

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Committee on Employment and Social Affairs*

**2008/2186(DEC)**

12.2.2009

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on the discharge for implementation of the European Union general budget for  
the financial year 2007

(SEC(2008)2359 - C6-0415/2008 - 2008/2186(DEC))

Section III - Commission

Rapporteur: Jan Andersson

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

### *Chapter 3 - Budgetary Management*

1. Notes that the implementation of the 2007 budget attracted the special attention of the European Court of Auditors (ECA), as it was the first year of a new programming cycle (2007-2013);
2. Welcomes the fact that the ECA for the first time issued a positive statement of assurance as regards the implementation of the Commission's budget;
3. Is worried, however, that in certain policy areas, among them cohesion, the ECA still concluded that payments were materially affected by errors and that supervisory and control systems in these areas were at best only partially effective;
4. Encourages, therefore, the Commission to continue its efforts to address the weaknesses in supervision and control by developing and implementing an internal reform programme and, together with the Member States, implementing an action plan to further improve the supervisory and control systems of the Union;

### *Chapter 6 – Cohesion*

5. Notes that 27% of all payments under this heading in the financial year 2007 were made in the policy area of employment and social affairs; also notes that 84% of all payments made in the financial year 2007 still related to the 2000-2006 programming cycle;
6. Is satisfied that, for the policy area of cohesion, including employment and social affairs, almost 100% of payment appropriations were used, after corrections were made by way of amending budgets;
7. Deplores the most frequent errors, which related to the European Social Funds and were, firstly, failure to supply evidence that overheads or staff costs were relevant to the project in question and, secondly, overestimation of staff costs or overheads; therefore strongly supports the new rules under the financial framework for the period 2007-2013 that simplify procedures and allow the declaration of overheads on a flat-rate basis as a proportion of direct costs; furthermore, calls upon the Member States to step up their information activities directed at beneficiaries and to improve day-to-day management checks in order to reduce errors;
8. Welcomes the guidance issued on 5 June 2008 on management verifications to be carried out by Member States in operations co-financed by the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2007-2013 programming period<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> COCOF 08/0020/04-EN.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	11.2.2009
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+:            44 -:            0 0:            0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Jan Andersson, Edit Bauer, Iles Braghetto, Philip Bushill-Matthews, Milan Cabrnach, Alejandro Cercas, Ole Christensen, Luigi Cocilovo, Jean Louis Cottigny, Jan Cremers, Harald Ettl, Richard Falbr, Carlo Fatuzzo, Ilda Figueiredo, Joel Hasse Ferreira, Stephen Hughes, Karin Jöns, Ona Juknevičienė, Jean Lambert, Bernard Lehideux, Elisabeth Lynne, Thomas Mann, Jiří Maštálka, Maria Matsouka, Elisabeth Morin, Csaba Óry, Siiri Oviir, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Rovana Plumb, Elisabeth Schroedter, José Albino Silva Peneda, Kathy Sinnott, Jean Spautz, Gabriele Stauner, Ewa Tomaszewska, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Gabriela Crețu, Pierre Jonckheer, Jamila Madeira, Adrian Manole, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Csaba Sógor, Patrizia Toia