



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Development

2012/2248(DEC)

21.2.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on Special Report No 13/2012 (2011 discharge): 'European Union
Development Assistance for Drinking-Water Supply and Basic Sanitation in
Sub-Saharan Countries'
(2012/2248(DEC))

Rapporteur: Anna Záborská

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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. Recalls that sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation has been recognized as a universal human right, and is of fundamental importance for human health and well-being, that ensuring such access is a long-standing objective of development assistance, that halving the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation is part of the Millennium Development Goal 7, but that the UN's 2012 MDG reports forecasts that 600 million people will still lack access to safe drinking water in 2015 and that in Sub-Saharan Africa, progress towards this target is hugely insufficient, with serious consequences for millions of people, being the most vulnerable women and children under 5 years of age;
2. Recalls that Resolution 64/292 adopted by the general assembly of the United Nations recognises explicitly the right to water and sanitation as a human right; considers the provision of water and sanitation as essential public services for all;
3. Considers that more resources should be mobilised and that those already available should be efficiently employed, including by the EU, especially to improve sanitation, where unmet needs are particularly large; stresses that determined efforts must be made to obtain maximum and long-term benefits from all projects, to eliminate recurring quality problems and to strengthen the EU Water Facility financially as well as in terms of management capacity and efficiency in building local capacity; requests the Commission to ensure that the EU Water Facility is properly funded in the next MFF, in order to allow the Union to meet our development and sustainability commitments after 2015;
4. Is deeply concerned by the Court of Auditors' findings that fewer than half of the 23 projects it studied delivered results meeting the beneficiaries needs and that for a majority of the projects studied, results did not look sustainable, often for lack of adequate arrangements for the coverage of costs of operating installed equipment;
5. Takes note of the Commission's reply, notably that most of the projects were approved before the establishment in 2005 of quality support groups;
6. Notes the recent dissolution of DG Development Cooperation's Directorate for Quality and Impact and the integration of its functions into the line units; calls on the Commission to ensure that this will not weaken the quality controls, and that these controls will be improved together with internal audits where necessary;
7. Regrets the scarcity of data on many of the projects in the Court of Auditors Special Report and the absence of ex-post evaluation by the Commission of all but two of these projects; Encourages the Commission to improve the traceability and follow up mechanisms of all programming and projects with a significant impact on access to water and sanitation; Calls on the Commission to start focusing on accurately relaying the results of the projects undertaken in this field and on transparently accounting for the

money spent;

8. Notes the comments in the Commission's reply to the Special Report to the effect that responsibilities sometimes lie with beneficiary country authorities; encourages the Commission to engage these authorities and obtaining commitments from them where important for the success of projects; believes that due to the multidisciplinary nature of water, this issue must be included in Union's political and policy dialogue with governments and authorities in developing countries; stresses the importance of working closely with local communities, NGOs delivering services and the private sector; notes the successful 'Closing the Gap' project in small towns in northern Nigeria commented upon in the Court of Auditors' Special Report.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	19.2.2013
Result of final vote	+: 25 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Michael Cashman, Véronique De Keyser, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Mikael Gustafsson, Filip Kaczmarek, Michał Tomasz Kamiński, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Jean Roatta, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Keith Taylor, Eleni Theocharous, Patrice Tirolien, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Philippe Boulland, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Isabella Lövin, Gesine Meissner, Judith Sargentini