DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Development and the Committee on Budgets

on the implementation report on the EU Trust Funds and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey
(2020/2045(INI))

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(*) Associated committee – Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Development and the Committee on Budgets, as the committees responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into their motion for a resolution:

A. whereas the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRT) was created in 2016 in the framework of the EU-Turkey statement and manages EUR 6 billion; whereas human rights violations have taken place under this agreement which are incompatible with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights;

B. whereas the EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF) was established in 2015; whereas the EUTF makes predominant use (90%) of Official Development Assistance; whereas it became the main financial instrument for the EU’s political engagement with African partners in the field of migration; whereas the EUTF has funded over 500 projects in more than 25 countries in Africa for a total of over EUR 4.8 billion; whereas the EUTF has raised concerns about contributing to inhumane and degrading treatment and/or financing actors that have committed human rights violations, such as in Libya, Eritrea and Sudan;

1. Deplores the fact that both the EUTF and the FRT are ad hoc instruments that were set up outside the EU budget, raising concerns over their lack of transparency and democratic accountability; points out that their governance structures deviate from ordinary decision-making and bypass parliament scrutiny;

2. Is concerned about the governance of the EUTF: the composition of its board and regional operational committees, the opacity of the process for approving projects, the lack of dialogue with local and human rights CSOs, and the lack of ex ante and ongoing impact assessments on fundamental rights;

3. Highlights that the EUTF is part of a trend of the securitisation and externalisation of EU border management aimed at reducing irregular migration to the EU; stresses the risks to development objectives and fundamental rights associated with this approach.