calls for adequate measures to be taken, including through a strict enforcement of the option of partial payments;

Or. en

Amendment 287
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 151 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

151 b. Further expects that actions are taken by the Commission to address concrete instances of reversal or milestones and targets in the RRP of some member states and takes note with concern about the reported cases of such reversals; urges the Commission to strictly apply the provisions of the Regulation and the adopted guidelines;

Or. en

Amendment 288
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 151 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

151 c. Is concerned about the Court's observation of persisting weaknesses in the set-up and functioning of member state control systems and urges the

Commission and national authorities to address them swiftly; recalls that such weaknesses put at risk the sound financial management of RRF funding; reminds the Commission and Member States that according to the RRF Regulation, the non-fulfilment of milestones or targets related to a Member State's audit and control system that were necessary for complying with Article 22 of the RRF Regulation may lead to the suspension of the full instalment and all future instalments; calls on an adequate and equal application of this provision for all member states;

Or. en

Amendment 289
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 152

Motion for a resolution

152. Notes that the Court audited 244 out of 274 milestones and all 37 targets included in 2022 payment requests for grants; ***notes that the Court considers*** that 15 of them were affected by regularity issues ***(below 5 % of the total)***; ***notes that the Court considers that*** the requirements had not been satisfactorily fulfilled for 8 M&Ts ***in*** 8 payments; notes that the Court's conclusions are based on ***its interpretation*** of the legal requirements set by the Council or qualitative judgements different from the Commission; notes that all ***the*** RRF payments ***are*** assessed against the framework communicated and applied by the Commission, ***who also takes*** into consideration for each payment the ***opinion*** of the Economic and Financial Committee and the scrutiny by Member State experts under the comitology procedure;

Amendment

152. Notes that the Court audited 244 out of 274 milestones and all 37 targets included in 2022 payment requests for grants; ***regrets*** that 15 of them were affected by regularity issues, ***regrets that although*** the requirements had not been satisfactorily fulfilled for 8 M&Ts, ***the corresponding*** 8 payments ***have still been made***; notes that the Court's conclusions are based on ***extensive audit work and that the Commission contests the Court's interpretation*** of the legal requirements set by the Council or qualitative judgements different from the Commission; notes that all RRF payments ***must be*** assessed against the framework communicated and applied by the Commission, ***and must also take*** into consideration for each payment the ***option*** of the Economic and Financial Committee and the scrutiny by Member State experts under the comitology

procedure;

Or. en

Amendment 290
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 152 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

152 a. Recalls the Court's observations in Special Reports 21/2022 and 7/2023 that milestones and targets measure outputs rather than results; urges the Commission to ensure that the future design of instruments based on financing linked to costs shall also measure results and not only outputs; stresses that the mere completion of projects financed by the RRF funds do not guarantee a positive economic and social impact as well as quality and sustainability;

Or. en

Amendment 291
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 152 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

152 a. Notes that the Court has identified what it considers to be cases of continuation of a pre-existing project started before the eligibility period and targets that were a substitution of recurring national budgetary expenditure, although this conclusion does not agree with the Court's own consideration that recurring actions refers to types of expenditure like staff and operating costs of government entities;

Amendment 292
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 152 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

152 b. Recalls the Court's observation in Special Report 21/2022 and its Annual Report for 2021 that milestones and targets often lack clarity and are not well defined and that the Court makes the same observation in its annual report 2022; calls on the Commission to draw on lessons learned when designing future performance based instruments;

Or. en

Amendment 293
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 152 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

152 c. Is worried by the Court's findings in SR 26/2023 that milestones and targets vary in ambition between Member States and considers this is yet another example where the Commission does not treat member states equally; notes that the Commission confirmed the differences and will try to enhance equal treatment during the implementation phase; considers that Member States by default should be treated equally and regrets this has not been the case when negotiating the RRP; insists that equal treatment should be ensured when evaluating the completion of milestones and targets;

Amendment 294**Viola von Cramon-Taubadel**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution**Paragraph 153***Motion for a resolution*

153. Notes that the Court considers that a case of double funding occurred in 2022, even though the measure in question does not have any costs attached to it under the RRF; notes the Commission's observation that, according to the RRF Regulation, 'double funding' is explicitly linked to costs and thus, there can be no 'double funding' if the Member State has not submitted any cost estimate as part of its national plan; notes that the Commission underlines that reforms are essential criteria for the Commission's positive assessment of RRFs, ***but that the inclusion of no-cost reforms does not increase their financial envelope, although in this way the plans ensure their effective and timely implementation;***

Amendment

153. Notes that the Court considers that a case of double funding occurred in 2022, even though the measure in question does not have any costs attached to it under the RRF; notes the Commission's observation that, according to the RRF Regulation, 'double funding' is explicitly linked to costs and thus, there can be no 'double funding' if the Member State has not submitted any cost estimate as part of its national plan; notes that the Commission underlines that reforms are essential criteria for the Commission's positive assessment of RRFs ***as well as their full implementation for the relevant payments;***

Amendment 295**Monika Hohlmeier****Motion for a resolution****Paragraph 153***Motion for a resolution*

153. Notes that the Court ***considers that*** a case of double funding occurred in 2022, even though the measure in question does not have any costs attached to it under the RRF; notes the Commission's observation that, according to the RRF Regulation,

Amendment

153. Notes ***with concern*** that the Court ***identified*** a case of double funding occurred in 2022, even though the measure in question does not have any costs attached to it under the RRF; notes the Commission's observation that, according

‘double funding’ is explicitly linked to costs and thus, there can be no ‘double funding’ if the Member State has not submitted any cost estimate as part of its national plan; notes that the Commission underlines that reforms are essential criteria for the Commission's positive assessment of RRP, but that the inclusion of no-cost reforms does not increase their financial envelope, although in this way the plans ensure their effective and timely implementation;

to the RRF Regulation, ‘double funding’ is explicitly linked to costs and thus, there can be no ‘double funding’ if the Member State has not submitted any cost estimate as part of its national plan; notes that the Commission underlines that reforms are essential criteria for the Commission's positive assessment of RRP, but that the inclusion of no-cost reforms does not increase their financial envelope, although in this way the plans ensure their effective and timely implementation;

