



2024/2019(DEC)

13.12.2024

AMENDMENTS

1 - 32

Draft opinion

Nela Riehl

(PE766.601v01-00)

2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - Commission
(2024/2019(DEC))

Amendment 1
Sabine Verheyen, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that, in 2023, the Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) launched the midterm review process and published the corresponding report for the European Education Area (EEA) and launched the midterm evaluations for Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe for the 2021-2027 programming period; welcomes the work done to ensure the legacy of the European Year of Youth;

Amendment

1. Notes that, in 2023, the Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) launched the midterm review process and published the corresponding report for the European Education Area (EEA) and launched the midterm evaluations for Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe for the 2021-2027 programming period; ***stresses the importance of addressing challenges identified in these evaluations, particularly administrative burdens and digitalization issues, to improve accessibility and efficiency for beneficiaries, in particular for people with fewer opportunities and small-scale organisations***; welcomes the work done to ensure the legacy of the European Year of Youth;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Sunčana Glavak, Ioan-Rareș Bogdan, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Hélder Sousa Silva, Sabine Verheyen

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

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Or. en

Amendment 3 **Annamária Vicsek**

Draft opinion **Paragraph 1**

Draft opinion

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Amendment

1. Notes that, in 2023, the Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) launched the midterm review process and published the corresponding report for the European Education Area (EEA) and launched the midterm evaluations for Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe for the 2021-2027 programming period; welcomes the work done to ensure the legacy of the European Year of Youth; ***furthermore, calls on the Commission to unblock the Erasmus+ funds attributed to Hungarian universities without further delay and end the unlawful discrimination against Hungarian university students***;

Or. en

Amendment 4 **Nela Riehl, Laurence Farreng**

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Notes that the EACEA manages several programmes under two MFFs, namely the legacy programmes from the 2014-2020 MFF, with 1 897 projects closed during the reporting period, and the current 2021-2027 MFF, and was entrusted with operational appropriations for EUR 1.6 billion, managing 67 calls and monitoring a portfolio of around 8 000 running projects;

Or. en

Amendment 5

Sunčana Glavak, Ioan-Rareş Bogdan, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Hélder Sousa Silva, Sabine Verheyen

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Calls on the Commission to strengthen the international dimension of Erasmus + programme in both candidate as well as countries preparing for future EU membership;

Or. en

Amendment 6

Nela Riehl, Laurence Farreng

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 b. Notes that DG EAC's and the EACEA's overall risk at payment continued to be relatively low and their overall error rate remained below the 2 %

materiality threshold in 2023;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Nela Riehl, Laurence Farreng

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 c. Is pleased that EACEA has reduced the rate of carry-overs from 12% in 2021 to 8% in 2023, addressing an issue that the European Court of Auditors had flagged in two consecutive years;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Hannes Heide, Emma Rafowicz, Sabrina Repp

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Welcomes the frontloading of EUR 100 million from the 2027 budget of Erasmus+ to the 2023 budget of Erasmus+, which enabled continued support to pupils, students, teachers and qualified staff fleeing from Ukraine, and the extra EUR 20 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2023 as a result of Parliament's insistence;

2. Welcomes the frontloading of EUR 100 million from the 2027 budget of Erasmus+ to the 2023 budget of Erasmus+, which enabled continued support to pupils, students, teachers and qualified staff fleeing from Ukraine, and the extra EUR 20 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2023 as a result of Parliament's insistence; ***stresses that frontloading must remain an exception to rapid response to unforeseen acute crisis situations and that every effort must be made to respond to such situations preferentially with additional funding;***

Or. en

Amendment 9
Zsuzsanna Borvendég

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. *Welcomes* the frontloading of EUR 100 million from the 2027 budget of Erasmus+ to the 2023 budget of Erasmus+, *which enabled continued support to pupils, students, teachers and qualified staff fleeing from Ukraine*, and the *extra EUR 20 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2023 as a result of Parliament's insistence*;

Amendment

2. *Notes with concern* the frontloading of EUR 100 million from the 2027 budget of Erasmus+ to the 2023 budget of Erasmus+, *and that, under pressure from Parliament, an additional EUR 20 million has been allocated to Ukraine, which has an extremely poor record on fundamental rights and the rule of law, while in other Member States (e.g. Hungary) foundation model universities are arbitrarily excluded from the Erasmus programme*;

Or. hu

Amendment 10
Sunčana Glavak, Ioan-Rareş Bogdan, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Hélder Sousa Silva, Sabine Verheyen

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Welcomes the frontloading of EUR 100 million from the 2027 budget of Erasmus+ to the 2023 budget of Erasmus+, which enabled continued support to pupils, students, teachers and qualified staff fleeing from Ukraine, and the extra EUR 20 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2023 as a result of Parliament's insistence;

