

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

2008/2247(INI)

3.12.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on Legal Affairs

on implementation of Directive 2006/43/EC on statutory audits of annual
accounts and consolidated accounts
(2008/2247(INI))

Rapporteur (*): Ieke van den Burg

(*) Associated committee – Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that the Directive was adopted as a response to the crisis following the collapse of Enron; emphasises that the current financial crisis highlights the importance of high-quality accounting and auditing practices; deplores the fact that only 12 Member States have transposed the Directive in full; urges the Commission to ensure its immediate transposition and enforcement;
2. Stresses that recent experience shows the need for frequent and high-quality interaction within audit committees and between independent directors, supervisory boards and auditors and that non-executive board members should consider carefully the possibility of having meetings without executive board members present;
3. Deplores the fact that not all Member States have set up an adequately resourced independent public oversight of auditors; stresses that this gap should be closed and that coordination between the national public oversight bodies should be strengthened; urges for mutual recognition with third-country oversight authorities;
4. Notes that divergences between Member States' liability regimes might lead to regulatory arbitrage and undermine the internal market, but is aware of the differing levels of exposure linked to the size of audit firms and companies with which they deal; emphasises that liability claims often come from third countries in which such litigation is largely driven by contingency fees arrangements; is reluctant to welcome such a litigation culture into the European Union and asks for a more fundamental resolution to the perverse effects of such fee-driven practices;
5. Welcomes the Commission's recommendation relating to the limitation of the civil liability of auditors; encourages Member States to implement that recommendation;
6. Stresses that listed subsidiaries are subject to statutory audits; recommends that national law require that parent undertakings holding such subsidiaries be subject to statutory audits performed by auditors approved in accordance with the Directive.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	2.12.2008
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Mariela Velichkova Baeva, Paolo Bartolozzi, Zsolt László Becsey, Sebastian Valentin Bodu, Sharon Bowles, Udo Bullmann, David Casa, Manuel António dos Santos, Christian Ehler, Jonathan Evans, José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Jean-Paul Gauzès, Robert Goebbels, Donata Gottardi, Louis Grech, Othmar Karas, Wolf Klinz, Astrid Lulling, Gay Mitchell, Sirpa Pietikäinen, John Purvis, Peter Skinner, Margarita Starkevičiūtė, Ivo Strejček, Sahra Wagenknecht
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Harald Ettl