Or. en

Amendment 296
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 154

Motion for a resolution

154. Notes that the Court also identified several cases of weak design in M&Ts and problems with the reliability of information that Member States included in their management declarations, *although the effects of those findings are considered material but not pervasive by the Court*; notes that the Commission agrees to review M&Ts provided there is a legal justification to change the elements of a Council Implementing Decision, namely that a Member State submits an amended plan and a legal basis justifies the changes;

Amendment

154. Notes that the Court also identified several cases of weak design in M&Ts and problems with the reliability of information that Member States included in their management declarations, notes that the Commission agrees to review M&Ts provided there is a legal justification to change the elements of a Council Implementing Decision, namely that a Member State submits an amended plan and a legal basis justifies the changes;

Or. en

Amendment 297
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 154

Motion for a resolution

154. Notes that the Court also identified several cases of weak design in M&Ts and problems with the reliability of information that Member States included in their management declarations, although the effects of those findings are considered material but not pervasive by the Court; notes that the Commission agrees to review M&Ts provided there is a legal justification to change the elements of a Council Implementing Decision, namely that a Member State submits an amended plan and a legal basis justifies the changes;

Amendment

154. Notes **with concern** that the Court also identified several cases of weak design in M&Ts and problems with the reliability of information that Member States included in their management declarations, although the effects of those findings are considered material but not pervasive by the Court; notes that the Commission agrees to review M&Ts provided there is a legal justification to change the elements of a Council Implementing Decision, namely that a Member State submits an amended plan and a legal basis justifies the changes;

Or. en

Amendment 298
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 154 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

154 a. Is worried that in its audit work the Court also identified weaknesses in Member States' reporting and control systems, leading the Commission to set up additional conditions for payments (control milestones); notes limitations in the Commission preliminary assessments and ex posts audits and problems with the reliability of the information provided in the management declarations by Member States, casting doubts on the possibility to relay on them when assessing milestones and targets before making payments;

Or. en

Amendment 299
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 155

Motion for a resolution

155. *Notes* that, by end 2022, the Commission reported 6 cases of potential irregularities to OLAF, identified during ex-post audits or from open sources in respect of RRF supported actions; *notes* that, in 2022, OLAF disseminated a risk framework for the RRF and provided over 50 fraud awareness-training sessions to Commission departments, agencies and other external partners, including Member States' authorities;

Amendment

155. *Stresses* that, by end 2022, the Commission reported 6 cases of potential irregularities to OLAF, identified during ex-post audits or from open sources in respect of RRF supported actions; *welcomes* that, in 2022, OLAF disseminated a risk framework for the RRF and provided over 50 fraud awareness-training sessions to Commission departments, agencies and other external partners, including Member States' authorities;

Or. en

Amendment 300

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

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 156

Motion for a resolution

156. *Welcomes the systematic* audit work of the Court regarding the RRF, with emphasis on the protection of the Union's financial interests, which is providing a thorough analysis of the relevant aspects of the Facility and valuable insight into its implementation; *notes with satisfaction that the Commission broadly accepts and applies the Court's recommendations and acknowledges* that many of the issues identified by the Court are related to the legal basis of the RRF *and linked to its innovative nature and functioning*; considers that the Court's recommendations stemming from its audit work on the RRF are particularly relevant to the co-legislators for future Union performance-based financing instruments;

Amendment

156. *Notes the effort made in the* audit work of the Court regarding the RRF, with emphasis on the protection of the Union's financial interests, which is providing a thorough analysis of the relevant aspects of the Facility and valuable insight into its implementation; notes that many of the issues identified by the Court are related to the legal basis of the RRF; considers that the Court's recommendations stemming from its audit work on the RRF are particularly relevant to the co-legislators for future Union performance-based financing instruments;

Amendment 301
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 156

Motion for a resolution

156. Welcomes the systematic audit work of the Court regarding the RRF, with emphasis on the protection of the Union's financial interests, which **is providing** a thorough analysis of the relevant aspects of the Facility and valuable insight into its implementation; notes with satisfaction that the Commission broadly accepts and applies the Court's recommendations and acknowledges that many of the issues identified by the Court are related to the legal basis of the RRF and linked to its innovative nature and functioning; considers that the Court's recommendations stemming from its audit work on the RRF are particularly relevant to the co-legislators for future Union performance-based financing instruments;

Amendment

156. Welcomes the systematic **and comprehensive** audit work of the Court regarding the RRF, with emphasis on the protection of the Union's financial interests, which **provides** a thorough analysis of the relevant aspects of the Facility and valuable insight into its implementation; notes with satisfaction that the Commission broadly accepts and applies the Court's recommendations and acknowledges that many of the issues identified by the Court are related to the legal basis of the RRF and linked to its innovative nature and functioning; considers that the Court's recommendations stemming from its audit work on the RRF are particularly relevant to the co-legislators for future Union performance-based financing instruments;

Or. en

Amendment 302
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 156 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

156 a. Appreciates the Special Report 26/2023: 'the Recovery and Resilience Facility's performance promoting framework-measuring implementation progress but not sufficient to capture performance' in highlighting some of the

drawbacks of using a performance-based framework, in particular when trying to quantify results; requests the Commission applies lessons learnt from the Court's observations in this special report when designing future performance-based frameworks;

Or. en

Amendment 303

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 156 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

156 a. Stresses the fact that the RRF was established as the common EU's instrument to mitigate the serious economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient, inclusive and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions and its financial means thus can not be understood as Member States' own budget resources; emphasizes the crucial role of the Court and the Commission in their proactive ex-ante and ex-post controls in making sure the funds are spend effectively with satisfactory fulfillment of M&Ts;

Or. en

Amendment 304

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 157

Motion for a resolution

157. **Notes** that the control framework is tailored to the unique nature of the RRF and built upon two types of controls, namely (i) controls by the Commission to provide reasonable assurance over the legality and regularity of commitments and payments, based on the satisfactory achievement of M&Ts as set in the Council Implementing Decisions approving the RRP, and (ii) controls by the Member States to ensure adequate protection of the financial interests of the Union as provided in Article 22 of the RRF Regulation;

Amendment

157. ***Underlines*** that the control framework is tailored to the unique nature of the RRF and built upon two types of controls, namely (i) controls by the Commission to provide reasonable assurance over the legality and regularity of commitments and payments, based on the satisfactory achievement of M&Ts as set in the Council Implementing Decisions approving the RRP, and (ii) controls by the Member States to ensure adequate protection of the financial interests of the Union as provided in Article 22 of the RRF Regulation;

Or. en

Amendment 305
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 158

Motion for a resolution

158. Welcomes that, based on the Court's recommendations and the experience gained, the Commission presented its methodologies on (i) assessing the satisfactory fulfilment of M&Ts, (ii) calculating the suspended amounts in case of non-fulfilment of a milestone or target, and (iii) dealing with potential situations where M&Ts initially assessed as satisfactorily fulfilled by the Commission were subsequently reversed by the Member State; welcomes that the Commission accepts the recommendation to carry out a revision of its ex-post audit procedures to verify the potential reversal of targets after the payment, although is concerned that the methodology does not provide legal clarity in case a milestone or target is reversed after the implementation period of the RRF;

Amendment

158. Welcomes that, based on the Court's recommendations and the experience gained, the Commission presented its methodologies on (i) assessing the satisfactory fulfilment of M&Ts, (ii) calculating the suspended amounts in case of non-fulfilment of a milestone or target, and (iii) dealing with potential situations where M&Ts initially assessed as satisfactorily fulfilled by the Commission were subsequently reversed by the Member State; welcomes that the Commission accepts the recommendation to carry out a revision of its ex-post audit procedures to verify the potential reversal of targets after the payment, although is ***particularly*** concerned that the methodology does not provide legal clarity in case a milestone or target is reversed after the implementation period of the RRF ***once all payments have been made***;

Amendment 306

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

Motion for a resolution**Paragraph 158***Motion for a resolution*

158. ***Welcomes*** that, based on the Court's recommendations and the experience gained, the Commission presented its methodologies on (i) assessing the satisfactory fulfilment of M&Ts, (ii) calculating the suspended amounts in case of non-fulfilment of a milestone or target, and (iii) dealing with potential situations where M&Ts initially assessed as satisfactorily fulfilled by the Commission were subsequently reversed by the Member State; ***welcomes*** that the Commission ***accepts the recommendation to carry out a revision of its ex-post audit procedures to verify the potential reversal of targets after the payment***, although is concerned that the methodology does not provide legal clarity in case a milestone or target is reversed after the implementation period of the RRF;

Amendment

158. ***Notes*** that, based on the Court's recommendations and the experience gained, the Commission presented its methodologies on (i) assessing the satisfactory fulfilment of M&Ts, (ii) calculating the suspended amounts in case of non-fulfilment of a milestone or target, and (iii) dealing with potential situations where M&Ts initially assessed as satisfactorily fulfilled by the Commission were subsequently reversed by the Member State; ***regrets*** that the commission ***does not foresee any post-2026 monitoring on potential reversals of milestones or targets*** although is concerned that the methodology does not provide legal clarity in case a milestone or target is reversed after the implementation period of the RRF;

Amendment 307

Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution**Paragraph 158 e (new)***Motion for a resolution**Amendment*

158 e. Expresses concern that there is no provision that addresses the reversal of milestones and targets after the last date for payments from the RRF, 31 December

2026 or after the last payment in an RRP in general, particularly because some of the most important milestones and targets included in RRP are to be fulfilled in the last part of the RRF lifetime; expresses concern that the Commission is dependent on the Member States to identify any of the mentioned reversals; recommends that the Commission communicate more actively with Member States to proactively identify any reversals of targets and milestones; calls on the Commission to present a methodology that addresses both omissions;

Or. en

Amendment 308
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 158 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

158 a. Emphasises the need for the Commission to pay more attention to reversal of milestones, in particular in the area of rule of law; highlights the recent case of a potential reversal of two milestones concerning the rule of law in Slovakia (15.5 “Fighting corruption and strengthening the integrity and independence of the judiciary” and milestone 16.1 “Reform on making the fight against corruption and anti-money laundering more effective”, Annex of the Council Implementing Decision); observes that rule of law milestones and targets are particularly vulnerable to arbitrary governmental decisions; notes that 12 national recovery and resilience plans contain rule of law or anti-corruption reforms in their milestones and targets; urges the Commission to actively follow and collect information on the reversal of rule of law milestones and targets and to actively discuss financial

consequences as laid out in the RRF regulation;

Or. en

Amendment 309
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 158 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

158 b. Notes that the framework for assessing milestones and targets lacks explanations, i.a. the reasons why the verification mechanism and monitoring steps as described in the operational arrangement should not be considered for the assessment;

Or. en

Amendment 310
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 158 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

158 c. Underlines that the definitions of “satisfactory fulfilment” of the relevant milestones and target are defined through terms, which lack a clear definition and contain subjective elements such as “minimal deviation from a formal requirement”, “limited and proportional delays” and “minimal deviation from a substance requirement”; asks that further clarifications are given in this regard and calls for a clear and comprehensive approach when assessing deviations;

Or. en

Amendment 311
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 158 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

158 d. Notes that the methodology for the determination of payment suspension does not provide an explanation for the values chosen as coefficients and also contains subjective elements, such as the upward or downward adjustments of the corrected unit value and terms that lack clear definitions, such as investments of “major importance” or reforms of “particular importance”; asks that further clarifications are given;

Or. en

Amendment 312
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 159

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

159. Notes that the Commission verified the adequacy of the control systems of Member States as a precondition for the positive assessment of the RRP and, in some cases, specific ***M&Ts*** on audit and control were added in the RRP to ensure the full adequacy of the systems to protect the financial interests of the Union; notes that the satisfactory fulfilment of audit and control M&Ts was, in turn, a precondition for the first payments and welcomes that the Court did not raise any issues related to their satisfactory fulfilment assessed during 2022; notes that afterwards, the Commission performed 16 system audits in 2022 and 11 in 2023, so all Member States’

159. Notes that the Commission verified the adequacy of the control systems of Member States as a precondition for the positive assessment of the RRP and, in some cases, ***additional specific reforms and milestones (so called ‘control milestones’)*** on audit and control were added in the RRP to ensure the full adequacy of the systems to protect the financial interests of the Union ***and to address the weaknesses identified in 16 member States reporting and control systems; support the Court evaluation that the fact control milestones were introduced means that Member states systems were not fully functional when***

control systems will have been audited at least once by the end of 2023;

the plans started to be implemented posing a serious risk to the regularity of the of the RRF expenditure and the to protection of financial interests; notes that the satisfactory fulfilment of audit and control M&Ts was, in turn, a precondition for the first payments and welcomes that the Court did not raise any issues related to their satisfactory fulfilment assessed during 2022; notes that afterwards, the Commission performed 16 system audits in 2022 and 11 in 2023, so all Member States' control systems will have been audited at least once by the end of 2023;

