

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Committee on Regional Development*

**2004/2040(DEC)**

15.3.2005

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on the discharge for implementing the European Union general budget for the financial Year 2003

(SEC(2004)1181 - C6-0012/2005 - 2004/2040(DEC))

Draftswoman: Eluned Morgan

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Believes that the Court of Auditors should distinguish more clearly where the fault lies in relation to structural fund expenditure;
2. Deplores the failure of some Member States to control and manage taxpayers' money for which they are responsible, and points to the hypocrisy of some Member States in blaming the Commission for failing to control expenditure of money for which those Member States are responsible;
3. Emphasises that the Member States should implement the Structural Fund Regulations stringently and that they should, therefore, set up reliable auditing systems; stresses that Parliament will not look on impassively if the Member States fail duly to implement those Regulations;
4. Notes that the Court of Auditors did not find fault with the internal control mechanisms of the Commission and noted improvements; regrets the fact that, due to insufficient resources, only a limited number of Member States' systems have been subjected to on the spot checks;
5. Asks the Commission to inform Parliament of the countries which have failed to rapidly implement agreed improvements in their control systems, and continue to supply incomplete Article 8 statements;
6. Encourages the Commission to suspend interim payments to Member States in cases of serious irregularity or when serious failings in the Member States' management control systems are found.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Annual Report for the Financial Year 2003 - General discharge for 2003
<b>Procedure number</b>	2004/2040(DEC)
<b>Committee responsible</b>	CONT
<b>Committee asked for its opinion</b> Date announced in plenary	REGI 26.1.2005
<b>Enhanced cooperation</b>	-
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Eluned Morgan 19.12.2004
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	31.1.2005
<b>Date suggestions adopted</b>	15.3.2005
<b>Result of final vote</b>	for: unanimité against: 1 abstentions: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Alfonso Andria, Stavros Arnautakis, Jean Marie Beaupuy, Rolf Berend, Adam Jerzy Bielan, Jana Bobošíková, Graham Booth, Bernadette Bourzai, Bairbre de Brún, Giovanni Claudio Fava, Gerardo Galeote Quecedo, Iratxe García Pérez, Eugenijus Gentvilas, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Ambroise Guellec, Zita Gurmai, Gábor Harangozó, Marian Harkin, Konstantinos Hatzidakis, Jim Higgins, Alain Hutchinson, Carlos José Iturgaiz Angulo, Mieczysław Edmund Janowski, Gisela Kallenbach, Tunne Kelam, Miloš Koterec, Constanze Angela Krehl, Sérgio Marques, Francesco Musotto, James Nicholson, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Jan Olbrycht, Markus Pieper, Francisca Pleguezuelos Aguilar, Elisabeth Schroedter, Alyn Smith, Grażyna Staniszevska, Margie Sudre, Oldřich Vlasák, Vladimír Železný
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Jan Březina, Ole Christensen, Mojca Drčar Murko, Louis Grech, Eluned Morgan, Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski, Richard Seeber, László Surján
<b>Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	