



2024/2031(DEC)

13.12.2024

AMENDMENTS

1 - 21

Draft opinion

Gheorghe Falcă

(PE765.328v01-00)

2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - Joint Undertakings
(2024/2031(DEC))

Amendment 1
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. Welcomes the 2023 activities related to the calls for proposals and grant management carried out by the three JUs under their respective programmes; draws particular attention to the joint call for proposals launched by EU-Rail and SESAR 3 JU – the first ever cross-joint undertaking synergy topic call aimed at developing an integrated air and rail network for a sustainable multimodal transport system;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Acknowledges the significant contributions of the JUs in advancing research, innovation, and technology development across various sectors, including aviation, rail, and air traffic management, as integral to achieving the EU's strategic objectives of sustainability, digital transformation, and competitiveness;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Recognizes the value of initiatives fostering stakeholder engagement and participation, such as open calls for expressions of interest and joint calls across the JUs, as instrumental in leveraging the collective expertise and resources necessary for sustainable multimodal transport systems;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Subheading 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Draws attention to the open call for expression of interest published by CAJU in May 2023, targeting private stakeholders to become Associated Members of CAJU; notes that, following the evaluation, 20 new Associated Members from 12 different countries acceded to the Clean Aviation Partnership in December 2023, bringing the number of its Members to 59.

Or. en

Amendment 5
Marjan Šarec, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Benoit Cassart, Taner Kabilov, Valérie Devaux

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. ***Notes*** that the implementation rate

3. ***Regrets*** that the implementation

for the 2023 operational payment appropriations under the Horizon Europe programme decreased to 51 %, primarily due to the slower start of the CAJU's technically complex activities and delays in ongoing Horizon 2020 activities; notes that in 2023, CAJU requested EUR 178 million in additional EU financial contributions, exceeding the cash needs and resulting in a EUR 237 million cash surplus, which indicates shortcomings in its cash planning.

rate for the 2023 operational payment appropriations under the Horizon Europe programme decreased to 51 %, primarily due to the slower start of the CAJU's technically complex activities and delays in ongoing Horizon 2020 activities; notes that in 2023, CAJU requested EUR 178 million in additional EU financial contributions, exceeding the cash needs and resulting in a EUR 237 million cash surplus, which indicates shortcomings in its cash planning.

Or. en

Amendment 6

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

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 – point 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(1) 4. Notes that it is important that the accumulated cash surplus is used for the any other urgent needs of the EU; therefore, calls on CAJU to define its goals and future financial resource needs more clearly, to avoid this kind of situations in the future.^{1a}

^{1a} Annual report on EU Joint Undertakings for the financial year 2023, Section 3.3.17 "Accumulation of unused EU financial contributions", pp. 62, 66.

Or. en

Amendment 7

Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Notes that the technical activity under the Clean Sky 2 (CS2) programme mostly completed in 2023 and acknowledges the progress made in finalisation of the remaining technology maturation and demonstration activities, notably in delivering a series of key demonstrators in the programme's different System & Platform Demonstrator (SPD) areas;

Or. en

**Amendment 8
Gheorghe Falcă**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Points out that the 20 projects selected in the first call for proposals of the Clean Aviation programme successfully kicked-off in January 2023, committing 40% of the funding available over the life cycle of the programme (EUR 736 million); takes notice of the second call launched in February 2023, which resulted in the signature of 8 grant agreements for a maximum amount of approximately EUR 137 million (7,5% of the funding available), that will aim at definition of novel aircraft concepts, innovative propulsion architectures, as well as new fuselage and wing designs;

Or. en

**Amendment 9
Marjan Šarec, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Benoit Cassart, Taner Kabilov, Valérie Devaux**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 3**

Draft opinion

3. *Notes* that at the end of 2023, SESAR 3 JU still lacked a policy on the management of sensitive functions, essential to prevent or mitigate the risk of inappropriate actions and corruption, in accordance with the European Commission's Internal Control Principles.