Or. en

Amendment 313
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 159

Motion for a resolution

159. Notes that the Commission verified the adequacy of the control systems of Member States as a precondition for the positive assessment of the RRP's and, in some cases, specific M&Ts on audit and control were added in the RRP's to ensure the full adequacy of the systems to protect the financial interests of the Union; notes that the satisfactory fulfilment of audit and control M&Ts was, in turn, a precondition for the first payments and welcomes that the Court did not raise any issues related to their satisfactory fulfilment assessed during 2022; notes that ***afterwards***, the Commission performed 16 system audits in 2022 and ***11*** in 2023, ***so*** all Member States' control systems will have been audited at least once by the end of 2023;

Amendment

159. Notes that the Commission verified the adequacy of the control systems of Member States as a precondition for the positive assessment of the RRP's and, in some cases, specific M&Ts on audit and control were added in the RRP's to ensure the full adequacy of the systems to protect the financial interests of the Union; notes that the satisfactory fulfilment of audit and control M&Ts was, in turn, a precondition for the first payments and welcomes that the Court did not raise any issues related to their satisfactory fulfilment assessed during 2022; notes that the Commission performed 16 system audits in 2022 and ***14*** in 2023, ***including whether they check compliance with EU and national rules, so that*** all Member States' control systems will have been audited at least once by the end of 2023; ***understands that the RRF Regulation places the principal responsibility to ensure respect for national and EU law on the Member***

States but is concerned about the Court's observation on a potential assurance gap regarding compliance;

Or. en

Amendment 314
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 159 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

159 a. Recalls that the Council adopted the Hungarian recovery and resilience plan based on the Commission's positive evaluation; notes that compared to the original plan, a whole new component of measures was added containing 38 measures with 11 milestones and targets, regrets that pre-financing under the RRF is not subject to a procedure under the conditionality mechanism;

Or. en

Amendment 315
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 160 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

160 a. Recalls that on 15 December 2022, the Council adopted Implementing Decision on the approval of the assessment of the RRP for Hungary; recalls that 27 'super milestones' were added to the national RRP with remedial and audit and control measures; notes that on 7 December 2023, the Council adopted Implementing Decision approving Hungary's amended RRP, including a REPowerEU chapter, which

allows Hungary to receive EUR 0,9 billion in pre-financing of the REPowerEU funds;

Or. en

Amendment 316
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 159 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

159 b. Notes the efforts of the Commission to raise funds on the financial markets to provide the financial means for the RRF; notes that interest rates have risen sharply in 2022 and that Commission AAA borrowing costs are higher than Member States with a lower rating, is concerned by the resulting debts, the rising interest rates and the resulting uncertain capacity to repay the loans; notes however that we have 90 billion Euros less debt than initially forecasted;

Or. en

Amendment 317
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

161. Notes that the Commission reports that the achievement of M&Ts is broadly on track, after the first year of the RRF's functioning was more focused on the necessary reforms to build the framework for subsequent investment projects to have a higher impact; notes that the Commission reports delays compared to the indicative calendar of payments, due to the process of

161. Notes that the Commission reports that the achievement of M&Ts is broadly on track, after the first year of the RRF's functioning was more focused on the necessary reforms to build the framework for subsequent investment projects to have a higher impact; notes that the Commission reports delays compared to the indicative calendar of payments, due to the process of

revising the RRP's in the context of the REPowerEU Plan and implementation challenges Member States are facing, such as administrative capacity issues, investment bottlenecks, and consequences of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, including the energy crisis, unexpected price shocks, shortages of certain materials and high inflation; notes that the Commission is supporting all Member States in accelerating the implementation and revision of their plans, including through the Technical Support Instrument; is concerned that according to the Commission's RRF 2023 implementation report, 8 Member States have not yet submitted any payment request to the Commission;

revising the RRP's in the context of the REPowerEU Plan and implementation challenges Member States are facing, such as administrative capacity issues, investment bottlenecks, and consequences of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, including the energy crisis, unexpected price shocks, shortages of certain materials and high inflation; ***calls on the Commission to remain vigilant, in particular towards the end of the RRF lifecycle, in order to ensure that Member States protect the financial interests of the EU and that EU taxpayers' money is adequately spent; points out that, in particular, the countering of fraud, corruption, conflicts of interest (defined as 'serious irregularities') and double funding should receive appropriate resources and attention;*** notes that the Commission is supporting all Member States in accelerating the implementation and revision of their plans, including through the Technical Support Instrument; is concerned that according to the Commission's RRF 2023 implementation report, 8 Member States have not yet submitted any payment request to the Commission;

Or. en

Amendment 318

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 161

Motion for a resolution

161. Notes that the Commission reports that the achievement of M&Ts is broadly on track, after the first year of the RRF's functioning was more focused on the necessary reforms to build the framework for subsequent investment projects to have a higher impact; notes that the Commission

Amendment

161. Notes that the Commission reports that the achievement of M&Ts is broadly on track, after the first year of the RRF's functioning was more focused on the necessary reforms to build the framework for subsequent investment projects to have a higher impact; notes ***with concern*** that

reports delays compared to the indicative calendar of payments, due to the process of revising the RRP in the context of the REPowerEU Plan and implementation challenges Member States are facing, such as administrative capacity issues, investment bottlenecks, and consequences of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, including the energy crisis, unexpected price shocks, shortages of certain materials and high inflation; ***notes that the Commission is supporting all Member States in accelerating the implementation and revision of their plans, including through the Technical Support Instrument; is concerned that according to the Commission's RRF 2023 implementation report, 8 Member States have not yet submitted any payment request to the Commission;***

the Commission reports delays compared to the indicative calendar of payments, due to the process of revising the RRP in the context of the REPowerEU Plan and implementation challenges Member States are facing, such as administrative capacity issues, investment bottlenecks, and consequences of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, including the energy crisis, unexpected price shocks, shortages of certain materials and high inflation;

Or. en

Amendment 319
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161

Motion for a resolution

161. Notes that the Commission reports that the achievement of M&Ts is broadly on track, after the first year of the RRF's functioning was more focused on the necessary reforms to build the framework for subsequent investment projects to have a higher impact; notes that the Commission reports delays compared to the indicative calendar of payments, due to the process of revising the RRP in the context of the REPowerEU Plan and implementation challenges Member States are facing, such as administrative capacity issues, investment bottlenecks, and consequences of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, including the energy crisis, unexpected price shocks, shortages of

Amendment

161. Notes that the Commission reports that the achievement of M&Ts is broadly on track, after the first year of the RRF's functioning was more focused on the necessary reforms to build the framework for subsequent investment projects to have a higher impact; notes that the Commission reports delays compared to the indicative calendar of payments, due to the process of revising the RRP in the context of the REPowerEU Plan and implementation challenges Member States are facing, such as administrative capacity issues, investment bottlenecks, and consequences of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, including the energy crisis, unexpected price shocks, shortages of

certain materials and high inflation; notes that the Commission is supporting all Member States in accelerating the implementation and revision of their plans, including through the Technical Support Instrument; is concerned that according to the Commission's RRF **2023 implementation report**, 8 Member States have not yet submitted any payment request to the Commission;

certain materials and high inflation; notes that the Commission is supporting all Member States in accelerating the implementation and revision of their plans, including through the Technical Support Instrument; is concerned that according to the Commission's RRF **Scoreboard**, 3 Member States have not yet submitted any payment request to the Commission **by end December 2023**;

Or. en

Amendment 320
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

161 a. Emphasises that one of the drivers of the creation of the Resilience and Recovery Facility was a lack of resilience and preparedness that became apparent during the Corona Pandemic to have severe weaknesses; the crisis response capacity of healthcare systems across EU member states is clearly mentioned in articles 6, 10, 15, 16 and 28 of Regulation 2021/241 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility; highlights that according to Article 3, Scope, of the RRF Regulation 2021/241, health is one of the six pillars of the RRF; regrets that overall only a few milestones and targets cover health aspects or the strengthening of the health systems in member countries; notes that some country national recovery plans do not even have a health-related milestone or target or have ones that are only vaguely related to health and do not contribute to strengthening the health or hospital system; urges the Commission to strengthen milestones and targets related to preparedness and resilience in the health sector where possible when

revising national recovery and resilience plans with member states; notes that eight indicators in the RRF Regulation Annex VI cover health, including those covering e-health services, health infrastructure, health equipment, health mobile assets, digitalisation in health care, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and several others; asks the Commission to report to the CONT Committee in autumn;

Or. en

Amendment 321
Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

161 a. Recalls that the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed structural weaknesses in health systems across the EU and welcomes that health resilience is among the six pillars of the RRF decided by the co-legislators that make possible reforms and investments to strengthen their capacity, quality and resilience; notes that 531 M&Ts and 223 measures, as well as 48 % of the estimated contribution to this pillar is related to healthcare, including reforms to improve access to healthcare, developing e-health services and incentives for R&D investments by pharmaceutical companies; notes that an estimate 45 million people can use or be served by new or modernised health care facilities thanks to the RRF;

Or. en

Amendment 322
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

161 a. Notes that the Commission is supporting all Member States in accelerating the implementation and revision of their plans, including through the Technical Support Instrument; is concerned that according to the Commission's RRF 2023 implementation report, 8 Member States have not yet submitted any payment request to the Commission;

Or. en

Amendment 323

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

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

161 b. Stresses the importance of proactive supporting role of the Commission to the Member States towards the ending of the RRF instrument period to best avoid the delays and under-implementation problem, so evidently observed towards the end of MFF period; calls for speedy implementation of recovery and resilience plans, including an evaluation by the Commission regarding the implementation process, barriers and results; is concerned that under-implementation, unless swiftly mitigated, will result in a payment crisis, i.e. a mismatch of payment needs and available space under the MFF payment ceiling in 2026 and 2027;

Or. en

Amendment 324
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

161 b. Notes that very little emphasis is placed on resilience or added-value in contributing to resilience when milestones and targets are emphasized; urges the Commission to create a ‘contribution to resilience’ indicator for the RRF scoreboard and to tabulate impact in the areas of resilience; further urges the Commission to consider contribution to resilience when considering new milestones and targets that are introduced into revised national recovery and resilience plans; encourages the Court to look more closely at RRF impact of resilience in all the pillars in a future study;

Or. en

Amendment 325
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

161 c. Emphasises that when reviewing revised national recovery plans, the Commission should still diligently apply the ‘Assessment guidelines for the Facility’ as outlined in Annex V of the Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which includes the Commission to assess and rate national recovery and resilience

plans under the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and coherence (article 19(3)), as well as coverage of the six pillars, namely a) green transition, b) digital transformation, c) smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, d) social and territorial cohesion, e) health and economic, social and institutional resilience, f) policies for the next generation (Article 3); asserts that this is an important process to avoid revised national recovery plans that are much weaker than the original plans or that no longer fulfil the criteria;

Or. en

Amendment 326
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

161 c. Is of the opinion that both the Member States and the Commission missed the opportunity to better tailor and align the investments and reforms to the EU policy goals, in particular pertaining to the just and green transition, especially in terms of choosing most impactful investments; regrets in that regard the approval of certain activities financed through the RRF fund included in the green and digital spending components of the Plan do not in reality contribute to more sustainable and green economic transition;

Or. en

Amendment 327
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

161 d. Notes that the RRF should create synergies and measures implemented should lead to structural reforms that have added-value; is concerned that some countries have repackaged old national reforms into the national RRFs;

Or. en

Amendment 328
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

161 e. Emphasises that there should be better co-governance approach in all Member States where local and regional authorities, civil society organisations, social partners, academia or other relevant stakeholders are adequately involved in the design and the implementation of the national RRFs; calls for their involvement based on clear, fair, transparent and non-politicised principles, in the implementation of the national RRFs to the maximum extent possible under the national legislative framework;

Or. en

Amendment 329
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 161 f (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

161 f. Calls on the Commission to ensure that Member States apply a zero-tolerance approach to corruption and fraud, including embezzlement without any exception;

Or. en

Amendment 330
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 166 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

