European Parliament

2024-2029



Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2024/2030(DEC)

21.11.2024

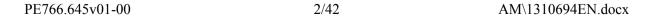
AMENDMENTS 1 - 92

Draft opinion Romana Tomc(PE765.075v01-00)

2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - Agencies (2024/2030(DEC))

AM\1310694EN.docx PE766.645v01-00

 $AM_Com_NonLegBudDec$



Amendment 1 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Citation 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

- having regard to the Court of Auditors' annual report on the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2023, together with the institutions' replies, and to the Court of Auditors' special reports,

Or en

Amendment 2 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Expresses its satisfaction that the European Court of Auditors (ECA) has declared the transactions underlying the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), the European Training Foundation (ETF), and the European Labour Authority (ELA) annual accounts for the financial year 2023 to be overall legal and regular, and that their financial position as at 31 December 2023 is fairly represented;

Amendment

1. Denounces that the multiplication of EU agencies, including those in the fields of employment and social affairs, goes against the principle of proportionality established in the Treaty on European Union;

Or. en

Amendment 3

Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Expresses its satisfaction that the European Court of Auditors (ECA) has declared the transactions underlying the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), the European Training Foundation (ETF), and the European Labour Authority (ELA) annual accounts for the financial year 2023 to be overall legal and regular, and that their financial position as at 31 December 2023 is fairly represented;

Amendment

1. Expresses its satisfaction that the European Court of Auditors (ECA) has declared the *revenue* underlying the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), the European Training Foundation (ETF), and the European Labour Authority (ELA) annual accounts for the financial year 2023 to be overall legal and regular, and that their financial position as at 31 December 2023 is fairly represented;

Or. en

Amendment 4 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Emphasises that even a 2% 1 a. materiality threshold can represent a significant financial amount, given the size of the General budget and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), including in headings related to employment and social matters; therefore, requests an analysis of the feasibility of applying a lower materiality threshold; warns that maintaining the 2% threshold without significant reduction undermines accountability and transparency; recommends that the report be signed by a physical person, in accordance with sound auditing practices, to ensure

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personal accountability and to enable European Parliament committees, including the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, to properly hold individuals accountable for the findings presented;

Or. en

Amendment 5 João Oliveira

Draft opinion Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Calls on all EU Agencies to improve their public procurement procedures by applying the social clause provided for in the current EU Public Procurement Directive, so as to ensure that companies receiving EU funding comply with all applicable environmental, social and labour obligations established by EU law, national law or collective agreements, or by applicable international environmental, social or labour provisions.

Or. pt

Amendment 6 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Appreciates the high quality work performed by the agencies working in the area of employment, social affairs and inclusion (Eurofound, EU-OSHA, CEDEFOP, ETF and ELA); recalls the

particular mandates of these agencies and the specific composition of their management bodies based on the tripartite principle and thus including representatives of the national authorities and social partners; recognises that trough their members the management bodies ensure the necessary alignment between the agencies' work and stakeholders' needs and priorities;

Or. en

Amendment 7 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 b. Stresses the importance, autonomy and added value of the five agencies in their field of expertise; reiterates the need to equip the agencies at a level commensurate to the assigned tasks, with a sufficient number of staff, employed in a stable manner and having sufficient material resources;

Or. en

Amendment 8 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 1 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 c. Appreciates the five agencies' key contribution in promoting the European Year of Skills 2023; congratulates in this regard for successfully hosting the event

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'Skills, skills, skills! Skills for people, skills for competitiveness, skills for sustainability' with the participation of the five agencies at the European Parliament in September 2023;

Or. en

Amendment 9 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 1 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 d. Recalls the importance of developing a long term HR policy on work-life balance, ensuring teleworking, right to disconnect and career development, enhancing the geographical balance to have an appropriate representation from all Member States, and recruiting and integrating people with disabilities as well as promoting their equal treatment and their opportunities;

Or. en

Amendment 10 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Welcomes the five agencies' continued and growing cooperation and sharing of resources among them and with other institutions, including other EU agencies, the Commission and the Parliament;

Amendment

2. Calls for big spending cuts, including in the agencies dealing with employment and social affairs, in order to make the system of decentralised agencies efficient;

Or. en

Amendment 11 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Welcomes the five agencies' continued and growing cooperation and sharing of resources among them and with other institutions, including other EU agencies, the Commission and the Parliament;

Amendment

2. Welcomes the five agencies' continued and growing cooperation and sharing of resources among them and with other institutions, including other EU agencies *from different policy areas*, the Commission and the Parliament;

Or. en

Amendment 12 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. Recalls that according to the Court of Auditors' annual report on the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2023, the question of the size of the management board of the agencies dealing with employment is of particular relevance in their cross-cutting evaluation;