Amendment

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Or. en

Amendment 10

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

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 – point 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(1) 4. *Notes that in 2023, the Commission's Internal Audit Service observed that the JUs business continuity plan (BCP) and the related disaster recovery plan (DRP) had not been updated since 2016; calls on SESAR 3 JU to regularly update its BCP and DRP.^{1b}*

^{1b} *Annual report on EU Joint Undertakings for the financial year 2023, Section 3.2.18 "Out-of-date business continuity plan and disaster recovery plan", p. 54.*

Or. en

Amendment 11

Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. *Welcomes the successful closure*

in 2023 of the remaining projects funded under the SESAR 2020 programme, integrating their outcomes into the new Digital European Sky (DES) programme; points out that the 2023 exploratory and industrial research calls under DES resulted in 50 projects, covering the nine SESAR flagship areas;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Welcomes three new Digital Sky Demonstrator projects funded under the Connecting Europe Facility along to the five already managed by the SESAR 3 JU; notes that 58 DES projects that involve more than 300 different beneficiaries, represent a total investment of more than EUR 600 million;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 c. Welcomes the update of the European ATM Master Plan, commenced by SESAR 3 JU in order to set out the vision and prioritise the digital solutions necessary to deliver DES; points out that the update campaign includes extensive consultations with stakeholders to ensure a collaborative and aligned approach

towards achieving the strategic objectives leading to ATM modernisation; expects the Governing Board to have it adopted by December 2024.

Or. en

Amendment 14
Kai Tegethoff

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. Commends the strong cooperation of the JU with the European Union Agency for Railways to ensure the interoperability of the developed projects; commends the collaboration with the sectoral associations, third country programmes and other programmes, partnerships, and bodies, to establish further synergies;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Marjan Šarec, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Benoit Cassart, Taner Kabilov, Valérie Devaux

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Remarks that although the 2023 implementation rate for operational payment appropriations of Horizon 2020 programme increased to 67 % (from 47 % in 2022), it remained below expectations; points out that EU Rail postponed final payments to 2024 due to technical issues experienced by beneficiaries; takes notice of the several projects that did not fully claim their budgets, reducing the need for operational payments by approximately

3. Remarks that although the 2023 implementation rate for operational payment appropriations of Horizon 2020 programme increased to 67 % (from 47 % in 2022), it remained below expectations; points out that EU Rail postponed final payments to 2024 due to technical issues experienced by beneficiaries; takes notice of the several projects that did not fully claim their budgets, reducing the need for operational payments by approximately

EUR 4,1 million

EUR 4,1 million; *calls on EU Rail to take action to improve the implementation rate for operational payment appropriations and elaborate a plan to improve the accounting reporting obligations.*^{1c}

^{1c} *Annual report on EU Joint Undertakings for the financial year 2023, Section 3.8.13 "Implementation of the Horizon 2020 programme", pp. 108, 110.*

Or. en

Amendment 16
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. *Acknowledges the progress made under the integrated EU-Rail programme, based on its System Pillar, the “generic system integrator” for the future of the EU rail, providing governance, resources, and outputs to support a coherent and coordinated approach to rail system evolution, as well as on its Innovation Pillar, which encompasses advanced operational and technological solutions aimed at creating a more efficient railway system, including large-scale demonstrations and exploratory research;*

Or. en

Amendment 17
Kai Tegethoff

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Welcomes the commitment of the JU to facilitate research and innovation activities to deliver an integrated European railway network by design, eliminating barriers to interoperability and delivering smart, sustainable, and resilient rail system to ensure a harmonised approach to the evolution of the Single European Rail Area; highlights the importance of supporting the JU given rail's inherent advantages in terms of environmental performance, land use, energy consumption, and safety;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Nils Ušakovs

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Commends the EU-Rail programme for its continued dissemination efforts to European citizens on the benefits of rail travel and transport, and the complementarity of its R&I output (particularly with respect to eliminating barriers to interoperability) with key objectives of the European Green Deal and the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Takes notice of the 2023 decision

of the Governing Board to establish the Deployment Group to advise on the market uptake of rail innovation developed by EU-Rail and to support the deployment of innovative solutions;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Kai Tegethoff

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Congratulates the JU for its continued, active reporting on its contributions to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as its contribution to completing the Single European Railway Area;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Gheorghe Falcă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 c. Welcomes the 2023 achievements under the European Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC) Delivery Programme that facilitated cooperation among rail stakeholders, enhancing the implementation of DAC for European rail freight.

Or. en