



2023/2129(DEC)

18.12.2023

AMENDMENTS

1 - 36

Draft opinion
Antoni Comín i Oliveres
(PE756.272v01-00)

2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Commission
((2023/2129(DEC))

Amendment 1

Ilan De Basso, Carlos Zorrinho, Udo Bullmann, Karsten Lucke

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Is alarmed about the rising number of crises worldwide and the highest-ever humanitarian funding gap; is worried that Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe (GE) is stretched to its limits and is not sufficient to address existing needs;

Amendment

1. Is alarmed about the rising number of crises worldwide and the highest-ever humanitarian funding gap; is worried that Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe (GE) is stretched to its limits and is not sufficient to address existing needs; ***calls on the Member States to ensure that the cushion is mobilised only for purposes within its intended scope;***

Or. en

Amendment 2

Waldemar Tomaszewski

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Is alarmed about the rising number of crises worldwide and the highest-ever humanitarian funding gap; is worried that Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe (GE) is stretched to its limits and is not sufficient to address existing needs;

Amendment

1. Is alarmed about the rising number of crises worldwide and the highest-ever humanitarian funding gap, ***exacerbated by Russia's unjustified and unprovoked aggression in Ukraine, the growing political and economic influence of China in Africa and Russian interference on that continent, as well as new factors driving mass migration and leading to asylum-seeking, such as the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan and coups in the Sahel region, which have exacerbated instability across Africa and Asia;*** is worried that Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe (GE) is stretched to its limits and is not sufficient to address

existing needs;

Or. pl

Amendment 3
György Hölvényi

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Is alarmed about the rising number of crises worldwide and the highest-ever humanitarian funding gap; is worried that Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe (GE) is stretched to its limits and is not sufficient to address existing needs;

Amendment

1. Is alarmed about the rising number of crises worldwide and the highest-ever humanitarian funding gap; is worried that Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe (GE) is stretched to its limits and is not sufficient to address existing needs; ***further notes with concern that the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine worsened the global food crisis, triggered an energy, cost of living and debt crisis worldwide and created economic uncertainty;***

Or. en

Amendment 4
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Is alarmed about the rising number of crises worldwide and the highest-ever humanitarian funding gap; is worried that Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe (GE) is stretched to its limits and ***is not sufficient to address existing*** needs;

Amendment

1. Is alarmed about the rising number of crises worldwide and the highest-ever humanitarian funding gap; is worried that Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe (GE) is stretched to its limits and ***that the amounts currently deployed do not effectively meet established*** needs;

Amendment 5

Erik Marquardt

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Is alarmed about the rising number of crises worldwide **and** the highest-ever humanitarian funding gap; is worried that Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe (GE) is stretched to its limits and is not sufficient to address existing needs;

Amendment

1. Is alarmed about the rising number of crises worldwide, the highest-ever humanitarian funding gap **and increasing inequalities between and within countries**; is worried that Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe (GE) is stretched to its limits and is not sufficient to address existing needs;

Or. en

Amendment 6

György Hölvényi

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Notes that the European Union and its 27 EU Member States together remain the world's biggest provider of external assistance, accounting for approximately 43 % of the total official development assistance (ODA) provided by all OECD ODA donors to developing countries;

Or. en

Amendment 7

Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Stresses the need to improve the effectiveness of EU development aid and humanitarian aid;

Or. fr

Amendment 8
Ilan De Basso, Carlos Zorrinho, Udo Bullmann, Karsten Lucke

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Recognises the work of the Commission in applying controls to make sure that transactions are made in a legitimate manner and that activities are implemented in accordance with the priorities set by the legislator; calls on the Commission to further improve controls in order to decrease the amount of transactional errors and to fully implement the recommendations of the Court of Auditors;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Ilan De Basso, Carlos Zorrinho, Udo Bullmann, Karsten Lucke

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 b. Highlights the fact that the legitimacy and effectiveness of EU development cooperation hinges on the correct implementation of activities and

their proper funding; calls on the Commission to redouble efforts to find eligible projects and to ensure a sufficient amount of payments under the current expenditure ceiling;

Or. en

Amendment 10
György Hölvényi

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 b. Welcomes the Global Gateway strategy as a concerted EU response to global challenges; is of the opinion that in times of new geostrategic challenges, EU foreign policy and development cooperation actors must coordinate better in order to increase the EU's presence and visibility worldwide;

Or. en

Amendment 11
Erik Marquardt
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Notes that 2022 was the first full year of the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy; underlines that actions bringing together public and private investment must ***always be guided by*** development objectives; calls for more transparency and Parliament's involvement in strategic choices involving Union funds; insists that Global Gateway should not only align with the EU ***interests*** but also