Or. en

Amendment 13 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 3

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Draft opinion

3. Calls on the Commission to ensure better use of the Agencies' expertise in relevant policy areas regarding, which can allow for more efficient utilisation of Union budget resources compared to alternative solutions;

Amendment

3. Calls on the Commission to ensure better use of the Agencies' expertise in relevant policy areas regarding for example, elaboration of reports and studies, conducting research and surveys, which can allow for more efficient utilisation of Union budget resources compared to alternative solutions; stresses, in this regard, the unused potential in providing for specific, relevant information and the same quality products as external consultants, when their mandates allow it;

Or. en

Amendment 14 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Calls on the Commission to ensure better use of the Agencies' expertise in relevant policy areas regarding, which can allow for more efficient utilisation of Union budget resources compared to alternative solutions;

Amendment

3. Calls on the Commission to ensure better use of the Agencies' expertise in relevant policy areas regarding *employment and social affairs*, which can allow for more efficient utilisation of *existing* Union budget resources compared to alternative solutions;

Or. en

Amendment 15 João Oliveira

Draft opinion Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Calls on EU Agencies to review and evaluate the intensity of work, taking

into account the proportion of internal staff and national experts and their respective functions; recalls the importance of providing these Agencies with the necessary technical and human resources to fulfil their tasks.

Or. pt

Amendment 16 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Notes the Court's observations for agencies concern shortcomings in public procurement procedures, management and control systems and budgetary management and that weaknesses in public procurement procedures remain the main source of irregular payments;

Or. en

Amendment 17 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Appreciates the five agencies' efforts to further develop their digital and online communication in order to increase their visibility and raise awareness of their high-impact work;

Or. en

Amendment 18 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Highlights the necessity for the Agency to report on the specific impacts and significant improvements achieved through its work;

Or. en

Amendment 19 João Oliveira

Draft opinion Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Recalls that the EU Agencies have a duty to promote stability in employment; calls, therefore, for all permanent needs to be matched with permanent employment relationships, thus guaranteeing job security for workers and the necessary resources for the agencies to fulfil their functions;

Or. pt

Amendment 20 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Recommends that, in the absence of demonstrable improvements, a thorough evaluation of the EU Agencies necessity and efficiency is to be

Or en

Amendment 21 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 3 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 c. Underlines the need for concrete, tangible and measurable outcomes and that complete transparency about the improvements resulting from the Agencies activities is essential to enhance citizens trust in the European Union;

Or. en

Amendment 22 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 3 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 d. Recalls that from the year 2000 onwards, thirty-two out of forty-three agencies have been set up, including one on employment and social affairs;

Or. en

Amendment 23 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

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- 4. Acknowledges that the high inflation rate in 2023, and the related increase in various costs and utilities, affects significantly the agencies' budget dedicated to operational expenditure, in particular for agencies located in Member States experiencing the highest inflation rates:
- 4. Recalls the warning issued by the European Court of Auditors' Annual report that there is a high operational expenditure risk in EU agencies, including those relating to employment and social affairs;

Or. en

Amendment 24 Maria Ohisalo

Draft opinion Paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Welcomes the agencies' efforts to implement policies on diversity and inclusiveness, particularly when it comes to persons with disabilities; encourages the agencies to enhance comparable data collection on the employment of persons with disabilities;

Or. en

Amendment 25 Maria Ohisalo

Draft opinion Paragraph 4 – point 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(1) Recognise the progress made within the Agencies towards gender balance within their staff: calls for further efforts to ensure gender balance also at the senior management level and to mainstream gender in all their activities;

Or. en

Amendment 26 Maria Ohisalo

Draft opinion Paragraph 4 – point 2 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(2) Calls for the Commission to ensure that the Agencies have sufficient funds to implement effective, inclusive and cross-sectoral Social Dialogue within the European Union with the aim of supporting social and economic progress, ensuring equal opportunities for all, quality jobs and fair working conditions, reducing poverty and inequalities and fostering a just and fair transition to climate-neutrality, as well as the ability to support dialogue and capacity building of social partners in the accession countries;

Or. en

Amendment 27 João Oliveira

Draft opinion Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Recalls the importance of health and safety at work, which should not be jeopardised by the increase in the cost of living; calls on all EU Agencies to meet the highest standards of health and safety at work and to ensure that workers have access to their annual medical examination by reviewing procedures, measures and allocation of resources accordingly, including the necessary professional training;

Or. pt

Amendment 28 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Acknowledges that the total budget of the agencies, including those in the fields of employment and social affairs, amounts to 12% of the EU's general budget;

