



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Fisheries

2013/2195(DEC)

23.1.2014

OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012, Section III – Commission (COM(2013)0570 – C7-0273/2013 – 2013/2195(DEC))

Rapporteur: Gabriel Mato Adrover

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Takes note of the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors on the annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2012; takes further note of the Annual Report of the Court of Auditors concerning the financial year 2012; takes note of DG MARE's 2012 annual activity report;
2. Notes that maritime affairs and fisheries is not covered in sufficient detail in the Annual Report of the Court of Auditors;
3. Notes that the Court of Auditors has no particular remarks to make on DG MARE's 2012 activity report;
4. Welcomes the particularly high implementation rate in Title 11 of Section III of the 2012 budget, as regards both commitment appropriations (99.68%) and payment appropriations (98.97%);
5. Notes with concern that the Court of Auditors draws attention in its report to a high overall error rate; deeply regrets that this error rate has risen by comparison with the previous financial year but also notes the change in the Court's sampling method; deplors the fact that the information submitted by the Court of Auditors is not more specific to the policy areas concerned;
6. Insists that the Court of Auditors should present a separate error rate for fisheries and maritime affairs in its future reports; takes the view that the specific sample for DG MARE should be increased in order to ensure that it is properly representative;
7. Notes the two reservations issued by DG MARE for 2012; notes that one of these reservations has been made since 2009 and concerns a programme that started in 2001; notes that, despite repeated calls for it to close this file, DG MARE has still not arrived at an administrative or legal solution that would enable it to lift this reservation; urges the Commission once again to reach a suitable conclusion on this reservation in order to safeguard the European Union's interests;
8. Takes the view that the second reservation issued in DG MARE's 2012 annual activity report, concerning material ineligible expenditure detected in the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), illustrates the high quality of DG MARE's internal control;
9. Encourages DG MARE in its control efforts with regard to appropriations under shared management, particularly in relation to the EFF;
10. Urges the Member States concerned to resolve the problems identified by DG MARE so that the reservations can be lifted;
11. Urges the Court of Auditors once again to include an audit on the external dimension of the common fisheries policy in its work programme;

12. Proposes, on the basis of the data available, to grant the Commission discharge in respect of its expenditure in the areas of maritime affairs and fisheries for the financial year 2012.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	22.1.2014
Result of final vote	+: 18 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	John Stuart Agnew, Antonello Antinoro, Alain Cadec, Chris Davies, João Ferreira, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo, Isabella Lövin, Gabriel Mato Adrover, Guido Milana, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, Ulrike Rodust, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Struan Stevenson, Isabelle Thomas, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Ole Christensen, Jens Nilsson