



2019/2055(DEC)

21.1.2020

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

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 2018, Section III – Commission and executive agencies
(2019/2055(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Roberta Metsola

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the opinion of the Court of Auditors ('the Court') on the 2018 accounts of the Union; highlights that the estimated overall level of error in expenditure from the Union budget was 2,6 %, which is within the range of error estimates for the last two years and only slightly higher than the all-time low of 2,4 % in 2017; recalls that the target material threshold stands at 2 % and calls on the Commission to increase its efforts to reach an overall level of error below that threshold;
2. Regrets that the Court has not responded to Parliament's repeated call for a calculation of the estimated level of error in expenditure specifically for Heading III (Security and Citizenship); notes the Court's justification for not doing so, namely that Heading III accounted for only 2 % of payments in the 2018 budget; takes note of the self-assessment of the Commission's Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) which estimates a level of error below the material threshold of 2 %; regrets that the limited sample of 18 audited transactions for 2018 was not sufficient for the Court to confirm this positive result; calls for a larger sample of audited transactions to provide the budgetary authority with the information necessary to properly assess the results achieved in this important policy area;
3. Stresses the importance for the Union of the Court systematically and independently assessing error levels for all areas of the Union budget;
4. Notes with concern the nine cases of suspected fraud that were communicated to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) by the Court in 2018;
5. Stresses that the 2018 analysis of follow-up made by the Court covered 184 recommendations; notes that the Commission has implemented 76 % of the recommendations in full or in most respects; regrets that 11 recommendations have not been implemented at all; shares the view of the Court that a more structured and documented planning for the assessment of risk should be implemented ;
6. Welcomes the 35 special reports published in 2018 by the Court across the various areas of Union spending which aim to examine whether the objectives of selected Union policies and programmes have been met, whether results have been achieved effectively and efficiently and whether the funding by the Union has added value;
7. Welcomes the Court's special report on Union support for Member States in their efforts to tackle radicalisation¹, financed, among other sources, by the Internal Security Fund (ISF) and the Justice Programme; shares the view of the Court that the Commission should improve the framework for overall coordination of Union funded actions addressing radicalisation, increase practical support to practitioners and policymakers in Member States, and improve the framework for assessing results;

¹ Special report 13/2018 "Tackling radicalisation that leads to terrorism: the Commission addressed the needs of Member States, but with some shortfalls in coordination and evaluation".

8. Welcomes the fact that the Court did not find major flaws in the Commission's clearance procedures regarding the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and ISF and the fact that it agrees with the Commission's clearance decisions; deplures, however, the fact that three out of the 18 transactions examined by the Court contained errors, of which one shared management transaction under AMIF showed an error rate of 9,4 %; urges the Commission to address the systemic weaknesses identified by the Court, such as a lack of ex post checks of supporting documents in case of ex ante administrative checks of payment claims; calls on the Member States to improve checks of the procurement procedures organised by beneficiaries of funds in relation to the legality and regularity of such procedures.

9. Calls on the Commission to improve compliance with the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management²;

² OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	13.1.2020
Result of final vote	+: 52 -: 5 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Konstantinos Arvanitis, Malik Azmani, Pietro Bartolo, Nicolas Bay, Vladimír Bilčík, Vasile Blaga, Saskia Bricmont, Damien Carême, Caterina Chinnici, Tudor Ciuhodaru, Clare Daly, Lena Düpont, Cornelia Ernst, Sylvie Guillaume, Balázs Hidvéghi, Evin Incir, Sophia in 't Veld, Patryk Jaki, Assita Kanko, Fabienne Keller, Moritz Körner, Alice Kuhnke, Jeroen Lenaers, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Roberta Metsola, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Nicola Procaccini, Emil Radev, Paulo Rangel, Terry Reintke, Ralf Seekatz, Michal Šimečka, Birgit Sippel, Sylwia Spurek, Tineke Strik, Ramona Strugariu, Tom Vandendriessche, Bettina Vollath, Elena Yoncheva, Javier Zarzalejos
Substitutes present for the final vote	Damian Boeselager, Patrick Breyer, Delara Burkhardt, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Monika Hohlmeier, Beata Kempa, Ondřej Kovařík, Kris Peeters, Robert Roos, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Loránt Vincze, Petar Vitanov, Axel Voss, Maria Walsh
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Lukas Mandl

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

52	+
PPE	Vladimír Bilčík, Vasile Blaga, Lena Düpont, Balázs Hidvéghi, Monika Hohlmeier, Jeroen Lenaers, Lukas Mandl, Roberta Metsola, Kris Peeters, Emil Radev, Paulo Rangel, Ralf Seekatz, Loránt Vincze, Axel Voss, Maria Walsh, Javier Zarzalejos
S&D	Pietro Bartolo, Delara Burkhardt, Caterina Chinnici, Tudor Ciuhodaru, Sylvie Guillaume, Evin Incir, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Birgit Sippel, Sylwia Spurek, Petar Vitanov, Bettina Vollath, Elena Yoncheva
RENEW	Malik Azmani, Sophia in 't Veld, Fabienne Keller, Moritz Körner, Ondřej Kovařík, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Michal Šimečka, Ramona Strugariu
VERTS/ALE	Damian Boeselager, Patrick Breyer, Saskia Bricmont, Damien Carême, Alice Kuhnke, Terry Reintke, Tineke Strik
ECR	Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Patryk Jaki, Assita Kanko, Beata Kempa
GUE/NGL	Konstantinos Arvanitis, Clare Daly, Cornelia Ernst, Miguel Urbán Crespo

5	-
ID	Nicolas Bay, Tom Vandendriessche
ECR	Robert Roos
NI	Kostas Papadakis, Ann Widdecombe

1	0
ECR	Nicola Procaccini

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention