

**Question for written answer E-000882/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Filip De Man (ID)

Subject: Budgetary aid to third countries

Budgetary aid plays a central role in the EU's international cooperation. The EU is the largest provider of budgetary aid in the world. These are direct financial transfers to the national treasury of partner countries implementing sustainable development reforms. These transfers depend on policy dialogue, performance assessment and capacity building. According to the European Court of Auditors, the legal provisions leave considerable room for interpretation. Consequently, the European Court of Auditors is not in a position to verify what happens to the European financial assistance after the Commission pays it to the recipient country, as these funds are then integrated into that country's own budgetary resources.

In 2019, the total amount committed for all current budgetary aid agreements amounted to EUR 12.7 billion, the majority of which went to notoriously corrupt regimes in Sub-Saharan Africa, both in commitments and disbursements.

In 2019, the Court made six necessary recommendations to the Commission to improve transparency and control of budgetary aid to third countries.

1. Which of these six recommendations of the Court of Auditors have been translated into specific measures by the Commission since 2019?
2. To what extent does the Commission take account of corruption in the selection of recipient countries?

Submitted: 15.3.2023