



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Development

2009/2077(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 budget of the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth European Development Funds for the financial year 2008

(COM(2009)0397 - C7-0171/2009 - 2009/2077(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 the record levels of commitments which were reached in 2008 and the timely implementation of the 10th EDF; stresses that speeding up implementation should not come at the expense of the quality of funded operations;
2. Is concerned at "significant staff constraints" and high staff turnover at EuropeAid and in Delegations, where the vacancy rate is "dangerously high and on an upward trend"¹; considers this especially worrying given the establishment of the European External Action Service;
3. Calls for the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) benchmark allocating 20 % of spending to basic and secondary education and basic health to apply also to the EDF; urges the Commission to place greater emphasis on maternal health, as this is the MDG for which progress has been most disappointing;
4. Reiterates its support for EDF budgetisation, as a way to make spending more democratic, more accountable and more transparent;
5. Regrets the high number of errors in budget support payments; reiterates its call for more transparent and objective eligibility criteria for budget support and supports the Court of Auditors' recommendation for the Commission to insist that "recipient countries have a relevant reform programme"; calls on the Commission to intensify audits and supervisory and control systems;
6. Urges the Commission to help partner countries develop parliamentary control and audit capacities and to involve parliaments, as well as civil society, in drawing up their national development strategies;
7. Urges the Commission to ensure better visibility for EU-funded activities overseas.

¹ Annual Report of the Court of Auditors on the activities funded by the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth European Development Funds (EDFs) concerning the financial year 2008 (OJ C 269, 10.11.2009, p. 274, par. 30).

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