

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

2007/2037(DEC)

4.3.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the European Union general budget for the financial year 2006

(SEC(2007)1056 - C6-0390/2007 - 2007/2037(DEC))

(SEC(2007)1055 - C6-0362/2007 - 2007/2037(DEC))

Section III - Commission

Draftsman: Ralf Walter

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Congratulates the Commission on its initiative to improve reporting of effects of development policy interventions towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals; trusts that this will make a real contribution to improving accountability in this area; looks forward to receiving the details of the evaluation of the pilot phase introduced in 2007;
2. Draws attention to the benchmark, agreed by the Commission, that 20% of funding under the Development Cooperation Instrument should be allocated to basic and secondary education and basic health; looks forward to receiving details of the implementation of the benchmark in 2007;
3. Welcomes the Commission's initiative to develop a structured approach to support Supreme Audit Institutions in countries receiving budget support; notes however that democratic accountability at the level of partner countries cannot be achieved without also strengthening parliamentary budget control bodies, as required by Article 25(1)b of the Regulation establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation¹;
4. Notes that in 2006, 91% of budget support from the Community budget was delivered in the form of sector budget support, which is more targeted than general budget support and therefore leads to lower risks; questions the Commission's "dynamic interpretation" of the eligibility criteria for budget support, which the Court of Auditors has said increases risk; believes that budget support should only be undertaken in countries that already meet a minimum standard of credible public finance management;
5. Invites the Commission to improve the transparency and access to documentation relating to budget support actions, particularly by establishing agreements with beneficiary country government analogous to Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) setting out the framework for managing the financial contributions made by the Commission to the UN;
6. Congratulates the Commission on reducing the level of *reste à liquider* (RAL) dating from pre-2001 EuropeAid commitments by 39% in 2006; requests that it receive regular updates of changes in levels of normal and abnormal RAL;
7. Notes the criticisms of Commission Technical Assistance projects made by the Court of Auditors in its Special Report No 6/2007; notes further that the Commission is addressing these questions in developing a "Strategy to meet EU aid effectiveness targets on Technical Cooperation and Project Implementation Units", due to be ready by June 2008; looks forward to receiving, in due course, an assessment of the results of the implementation of this Strategy;

¹ Regulation (EC) No. 1995/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 (OL L 378, 27.12.2006, p. 41).

8. Welcomes the measures implemented by the Commission to promote donor coordination in the area of Technical Assistance; stresses the importance of a coordinated approach, not only at EU level but among all donors, and looks forward to receiving details on the progress of this initiative.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	3.3.2008
Result of final vote	+ : 20 - : 0 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Danutė Budreikaitė, Ryszard Czarnecki, Nirj Deva, Alain Hutchinson, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Glenys Kinnock, Maria Martens, Luisa Morgantini, Horst Posdorf, Pierre Schapira, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Johan Van Hecke
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	John Bowis, Fiona Hall, Manolis Mavrommatis, Csaba Őry, Ralf Walter
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Glyn Ford