Or en

Amendment 29 Maria Ohisalo

Draft opinion Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Commends the Agency for the achievement of 95 % of its annual work programme, with 36 out of 38 outputs delivered in 2023;

Or. en

Amendment 30 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Appreciates the Foundation's work on enhancing and disseminating knowledge, and providing evidence-based expertise to support the development of better informed social, employment and work-related policies in Europe, to

Amendment

5. Notes that Eurofound's budget has increased from EUR 26 million in 2022 to EUR 30 million in 2023 (16% increase), more than double the inflation rate (6.3%);

analyse policy options to improve working conditions, industrial relations, employment and living, and to produce expertise on right to disconnect, telework, hybrid work and related impacts on work—life balance and quality of working conditions;

Or. en

Amendment 31 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Appreciates the Foundation's work on enhancing and disseminating knowledge, and providing evidence-based expertise to support the development of better informed social, employment and work-related policies in Europe, to analyse policy options to improve working conditions, industrial relations, employment and living, and to produce expertise on right to disconnect, telework, hybrid work and related impacts on work—life balance and quality of working conditions:

Amendment

Appreciates the Foundation's *high* quality work on enhancing and disseminating knowledge, and providing evidence-based expertise to support the development of better informed social, employment and work-related policies in Europe, to analyse policy options to improve working conditions, industrial relations, employment and living, and to produce expertise on right to disconnect, telework, hybrid work and related impacts on work-life balance and quality of working conditions; highly values the Foundation's work in providing insights on pressing issues, such as poverty, the inaccessibility of affordable housing, labour shortages, and just transition;

Or. en

Amendment 32 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 5

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Draft opinion

5. Appreciates the Foundation's work on enhancing and disseminating knowledge, and providing evidence-based expertise to support the development of better informed social, employment and work-related policies in Europe, to analyse policy options to improve working conditions, industrial relations, employment and living, and to produce expertise on right to disconnect, telework, hybrid work and related impacts on work—life balance and quality of working conditions;

Amendment

5. Appreciates the Foundation's continued high-quality work on enhancing and disseminating knowledge, and providing evidence-based expertise to support the development of better informed social, employment and work-related policies in Europe, to analyse policy options to improve working conditions, industrial relations, employment and living, and to produce expertise on inter alia inequality, inclusive labour markets, housing, right to disconnect, telework, hybrid work, the shift to a carbon-neutral economy and related impacts on work-life balance and quality of working conditions;

Or en

Amendment 33 Maria Ohisalo

Draft opinion Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Appreciates the Foundation's work on enhancing and disseminating knowledge, and providing evidence-based expertise to support the development of better informed social, employment and work-related policies in Europe, to analyse policy options to improve working conditions, industrial relations, employment and living, and to produce expertise on right to disconnect, telework, hybrid work and related impacts on work—life balance and quality of working conditions;

Amendment

5. Appreciates the Foundation's work on enhancing and disseminating knowledge, *for its joint outputs and activities with other Agencies*, and providing evidence-based expertise to support the development of better informed social, employment and work-related policies in Europe, to analyse policy options to improve working conditions, industrial relations, employment and living, and to produce expertise on right to disconnect, telework, hybrid work and related impacts on work—life balance and quality of working conditions;

Or. en

Amendment 34

Marlena Malag, Chiara Gemma, Elena Donazzan, Francesco Torselli

Draft opinion Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Appreciates the Foundation's work on enhancing and disseminating knowledge, and providing evidence-based expertise to support the development of better informed social, employment and work-related policies in Europe, to analyse policy options to improve working conditions, industrial relations, employment and living, and to produce expertise on right to disconnect, telework, hybrid work and related impacts on work—life balance and quality of working conditions:

Amendment

5. Appreciates the Foundation's work on enhancing and disseminating knowledge, and providing evidence-based expertise to support the development of better informed social, employment and work-related policies in Europe, to analyse policy options to improve working conditions, industrial relations, employment and living, and to produce expertise on right to disconnect, telework, hybrid work and related impacts on work—life balance, *psychosocial risks to workers' well-being, intergenerational inequalities* and quality of working conditions;

Or en

Amendment 35 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Observes some of the Foundation's most important publications in 2023 on topics as job quality (including of essential workers), hybrid work, right to disconnect, involvement of the social partners in setting and implementing the national resilience and recovery plans, and minimum wages in Europe;

Or. en

Amendment 36 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

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Draft opinion Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Commends the Agency for the achievement of 95 % of its annual work programme, with 36 out of 38 outputs delivered in 2023:

Or. en

Amendment 37 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 b. Appreciates the Foundation's report on right to disconnect published in 2023 which fills an information gap by providing evidence on how the right to disconnect is implemented at company level and what the impact is;