2. Notes that 2022 was the first full year of the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy; underlines that actions bringing together public and private investment must ***be limited in areas where they can add value to the local economy and be consistent with the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and national*** development objectives; calls for more transparency, ***regular assessments of the***

with the needs of partner countries and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs;

Global Gateway implementation and Parliament's involvement, ***beyond a simple observer role***, in strategic choices involving Union funds ***in respect of the scrutiny role of the European Parliament of the NDICI-Global Europe, which is the main source of financing of the Global Gateway***; ***calls on the Commission to set a clear and transparent accountability mechanism of implementation of the strategy and to demonstrate clear rationale for the use of development finance for the projects branded under the Global Gateway strategy***; insists that Global Gateway should not only align with the EU ***priorities*** but also with the needs of partner countries and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs;

Or. en

Amendment 12 Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes that 2022 was the first full year of the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy; underlines that actions bringing together public and private investment must always be guided by development objectives; calls for more transparency and Parliament's involvement in strategic choices involving Union funds; insists that Global Gateway should not only align with the EU interests but also with the needs of partner countries and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs;

Amendment

2. Notes that 2022 was the first full year of the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy; underlines that actions bringing together public and private investment must always be guided by development objectives ***and meet the specific needs of the countries concerned, in particular as regards infrastructure and energy***; calls for more transparency and Parliament's involvement in strategic choices involving Union funds; insists that Global Gateway should not only align with the EU interests but also with the needs of partner countries, ***for example in terms of energy and infrastructure***, and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs;

Or. fr

Amendment 13

Ilan De Basso, Carlos Zorrinho, Udo Bullmann, Karsten Lucke

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes that 2022 was the first full year of the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy; underlines that actions bringing together public and private investment must always be guided by development objectives; calls for more transparency and Parliament's involvement in strategic choices involving Union funds; insists that Global Gateway should not only align with the EU interests but also with the needs of partner countries and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs;

Amendment

2. Notes that 2022 was the first full year of the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy; underlines that actions bringing together public and private investment must always be guided by development objectives; calls for more transparency and Parliament's involvement in strategic choices involving Union funds; insists that Global Gateway should not only align with the EU interests but also with ***Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement***, the needs of partner countries and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs;

Or. en

Amendment 14

Waldemar Tomaszewski

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Underlines the need to speed up progress on achieving the NDICI-GE spending targets for human development, ***gender and climate*** objectives; ***is worried, in particular, about the Commission's capacity to ensure reaching the Instrument's climate target and calls for concrete actions outlining how the climate target is going to be met;***

Amendment

3. Underlines the need to speed up progress on achieving the NDICI-GE spending targets for human development ***and migration control*** objectives; ***considers that aid should be suspended in the event of a degradation in democracy, human rights or the rule of law in third countries, as well as in the event of a lack of cooperation in the fight against illegal migration and in the event of a serious conflict with shared values, such as supporting a war of aggression;***

Or. pl

Amendment 15
Erik Marquardt
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Underlines the need to speed up progress on achieving the NDICI-GE spending targets for human development, gender and climate objectives; is worried, in particular, about the Commission's capacity to ensure reaching the Instrument's climate target **and** calls for concrete actions outlining how the climate **target is** going to be met;

Amendment

3. Underlines the need to speed up progress on achieving the NDICI-GE spending targets for human development, gender, **biodiversity** and climate objectives; is worried, in particular, about the Commission's capacity to ensure reaching the Instrument's climate target **of 30% and the biodiversity target of 10% for 2026 and 2027; recalls that the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services will undermine progress in approximately 80 % of the SDGs targets and that climate change will increasingly put pressure on food production and access, especially in vulnerable regions, undermining nutrition and food security;** calls for concrete actions outlining how the climate **and biodiversity targets are** going to be met; **recalls the commitment set out to ensure a strong gender perspective and mainstreaming implementing the EU Gender Action Plan III;**

Or. en

Amendment 16
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Underlines the need to speed up progress on achieving the NDICI-GE spending targets for human development, gender and climate objectives; is worried,

Amendment

3. Underlines the need to speed up progress on achieving the NDICI-GE spending targets for human development, gender and climate objectives, **but also on**

in particular, about the **Commission's** capacity to ensure reaching the Instrument's climate target and calls for concrete actions outlining how the climate target is going to be met;

migration, in particular in the fight against irregular migration; is worried, in particular, about the **Commission's** capacity to ensure reaching the Instrument's climate target and calls for concrete actions outlining how the climate target is going to be met;

