



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Development

2009/2068(DEC)

5.3.2010

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 2008, Section III - Commission and Executive agencies
(SEC(2009)1089 - C7-0172/2009 - 2009/2068(DEC))

Rapporteur: Gay Mitchell

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 progress as regards division of labour between donors, as well as other aid effectiveness principles; feels however that the Commission should step up its efforts to coordinate Member States' activities in this respect;
2. Is concerned that the Court of Auditors identified weaknesses in the processes for verifying the fulfilment of the payment conditions where budget support is concerned;
3. Calls on the Commission, as regards budget support, to bolster supervisory and control systems for ensuring the regularity of payments, to monitor organisations implementing EU-funded projects more closely, to carry out more effective audits, with rigorous follow-up, and to develop more results-oriented budget support guidelines;
4. Urges the Commission to help partner countries 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;
5. Calls once again on the Commission to spend at least 20 % of development aid on basic and secondary education and basic health;
6. Invites the Commission to place greater emphasis on women's health in developing countries in general, and improving maternal health in particular, as this is the area where the MDG targets are furthest from being met;
7. Appreciates that UN organisations often possess specific experience and expertise not readily found elsewhere; expresses concern nonetheless that the Commission does not convincingly demonstrate beforehand whether the choice of a UN organisation is in fact more efficient and effective than other ways of delivering aid¹; calls on the Commission to implement a more transparent and objective process for selecting aid implementation channels;
8. Notes that 63 % of funds committed so far under the 'Food Facility' have been channelled through international organisations and recalls that Regulation² stipulates that, as regards implementation, the Commission is obliged to maintain an "appropriate balance"³ between international organisations and "other eligible entities";
9. Calls once again for greater involvement of parliaments and consultation of civil society⁴

¹ Special Report No. 15/2009 of the European Court of Auditors on 'EU assistance implemented through United Nations organisations: decision-making and monitoring'

² Regulation (EC) No 1337/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 December 2008 establishing a facility for rapid response to soaring food prices in developing countries (OJ L 354, 31.12.2008, p. 62).

³ EUR 530 million out of EUR 837million concerned joint management projects with international organisations.

⁴ Special Report No. 4/2009 of the European Court of Auditors on 'The Commission's management of non-state

in partner countries when drawing up and reviewing DCI Country Strategy Papers;

10. Urges the Commission to ensure better visibility for EU-funded activities overseas.

actors' involvement in EC development cooperation'. Article 19(8) and Article 20(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 (DCI) require the Commission to consult representatives of civil society "at an early stage" of the programming process.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	1.3.2010
Result of final vote	+ : 22 - : 0 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Michael Cashman, Nirj Deva, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Catherine Greze, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Eva Joly, Franziska Keller, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Bill Newton Dunn, Maurice Ponga, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Ivo Vajgl, Anna Záborská, Iva Zanicchi
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Cristian Dan Preda, Judith Sargentini
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Rosario Crocetta, Róza, Gräfin von Thun Und Hohenstein