Or. en

Amendment 38 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

Amendment

6. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Foundation's accounts and invites the Foundation to address the ECA's remarks;

6. Expresses its relief that Eurofound's staff has not increased from 2022 to 2023;

Or. en

Amendment 39 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Foundation's accounts and invites the Foundation to address the ECA's remarks:

Amendment

6. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Foundation's accounts, *including on the legality and regularity of payments*, and invites the Foundation to address the ECA's remarks;

Or. en

Amendment 40 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. Notes from the Foundation's report with regard to the follow-up measures taken in light of the discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Foundation for the financial year 2022 that corrective actions have been taken in connection to its procurement templates and traineeship scheme;

Or. en

Amendment 41 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 7

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Draft opinion

7. Notes the 16,8 % of carryover rate, above the 15 % benchmark, and the Foundation's reply making a distinction between planned and unplanned carryovers, the latest being assessed at 4 % by the Foundation;

Amendment

7. Notes that Eurofound has made a payment of EUR 38.6 thousand to a contract provider for quality assessment of survey data without collecting some key supporting documents relating to the contractual deliverables;

Or. en

Amendment 42 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

7. Notes the 16,8 % of carryover rate, above the 15 % benchmark, and the Foundation's reply making a distinction between planned and unplanned carryovers, the latest being assessed at 4 % by the Foundation;

Amendment

7. Notes the 17% of carryover rate, above the 15% benchmark, and the Foundation's reply making a distinction between planned and unplanned carryovers, the latest being assessed at 4% by the Foundation;

Or. en

Amendment 43 Marlena Malag, Chiara Gemma, Elena Donazzan, Francesco Torselli

Draft opinion Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 a. Welcomes the corrective action taken by the Foundation on the engagement of trainees and on the conditions for the update of their remuneration;

Or. en

Amendment 44 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 9

Draft opinion

9. Appreciates the Agency's activities to develop, gather and provide reliable and relevant information, analysis and tools on national and EU priorities in the field of occupational safety and health;

Amendment

9. Appreciates that EU-OSHA's budget has not been increased from 2022 to 2023, despite the fact that inflation has been 6.3%;

Or. en

Amendment 45 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 9

Draft opinion

9. Appreciates the Agency's activities to develop, gather and provide reliable and relevant information, analysis and tools *on national and EU priorities in the field of* occupational safety and health;

Amendment

9. Appreciates the Agency's activities to develop, gather and provide reliable and relevant information, analysis and tools to advance knowledge, raise awareness and exchange occupational safety and health (OSH) information and good practice in order to promote healthy and safe workplaces in Europe in particular their work on the health and social care sector and psychosocial risks at the workplace;

Or. en

Amendment 46 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 9

Draft opinion

Amendment

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- 9. Appreciates the Agency's activities to develop, gather and provide reliable and relevant information, analysis and tools on national and EU priorities in the field of occupational safety and health;
- 9. Appreciates the Agency's activities to develop, gather and provide reliable and relevant information, analysis and tools to advance knowledge, raise awareness, and exchange information and good practise on national and EU priorities in the field of occupational safety and health, which contribute to the Union policy aiming to promote healthy and safe work places across the Union:

Or. en

Amendment 47 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 9 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 a. Notes the prominent role of the Agency in delivering on the priorities and principles identified in the European Pillar of Social Rights and the EU OSH Strategic Framework; appreciates in this regard the Agency's continued significant contribution, through several actions carried out alone or in collaboration with EU institutions, other agencies and bodies;

Or. en

Amendment 48 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 9 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 a. Appreciates that EU-OSHA's staff has decreased from 65 employees in 2022 to 63 in 2023;

Amendment 49 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 10

Draft opinion

10. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Agency's accounts and invites the Agency to address the ECA's remarks;

Amendment

10. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Agency's accounts, *including on the legality and regularity of payments*, and invites the Agency to address the ECA's remarks;

Or. en

Amendment 50 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 11 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

11 a. Notes that EU-OSHA split two contracts of €14.7 thousand and €15 thousand, respectively, in order to avoid a tender competition and award them directly;

Or. en

Amendment 51 Pál Szekeres

Draft opinion Paragraph 12

Draft opinion

12. *Notes* the 29 % of carryover rate, *way above* the 15 % benchmark, and the Agency's reply linking part of the

Amendment

12. **Considers** the 29 % of carryover rate **unacceptable**, **as it is almost the double of** the 15 % benchmark, and

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carryover to commitments planned in the Agency's Single Programming Document;

refuses the Agency's reply linking part of the carryover to commitments planned in the Agency's Single Programming Document;

Or. en

Amendment 52 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 13

Draft opinion

13. Notes with satisfaction the costcutting actions performed by the Agency for allocating resources to the Agency's core tasks:

Amendment

13. Notes with satisfaction the costcutting actions performed by the Agency for allocating resources to the Agency's core tasks; welcomes the Agency's implementation of the AGM system (Advanced Gateway to Meetings), which will help provide an electronic and automated system for reimbursements of experts which was a significant factor in non-compliance with the payment time limits:

Or. en

Amendment 53 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 15

Draft opinion

15. Appreciates the Cedefop's activities to provide research, analyses and technical advice and expertise in vocational education and training (VET), qualifications and skills policies, to compile and disseminate research on skills mismatches, and to ensure digital skills are integrated into VET across the Union, as well as, the Cedefop

Amendment

15. Notes that Cedefop's budget has increased from EUR 26 million in 2022 to EUR 28 million in 2023 (9% increase), fifty per cent higher than the inflation rate (6%);

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involvement in the 2023 European Year of Skills;

Or. en

Amendment 54 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 15

Draft opinion

15. Appreciates the Cedefop's *activities to provide* research, analyses and technical advice and expertise in vocational education and training (VET), qualifications and skills policies, *to compile and disseminate research on skills mismatches*, and to ensure digital skills are integrated into VET across the Union, as well as, the Cedefop involvement in the 2023 European Year of Skills;

Amendment

15. Appreciates the Cedefop's high quality work on providing research, analyses and technical advice and expertise in vocational education and training (VET), qualifications and skills policies with the aim of promoting high-quality training tailored to the needs of individuals and of the labour market, and to ensure digital skills are integrated into VET across the Union, as well as, the Cedefop involvement in the 2023 European Year of Skills:

Or. en

Amendment 55 Marlena Malag, Chiara Gemma, Elena Donazzan, Francesco Torselli

Draft opinion Paragraph 15

Draft opinion

15. Appreciates the Cedefop's activities to provide research, analyses and technical advice and expertise in vocational education and training (VET), qualifications and skills policies, to compile and disseminate research on skills mismatches, and to ensure digital skills are integrated into VET across the Union, as well as, the Cedefop involvement in the

Amendment

15. Appreciates the Cedefop's activities to provide research, analyses and technical advice and expertise in vocational education and training (VET), qualifications and skills policies *as well as modernisation of apprenticeships* to compile and disseminate research on skills mismatches *and labour shortages*, and to ensure digital skills are integrated into

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VET across the Union, as well as, the Cedefop involvement in the 2023 European Year of Skills;

Or. en

Amendment 56 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 16

Draft opinion

16. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Agency's accounts and invites the Agency to address the ECA's observations;

Amendment

16. Notes that Cedefop's staff has increased from 108 employees in 2022 to 109 employees in 2023, despite the fact that its functions remain the same;

Or. en

Amendment 57 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 16

Draft opinion

16. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Agency's accounts *and* invites the Agency to address the ECA's observations;

Amendment

16. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Agency's accounts, including on the legality and regularity of payments, and that the Court has no observations for 2023; invites the Agency to address the ECA's outstanding observations from previous years;

Or. en

Amendment 58 Romana Tomc

Draft opinion Paragraph 16

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Draft opinion

16. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Agency's accounts and invites the Agency to address the ECA's observations;

Amendment

16. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Agency's accounts and invites the Agency to address the ECA's observations *for previous years*;

Or. en

Amendment 59 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 16 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

16 a. Commends Cedefop for its exemplary commitment (100%) and payment (98%) appropriations rates successfully demonstrating the optimal use of resources entrusted to Cedefop;

Or. en

Amendment 60 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 16 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

16 b. Welcomes Cedefop's cooperation with other agencies in the EMPL remit particularly with ELA with the connection of EURES vacancies data with Cedefop Skills-OVATE;

Or. en

Amendment 61 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

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Draft opinion Paragraph 17

Draft opinion

17. Notes the Cedefop's corrective action taken regarding the daily subsistence allowances paid to Greek seconded national experts;

Amendment

17. Notes the Cedefop's corrective action taken regarding the daily subsistence allowances paid to Greek seconded national experts, but regrets that the corrective action does not include the monthly subsistence allowances;

Or. en

Amendment 62 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 17 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

17 a. Notes with appreciation the Centre's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030; welcomes the adoption of a climate neutrality strategy and roadmap in 2023 and the efforts to become EMAS certified by 2025;

Or. en

Amendment 63 Maria Ohisalo

Draft opinion Paragraph 18 – subparagraph 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Appreciates Cedefop's own committment to climate neutrality, its climate neutrality strategy as well as its roadmap to reduce GHG emissions and impact on the environment in general; strongly

encourages other specialised agencies to establish similar plans and policies to reduce their carbon footprint and their energy consumption and overall environmental performance aligned with the EU's own climate goal applying the EMAS when not in place as yet;