Amendment

2. Welcomes the frontloading of EUR 100 million from the 2027 budget of Erasmus+ to the 2023 budget of Erasmus+, which enabled continued support to pupils, students, teachers and qualified staff fleeing from Ukraine, and the extra EUR 20 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2023 as a result of Parliament's insistence; *underlines that any frontloading of Erasmus + cannot result in cuts for the programme at the end of current MFF*;

Or. en

Amendment 11
Catherine Griset

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Regrets, however, that under the conditionality mechanism for European funds and values, the Union is sanctioning Hungarian universities by cutting them off from Erasmus+ while funding academic institutions linked to Islamist movements in third countries;

Or. fr

Amendment 12
Catherine Griset

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. Regrets that the Commission is not committed to stopping the funding of Islamist organisations; notes that this ambiguity towards radical Islamism has already been noted in numerous Commission communications on social media promoting the Islamic veil, including in the context of the Erasmus+ programme;

Or. fr

Amendment 13
Anthony Smith, Nikos Pappas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has adapted the grant amounts for individual support for learning mobility under Erasmus+ by 12,27 % in 2023 in order to mitigate the effects of inflation and the fact that similar adjustments have been made for the European Solidarity Corps;

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Or. fr

Amendment 14
Hannes Heide, Emma Rafowicz, Sabrina Repp

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

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Amendment

3. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has adapted the grant amounts for individual support for learning mobility under Erasmus+ by 12,27 % in 2023 in order to mitigate the effects of inflation and the fact that similar adjustments have been made for the European Solidarity Corps; ***notes that interest in the European Solidarity Corps has grown significantly in recent years and that, due to the small budget allocation, an increasing number of applicants are being excluded from participation;***

Or. en

Amendment 15
Nela Riehl

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Notes with concern that, notwithstanding the increase in 2023, the allowances for individual learning mobility support under Erasmus+ in that year did not cover the cost of living for recipients, adding to the disparities in access and exclusion of vulnerable groups; regrets that this situation continues until today; notes further that the demand for Erasmus+ mobilities outweighed the availability in every sector of the programme;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Nela Riehl, Laurence Farreng

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Asks the Commission to gather evidence to investigate any case of fraudulent or suspicious recipients, in accordance with its duties outlined in the Financial Regulation and Erasmus+ grant agreements, whereby the Commission is legally bound to ensure that programme beneficiaries commit to and ensure the respect of EU values (human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law, human rights) and do not commit professional misconduct;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Hannes Heide, Emma Rafowicz, Sabrina Repp

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Urges the Commission to drastically simplify the application process for funding under Erasmus+ and Creative Europe and to make it less time-consuming in order to counteract the increasing professionalisation in the funding application process, so that small and voluntary organisations can also successfully participate in the programme or benefit from funding without significant additional effort;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Sabine Verheyen, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Reiterates the importance of ensuring sufficient funds within programmes, especially for small-scale organisations; particularly welcomes the lump sum approach as an effective simplification measure but expresses concerns about the burden of continuous reporting, especially for smaller organisations;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Nikos Pappas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Observes with dissatisfaction that,

despite the increase in 2023, the allowances for individual learning mobility support under Erasmus+ remained inadequate to cover living expenses for recipients, thereby exacerbating disparities in access and the exclusion of vulnerable groups;

Or. en

Amendment 20

Sunčana Glavak, Ioan-Rareș Bogdan, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Hélder Sousa Silva, Sabine Verheyen

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Welcomes the Erasmus + Sport Staff Mobility program introduction in 2023 as an initiative promoting grassroots sports; underlines the role of sport as a vital component in promoting health and unity across Europe;

Or. en

Amendment 21

Nela Riehl, Laurence Farreng

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Asks the Commission to hereinafter terminate the cooperation and recover the EU funds allocated to recipients if found in violation of the applicable legislation during the implementation of the project;

Or. en

Amendment 22

Sunčana Glavak, Ioan-Rareş Bogdan, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Hélder Sousa Silva, Sabine Verheyen

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Regrets the reduction in the 2023 budget for centralised grants in the European Youth Together and Key Action 2, Cooperation Partnerships in the field of Youth programs under Erasmus+;

Or. en

Amendment 23

Hannes Heide, Emma Rafowicz, Sabrina Repp

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. Notes that, after two years of frontloading of the Creative Europe budget to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme's budget has returned to the regular profile of slow but steady growth until the end of the programming period; welcomes the reinforcement of its 2023 budget by EUR 7,5 million;

5. Notes that, after two years of frontloading of the Creative Europe budget to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme's budget has returned to the regular profile of slow but steady growth until the end of the programming period; welcomes the reinforcement of its 2023 budget by EUR 7,5 million **as a result of Parliament's insistence;**

Or. en

Amendment 24

Laurence Farreng

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. *Notes that, in addition to its presence at film festivals, the Creative Europe budget financed a stand dedicated to MEDIA at Gamescom; welcomes this first initiative at a video games industry event, and the good results achieved, and encourages further efforts in this area;*

Or. en

Amendment 25

Sunčana Glavak, Ioan-Rareș Bogdan, Hélder Sousa Silva, Sabine Verheyen

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. *Emphasizes the need for strict oversight of the allocation of funds to prevent misuse within the Erasmus program, particularly by foreign actors whose activities at universities may pose a serious security threat to the European Union; calls for adequate safeguarding of the program from abuse by organizations whose activities are not aligned with the fundamental values of the European Union or may jeopardize its security interests;*

Or. en

Amendment 26

Nela Riehl, Laurence Farreng

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 a. *Notes with concern that out of the Intra-ACP Budget within the European Development Fund implemented by EACEA (EUR 4.3 million) only 46% of payments were paid on time, as the result*

of delays in the transfer of budget to EACEA;

Or. en

Amendment 27

Sunčana Glavak, Ioan-Rareş Bogdan, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Hélder Sousa Silva, Sabine Verheyen

Draft opinion

Paragraph 8

Draft opinion

8. Notes with concern the persisting challenges in 2023 with the e-Grant tools for beneficiaries of calls managed by the EACEA; ***strongly urges the Commission and EACEA to closely follow up on the mitigation measures put in place to ensure a smooth grant preparation and the validation of new beneficiaries.***

Amendment

8. Notes with concern the persisting challenges in 2023 with the e-Grant tools for beneficiaries of calls managed by the EACEA; ***emphasizes the urgent need for technical improvements and user-centered design to ensure seamless application and reporting processes;***

Or. en

Amendment 28

Hannes Heide, Emma Rafowicz, Sabrina Repp

Draft opinion

Paragraph 8 a (new)

Draft opinion

8 a. Calls on the Commission and Parliament to fundamentally revise the pre-assessment procedure for pilot projects and preparatory actions in order to make the whole process more transparent and comprehensible while significantly limiting the Commission's influence on the will of the budgetary legislator expressed in the proposals;

Amendment

Or. en

Amendment 29

Sunčana Glavak, Ioan-Rareş Bogdan, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Hélder Sousa Silva, Sabine Verheyen

Draft opinion

Paragraph 8 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

8 a. Regrets the low uptake of adult learning and education (ALE) activities, despite their importance in achieving the target of 60% adult participation by 2030; calls on the Commission to reconsider its adult learning strategy in collaboration with National Agencies (NAs) and relevant stakeholders;

Or. en

Amendment 30

Nela Riehl, Laurence Farreng

Draft opinion

Paragraph 8 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

8 a. Welcomes the EACEA's efforts to implement EMAS and encourages EACEA to increase its efforts by further implementing a sustainability plan and publishing the agency's sustainability report transparently;

Or. en

Amendment 31

Nikos Pappas

Draft opinion

Paragraph 8 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

8 a. Welcomes the EACEA's actions to

remedy the previous year's observations;

Or. en

Amendment 32
Nela Riehl

Draft opinion
Paragraph 8 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

8 b. Considers that civil society and NGOs are an essential part of our cultural, social and scientific communities and play an instrumental role in shaping policies that benefit society; recalls that access to structural funding is a prerequisite to ensure public participation, social inclusion, gender equality and equal opportunities, foster citizenship and civic participation, help the EU cultural sector develop or the research community contribute to society, as well as exercise a monitoring role on the implementation of EU policies and legislation, including the use of EU funds;

Recalls the commitment of the Commission in its political guidelines to step up its engagement with civil society organisations that have expertise and an important role to play in defending specific societal issues, public goods and upholding human rights, including the rights of future generations;

Asks the Commission to ensure, in line with the political guidelines, that the funding of NGOs' activities remains eligible in the relevant funding programmes and that civil society organisations retain access to sufficient dedicated funding to ensure they can engage in an "open, transparent and structured dialogue with EU institutions" as enshrined in the article 11 TEU;

Is of the opinion that the Commission Guidance on funding for activities related to the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of Union legislation and policy from May 2024 does not live up to the above explained democratic requirement and needs to be urgently aligned to ensure in full transparency alignment with Art 11 TFEU;

Or. en