AMENDMENTS
1 - 46

Draft opinion
Romana Tomc
(PE660.377v01-00)

2019 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission
(2020/2140(DEC))
Amendment 1
Dragoș Pîslaru, Samira Rafaela, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Véronique Trillet-Lenoir, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Ilana Cicurel, Sylvie Brunet, Radka Maxová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Recalls that 2019 is the penultimate year of the implementation of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014-2020 and that all the financial programmes are fully operational at this stage;

Amendment

1. Recalls that 2019 is the penultimate year of the implementation of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014-2020 and that all the financial programmes are fully operational at this stage; notes that the Court issued a clean opinion on the reliability of the 2019 accounts of the European Union and found that revenue for 2019 was legal, regular and free from material error while issuing an adverse opinion on expenditure;

2. Takes note that by the end of 2019, outstanding commitments continued to rise, reaching EUR 298.0 billion; highlights that this increase was due to the fact that commitment appropriations systematically exceeded payment appropriations and that payment needs were being postponed to the next MFF, basically owing to delays in the implementation of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds;

Amendment

2. Takes note that by the end of 2019, outstanding commitments continued to rise, reaching EUR 298.0 billion; highlights that this increase was due to the fact that commitment appropriations systematically exceeded payment appropriations and that payment needs were being postponed to the next MFF, basically owing to delays in the implementation of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds; notes that despite the fact that the absorption of ESI Funds has accelerated, it is still slower than under the previous MFF; calls,
therefore, on the Commission to analyse the reasons for the low absorption level and to simplify the new rules for the post-2020 period in order to avoid unnecessarily complex and/or burdensome rules with no added value;

Amendment 3
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

**Draft opinion**

2. Takes note that by the end of 2019, outstanding commitments continued to rise, reaching EUR 298.0 billion; highlights that this increase was due to the fact that commitment appropriations systematically exceeded payment appropriations and that payment needs were being postponed to the next MFF, basically owing to delays in the implementation of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds;

**Amendment**

2. Takes note that by the end of 2019, outstanding commitments continued to rise, reaching EUR 298.0 billion; highlights that this increase was due to the fact that commitment appropriations systematically exceeded payment appropriations and that payment needs were being postponed to the next MFF, basically owing to delays in the implementation of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds; **points out that there was a significant increase in payment claims of the ESI funds while the use or ‘absorption’ of these funds by Member States has remained slower than planned, which contributed to a worrying increase in the outstanding commitments for the ESI funds**;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2
Draft opinion

2. Takes note that by the end of 2019, outstanding commitments continued to rise, reaching EUR 298.0 billion; highlights that this increase was due to the fact that commitment appropriations systematically exceeded payment appropriations and that payment needs were being postponed to the next MFF, basically owing to delays in the implementation of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds;

Amendment

2. Takes note that by the end of 2019, outstanding commitments continued to rise, reaching EUR 298.0 billion; highlights that this increase was due to the fact that commitment appropriations systematically exceeded payment appropriations and that payment needs were being postponed to the next MFF, basically owing to delays in the implementation of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds; to that end, recommends that the Commission takes measures to avoid undue pressure on the level of appropriations in the first years of the new MFF 2021-2027;

Amendment 5
Dragoș Pîslaru, Samira Rafaela, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Véronique Trillet-Lenoir, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Ilana Cicurel, Sylvie Brunet, Radka Maxová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

2a. Notes that in 2019, the Court noted a significant increase in payment claims for the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds which include the European Social Fund; further notes that in 2019 the rate of cumulative absorption from the ESI funds remained lower than under the previous MFF and only nine Member States had higher absorption rates under the current MFF than under the previous one; calls on the Commission to analyse the reasons for the low absorption levels and take measures to avoid both undue pressure on the level of appropriations in the first years of the next MFF 2021-2027 and unnecessarily complex and/or burdensome rules; regrets
that at the start of the sixth year of the current MFF, only around 17% of the total ESI funding committed through financial instruments under shared management (FISMs) had reached final recipients and urges both the Commission and Member States to examine and address this issue;