Or. en

Amendment 64 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 19

Draft opinion

19. Appreciates the ETF's activities in helping the Union, Member States and its partner countries to harness the potential of their human capital and to improve the employment prospects through the reform of education, vocational training, skills and labour market systems, as well as, the ETF role in the 2023 European Year of Skills;

Amendment

19. Notes that ETF's budget has increased from EUR 25 million in 2022 to EUR 31 million in 2023 (22% increase), more than triple the inflation rate (6.3%);

Or. en

Amendment 65 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 20

Draft opinion

20. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Agency's accounts and invites the Agency to address the ECA's remarks, especially concerning open procurement procedure;

Amendment

20. Notes that ETF illegally awarded an in-country support services contract for €4 million, despite the fact that the economic and financial capacity of the awarded tenderer had not been demonstrated:

Or. en

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Amendment 66 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 20

Draft opinion

20. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Agency's accounts *and* invites the Agency to address the ECA's remarks, especially concerning open procurement procedure;

Amendment

20. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on the Agency's accounts, including on the legality and regularity of payments, and that the Court has no new observations for 2023; invites the Agency to address the ECA's remarks, especially concerning open procurement procedure from 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 67 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 21

Draft opinion

21. Notes *the* ETF's confirmation that it has reviewed its methodologies on financial solvency in the tendering evaluation process and on financial assessment;

Amendment

21. Notes *that* ETF's confirmation that it has reviewed its methodologies on financial solvency in the tendering evaluation process and on financial assessment *illegally awarded a EUR 1* million framework contract for content support services to a provider that did not reach the financial turnover required in the tender;

Or. en

Amendment 68 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 22

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Draft opinion

22. Notes the Commission's recommendation to improve the geographical and gender balance among its staff, and to further cooperate with the ELA and the European Institute for Gender Equality;

Amendment

22. Under the foregoing circumstances, manifests an impossibility to discharge the implementation of ETF's budget for the financial year 2023;

Or. en

Amendment 69 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 23

Draft opinion

23. Appreciates the Authority's work to assist Member States and the Commission in ensuring a fair and effective enforcement of Union rules on labour mobility and coordination of social security systems, in facilitating effective labour mobility in Europe through European Employment Services (EURES) activities, and to raising awareness, through training and information campaigns, about the rights and obligations of workers and employers;

Amendment

23. Notes that ELA's budget has increased from EUR 35 million in 2022 to EUR 39 million in 2023 (13% increase), more than double the inflation rate (6.3%);

Or. en

Amendment 70 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 23

Draft opinion

Amendment

23. Appreciates the Authority's work to assist Member States and the Commission

23. Appreciates the Authority's work to assist Member States and the Commission

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in ensuring a fair and effective enforcement of Union rules on labour mobility and coordination of social security systems, in facilitating effective labour mobility in Europe through European Employment Services (EURES) activities, and to raising awareness, through training and information campaigns, about the rights and obligations of workers and employers;

in ensuring a fair and effective enforcement of Union rules on labour mobility and coordination of social security systems, in facilitating effective labour mobility in Europe through European Employment Services (EURES) activities, making it easier for citizens and businesses to benefit from the internal market, and to raising awareness, through training and information campaigns, about the rights and obligations of workers and employers;

Or en

Amendment 71 Marlena Malag, Chiara Gemma, Elena Donazzan, Francesco Torselli

Draft opinion Paragraph 23

Draft opinion

23. Appreciates the Authority's work to assist Member States and the Commission in ensuring a fair and effective enforcement of Union rules on labour mobility and coordination of social security systems, in facilitating effective labour mobility in Europe through European Employment Services (EURES) activities, and to raising awareness, through training and information campaigns, about the rights and obligations of workers and employers;

Amendment

23. Appreciates the Authority's work to assist Member States and the Commission in ensuring a fair and effective enforcement of Union rules on labour mobility and coordination of social security systems, in facilitating effective labour mobility in Europe through European Employment Services (EURES) activities, *joint inspections* and to raising awareness, through training and information campaigns, about the rights and obligations of workers and employers;

Or. en

Amendment 72 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 23

Draft opinion

Amendment

- 23. Appreciates the Authority's work to assist Member States and the Commission in ensuring a fair and effective enforcement of Union rules on labour mobility and coordination of social security systems, in facilitating effective labour mobility in Europe through European Employment Services (EURES) activities, and to raising awareness, through training and information campaigns, about the rights and obligations of workers and employers;
- 23. Appreciates the Authority's work to assist Member States and the Commission in ensuring a fair and effective enforcement of Union rules on labour mobility and coordination of social security systems, in facilitating effective labour mobility in Europe through European Employment Services (EURES) activities, and to raising awareness, through training and information campaigns, about the rights and obligations of workers and employers, making it easier for citizens and businesses to reap the benefits of the internal market;

Or. en

Amendment 73 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 23 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

23 a. Welcomes in particular the Authority's #EU4FairConstruction information campaign, aimed at raising awareness about the rights and obligations of workers and employers in the construction sector with a dedicated focus on posting of workers and actions on digital tools to support labour mobility, including training on the IMI, EESSI, and ERRU systems as well as its support and coordination to 76 concerted and joint inspections in 2023, more than doubling the number from 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 74 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion

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Paragraph 23 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

23 a. Notes that the year 2023 was a final year of the Authority's setup and growth phase, resulting in reaching full operational capacity, as regards both operational activities and resources;

Or. en

Amendment 75 Klára Dobrev, Marc Angel, Estelle Ceulemans, Alicia Homs Ginel, Isilda Gomes, Romana Jerković, Idoia Mendia

Draft opinion Paragraph 23 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

23 b. Welcomes the adoption of the Authority's business continuity plan in September 2023;

Or. en

Amendment 76 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 24

Draft opinion

24. Expresses its satisfaction for the overall positive ECA's opinion on the Authority's accounts; notes, however, the ECA's remarks on a basis for qualified opinion on the legality and regularity of payments underlying the accounts;

Amendment

24. Notes that ELA's staff has increased from 117 employees in 2022 to 141 employees in 2023 (21% increase), despite the fact that its functions have not been legally increased;

Or. en

Amendment 77 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 24

Draft opinion

24. Expresses its satisfaction for the *overall* positive ECA's opinion on the Authority's accounts; notes, however, the ECA's *remarks on a basis for* qualified opinion on the legality and regularity of payments underlying the accounts;

Amendment

24. Expresses its satisfaction for the positive ECA's opinion on *the legality and regularity of underlying revenue and reliability of* the Authority's accounts; notes, however, the ECA's qualified opinion on the legality and regularity of payments underlying the accounts *due to irregular expenditure exceeding the materiality threshold*;

Or. en

Amendment 78 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 25

Draft opinion

25. In this regards, notes the ECA's opinion on an irregular contract awarding and the Authority's reply that the concerned contract was not renewed and ran until the end to avoid disruption in the Authority's activities;

Amendment

25. Notes that ELA illegally awarded a contract for EUR 12.9 million, despite the fact that the tender specifications had established a maximum value of EUR 6 million, thereby allowing for the irregular allocation of public funds at an amount of EUR 6.9 million;

Or. en

Amendment 79 Pál Szekeres

Draft opinion Paragraph 25

Draft opinion

Amendment

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- 25. In this regards, *notes the ECA's opinion on an* irregular contract awarding and the Authority's reply *that* the concerned contract was not renewed and ran until the end to avoid disruption in the Authority's activities;
- 25. In this regards, condemns the practice relating to irregular contract awarding and considers unacceptable the Authority's reply about the maintenance of the concerned contract under the pretext that it was not renewed and had to ran until the end to avoid disruption in the Authority's activities;

Or. en

Amendment 80 Irena Joveva, Hristo Petrov, Brigitte van den Berg, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne

Draft opinion Paragraph 25

Draft opinion

25. In this regards, notes the ECA's opinion on an irregular contract awarding and the Authority's reply that the concerned contract was not renewed and ran until the end to avoid disruption in the Authority's activities;

Amendment

25. In this regards, notes the ECA's opinion on an irregular contract awarding and the Authority's reply that the concerned contract was not renewed and ran until the end to avoid disruption in the Authority's activities; welcomes that ELA has revised its tender documents, including financial offer templates, to clarify that tenders exceeding the contracting authority's maximum budget will be rejected;

Or. en

Amendment 81 Marlena Malag, Chiara Gemma, Elena Donazzan, Francesco Torselli

Draft opinion Paragraph 25

Draft opinion

25. In this regards, notes the ECA's opinion on an irregular contract awarding and the Authority's reply that the concerned contract was not renewed and ran until the end to avoid disruption in the

Amendment

25. In this regards, notes the ECA's opinion on an irregular contract awarding and subsequent irregular payments under this contract which in 2023 amounted to 1.32 million EUR and the Authority's

Authority's activities;

reply that the concerned contract was not renewed and ran until the end to avoid disruption in the Authority's activities;

