

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

---

*Committee on Regional Development*

**2004/2198(INI)**

15.3.2005

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on Protection of the European Communities' financial interests and the fight  
against fraud  
(COM(2004)0573 – 2004/2198(INI))

Draftsman: Vladimír Železný

PA\_NonLeg

## 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. Reminds the Commission that in the current context of looming budgetary restrictions, the protection of the European Communities' financial interests and the fight against fraud together represent the highest imperative to ensure that the financial contributions of Member States are used in a transparent, accountable, and efficient manner.
2. Regrets that the problems of interpretation of Regulation EC 1681/94 have not yet been resolved effectively and expresses its disappointment at the fact that half the Member States did not notify OLAF of cases of irregularities within the prescribed time limits or provide the necessary information on the use of economic resources within the framework of the financing of structural policies or did so inadequately so that the relevant European Commission database cannot be updated.
3. Invites the Member States to take appropriate measures to improve systems for the control and management of the structural funds and to ensure, on the one hand, that the risk of fraud is reduced significantly and, on the other, that the provisions of Regulation 1681/94 are applied in full, particularly with regard to the procedure for timely, clear and full notification.
4. Calls on the Commission to strengthen its efforts in making all EU Member States, and especially the ten new Member States and the applicant countries, fully aware of and dedicated to implementing the key objectives for the protection of the European Communities' interests and the fight against fraud, in particular an intensified inter-institutional approach to preventing and fighting corruption and fraud in the area of structural and cohesion policies through enhanced transparency and a better standard of on-the-spot checks of Member State control systems in force, and regularly performed ex-ante evaluations and ex-post verifications of project-related financial reports by the European Court of Auditors;
5. Calls on the Commission and all Member States to ensure that stringent legal penalties are applied to cases of fraud against the European Communities' financial interests and cases of fraud against Member States' financial interests, especially in relation to co-financed projects in the area of structural and cohesion policies.
6. Call on Member States to work closely with the Commission and the ETSC<sup>1</sup> on the technical protection against counterfeiting of Euro coins and to set up centres of training and assistance under the "Pericles"<sup>2</sup> programme at regional level to ensure the involvement of regional authorities (police and responsible regional or national authorities) in the fight against currency adulteration and counterfeiting.

---

<sup>1</sup> This abbreviation refers to The European Technical & Scientific European Centre.

<sup>2</sup> Council Decision 2001/923/EC of 17 December 2001 establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the "Pericles" programme) (OJ L 339, 21.12.2001, p.50).



## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Protection of the European Communities' financial interests and the fight against fraud
<b>Procedure number</b>	2004/2198(INI)
<b>Committee responsible</b>	CONT
<b>Committee asked for its opinion</b> Date announced in plenary	REGI 18.11.2004
<b>Enhanced cooperation</b>	-
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Vladimír Železný 31.1.2005
<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: 0 abstentions: 4
<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, 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>	