166 a. Notes that the Court found that concerning reporting on the common indicators, quality and underlying methodologies are not checked by national audit authorities in any visited member state; is astonished that in a member state the indicated planting of trees did not exist when ECA made an on-the-spot check; notes that the Commission does not require supporting evidence or explanations on the reported data, except in cases where estimates are reported; notes that the Court concludes that this poses a risk to data reliability and comparability across member states; concludes that data reliability in the absence of audits might affect the performance information reported on common indicators to a larger extent than information based on milestones and targets; considers this, given the issues identified in the milestones and targets by the Court, a worrying situation and calls on the Commission to improve its assurance on the reporting on common indicators; notes the differing practices among auditing authorities regarding the timing of the checks on the fulfilment of targets and reforms; believes that such checks should be better harmonised and

should include a compulsory check on the reliability and accuracy of the data on milestones and targets before those milestones and targets are included in a payment request; points out the risks of an approach that uses mostly ex-post checks and calls on Member States to avoid such practices;

Or. en

Amendment 331
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 166 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

166 b. Encourages more true cross border projects be implemented using RRF funds; is critical of the fact that some projects receiving RRF funds are listed by some countries as cross-border as soon as they reduce energy consumption or increase energy efficiency; considers that though reducing energy consumption may achieve some RRF climate goals (including 17 indicators in Annex VI for the Methodology for Climate Tracking in the Regulation establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility), these projects should nevertheless not be considered cross-border if they do not include an actual cross-border geographical element;

Or. en

Amendment 332
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 166 c (new)

166 c. Notes that countries may be overwhelmed administratively with the transfer of large RRF funds and cohesion funds at the same time, points out that the sheer size of funds transferred can place a large administrative burden on member states, thus delaying implementation and potentially threatening transparency; is concerned by the fact that according to the EIB one member state appeared on a short notice with the wish to create a new EIB program for 20 billion within a short period of time because of problems of disbursement via the own administration; encourages Commission to actively communicate with member states about administrative capacities in handling the funds before making the transfer and to so thorough checks on the quality and necessity of projects; notes that the budgetary control committee was informed of many instances where member states felt overwhelmed administratively in this regard;

Or. en

Amendment 333
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 166 d (new)

166 d. Notes potential concerns about absorption of funds with high quality projects as pointed out in discussions in the budgetary control committee during presentations of the ECA Special Report to the budgetary control committee and as discussed in the RRF working group of the European Parliament; encourages the Commission to think of possible next steps and concrete measures and solutions to help member states to implement the

projects in the foreseen timeline;

Or. en

Amendment 334
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 166 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

166 e. Notes the risk of double funding between Cohesion and RRF Funds as pointed out in ECA Review 01/2023; encourages the Commission actively cross-check between databases to ensure double funding does not occur; encourages the Commission to proactively work together with member states in this regard;

Or. en

Amendment 335
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 166 f (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

166 f. Expresses concerns regarding the Recovery and Resilience Fund:

i. calls on the Commission to accurately list “final recipients” according to Article 22 2d) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241;

ii. is concerned about an assurance and accountability gap due partially to the time lapse between Milestones fulfilment and Project implementation;

iii. calls on the Commission to act swiftly when reversals of milestones occur: to request the reinstallment of the fulfilment of the milestone, in case of refusal by the

member state to partially block remaining funds in line with the methodology and to recover the corresponding funds;

iv. criticises that in contradiction to the main goals of the facility the definition of “resilience” is insufficient to ameliorate the preparedness of future crisis situations;

v. is concerned that there is an absence of compliance audits by the Commission on RRF funded investment projects, despite the multiple warnings of ECA stating that many national management, payment and audit authorities are not fully functioning and therefore have potentially unreliable audits;

vi. is concerned about the limited number of cross-border projects under the RRF, notes that many purely national projects are listed as cross-border projects as soon as they have energy saving or energy reducing elements; criticises the overestimation of the published number of cross-border projects as misleading; urges the Commission to change the methodology of categorisation of cross-border projects; urges that only projects with an real geographical cross-border component to be considered a cross-border project;

Or. en

Amendment 336

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 166 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

166 a. Notes that the RRF Scoreboard provides real-time information on the disbursements and progress made by Member States, as well as additional data, indicators and thematic analysis and welcomes the launch of the EU-wide

interactive map showing RRF projects by geographical location and providing information on the state of play; notes that the RRF Scoreboard also links to the national websites and commends those Member States that have set up specific websites where all information and documentation relevant to their national RRFs are published;

Or. en

Amendment 337
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 167 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

167 a. Expresses concern about the Court's finding in SR 07/2023 that reporting of fraud involving RRF funds lacks a standardised approach with strong coordination and cooperation between member states; asks the Commission to encourage Member states to align the reporting on fraud in a digital standardised way and to make use of the Irregularity Management System; calls on the Commission to report at an aggregated level on the cases of suspected fraud, corruption, and conflict of interests detected in its own audits, and by the Member States as reported in the management declarations; calls on the Commission to evaluate the information received, to consider its quality and to offer guidance to Member States if necessary; welcomes that the Commission has already adapted the Irregularity Management System so that the system can be used for the RRF by the competent national authorities for recording detected irregularities; notes the legal basis for using the IMS is in the Regulation (EU) 2021/241;

Amendment 338
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 167 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

167 b. Notes with concern, that EPPO's responsibility in investigating crimes involving RRF funds is being put into question in 9 cases in a member state; notes that the European Court of Justice was asked via a preliminary question to give an opinion in one of these cases;

Or. en

Amendment 339
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 167 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

167 c. Furthermore notes that cases involving RRF funds fall squarely into the Material Competence of the EPPO according to Chapter IV Competence and exercise of the competence of the EPPO, Section 1, Competence of the EPPO, Article 22, 1. "the EPPO shall be competent in respect of the criminal offences affecting the financial interest of the Union that are provided for in Directive (EU) 2017/1371, as implemented by national law, irrespective of whether the same criminal conduct could be classified as another type of offence under national law", and in addition Article 23, Territorial and personal competence of the EPPO, "the EPPO shall be competent for the offences referred to Article 22

where such offences: a) were committed in whole or in part within the territory of one or several member states”; encourages the Commission to convey this member states;

Or. en

Amendment 340
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 167 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

167 d. Implores the Commission to communicate more actively with Member States regarding fraud prevention;

