



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Development*

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**2010/2204(DEC)**

8.2.2011

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on the European Court of Auditors' special reports in the context of the 2009  
Commission discharge  
(2010/2204(DEC))

Rapporteur: Charles Goerens

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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:

### **Special Report No 18/2009 ‘Effectiveness of EDF support for Regional Economic Integration in East Africa and West Africa’**

1. Acknowledges that regional economic integration can create growth and jobs in developing countries and thereby contribute to reducing poverty; welcomes, accordingly, the fact that European Development Fund (EDF) funding in this area has more than doubled over the financial period in question;
2. Regrets that EDF support for regional integration has not yet been wholly effective, mainly due to African authorities' lack of capacity, overlapping membership of African regional economic organisations leading to the duplication of efforts and dispersion of resources, as well as inadequate support and coordination from Commission delegations, principally due to lack of resources;
3. Calls, accordingly, on the Commission to step up capacity-building for East African and West African regional economic organisations and their institutions, including support for national parliaments and local civil society, and to encourage convergence between regional blocs with a view to eliminating overlapping membership over time, whilst taking care to respect partner countries' ownership of the process;
4. Calls on the Commission and the European External Action Service to allocate more resources in order to enable delegations to manage regional integration processes more effectively, and to ensure greater coordination and more coherence between regional and national programmes;
5. Insists that the Union should not pressure African states to sign up to Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) any faster or which cover a greater range of issues than they want to, and that the Union should avoid undermining existing regional groupings by agreeing EPAs with individual countries;
6. Insists that smaller states' fund allocation, especially for the least-developed countries, should be more focused on sustainable economic development, such as through wealth creation mechanisms, so as to reduce the dependency on regional economic 'giants', such as Nigeria in West Africa; calls on the Commission to continue its funding for regional programmes, otherwise known as Intra-ACP Programmes, which cover several or all countries in a particular region;

### **Special Report No 15/2009 ‘EU assistance implemented through United Nations organisations: decision-making and monitoring’**

7. Notes that Union development funds channelled through UN bodies doubled to over EUR 1 billion between 2002 and 2008;

8. Appreciates that working through UN bodies can generate economies of scale, as well as more effective aid due to better donor coordination, yet points out that this is not necessarily always the case, as civil society organisations often bring valuable local field knowledge and their involvement can lead to greater ownership by developing country partners;
9. Is concerned that the Court of Auditors found that there are difficulties translating the strict legal requirements to select partners objectively and transparently into practical criteria to support decision making;
10. Calls, accordingly, on the Commission to draw up clear selection criteria and processes which guarantee the choice of the most efficient and effective aid delivery mechanisms in every case;
11. Calls on the Commission to monitor more thoroughly UN-implemented aid projects to ascertain their actual impact and cost-effectiveness;
12. Urges the Commission to increase the amount of information on the implementation of the EDF at national and regional level in the ACP countries and to ensure better visibility for all Union-funded activities overseas.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	7.2.2011
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 24 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Thijs Berman, Nirj Deva, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Catherine Grèze, Filip Kaczmarek, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Bill Newton Dunn, Maurice Ponga, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Eleni Theocharous, Ivo Vajgl, Iva Zanicchi
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Kriton Arsenis, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Santiago Fisas Aixela, Emma McClarkin, Csaba Óry, Åsa Westlund
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Andres Perello Rodriguez, Teresa Riera Madurell