



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Development*

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**2013/2195(DEC)**

12.2.2014

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012, Section III - Commission and executive agencies  
(2013/2195(DEC))

Rapporteur: Charles Goerens

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. Recalls that development assistance projects deal with structural shortcomings and take place in difficult contexts; risks of errors and failure thus have to be balanced against the potential benefits and the costs of non-action while aiming to ensure efficient and transparent use of funds;
2. Appreciates that more than 1350 projects were evaluated in 2012 in view of relevance and project design, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability under the Commission's Results Oriented Monitoring system; notes a decrease of projects with major problems from 8% (in 2010 and 2011) to 5% in 2012<sup>1</sup>;
3. Notes with concern that the number of cases OLAF started investigating in relation to EuropeAid/DG DEVCO managed projects has increased from 33 (in 2011) to 45 in 2012 while acknowledging that the number of new cases remained still lower than in any year between 2005 and 2010;
4. Welcomes the Commission's "Transparent Aid" initiative<sup>2</sup> providing comprehensive and timely information about humanitarian and development aid and potentially helping to reduce double funding;
5. Welcomes the introduction by EuropeAid/DG DEVCO, in 2012, of a coherent methodology for the calculation of the estimated residual error rate (RER), i.e. the level of errors which have evaded all checks to prevent, detect and correct errors; is satisfied that the Court found the methodology used to estimate the RER appropriate and useful;
6. Expresses concern however about the level of the RER, estimated to be 3.6% for EuropeAid/DG DEVCO, and calls on the Commission to reinforce efforts to better analyse, document and explain the main types of errors and to take appropriate measures, including consultation with relevant stakeholders, to reduce errors in the future in particular in the relation to payments to international organisations which accounted for 38% of the overall RER<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 307 final accompanying the Annual Report 2013 on the European Union's Development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2012; cf. p 161

<sup>2</sup> <https://tr-aid.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/synthesis/aar/doc/devco\\_aar\\_2012.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/synthesis/aar/doc/devco_aar_2012.pdf)

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	11.2.2014
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 20 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Thijs Berman, Ricardo Cortés Lastra, Véronique De Keyser, Nirj Deva, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Catherine Grèze, Mikael Gustafsson, Jean Roatta, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Keith Taylor, Anna Záborská, Iva Zanicchi
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Philippe Boulland, Edvard Kožušník, Csaba Öry, Cristian Dan Preda
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Tadeusz Ross