Amendment 6
Dragoș Pîslaru, Samira Rafaela, Atidzhe Aliëva-Veli, Véronique Trillet-Lenoir, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Ilana Cicurel, Sylvie Brunet, Radka Maxová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. Recalls that spending under this subheading is aimed at strengthening competitiveness and reducing development disparities between the different Member States and regions of the EU; stresses the importance of EU cohesion policy in supporting the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and assisting Member States and regions to harness new opportunities and address challenges, such as globalisation, unemployment, industrial change, digitalisation and supporting up and re-skilling and lifelong learning;

Amendment 7
Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)
Draft opinion

3a. Recalls that in its Special report No 5/2017 (‘Youth unemployment – have EU policies made a difference?’), the Court found that, while some progress had been made in implementing the Youth Guarantee, and while some results had been achieved, the situation fell short of the initial expectations raised at the launch of the Youth Guarantee;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Lucia Šuriš Nicholsonová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

3b. Recalls that in its Special Report No 22/2018 (‘Mobility under Erasmus+’), the Court found that the VET-strand in the Erasmus+ programme could be further improved as the inclusion of VET brings the programme closer to a greater variety of citizens;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Lucia Šuriš Nicholsonová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 c (new)

Draft opinion

3c. Takes note of the Special report No 14/2016 (‘EU policy initiatives and financial support for Roma integration’) according to which significant progress
has been made in the last decade when it comes to Roma integration, however, obstacles still remain on the ground; regrets in this context that ‘best practices’ criteria contributing to successful Roma inclusion were not always applied and monitoring performance was difficult; recalls that the lack of robust and comprehensive data on Roma is a problem for evidence-based policy-making at EU and national level; deplores the fact that this situation might remain unchanged unless swift action is taken;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Alicia Homs Ginel, Estrella Durá Ferrandis, Agnes Jongerius, Milan Brglez, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Elisabetta Gualmini, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Gabriele Bischoff

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Notes with concern that the estimated overall level of error in the policy area ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ in 2019 stood at 4.4 % (2018: 5.0 %); underlines that despite the slight decrease in comparison with the previous year, this figure is still largely above the 2 % materiality threshold and the estimated level of error in expenditure for the Union budget as a whole (2.7 %);

Amendment

4. Highlights the importance of the EU cohesion policy in supporting the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights; notes with concern that the estimated overall level of error in the policy area ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ in 2019 stood at 4.4 % (2018: 5.0 %); underlines that despite the slight decrease in comparison with the previous year, this figure is still largely above the 2 % materiality threshold and the estimated level of error in expenditure for the Union budget as a whole (2.7 %); stresses that the new control and assurance framework was designed to ensure that annual residual error rates are below 2 %; agrees with the Court's conclusions that further improvements are necessary in terms of the implementation of the framework by managing authorities, audit authorities and the Commission in order to reduce
Notes with concern that the estimated overall level of error in the policy area ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ in 2019 stood at 4.4% (2018: 5.0%); underlines that despite the slight decrease in comparison with the previous year, this figure is still largely above the 2% materiality threshold and the estimated level of error in expenditure for the Union budget as a whole (2.7%);

recognises that the majority of spending in this area is deemed high-risk expenditure as mainly reimbursement-based and often subject to complex rules; notes that the most common errors under the Cohesion heading were ineligible projects and infringements of internal market rules in particular non-compliance with public procurement and state aid rules;
estimated overall level of error in the policy area ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ in 2019 stood at 4.4 % (2018: 5.0 %); underlines that despite the slight decrease in comparison with the previous year, this figure is still largely above the 2 % materiality threshold and the estimated level of error in expenditure for the Union budget as a whole (2.7 %); estimated overall level of error in the policy area ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ in 2019 stood at 4.4 % (2018: 5.0 %); underlines that despite the slight decrease in comparison with the previous year, this figure is still largely above the 2 % materiality threshold and the estimated level of error in expenditure for the Union budget as a whole (2.7 %);

points out, furthermore, that the number and the impact of detected errors indicate that there is a high inherent risk of error in this area and that managing authorities’ checks are still often ineffective for preventing or detecting irregularities in the expenditure declared by beneficiaries;

