



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

---

*Committee on Development*

---

**2013/2206(DEC)**

12.2.2014

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on the discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth European Development Funds for the financial year 2012 (2013/2206(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. Expresses satisfaction that the Commission ensured at least partial implementation of all recommendations of the Court of Auditors ('the Court') annual reports for 2009 and 2010 on the European Development Funds (EDF) implementation and calls upon the Commission to further ensure follow-up and implementation of recommendations entailed in the Court's reports for 2011 and 2012;
2. Notes that in 2012 EUR 891 million, representing 29% of the overall EDF aid disbursement, was provided through Budget Support<sup>1</sup> and welcomes that commitments for budget support increased by 90% to EUR 2.4 billion<sup>2</sup>; backs in this respect the Court's recommendation to step up measures ensuring the correct application of conditions for budget support; welcomes the fact that the Commission intends to accompany budget support by enhanced assistance to the development of parliamentary control and audit capacities and increased transparency of public expenditure in recipient countries<sup>3</sup>;
3. Looks forward to the implementation of the Commission's commitment to align democratic scrutiny of the EDF to the scrutiny exercised by Parliament over the Development Cooperation Instrument<sup>4</sup>;
4. Notes that evaluations of on-going EDF projects in Sub-Saharan countries concluded in 2012 indicate improvements in project design and relevance, impact and sustainability on the one side but also continued problems in relation to efficiency and effectiveness on the other side with just over half of the projects receiving good or very good marks<sup>5</sup>; welcomes the launch in 2012 of comprehensive frameworks to build resilience in the Sahel (AGIR – *Alliance globale pour l'initiative Résilience – Sahel*) and the Horn of

---

<sup>1</sup> Answers to the written questions to Commissioner Piebalgs (Discharge to the EDF) - Hearing of the Committee on Budgetary Control on 26 November 2013

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009\\_2014/documents/cont/dv/questionnaireedf\\_/questionnaireedf\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/cont/dv/questionnaireedf_/questionnaireedf_en.pdf)

<sup>2</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 (p. 171)

<sup>3</sup> Commission proposal for the financial regulation applicable to the 11th European Development Fund Commission foresees, COM(2013) 660 final, Article 39

<sup>4</sup> "A budget for Europe 2020" COM(2011)0500 final, p. 21

<sup>5</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 (p. 72) and Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2012) 242 final accompanying the Annual Report 2012 on the European Union's Development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2011 (p. 67)

Africa (SHARE – Supporting HoA Resilience) to better address persistent food insecurity in these regions;

5. Is concerned by the high and increased percentage of evaluated projects in the Pacific region being assessed as having serious deficiencies and only 40.4% of projects performing "good" or "very good"; calls on the Commission to further investigate about the causes of these deficiencies and to enhance in-country capacity in order to improve project design and implementation<sup>1</sup>;
6. Positively notes the overall satisfactory and improved quality of projects in the Caribbean region where 75.47% of projects were assessed to perform well or very well<sup>2</sup>;
7. Welcomes the introduction by EuropeAid/DG DEVCO, in 2012, of a coherent methodology for the calculation of the estimated residual error rate (RER), and is satisfied that the Court found the methodology to be appropriate; is concerned however about the estimated RER level of 3.6%; calls on the Commission to reinforce efforts to better analyse and document the main types of errors and to reduce the RER in coming years;
8. Reiterates concern about the persistence of material errors in EDF payments; notes positively however that the Court estimates the most likely error rate in 2012 to be 3.0% which indicates a reduction compared to 2011 (5.1%) and 2010 (3.4%).

---

<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 (p. 120)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 97

## 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