Or. fr

Amendment 17
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Takes note of the enhanced provisions of the Samoa Agreement on migration and stresses that EU development cooperation must be conditional on the beneficiary country's cooperation on migration, in particular as regards returns and readmissions;

Or. fr

Amendment 18
Erik Marquardt
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Urges the Commission to stick to the 10% indicative migration target of NDICI and to refrain from further increasing migration related spending compared to the reported 14% in November 2022; regrets the modus operandi of the Commission in its management of external migration budget lines, notably the absence of fundamental

rights impact assessments prior to migration projects in third countries, absence of publicly available overviews of budgets and projects and the Commission's systematic refusal by to provide the European Parliament with budgetary migration related spending overviews per country and MOCADDEM related documentation, despite several formal requests and commitments under the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission; urges the Commission to significantly improve these practices with immediate effect, notably by performing an independent external evaluation of migration related spending under NDICI, with a focus on EU legal obligations related to human rights and development spending;

Or. en

Amendment 19
György Hölvényi

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. *Reminds the Commission's commitment to dedicate at least 10% of the EU's development portfolio to support access to quality education; welcomes the progress reached so far and calls on the Commission to continue the implementation of this commitment; further calls on the Commission to involve local actors, including faith-based organisations, with relevant experiences in providing quality education into the implementation of the EU financing for education in developing countries;*

Or. en

Amendment 20
Antoni Comín i Oliveres

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. *Notes that in 2022 EUR 501 million were mobilised from the cushion of the NDICI-GE instrument as part of the bilateral assistance for Ukraine; urges the Commission in its future actions to preserve the initial purpose of cushion funds, which is to respond to unforeseen crises; welcomes, in this regard, the proposal to create a new instrument, the Ukraine Facility, to provide predictable financial support for Ukraine over the 2024-2027 period;*

Or. en

Amendment 21
Erik Marquardt
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. *Questions the large-scale tapping of the cushion within the NDICI-GE; deplores the Commission's failure to always notify Parliament before the cushion is mobilised, undermining Parliament's right of scrutiny and impeding the Commission from fully taking into consideration its observations on the nature, objectives and financial amounts envisaged;*

Or. en

Amendment 22

Erik Marquardt
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. *Appreciates* the role of local NGOs and partners in service delivery; underlines the importance of enhancing their capacity to manage and implement actions financed by the EU and invites the Commission to facilitate adequate training towards this aim; is concerned about the continued difficulties faced by small local NGOs to access Union funding;

Amendment

4. *Stresses* the role of local NGOs and partners in service delivery *and support to local communities*; underlines the importance of enhancing their capacity to manage and implement actions financed by the EU and invites the Commission to facilitate adequate training towards this aim; is concerned about the continued difficulties faced by small local NGOs to access Union funding; *encourages the Commission to improve these funding procedures and to systematically prioritise local NGOs in order to provide better capacity-building on the ground*;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Appreciates the role of local NGOs and partners in service delivery; underlines the importance of enhancing their capacity to manage and implement actions financed by the EU and invites the Commission to facilitate adequate training towards this aim; is concerned about the continued difficulties faced by small local NGOs to access Union funding;

Amendment

4. Appreciates the role of local NGOs and partners in service delivery; underlines the importance of enhancing their capacity to manage and implement actions financed by the EU and invites the Commission to facilitate adequate training towards this aim; is concerned about the continued difficulties faced by small local NGOs to access Union funding, *but stresses that access to Union funding for small local NGOs must not entail an easing of transparency requirements*;

Or. fr

Amendment 24

Ilan De Basso, Carlos Zorrinho, Udo Bullmann, Karsten Lucke

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Appreciates the role of local NGOs and partners in service delivery; underlines the importance of enhancing their capacity to manage and implement actions financed by the EU and invites the Commission to facilitate adequate training towards this aim; is concerned about the continued difficulties faced by small local NGOs to access Union funding;

Amendment

4. Appreciates the role of local NGOs and partners in service delivery; underlines the importance of enhancing their capacity to manage and implement actions financed by the EU and invites the Commission to facilitate adequate training towards this aim; is concerned about the continued difficulties faced by small local NGOs to access Union funding; ***highlights the efficacy of local ownership in project implementation as concerns prioritisation, allocation of resources and building local know-how;***

Or. en

Amendment 25

György Hölvényi

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Appreciates the role of local ***NGOs and partners*** in service delivery; underlines the importance of enhancing their capacity to manage and implement actions financed by the EU and invites the Commission to facilitate adequate training towards this aim; is concerned about the continued difficulties faced by small local NGOs to access Union funding;