Amendment 13
Kira Marie Peter-Hansen
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

4. Notes with concern that the estimated overall level of error in the policy area ‘Economic, social and territorial cohesion’ in 2019 stood at 4.4 % (2018: 5.0 %); underlines that despite the slight decrease in comparison with the previous year, this figure is still largely above the 2 % materiality threshold and the estimated level of error in expenditure for the Union budget as a whole (2.7 %);

calls for urgent action to decrease the error rate in the future, and especially for the new funding period;
Amendment 14
Alicia Homs Ginel, Estrella Durá Ferrandis, Agnes Jongerius, Milan Brglez, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Elisabetta Gualmini, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Gabriele Bischoff

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4a. Notes that ineligible expenditure and public procurement procedures have been detected as the most common types of irregularities; stresses the need to take effective measures to reduce those sources of error while achieving a high performance and calls on the Commission to implement swiftly the Court’s recommendations in this policy area;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

5. Regrets the fact that also for 2019 financial year, the Court of Auditors (the ‘Court’) concludes that the weaknesses detected in some audit authorities’ sampling methods have affected representativeness, and that shortcomings remain in the way audit authorities perform and document their work; notes with concern that despite many irregularities which national audit authorities have already reported for the projects the Court examines, many errors still go undetected or uncorrected by all internal control instances at an earlier stage; welcomes, in this context the joint initiative of the Commission and audit authorities to improve the documentation of audit authorities’ work; recommends, on the
basis of the Court’s findings and conclusions for 2019, that the Commission analyses the main sources of undetected errors and develops the necessary measures together with the audit authorities to improve the reliability of reported residual rates;

Amendment 16
Dragoș Pîslaru, Samira Rafaela, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Véronique Trillet-Lenoir, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Ilana Cicurel, Sylvie Brunet, Radka Maxová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

5. Regrets the fact that also for 2019 financial year, the Court of Auditors (the ‘Court’) concludes that the weaknesses detected in some audit authorities’ sampling methods have affected representativeness, and that shortcomings remain in the way audit authorities perform and document their work;

Amendment

5. Recalls the crucial role of audit authorities in the Member States in the assurance and control framework in the cohesion policy area; regrets the fact that also for 2019 financial year, the Court of Auditors (the ‘Court’) concludes that the weaknesses detected in some audit authorities’ sampling methods have affected representativeness, and that shortcomings remain in the way audit authorities perform and document their work; welcomes the Commission’s and audit authorities’ joint efforts resulting in a ‘good practice note’ for the documentation of audit authorities’ work as a first step to improvement;

Amendment 17
Romana Tomec, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)
5a. Acknowledges that EU spending in this policy area is characterised by cost reimbursements, which involve more complex rules than in some other policy areas, and that this results in that relatively high estimated level of error in this policy area; in this respect, notes that in 2019, errors are mainly due to ineligible projects (55 %) and infringement of internal market rules (24 %, of which 15 % serious non-compliance with public procurement rules), followed by ineligible expenditure (12 %) and absence of essential supporting documents (4 %);

Amendment 18
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

6a. Takes note that in its Annual activity report for 2019, DG EMPL reported a KPI (1.7 % residual total error rate) below the 2 % materiality threshold and that it also reported ‘a maximum rate’ (up to 2.4 %) which would allow to take into account possible further errors in expenditure on operations that were not included in the Commission’s audits; furthermore takes note that the Court considers the ‘maximum rate’ to be more suitable, because it takes account of the potential impact of ongoing audit work;
7. Takes note that for the ESF, representing 94.7 % of DG EMPL’s 2019 budget, the major inherent risk relates to the complexity of the operations and activities financed, the typology and variety of recipients, and the high number of annual interventions;

