



**2020/2140(DEC)**

28.1.2021

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Culture and Education

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 2019, Section III – Commission and executive agencies  
(2020/2140(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Morten Løkkegaard

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls that, in 2019, the total available budget in commitment appropriations for the Union programmes and actions under the policy portfolio of the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) amounted to approximatively EUR 5.66 billion (20 % more as compared to 2018) and considers that the results of the assessment of DG EAC's financial management for 2019 are satisfactory overall; notes that DG EAC's overall risk at payment for 2019 represents EUR 24,88 million out of EUR 2 147,18 million total expenditure;
2. Acknowledges that the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme in 2019 was largely successful and that most result indicators, such as the number of mobility placements, surpassed the respective targets of the Commission for that year; notes that, due to its delayed launch, low take-up among financial institutions and a lack of awareness among students, only one single Student loan guarantee facility transaction could be completed in 2019 and welcomes the decision not to include the facility in the successor Erasmus+ programme for the period beyond 31 December 2020; welcomes the 20 % increase of pupil mobility and urges for physical mobility to remain the main element of the Erasmus+ programme instead of virtual mobility; stresses the importance of continuing to support vocational education and training and work-based learning as a means to enhance social inclusion;
3. Is worried about reported instances of potential beneficiaries of Union funding under the Erasmus+ programme being obliged to follow national rules that are not in line with Union principles; stresses that the Commission should monitor the situation closely and take appropriate action if necessary;
4. Points out that in 2019, numerous young people signed up to the European Solidarity Corps and were deployed, showing their great interest in getting involved in solidarity work across Europe; is concerned about the discrepancy between the number of applications (191 000) and the number of actual placements (34 500); regrets that the take-up of traineeships and jobs under the European Solidarity Corps programme has been very low, with only 72 deployments between 2018 and 2020, representing less than 1 % of total deployments; stresses the need to introduce a more balanced rate of deployments, in order to ensure that the European Solidarity Corps can truly offer a wealth of opportunities for young people;
5. Notes with satisfaction that, under the Creative Europe programme, 1 370 grant agreements were signed in 2019, thus exceeding the Commission's target and making full use of the available budget appropriations; recalls, in this regard, that a fair geographical distribution of grants is key to unlocking the full wealth of European culture; welcomes the developments regarding the implementation of the pilot project on the mobility scheme for artists and culture and creative professionals as well as the preparatory actions on the 'Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe' and 'Music Moves Europe'; uses the opportunity to recall the importance of increasing the budget

for this programme to further improve its success rate;

6. Continues to be concerned by the apparent lack of transparency and accountability in the arrangements for the provision by the Commission of financial support to Euronews; stresses that the Court does not point out to shortcomings on Euronews, but much more on the Commission monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; urges therefore the Commission to increase transparency in respect of the budget for multimedia activities and to improve accountability for expenditure; takes note that Euronews was subject to two performance audits in the last four years; acknowledges that an independent performance audit of actions funded across the Multimedia Actions budget line, published on 23 June 2020, states that ‘Euronews has well established procedures to support editorial quality, balance, independence and impartiality, and these appear to be operating effectively’; recalls the need to continue impartial evaluation in order to guarantee the highest standards of transparency and accountability; asks the Commission to reflect the concerns of the European Parliament in the design of the next Framework Partnership Agreement in 2021; asks the Commission to diversify the communication channels funded under the Multimedia Actions budget line;
7. Calls on the Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency to reduce bureaucratic burden by simplifying and adapting application processes to the target audiences in order to improve the accessibility of the programmes under their management; stresses that better synergies and cooperation with DG EAC are needed to achieve a streamlined application, evaluation and management processes, which would improve the quality and variety of applications;
8. Emphasizes, with regard to the European schools, the importance of respecting the annuality principle and the rules for taking physical inventories when performing the cut-off at the end of the year and of respecting payment deadlines, procurement rules and transparency in recruitment procedures.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	26.1.2021
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 28 -: 0 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Asim Ademov, Isabella Adinolfi, Andrea Bocskor, Ilana Cicurel, Gilbert Collard, Gianantonio Da Re, Laurence Farreng, Tomasz Frankowski, Alexis Georgoulis, Hannes Heide, Irena Joveva, Petra Kammerevert, Niyazi Kizilyürek, Dace Melbārde, Victor Negrescu, Marcos Ros Sempere, Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Andrey Slabakov, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Michaela Šojdrová, Sabine Verheyen, Salima Yenbou, Theodoros Zagorakis, Milan Zver
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Ibán García Del Blanco, Marcel Kolaja, Elzbieta Kruk, Radka Maxová, Diana Riba i Giner

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

28	+
ECR	Elzbieta Kruk, Dace Melbārde, Andrey Slabakov
ID	Gianantonio Da Re
NI	Isabella Adinolfi
PPE	Asim Ademov, Andrea Boeskor, Tomasz Frankowski, Michaela Šojdrová, Sabine Verheyen, Theodoros Zagorakis, Milan Zver
Renew	Ilana Cicurel, Laurence Farreng, Irena Joveva, Radka Maxová
S&D	Ibán García Del Blanco, Hannes Heide, Petra Kammerevert, Victor Negrescu, Marcos Ros Sempere, Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Massimiliano Smeriglio
The Left	Alexis Georgoulis, Niyazi Kizilyürek
Verts/ALE	Marcel Kolaja, Diana Riba i Giner, Salima Yenbou

0	-

1	0
ID	Gilbert Collard

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention