



2024/2019(DEC)

13.12.2024

AMENDMENTS

1 - 22

Draft opinion

Gheorghe Falcă

(PE765.326v01-00)

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

Amendment 1
Beata Szydło

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Takes notice of the opinion of the European Court of Auditors ('the Court') that the consolidated accounts of the Union for 2023 present fairly, in all material respects, the Union's financial position, the results of its operations, its cash flows and the changes in its net assets; regrets that the level of error for the 2023 budget expenditure increased from 4,2 % to 5,6 %, noting that, in line with the Court's assessment, the errors are both material and pervasive;

Amendment

1. Takes notice of the opinion of the European Court of Auditors ('the Court') that the consolidated accounts of the Union for 2023 present fairly, in all material respects, the Union's financial position, the results of its operations, its cash flows and the changes in its net assets; regrets that the level of error for the 2023 budget expenditure increased from 4,2 % to 5,6 %, noting that, in line with the Court's assessment, the errors are both material and pervasive; ***calls for more effective systems to detect and prevent errors in order to reduce the material level of error in expenditure; stresses that greater transparency in the management of public funds increases citizens' trust in the EU institutions;***

Or. pl

Amendment 2
Marjan Šarec, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Taner Kabilov, Benoit Cassart, Valérie Devaux

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Takes notice of the opinion of the European Court of Auditors ('the Court') that the consolidated accounts of the Union for 2023 present fairly, in all material respects, the Union's financial position, the results of its operations, its cash flows and the changes in its net assets; ***regrets*** that the level of error for the 2023 budget expenditure increased from 4,2 % to 5,6 %, noting that, in line with the Court's

Amendment

1. Takes notice of the opinion of the European Court of Auditors ('the Court') that the consolidated accounts of the Union for 2023 present fairly, in all material respects, the Union's financial position, the results of its operations, its cash flows and the changes in its net assets; ***is concerned*** that the level of error for the 2023 budget expenditure increased from 4,2 % to 5,6 %, noting that, in line with the

assessment, the errors are both material and pervasive;

Court's assessment, the errors are both material and pervasive;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. Observes that in 2023, as in the past few years, DG MOVE's main budget management mode was indirect management (91.4% of the expenditure, including the contributions to the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) as well as to the decentralised agencies and joint undertakings under its supervision); points out that direct management (8.6% of the expenditure) included grants and procurement related to the research programmes as well as grants and support actions in relation to the Connecting Europe Facility for Transport, Single European Sky (SES) advisory bodies, and administrative agreements; remarks that the key elements considered in the framework of control activities applicable to the operational and financial implementation of its spending programmes under the direct and indirect management provide the necessary assurance;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 b. Welcomes the internal control processes applied by DG MOVE to ensure a sound management of risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions; however, takes notice of the case of non-compliance with the legal and financial provisions, which was identified in the Court's 2023 Annual report and where DG MOVE failed to respect technical eligibility parameters in the context of a military mobility infrastructure project; calls on DG MOVE to ensure diligence in relation to project award criteria;

Or. en

**Amendment 5
Gheorghe Falcă**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 c (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 c. Welcomes the promotion of its Action Plan to improve the budget implementation; takes note that this Action Plan includes target dates, analyses of deviations compared to the targets, and monthly reporting to the senior Management; points out that this successfully led to the high levels of budget implementation, individualisation of all the global commitments and reduced number of global commitments at the end of 2023; takes note that DG MOVE has had recourse to a wider use of existing framework contracts, thus reducing the burden of using heavier procedures;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Beata Szydło

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Commends the effective work of the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) in implementation of the Connecting Europe Facility for Transport (CEF-T) programme; notes with satisfaction that the CEF-T call published by CINEA in 2023 made EUR 7 billion available for projects targeting new and improved European transport infrastructure;

Amendment

3. Commends the effective work of the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) in implementation of the Connecting Europe Facility for Transport (CEF-T) programme; notes with satisfaction that the CEF-T call published by CINEA in 2023 made EUR 7 billion available for projects targeting new and improved European transport infrastructure; ***stresses the need to simplify application procedures under CEF-T in order to facilitate greater participation by smaller players and local initiatives in the development of European transport infrastructure;***

Or. pl

Amendment 7
Kai Tegethoff

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Commends the effective work of the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) in implementation of the Connecting Europe Facility for Transport (CEF-T) programme; notes with satisfaction that the CEF-T call published by CINEA in 2023 made EUR 7 billion available for projects targeting new and improved European transport infrastructure;

Amendment

3. Commends the effective work of the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) in implementation of the Connecting Europe Facility for Transport (CEF-T) programme; notes with satisfaction that the CEF-T call published by CINEA in 2023 made EUR 7 billion available for projects targeting new and improved European transport infrastructure; ***regrets that the CEF-T budget does not cover all the needs for sustainable transport investments; regrets that most of the CEF-T budget has already been allocated,***

leaving a funding gap until 2027;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Nils Ušakovs

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Emphasizes that mobility is a fundamental right of European citizens and underlines the importance of ensuring that transport and mobility are accessible, interconnected, efficient, and affordable for everyone; highlights the necessity for all the EU transport policies to align with this core principle, ensuring that no one is excluded;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Kai Tegethoff

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Calls for the increase of budget envelope of CEF-T within the context of the MFF revision and the upcoming CEF revision;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Nils Ušakovs

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. *Emphasizes that rural transport infrastructure and services are key drivers of economic growth and social equity and that its role is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; stresses the need to improve connectivity in rural and remote regions and to guarantee access to transport for individuals with reduced mobility and persons with disabilities; believes that integrating public transportation with more personalized on-demand and shared mobility options can significantly address long-standing mobility challenges in rural areas;*

Or. en

Amendment 11
Nils Ušakovs

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 c. *Calls on the Commission to conduct a comprehensive review of the funding allocated to the cross-border and multi-country infrastructure projects, such as the Rail Baltica project, experiencing significant implementation challenges, financial difficulties, or delays; calls for this review to address inefficiencies in planning and management as well as substantial increases in construction costs that jeopardize project timelines and objectives;*

Or. en

Amendment 12

Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Recalls that 2023 was the third year in the implementation of Horizon Europe programme and acknowledges the successful completion of two major transport calls under the Cluster 5 Work Programme, which led to new transport research and innovation projects;

Amendment

4. Recalls that 2023 was the third year in the implementation of Horizon Europe programme and acknowledges the successful completion of two major transport calls under the Cluster 5 Work Programme, which led to new transport research and innovation projects *in the fields of road, aviation and waterborne transport, as well as on infrastructures, logistics, safety and new mobility services; notes that the number of the Horizon Europe transport R&I projects, managed by CINEA, reached around 220, with the total value of approximately EUR 1.5 billion; acknowledges the work of DG MOVE throughout 2023 on the review of the programme's current Strategic Plan that will lapse in 2024 and on the design of the next Strategic Plan for 2025–2027;*

Or. en

Amendment 13
Elena Nevado del Campo

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Recalls that 2023 was the third year in the implementation of Horizon Europe programme and acknowledges the successful completion of two major transport calls under the Cluster 5 Work Programme, which led to new transport research and innovation projects;

Amendment

4. Recalls that 2023 was the third year in the implementation of Horizon Europe programme and acknowledges the successful completion of two major transport calls under the Cluster 5 Work Programme, which led to new transport research and innovation projects; *deplores the fact that Horizon Europe spending remains high risk and is the main source of the errors detected in the Court of*

Amendment 14

Beata Szydło

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. Welcomes the work carried out in 2023, which, in line with European Green Deal and the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, focused on sustainability and reducing the transport emissions; points out that 2023 saw the conclusion of the inter-institutional negotiations on several key “Fit for 55” initiatives, including FuelEU Maritime, ReFuelEU Aviation, and revision of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive;

deleted

Amendment 15

Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. Welcomes the work carried out in 2023, which, in line with European Green Deal and the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, focused on sustainability and reducing the transport emissions; points out that 2023 saw the conclusion of the inter-institutional negotiations on several key “Fit for 55” initiatives, including FuelEU Maritime, ReFuelEU Aviation, and revision of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive;

5. Welcomes the work carried out in 2023, which, in line with European Green Deal and the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, focused on sustainability and reducing the transport emissions; points out that 2023 saw the conclusion of the inter-institutional negotiations on several key “Fit for 55” initiatives, including FuelEU Maritime, ReFuelEU Aviation, and revision of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive;

takes notice of the proposal on Greening freight package aiming to modernise freight transport and improve its energy and operational efficiency;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Kai Tegethoff

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Salutes the publication of the ‘Technical Specifications for Interoperability’ (TSIs) package in 2023 to improve rail interoperability and reduce national rules that hinder the development of long distance, cross-border rail services;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

Amendment

6. Appreciates that supporting Ukraine remained a key priority for the Commission in 2023; takes notice of the close involvement of DG MOVE in development of the new transport-related sanctions against the Russian and Belarusian regimes; acknowledges its contribution to the preparatory work that resulted in the European Council decision to open accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova;

6. Appreciates that supporting Ukraine remained a key priority for the Commission in 2023; ***stresses in this context, that the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes allowed Ukraine to import around 40 million tonnes of goods it needs: from military and humanitarian aid, to fuel and other products; furthermore, notes that the total value of trade via the Solidarity Lanes at the end of 2023 was estimated at around EUR 120 billion;*** takes notice of the close involvement of DG MOVE in development of the new transport-related

sanctions against the Russian and Belarusian regimes; acknowledges its contribution to the preparatory work that resulted in the European Council decision to open accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova;

Or. en

Amendment 18

Marjan Šarec, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Taner Kabilov, Benoit Cassart, Valérie Devaux

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Appreciates that supporting Ukraine remained a key priority for the Commission in 2023; takes notice of the close involvement of DG MOVE in development of the new transport-related sanctions against the Russian and Belarusian regimes; **acknowledges** its contribution to the preparatory work that resulted in the European Council decision to open accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova;

Amendment

6. Appreciates that supporting Ukraine remained a key priority for the Commission in 2023; takes notice of the close involvement of DG MOVE in development of the new transport-related sanctions against the Russian and Belarusian regimes; **welcomes** its contribution to the preparatory work that resulted in the European Council decision to open accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova;

Or. en

Amendment 19

Nils Ušakovs

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. Acknowledges that the war in Ukraine and the sanctions on Russia have impacted the transport in the EU, leading to traffic shortages, supply chain bottlenecks, and the need to bypass traditional routes, thereby lengthening journey times and increasing costs;

highlights that due to their proximity and economic ties to the areas affected by the war in Ukraine, the Eastern border regions, particularly in the Baltic countries, Finland and Poland, have been particularly impacted by the economic losses owing to the termination of business relationships in these areas, along with the halt of cross-border mobility; calls on the Commission to introduce specific measures, including in the next MFF, to address these issues, aiming to facilitate economic recovery and ensure that the affected Eastern border regions receive the necessary support to overcome the current economic challenges;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Kai Tegethoff

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 a. *Recalls that, in line with Article 11(2) TEU, the EU institutions must maintain an open, transparent and structured dialogue with the civil society organisations and representative associations; in this regard, stresses in particular that success of the structural funding is a prerequisite to ensure public participation and without which it would not be possible for citizens to have their voice channelled at the EU level through their representative associations, to sustain a regular dialogue with the EU institutions, contributing to democratic participation in policy making and open and wide-ranging dialogue, ensuring that the diversity of views and concerns are taken into account with equal access for public interest as compared to commercial interest, and to exercise a monitoring role*

in the implementation of EU policies and legislation, including the use of EU funds, or to act as checks and balances in relation to the rule of law; 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, in particular sustainable transport, and upholding human rights including the rights of future generations; therefore, in line with the political guidelines, while the Commission should not mandate NGOs to pursue certain activities or support specific positions or policies, at the same time it should ensure that activities, such as advocacy activities, demonstrations, or judicial actions, should remain eligible in the relevant funding programs and have sufficient dedicated funding available to ensure that civil society organisations can engage in an open, transparent, and structured dialogue with EU institutions, as enshrined in 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 adjusted to ensure in full transparency the alignment with Article 11 TEU;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 a. Recalls that the Commission's publication of the Transition Pathway for

Tourism in 2022 was followed by an online call for commitments, inviting stakeholders to submit concrete pledges for action in the field of tourism; reminds that a pledge is not a legally binding obligation but a voluntary commitment that reflects the ambition of action supporting the shared transition objectives; notes with satisfaction that the 3rd Report on Stakeholder Commitments and Pledges published by DG GROW in March 2023, included 179 organisations from the EU and non-EU countries, 107 of which made 382 pledges, now addressing all Transition Pathway topics, including policy and governance, green and digital transition, skills and resilience; welcomes the role of DG GROW in organising regular tourism stakeholder events, including European Tourism Day that took place in May 2023 and served as a platform to discuss the results of the above-mentioned report.

Or. en

Amendment 22
Beata Szydło

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 a. *Calls on the European Commission to establish effective mechanisms to combat money laundering and to ensure full transparency in the actions of European Commission officials, in the light of cases that raise ethical and legal questions, including the Didier Reynders case.*

Or. pl