Or. en

Amendment 82 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 26

Draft opinion

26. Notes the ECA's opinion on shortcomings in ELA's ex-ante checks and the 3,8 % of irregular expenditure above the materiality threshold; takes note of the Authority's commitment to enhance its ex-ante checks by reviewing and formalising the process for assessing key parameters:

Amendment

26. Notes that ELA's paid EUR 261.5 thousand to a training contractor that had already been paid via a monthly flat rate and that were not included in his financial offer, thereby allowing for the irregular allocation of public funds that have not been recovered;

Or. en

Amendment 83 Pál Szekeres

Draft opinion Paragraph 26

Draft opinion

26. Notes the ECA's opinion on shortcomings in ELA's ex-ante checks and the 3,8 % of irregular expenditure above the materiality threshold; takes note of the Authority's commitment to enhance its ex-ante checks by reviewing and formalising the process for assessing key parameters;

Amendment

26. **Condemns ELA's** 3,8 % of irregular expenditure above the materiality threshold; **urges the Authority to commit** to enhance its ex-ante checks by reviewing and formalising the process for assessing key parameters;

Or. en

Amendment 84 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 27

Draft opinion

27. Notes the 26 % of carryover rate, way above the 15 % benchmark, and the 19 % of Title II appropriations cancelled, and takes note of the Agency's reply committing to make efforts to enhance budget implementation;

Amendment

27. Notes that ELA overpaid EUR
37.6 thousand in favour of a
communication services contractor who
exceeded the contractual limit in his
invoice, thereby allowing for the irregular
allocation of public funds that have not
been recovered;

Or. en

Amendment 85 Pál Szekeres

Draft opinion Paragraph 27

Draft opinion

27. **Notes** the 26 % of carryover rate, way above the 15 % benchmark, and the 19 % of Title II appropriations cancelled, and *takes* note of the Agency's reply committing to make efforts to enhance budget implementation;

Amendment

27. *Considers unacceptable both* the 26 % of carryover rate (way above the 15 % benchmark) and the 19 % of Title II appropriations cancelled, and *refuses to take* note of the Agency's reply committing to make efforts to enhance budget implementation;

Or. en

Amendment 86 Maria Ohisalo

Draft opinion Paragraph 27 – subparagraph 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Commends the Agency for its achievement in almost fulfilling its

planned staffing level in 2023 by hiring 67 new staff members, while improving the efficiency of its recruitment process;

Or. en

Amendment 87 Marlena Malag, Chiara Gemma, Elena Donazzan, Francesco Torselli

Draft opinion Paragraph 27 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

27 a. Notes that against ECA's observation from the previous year, ELA continued to use an interim agent and a trainee to perform core financial activities associated with budget implementation in 2023;

Or. en

Amendment 88 Marlena Malag, Chiara Gemma, Elena Donazzan, Francesco Torselli

Draft opinion Paragraph 27 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

27 b. Recalls that at the end of 2023, the proportion of ELA's temporary workers (seconded national experts and interims) remained high at 47 %;

Or. en

Amendment 89 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 28

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Draft opinion

28. Expects the Authority to deliver on its commitments and address all ECA's remarks without delay;

Amendment

28. Under the foregoing circumstances, manifests an impossibility to discharge the implementation of ELA's budget for the financial year 2023;

Or en

Amendment 90 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 29

Draft opinion

29. Asks the Agencies and the Commission to implement as soon as possible all outstanding ECA's recommendations;

Amendment

29. Asks the Council to reduce the number of decentralised agencies related to employment and social affairs from five to one and their staff to a total of one hundred employees, reducing in the same number the staff dedicated in the European Commission to employment and social affairs in order to avoid duplication;

Or. en

Amendment 91 Pál Szekeres

Draft opinion Paragraph 30

Draft opinion

30. Recommends, based on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Directors of the Eurofound, *EU-OSHA*, the CEDEFOP, *the ETF*, and the *ELA* in respect of the implementation of the Authorities' budget for the financial year 2023.

Amendment

30. Recommends, based on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Directors of the Eurofound, the CEDEFOP, and the *ETF* in respect of the implementation of the Authorities' budget for the financial year 2023 *and that no discharge be granted to EU-OSHA and the ELA*

Amendment 92 Rachel Blom, Nikola Bartůšek, Mélanie Disdier, Marie Dauchy

Draft opinion Paragraph 30

Draft opinion

30. Recommends, based on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Directors of the Eurofound, EU-OSHA, the CEDEFOP, the ETF, and the ELA in respect of the implementation of the Authorities' budget for the financial year 2023.

Amendment

30. Recommends, based on the facts available, that discharge *will not* be granted to the Executive Directors of the Eurofound, EU-OSHA, the CEDEFOP, the ETF, and the ELA in respect of the implementation of the Authorities' budget for the financial year 2023.

Or. en