7. Recalls the vital importance of the ESF as the EU’s main tool in fostering increased employment, education and training and promoting social inclusion; takes note that for the ESF, representing 94.7 % of DG EMPL’s 2019 budget, the major inherent risk relates to the complexity of the operations and activities financed, the typology and variety of recipients, and the high number of annual interventions;

Or. en

7a. Notes that in 2019, the risk at payment for ESF is in the range of 1.7 %-2.4 %; furthermore, takes note of the fact that due to the processing of first payments for a number of operational programmes in Member States in 2018 and 2019, the auditors had the possibility to examine the full process for a higher number of programmes and a higher number of payments, which subsequently resulted in an increased number of errors found, as well as a higher error rate;

Or. en
Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 a (new)

7a. Stresses the importance of the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) to encourage high level of employment, the creation of quality jobs and fight against poverty and social exclusion; highlights the need to provide them the continued financial and political support of the EU, national and regional institutions in the delivery of their targets in the years to come;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 b (new)

7b. Notes with concern that the most common error affecting ESF expenditure is the absence of essential supporting documentation; notes, furthermore, that in 2019 the Court identified one ESF project that infringed the EU’s state aid rules;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev
Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 c (new)

7c. Welcomes the fact that in the framework of the preventive measures applied by the Commission, DG EMPL continues to apply a strict policy of interruption and suspension of payments to preserve the EU’s financial interests; in this context, notes that for the ESF / Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) and the FEAD, 12 interruption decisions and one suspension decision were adopted in 2019, and that, in addition, 16 warning letters and five pre-suspension letters were sent to the Member States concerned;

Amendment 24
Alicia Homs Ginel, Estrella Durá Ferrandis, Agnes Jongerius, Milan Brglez, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Elisabetta Gualmini, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Gabriele Bischoff

Draft opinion
Paragraph 8 a (new)

8a. Notes that, on average, more than one out of five persons and one out of four children are still at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the European Union; recalls the EU commitment to provide support for the most deprived through FEAD, alleviating the worst forms of poverty in the Union, such as food deprivation, homelessness, and child poverty; notes that about 13 million people, including approximately 4 million children under the age of 15, are supported by FEAD annually;

Or. en
Amendment 25
Marc Botenga, Leila Chaibi, Özlem Demirel, Konstantinos Arvanitis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 8 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

8a. Emphasises that the ESF must combat the worst situations of unequal development and give local development a boost; stresses, furthermore, that regional actors must be involved more closely and the Member States’ contributions should be reduced in order to reach the weakest regions;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9

Draft opinion

Amendment

9. Notes with satisfaction that, following the adoption of the new Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy on 29 April 2019, DG EMPL has performed a fraud-risk-analysis and reviewed and updated jointly with DG REGIO and DG MARE the ‘Joint Anti-Fraud Strategy’ as well as its direct management anti-fraud strategy;

9. Notes with satisfaction that, following the adoption of the new Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy on 29 April 2019, DG EMPL has performed a fraud-risk-analysis and reviewed and updated jointly with DG REGIO and DG MARE the ‘Joint Anti-Fraud Strategy’ as well as its direct management anti-fraud strategy; takes note that DG EMPL has continued to contribute to the development of the risk scoring tool ARACHNE helping the national authorities, among others, to identify the risk of fraud;

Or. en
Amendment 27
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Draft opinion

9a. Notes that the total number of ongoing OLAF investigations concerning EMPL’s fields of activity and all programming periods put together amounts to 20 cases related to the ESF, 1 case regarding FEAD and 2 cases related to direct expenditure at the end of 2019, the main areas of (potential) fraud in these cases being non-compliance with the principles of sound financial management, overpricing and non-respect of procurement rules and procedures;

Or. en

Amendment 28
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 b (new)

Draft opinion

9b. Welcomes the fact that in 2019, the follow-up to 10 OLAF reports was completed whereby through various means and forms the EU budget was protected with the recovery of almost EUR 55.3 million;

Or. en

Amendment 29
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 10
Draft opinion

10. Recalls that most spending on the programmes under the MFF subheading 1a is directly managed by the Commission; and takes the form of grants to public or private beneficiaries participating in projects (the Commission providing advances to beneficiaries upon signature of a grant agreement or financing decision);