Amendment

4. Appreciates the role of local ***organisations, including faith-based actors*** in service delivery; underlines the importance of enhancing their capacity to manage and implement actions financed by the EU and invites the Commission to facilitate adequate training towards this aim; is concerned about the continued difficulties faced by small local NGOs ***as well as faith-based organisations*** to access Union funding;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Stresses that NGOs receiving Union funding must adhere to the Union's values, for example in the area of gender equality, and is concerned about possible direct or indirect funding or support by the Union for organisations advocating a strict form of Islam or which disseminate such thinking, for example in education;

Or. fr

Amendment 27
Erik Marquardt
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. Stresses the important role of the official development assistance (ODA); calls for a cautious approach to blending and public-private partnerships in fields, such as education or health;

5. Recalls the obligation under the NDICI Regulation for 93% of the Instrument funding to be compliant with the official development assistance (ODA) criteria as established by the OECD; recalls that blending and public-private partnerships **cannot guarantee universal access to, or replace public investments in** fields such as education, **social protection** or health, **that provide crucial long-term prospects for the graduation from poverty;**

Or. en

Amendment 28

Dominique Bilde

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 5**

Draft opinion

5. Stresses the important role of the official development assistance (ODA); calls for a cautious approach to blending and public-private partnerships in fields, such as education or health;

Amendment

5. Stresses the important role of the official development assistance (ODA), ***but also the persistent challenges in improving its effectiveness***; calls for a cautious approach to blending and public-private partnerships in fields such as education or health, ***while emphasising the potential of such blending for diversifying sources of development funding***;

Or. fr

**Amendment 29
Dominique Bilde**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Calls for increased mobilisation of sources of development funding other than ODA alone, such as partnerships with the private sector and direct transfers (remittances), and stresses that the circle of state donors of ODA should also be widened;

Or. fr

**Amendment 30
Erik Marquardt
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. *Calls for ex ante assessments to determine the possible implications and risks of EU programs with regard to human rights, especially in projects dealing with tourism and biodiversity protection, as well as in refugee and diaspora-focused programs;*

Or. en

Amendment 31
György Hölvényi

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. *Recalls the Parliament's power of scrutiny and the need for transparency in the implementation of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe; underlines that the Commission is responsible for identifying, formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating EU assistance; recalls that the European External Action Service (EEAS) is tasked with ensuring the continuity and coherence of EU external policies with the integrated approach that includes the NDICI-Global Europe; stresses that the Parliament is responsible for democratic oversight and scrutiny as a co-legislator under the co-decision procedure; is of the opinion that this approach enables further cooperation between the EU institutions, the Member States and the European Investment Bank (EIB) to continuously increase the EU's collective effectiveness and visibility;*

Or. en

Amendment 32
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. Stresses, however, the importance of public-private partnerships in education, including for the purposes of vocational training, particularly in Africa, in order to enhance the labour market integration and employability of young people;

Or. fr

Amendment 33
Erik Marquardt
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 b. Asks the Commission to guarantee that EU funding programs are not linked to cases of transnational repression, affecting refugees, asylum seekers, and naturalized citizens in the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 34
Erik Marquardt
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 c. Calls on the Commission and Member States for a suspension or modulation of EU funding programs that (in)directly contribute to human rights

violations, with particular regard to the rights of IPLCs, including their right to self-determination, land, free assembly, and free, prior and informed consent;

Or. en

Amendment 35

Ilan De Basso, Carlos Zorrinho, Udo Bullmann, Karsten Lucke

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Welcomes the finding of the ECA report on the EU budget for 2022 that DG ECHO implemented ECA recommendation and established a procedure ensuring that partner organisations base their allocation of shared costs on expenditure actually incurred.

Amendment

6. Welcomes the finding of the ECA report on the EU budget for 2022 that DG ECHO implemented ECA recommendation and established a procedure ensuring that partner organisations base their allocation of shared costs on expenditure actually incurred; ***urges the Commission to act upon ECA recommendations that have not been implemented.***

Or. en

Amendment 36

Antoni Comín i Oliveres

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. Welcomes the European Court of Auditors (ECA) Special Report 14/2023 entitled ‘Programming the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe: Comprehensive programmes with deficiencies in the methods for allocating funds and impact monitoring’; expects the Commission to act on the recommendations made by the ECA especially as regards more

predictable and transparent programming as well as clearer methodology for assessing the impact of EU's support and reiterates in this regard the recommendations made in its resolution of 12 December 2023 on the implementation of the NDICI-GE; encourages the ECA to prepare special reports relating to development cooperation expenditure and to regularly cover development cooperation aspects in its special reports on horizontal issues in accordance with the Policy Coherence for Development principle set in article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

Or. en