

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

2008/2109(DEC)

18.2.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth European Development Funds for the financial year 2007 (COM(2008)0490 - C6-0296/2008 - 2008/2109(DEC))

Rapporteur: Thijs Berman

PA_NonLeg

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. Welcomes the commitment of all available funding for the ninth EDF in 2007; calls on the Commission to formulate recommendations applicable for the non-committed parts of the eighth EDF; stresses however that speedy commitment of funds should not be carried out to the detriment of the quality of projects;
2. Recalls the Commission's commitment¹ to endeavour to ensure that a benchmark of 20 % of its allocated assistance under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) is dedicated to basic and secondary education and basic health; calls for reporting against the same benchmark to be provided for the EDFs;
3. Expresses concern at the findings contained in the Court of Auditors' Special Report No 10/2008 on EC Development Assistance to Health Services in Sub-Saharan Africa, which points out that "Financial allocations to the health sector in sub-Saharan Africa have not increased since 2000 as a proportion of its total development assistance despite the Commission's MDG commitments and the health crisis in sub-Saharan Africa"; calls on the Commission to prioritise support to health systems and identify the most appropriate aid delivery instruments for this area;
4. Reiterates its support for EDF budgetisation, which will strengthen the democratic control, accountability and transparency of funding;
5. Urges the Commission to prioritise support to partner countries to develop parliamentary control and audit capacities, in particular when aid is provided via budget support, and invites the Commission to report regularly on progress achieved;
6. Calls on the Commission to strengthen its Public Financial Management diagnostic in such a way as to establish appropriate entry-conditions for budget support; stresses that budget support should only be granted where public expenditure management is sufficiently transparent, accountable and effective; points out that the selection of financing arrangements for a specific sector should be directly linked to their efficiency for this specific area of intervention;
7. Points out that due attention must be paid to the sustainability of the Commission's interventions, including the formulation of a clear exit strategy and monitoring of implementation; considers that the enhanced evaluation of results represents a major factor for ensuring the democratic legitimacy of EU development cooperation;
8. Is of the view that the involvement of national parliaments, civil society and local authorities in partner countries is indispensable for achieving genuine ownership of the

¹ Commission Declaration concerning Art. 5 DCI, Annex to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament of 24 October 2006 (COM(2006)0628).

process; urges the Commission to make every effort to improve dialogue with these bodies at all the different stages of the programming process.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	17.2.2009
Result of final vote	+: 24 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Alessandro Battilocchio, Thijs Berman, Thierry Cornillet, Corina Crețu, Alexandra Dobolyi, Fernando Fernández Martín, Alain Hutchinson, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Filip Kaczmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Maria Martens, Gay Mitchell, Luisa Morgantini, José Javier Pomés Ruiz, José Ribeiro e Castro, Toomas Savi, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Feleknas Uca
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Manolis Mavrommatis, Renate Weber, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Emilio Menéndez del Valle