Or. en

Amendment 341
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 167 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

167 e. Encourages the Commission, EPPO and other relevant entities to cooperate intensively to identify fraud cases or crimes against the financial interest of the EU, to report possible patterns of fraud and other financial crimes; encourages the relevant entities on European and national level to strengthen cooperation and coordination in these cases to better protect taxpayers money; asks Member States to strengthen their capacities to uncover crimes in this area and to support a structured cooperation with the relevant European entities;

Amendment 342
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 167 f (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

167 f. Emphasises that the protection of the financial interests of the European Union is a top priority and that preventing fraudulent use of RRF Funds is part of this priority; asserts that more precise implementation and performance monitoring will help reduce or prevent fraud at an early stage; calls on the Commission to act accordingly;

Or. en

Amendment 343
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 167 g (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

167 g. Emphasises that in particular rule of law and anti-corruption milestones and targets are at risk of being overturned as these milestones and targets are essential in hindering corrupt individuals, organisations, governments or criminal systems; urges the Commission to follow the fulfillment of rule of law and anti-corruption milestones and targets closely and to more actively report on reversals or possible reversals of milestones in this area;

Or. en

Amendment 344
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 167 h (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

167 h. Is concerned that the information presented on the RRF Scoreboard concerning progress under the six pillars is misleading as for example the contribution of each measure is counted twice as pointed out in the ECA Special Report 26/2023; calls on the Commission to disclose for the current presented figures the limitations detected by the Court immediately, and to remedy the shortcomings; notes further as regards the RRF Scoreboard that the Court concluded in its Special Report 26/2023 that presented performance lacks transparency as regards inclusion of estimates and that aggregated information is not comparable; notes that transparency about limitations is of the utmost importance as lack of transparency calls into question what other limitations have not been disclosed and therefore affects the (perceived) reliability of all presented information; calls on the Commission to proactively present the assumptions and limitations of the presented data on the scoreboard;

Or. en

Amendment 345
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 168

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

168. Notes that, following an explicit demand of the Parliament, the amended RRF Regulation requires Member States to

168. Notes that, following an explicit demand of the Parliament, the amended RRF Regulation requires Member States to

publish information on the 100 final recipients receiving the highest amount of funding under the RRF; notes that all Member States but one have published the required list on the RRF Scoreboard and observes a large variety of the size of the payments both across the Member States and within each country, which is explained by the heterogeneous nature of RRFs;

publish information on the 100 final recipients receiving the highest amount of funding under the RRF; notes that all Member States but one have published the required list on the RRF Scoreboard and observes a large variety of the size of the payments both across the Member States and within each country, which is explained by the heterogeneous nature of RRFs; *regrets the delays in the publication by Member States of the lists; expresses concern over the interpretation of the Commission of the concept of “final recipient” under the RRF; is furthermore concerned that the final recipients listed are often only at the ministry level and that the descriptions are extremely vague, for example where 573 million Euros were paid to the Slovakian Ministry of the Environment simply for ‘adaptation of regions to climate changes’, or where 19 million Euros were paid to the Interior Ministry of Bulgaria for construction of a relay network, with similar examples available in almost all final recipients lists in a total of more than 50 cases; calls on the Member States to publish the data collected to comply with Article 22(2)(d) of the original RRF Regulation on all final recipients and their beneficial owners, and eventual contractors and subcontractors; is concerned that otherwise it will be problematic to measure the impact and guarantee visibility of the RRF funds to the citizens when not even the Parliament and the Commission know where the money was spent;*

Or. en

Amendment 346

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 168

Motion for a resolution

168. Notes that, following an explicit demand of the Parliament, the amended RRF Regulation requires Member States to publish information on the 100 final recipients receiving the highest amount of funding under the RRF; notes that all Member States but one have published the required list on the RRF Scoreboard and observes a large variety of the size of the payments both across the Member States and within each country, which is explained by the heterogeneous nature of RRFs;

Amendment

168. Notes that, following an explicit demand of the Parliament, the amended RRF Regulation requires Member States to publish information on the 100 final recipients receiving the highest amount of funding under the RRF; notes that all Member States but one have published the required list on the RRF Scoreboard and observes a large variety of the size of the payments both across the Member States and within each country, which is explained by the heterogeneous nature of RRFs; ***reiterates its demand that the list of final recipients provides the factual natural person or an entity that is the last in a chain of money transfers;***

Or. en

Amendment 347

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 168

Motion for a resolution

168. Notes that, following an explicit demand of the Parliament, the amended RRF Regulation requires Member States to publish information on the 100 final recipients receiving the highest amount of funding under the RRF; notes that all Member States ***but one*** have published the required list on the RRF Scoreboard and observes a large variety of the size of the payments both across the Member States and within each country, which is explained by the heterogeneous nature of RRFs;

Amendment

168. Notes that, following an explicit demand of the Parliament, the amended RRF Regulation requires Member States to publish information on the 100 final recipients receiving the highest amount of funding under the RRF; notes that all Member States have published the required list on the RRF Scoreboard ***by December 2023*** and observes a large variety of the size of the payments both across the Member States and within each country, which is explained by the heterogeneous nature of RRFs;

Or. en

Amendment 348
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 168 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

168 a. Expresses concern about the high number of RRF cases reported to EPPO after the first year of implementation, namely 15 active cases in EPPO related to RRF as reported in the EPPO Annual Report 2022; calls on the Commission to act in situations where several cases with certain patterns and indicators are occurring and to cooperate with OLAF and EPPO to inform about patterns of fraud, corruption and money laundering related to RRF; calls on the Commission to draw consequences for member states with too many cases of fraud including changes of the administrative procedures or, if necessary, freezing payments;

Or. en

Amendment 349
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 169 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

169 a. Is concerned about reports from the Court regarding difficulties in accessing RRF data to perform its duties; urges the Commission to ensure full access to the Court to the relevant databases of member states and EU; urges the Commission to guarantee that data in the FENIX database are updated in a timely manner for the purposes of audit and control; underlines that data should be accurate and transmitted in a standardised format;

Amendment 350
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 169 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

169 b. Recommends when implementing performance-based instruments in the future, that milestones and targets are clearly defined and linked in a timely manner to avoid accountability gaps and that the measuring of outputs and results is possible; recommends for performance based instruments to create a clear and precise verification mechanism from the beginning; notes that this is crucial in the context of transparency and accountability to the EU taxpayer;