Amendment

10. Recalls that most spending on the programmes under the MFF subheading 1a is directly managed by the Commission.

Amendment 30
Marc Botenga, Leila Chaibi, Özlem Demirel, Konstantinos Arvanitis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 10 a (new)

Draft opinion

10a. Urgently calls on the Commission to take the catering staff in-house in order to be more effective and efficient, and to ensure good working conditions and avoid layoffs;

Amendment

10a. Urgently calls on the Commission to take the catering staff in-house in order to be more effective and efficient, and to ensure good working conditions and avoid layoffs;

Amendment 31
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 11

Draft opinion

11. Expresses its concern that the estimated level of error in spending on ‘Competitiveness for growth and jobs’ for 2019 as a whole is material and stands at 4.0 %;

Amendment

11. Expresses its concern that the estimated level of error in spending on ‘Competitiveness for growth and jobs’ (MFF subheading 1a) for 2019 as a whole is material and stands at 4.0 % - which represents a substantial increase
compared to 2.0 in 2018 (2017: 4.2 % and 2016: 4.1 %) and notes that the level of error is persistently high for research and innovation expenditure, being the main source of error, while it is much lower for the rest of this subheading:

Or. en

Amendment 32
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 11 a (new)

Draft opinion

11a. Calls on the competent anti-fraud body to shed light on these major errors, establishing a link between such errors and validation of the budgets for the agencies and various programmes directly managed by the Commission.

Or. fr

Amendment 33
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 12

Draft opinion

12. Notes that EaSI financed 44 projects through five calls for proposals for EUR 29.3 million under its 2019 work programme;

12. Notes that EaSI financed 44 projects through five calls for proposals for EUR 29.3 million under its 2019 work programme; takes note of the fact that in October 2019, DG EMPL signed the first share subscription in the EaSI Funded Instrument, representing a EUR 200 million loan fund to support lending to micro-enterprises and social enterprises;

Or. en
Amendment 34
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 13

Draft opinion

13. Recognises that the five decentralised agencies under the remit of DG EMPL provide significant contribution and have important added value to the achievement of the specific objectives of DG EMPL’s policy areas;

Amendment

13. Recognises that the five decentralised agencies under the remit of DG EMPL provide significant contribution to the achievement of the specific objectives of DG EMPL’s policy areas;

Or. fr

Amendment 35
Alicia Homs Ginel, Estrella Durá Ferrandis, Agnes Jongerius, Milan Brglez, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Elisabetta Gualmini, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Gabriele Bischoff

Draft opinion
Paragraph 13

Draft opinion

13. Recognises that the five decentralised agencies under the remit of DG EMPL provide significant contribution and have important added value to the achievement of the specific objectives of DG EMPL’s policy areas;

Amendment

13. Recognises that the five decentralised agencies (Eurofound, Cedefop, ETF, EU-OSHA and ELA) under the remit of DG EMPL provide significant contribution and each of them has an important added value to the achievement of the specific objectives of DG EMPL’s policy areas; expresses its satisfaction that the assessment confirms a positive evaluation report on the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and added value of the agencies, as well as the need to reinforce cooperation in order to achieve synergies;

Or. en
Amendment 36
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 13

13. Recognises that the five decentralised agencies under the remit of DG EMPL provide significant contribution and have important added value to the achievement of the specific objectives of DG EMPL’s policy areas; notes that the revised Founding Regulations of the three tripartite agencies (Cedefop, EU-OSHA and Eurofound) were adopted on 16 January 2019 and entered into force on 20 February 2019; welcomes the establishment of the European Labour Authority on 31 July 2019, and reiterates its call that the Authority is provided with sufficient financial resources;

Or. en

Amendment 37
Kira Marie Peter-Hansen
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 13

13. Recognises that the five decentralised agencies under the remit of DG EMPL provide significant contribution and have important added value to the achievement of the specific objectives of DG EMPL’s policy areas; encourages, therefore, a fluent dialogue and cooperation as they help reduce the gap between citizens and institutions.

