



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 – 2014

Committee on Culture and Education

2011/2201(DEC)

1.3.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2010, Section III, Commission (COM(2011)0473 – C7-0256/2011 – 2011/2201(DEC))

Rapporteur: Morten Løkkegaard

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Welcomes the efforts to further simplify procedures and enhance accessibility as regards education and culture programmes, and notes that in 2010, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) had e-forms available for most actions and programmes, in particular for the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), the Culture Programme and the Europe for Citizens Programme; is pleased with the extended use of lump sums and grant decisions; stresses the importance of a right balance between flexible procedures and necessary controls;
2. Regrets that the primary controls for the LLP were not fully implemented by national agencies, which has resulted in the insufficient absorption of funds by the programme, due to incoherent reporting data and the lack of timely performance of the minimum number of checks; calls on the Commission to continue its efforts in order to ensure that all national agencies take up their responsibilities;
3. Notes with satisfaction that the Commission has improved its control systems and that the policy area 'Culture and education', as part of the 'Research and Other Internal Policies' policy group, was free from material error;
4. Is pleased with the significant improvement in payment delays, and notes with satisfaction that the EACEA executed 94 % of its payments within the time limits; recalls that any delay in payments directly affects the beneficiaries' rights, in particular those of small and medium-sized enterprises and consequently the success of the programmes; recalls, however, that the main part of a grant should be paid as soon as possible and, in any event, during the subventioned period, in order not to increase organisations' dependence on banks approving loans, as the EACEA considers interests not 'eligible';
5. Notes that the Commission launched a call for tender on a pan-European TV-network, as envisaged in the budgets for 2009 and 2010; is thus very concerned that in 2010 the Commission decided to close down the project and redirect the money elsewhere, without consent from the Parliament and the Council; demands the disclosure of all contracts and recommendations relating to the TV-network and evaluations made by the selection committee.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	29.2.2012
Result of final vote	+: 25 -: 2 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Malika Benarab-Attou, Lothar Bisky, Piotr Borys, Jean-Marie Cavada, Silvia Costa, Mary Honeyball, Petra Kammerevert, Emma McClarkin, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Marek Henryk Migalski, Katarína Neveďalová, Gianni Pittella, Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, Marietje Schaake, Marco Scurria, Emil Stoyanov, Hannu Takkula, László Tökés, Helga Trüpel, Gianni Vattimo, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Milan Zver
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Heinz K. Becker, Nadja Hirsch, Seán Kelly, Iosif Matula, Georgios Papanikolaou, Olga Sehnalová, Rui Tavares