Or. en

Amendment 351
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 169 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

169 c. Is concerned about transparency and accountability towards the public; urges that the Commission communicates with Member States about appropriate labelling of projects including reference that a project received Recovery and Resilience Funds; regrets following ECA report 2022 that even at the Commission level there is no clear oversight what specific projects RRF funds are supporting; underlines that the European taxpayer has the right to see what projects EU funds are supporting, where the

projects are occurring, and what their added value is; calls on the Commission to increase visibility to insist on clear labelling of projects whether in the form of plaques for physical buildings or renovations, notifications on websites, announcements at conferences or trainings, labelled on printed documents;

Or. en

Amendment 352
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 171 – point i a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i a) Halt payments for countries where milestones and targets have been reversed, if the Member State refuses to undo the reversal;

apply the verification mechanism when analysing the fulfilment of milestones and targets as listed in the operational arrangements as these verification mechanisms provide more details about specific milestones and targets and thus their application would contribute to the accuracy of measurements;

urges that for future performance-based instruments, the purpose of the verification mechanism be more clearly outlined, and that the mechanism are actually applied when measuring performance, particularly in view that with the RRF, verification mechanisms mentioned in the operational arrangements were very precise, but that in practice the Commission did not apply these when measuring performance;

Or. en

Amendment 353

Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 171 – point i a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i a) urgently follow up on the Ombudsman's recommendation following her inquiry on 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 and to conduct a full search without delay;

Or. en

Amendment 354

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 171 – point i a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i a) continue to undertake Member States' system audits in order to obtain reasonable assurance on the compliance with EU and national rules, particularly public procurement, and work closely with the Court to find ways to remove its concerns about the assurance gap;

Or. en

Amendment 355

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

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 171 – point i a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i a) work in close cooperation with the discharge authority as co legislator to reform the RRF regulation by providing a methodology to monitor potential reversals of milestones or targets 2 years after the end of the implementation;

Or. en

Amendment 356

Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 171 – point i b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i b) ensure the systematic registration and archiving of non-private correspondence related to key political decisions and spending;

Or. en

Amendment 357

Cristian Terheş

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 171 – point i c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i c) bring its internal guidelines on document registration in line with Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 and to register text messages related to its policies, activities and decisions particularly those involving the expenditure of public funds;

Or. en

Amendment 358

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

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 171 – point i d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(i d) immediately publish the non-redacted versions of the Purchase Agreements for the COVID-19 vaccines;

Or. en

Amendment 359

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 171 – point ii

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(ii) keep improving the clarity of the measures and the related M&Ts when the Member State submits a revision of the national plan;

(ii) keep improving the clarity of the measures and the related M&Ts, ***as well as ensure that they fully respect the horizontal principles of the Regulation,*** when the Member State submits a revision of the national plan;

Or. en

Amendment 360

Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 171 – point ii c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(ii c) improve the ex-post monitoring of continued fulfilment of milestones and targets;
urges the Commission to actively follow potential reversal of milestones and targets, particularly in the area of rule of

law, and to actively discuss financial consequences of reversals;

Or. en

Amendment 361
Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 171 – point iii a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(iii a) improve the transparency and presentation of the RRF Scoreboard by eliminating any possibility of misinterpretation of figures and double counting;

consistently apply the definition of final recipients as listed in 22 2 d of the RRF regulation;

perform regular checks of the adequacy of the control and monitoring systems of Member States;

ensure a comparable level of precision in the evaluation of milestones and targets; ensure equal treatment to Member States when evaluating the fulfilment of milestones and targets;

further encourage Member States to develop cross-border projects with real cross-border geographical components when revision country plans;

reject any financing of recurring national budgetary expenditure using RRF funds if there are no exceptional reasons and suspend any payments immediately if Member States are found in breach of this provision;

further support Member States to increase their administrative capacity to handle the parallel administrative systems of RRF and cohesion fund implementation, and help them reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, simplify tenders

and provide for more targeted information, thus facilitating the access of SMEs and self-employed to funding;

Or. en

Amendment 362

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 171 – point iii a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(iii a) pay special attention and on-going dialogue with the Member States so that reforms and investments under the Recovery and Resilience Plans meet the climate targets of the regulation and fully respect the “do no significant harm” principle;

Or. en

Amendment 363

Monika Hohlmeier

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 171 – point v i (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(v i) ensure full and unrestricted access to the Court in the performance of its duties, to RRF related data, explicitly the FENIX data base;

ensure full and unrestricted access to OLAF and EPPO in the exercise of their duties to RRF related data in cooperation with the member states

urges the Commission to communicate actively with member states on EPPOs responsibility for criminal cases in the area of RRF funds since corruption or

fraud using RRF funds constitutes a crime against the financial interests of the European Union; urges member states responsible justice entities to cooperate intensively with EPPO and OLAF in this regard and to provide all necessary information;

urges that for future performance-based instruments, the Commission look not just into Member State's audit and control arrangements and the theoretical set-up on paper, but also into the actual functioning of the audit and control arrangements in practice with the goal of better protecting the financial interest of the Union and ensuring compliance with all EU and national rules;

encourages the Commission to measure contribution to resilience more accurately and to depict this on the RRF scoreboard;

address the tension between cohesion and the RRF, in particular concerning the involvement of local, regional, economic and social partners and civil society organisations, that makes it easier to absorb RRF funding in comparison to cohesion funding, emphasises that the Commission should stress that Member States should avoid 'cherry picking', but rather should select funds according to what is most fitting and efficient for the program or project in question; stresses that Commission should keep a particular close eye on potential double funding with cohesion and RRF funds, as noted in ECA Review 01/2023;

requests that the Commission put more emphasis on the involvement of local and regional needs by requesting the member states to work more actively with local regions in a co-governance approach.

urges the Commission to keep the goal of resilience and recovery in mind, in particular with regards to strengthening the preparedness and resilience of health and pharmaceutical sector as well as in the sector of goods that are critical in the different situations of possibly occurring

crisis;

Or. en

Amendment 364

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

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 171 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

171 a. be more proactive in publishing documents and statistics regarding how they handle document access requests, as such information would help with assessing the institutions' proactive approach to document access; calls that an application for access to a document must be handled promptly;

Or. en