Or. en
Amendment 38
Dragoș Pîslaru, Samira Rafaela, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Véronique Trillet-Lenoir, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Ilana Cicurel, Sylvie Brunet, Radka Maxová

Draft opinion
Paragraph 13 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

13a. Notes that for the first time the Court also issued an overall assessment of the conditions put in place by the EU to enable the agencies to deliver their policies for the public good and recommends to the Commission to ensure the relevance, coherence and flexibility of the set-up of agencies, allocate resources in a more flexible manner, improve governance, accountability and reporting on performance and strengthen the role of the agencies as centres of expertise and networking\(^{1a}\);

\(^{1a}\)


Or. en

Amendment 39
Alicia Homs Ginel, Estrella Durá Ferrandis, Agnes Jongerius, Milan Brglez, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Elisabetta Gualmini, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Gabriele Bischoff

Draft opinion
Paragraph 13 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

13a. Recalls that the ELA was created in March 2018 and started its operation in October 2019; highlights the importance of making the ELA fully operational without undue delay in order to improve
the application and enforcement of Union law relating to labour mobility and social security coordination so as to ensure fair mobility and the effective cross-border enforcement of workers’ rights; stresses the need of ensuring sufficient financial resources in this regard;

Amendment 40
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 14

Draft opinion
14. Notes from DG EMPL’s Annual activity report for 2019 that DG EMPL had reasonable assurance and concluded that the management and control systems of the operational programmes worked as intended in 2019;

Amendment
14. Notes from DG EMPL’s Annual activity report for 2019 that DG EMPL had reasonable assurance and concluded that the management and control systems of the operational programmes worked as intended in 2019 with the exception of 29 ESF/YEI and 1 FEAD programmes which presented material deficiencies of some key elements of the systems;

Amendment 41
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 14 a (new)

Draft opinion
14a. Notes with satisfaction, from DG EMPL’s Annual activity report 2019, that DG EMPL has undertaken the necessary follow-up actions in relation to all Statement of Assurance 2015-2018 recommendations reported by the Court, and that by the end of March 2020, there
were no open Court’s recommendations;

Or. en

Amendment 42
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 15

15. Calls on the Commission to follow up all errors found by the Court and to request additional financial corrections, where deemed necessary;

Amendment

15. Calls on the Commission to follow up all errors found by the Court and to request additional financial corrections in all instances;

Or. fr

Amendment 43
Romana Tomc, Miriam Lexmann, Radan Kanev

Draft opinion
Paragraph 15

15. Calls on the Commission to follow up all errors found by the Court and to request additional financial corrections, where deemed necessary;

Amendment

15. Calls on the Commission to follow up all errors found by the Court and to request additional financial corrections, where deemed necessary; furthermore calls the Commission to make an analysis of the underlying reasons together with the audit authorities and to undertake adequate measures in this regard;

Or. en

Amendment 44
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 16
16. Takes note of the Commission’s commitment to continue its close work with the audit authorities in order to strengthen their capacity to prevent and correct errors, to better document their audit work and therefore to contribute to the assurance process;

16. Takes note of the Commission’s commitment to continue its close work with the audit authorities in order to strengthen their capacity to prevent and correct errors, to better document their audit work and, if necessary, to come up with binding measures to encourage frugal management of monies provided each year by the taxpayers of the 27 Member States as part of their contribution to the European Union and, therefore, to contribute to the assurance process;

Amendment 45
Dominique Bilde

Draft opinion
Paragraph 17 a (new)

17a. Notes that the agency’s publications are produced almost exclusively in English and deplores the fact that its work is not translated to make it accessible to the European public in their national languages; calls for its budget to be made contingent upon a language clause to foster greater transparency by ensuring its work may be understood in each person’s language;

Amendment 46
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė

Draft opinion
Paragraph 18
18. Asks the Commission, more generally, to implement as soon as possible all outstanding Court's recommendations and, in a longer-term perspective, to take the Court’s recommendations into account when implementing actions under the new ESF+ as of 2021.