



11.12.2018

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on the implementation of the legal provisions and the Joint Statement ensuring
parliamentary scrutiny over decentralised agencies
(2018/2114(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Jens Geier

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that fee-financing of agencies currently amounts to a total of about EUR 1 billion annually, which is significantly alleviating pressure on the EU budget; considers fee-financing to be an effective way of financing agency activities in cases where the business model so allows; notes, however, that safeguard measures need to be in place to avoid any kind of conflict of interest;
2. Notes that even though decentralised agencies share a number of similarities in terms of budgetary management, one-size-fits-all approaches have proven to be detrimental to the efficient and effective management of certain agencies; considers the 5 % reduction target for staff and the redeployment pool among agencies a one-off exercise; reiterates its intention to oppose any such approach in the future;
3. Believes that the decision on the location of an agency is of great importance and considers that objective criteria such as accessibility, administrative synergies and proximity to stakeholders have to be taken into account by the Union institutions in reaching the best possible decision; expects the prerogatives of both Parliament and the Council as Union co-legislators to be fully respected in future decisions on the location of agencies;
4. Asks the Commission, in line with the recommendations of the Interinstitutional Working Group on decentralised agencies' resources, to swiftly present an evaluation of agencies with multiple locations, using a consistent approach to assess their added value by taking costs incurred into account; calls for significant measures to be taken on the basis of the results of this evaluation, with the aim of reducing the number of multiple locations, if and where appropriate;
5. Notes with concern that a number of agencies have difficulties in attracting qualified staff on account of unfavourable employment conditions and limitations caused by the salary coefficient; believes that Union bodies need to be in a position to attract qualified staff in order to fulfil their tasks effectively and efficiently; calls, therefore, for concrete action to be taken to rectify salary coefficients to better reflect real costs;
6. Notes that the strengthened cooperation between the agencies in sharing services has resulted in savings, such as those achieved by the creation of a joint procurement portal; encourages further exploration of the potential for sharing services either among the agencies themselves, or between the Commission and the agencies, with a view to creating new synergies and optimising existing ones; believes that, where applicable, further budgetary efficiency could be achieved through close cooperation on administrative support and facility management services among Union bodies and agencies in immediate proximity;
7. Believes that the democratic oversight can be strengthened by ensuring the participation of representatives nominated by Parliament in Management Board meetings; believes that ensuring the best value for money for the European citizen, represented by

Parliament, should be an important factor in this decision-making process; notes that the Union institutions have refrained on a number of occasions from making use of this possibility provided for in the Common Approach;

8. Notes that agencies' budgets should be prepared in accordance with the principle of performance-based budgeting, taking into account the agency's objectives and the expected results of its tasks; calls for a thematic approach to the budgeting of decentralised agencies in order to better prioritise the agencies' tasks, boost cooperation and avoid overlaps, particularly in the case of agencies working within the same policy field;
9. Notes with concern that a number of administrative requirements are disproportionate to agencies which have not reached a certain size; expects the Commission and the Council to ensure that the applicable administrative requirements are commensurate with the financial and human resources of all agencies;
10. Recalls that the legislative procedure results in modifications to the original Commission proposal; notes with concern that updated financial statements generally only become available at the end of the legislative procedure, if at all; recalls the twin roles of Parliament and the Council as legislative authority and budgetary authority.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	10.12.2018
Result of final vote	+: 24 -: 1 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Jean Arthuis, Richard Ashworth, Lefteris Christoforou, Manuel dos Santos, André Elissen, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Ingeborg Gräßle, John Howarth, Siegfried Mureşan, Liadh Ní Riada, Jan Olbrycht, Pina Picierno, Paul Rübzig, Petri Sarvamaa, Jordi Solé, Patricija Šulin, Indrek Tarand, Monika Vana, Daniele Viotti, Marco Zanni
Substitutes present for the final vote	Xabier Benito Ziluaga, Karine Gloanec Maurin, Marco Valli
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Claudia Schmidt

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

24	+
ALDE	Jean Arthuis
GUE/NGL	Xabier Benito Ziluaga, Liadh Ní Riada
PPE	Richard Ashworth, Lefteris Christoforou, José Manuel Fernandes, Ingeborg Gräßle, Siegfried Mureşan, Jan Olbrycht, Paul Rübig, Petri Sarvamaa, Claudia Schmidt, Patricija Šulin
S&D	Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Karine Gloanec Maurin, John Howarth, Pina Picierno, Manuel dos Santos, Daniele Viotti
VERTS/ALE	Jordi Solé, Indrek Tarand, Monika Vana

1	-
ENF	André Elissen

2	0
EFDD	Marco Valli
ENF	Marco Zanni

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention