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*Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety*

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**2017/2136(DEC)**

25.1.2018

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

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 2016, Section III - Commission and executive agencies  
(2017/2136(DEC))

Rapporteur: Adina-Ioana Vălean

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Is satisfied with the overall implementation by the Commission of the budgetary headings for environment, climate action, public health and food safety in 2016;
2. Is satisfied with the work carried out by the five decentralised agencies which are under its remit and which carry out technical, scientific or managerial tasks that help the Union institutions elaborate and implement policies in the area of environment, climate, public health and food safety, as well as with the way those agencies' budgets are implemented;
3. With respect to the overall error rate of the section "Rural Development, fisheries, environment and climate", notes a slight reduction of the error rate in the report of the Court of Auditors ('the Court') for 2016, with 4,9 % against 5,3 % in 2015 and 6,2 % in 2014; welcomes the efforts made in reducing the error rates but notes more work needs to be done; further notes that 50% of the ten environment, climate action and fisheries transactions sampled contained errors;

### *Environment and Climate Action*

4. Underlines that the budget of DG ENV is mainly implemented through direct centralised management, and that in 2016 commitments and payment appropriations amounted to EUR 438,31 million and EUR 357,62 million respectively; stresses that it is satisfactory that the implementation rates of commitment appropriations reached 98,95 % and that those of payment appropriations reached 99,17 % at year end;
5. Notes that in 2016 the LIFE programme provided EUR 315 million to co-finance 157 new projects across 23 Member States, which spurred additional EUR 236 million investments;
6. Stresses that an action plan was set up in 2016, following comments from the Court, in order to ensure improvements on payments delays under the LIFE programme; notes that the rate of delayed payments for 2016 reached 3,9 %;
7. Regrets that there is no specific reporting framework managed by the Commission in relation to the identification and the measurement of the undesired implications of Union policies that make a negative contribution to climate change, and in relation to the quantification of the share of this expenditure in the total Union budget;
8. Notes that internal audits carried out in 2016 showed that, in DG ENV, improvements in human resources management were possible as this DG was not able to effectively monitor and compare workload within the DG;
9. Stresses that internal audits also showed that there were delays in the implementation of one very important IT security-related recommendation (on the management of the security of the EU ETS IT system), which exposes the DG to the risk of security

breaches;

10. Highlights that the budget of DG CLIMA is mainly implemented through direct centralised management, and that the 2016 commitments and payment appropriations amounted to EUR 118,1 million and EUR 59,25 million respectively; highlights that while the implementation rate of commitment appropriations amounted to 99,72 %, it was only 70,49 % for payment appropriations, due to the signature only at the end of December 2016 of three new operations under the financial instrument Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE);

### ***Public Health***

11. Notes that DG SANTE was responsible, in 2016, for implementing EUR 184,40 million on public health budget lines, of which 89,88 % have been committed satisfactorily; takes note that the level of execution of payments is at 89,86 %;
12. Notes that the ex-post evaluation of the second Health Programme, finalised in July 2016, found that while the Programme delivered valuable outputs with a clear link to Union and national health policy priorities, there was still room for improvement concerning the dissemination of action outputs and synergies with other Union funding instruments such as the structural funds;

### ***Food Safety, animal health and welfare and plant health***

13. Notes that DG SANTE was responsible, in 2016, for implementing EUR 240,5 million on food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health budget lines, of which 98,37 % have been committed satisfactorily; takes note that the level of execution of payments is at 98,00 %;
14. Notes that the Court published a Special Report on a performance audit on animal disease eradication programmes covering the period 2009-2014, which concluded that the approach taken by the Commission was sound and acknowledged some notable successes, such as the decrease in the cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle, salmonella in poultry, and rabies in wildlife;
15. Notes that the Court published a Special Report on how more efforts were needed to implement the Natura 2000 Network to its full potential including recommendations for improvements such as estimating the actual spending and future funding required at site level more accurately and completely;
16. Notes that in 2016 DG SANTE launched the first product of the 'State of Health in the EU' initiative, the joint OECD-Commission report 'Health at a Glance: Europe 2016', created 23 European Reference Networks on rare diseases, set up a task force on antimicrobial resistance and established a new EU platform on food losses and food waste;
17. Is of the opinion, on the basis of the data available and the implementation report, that discharge can be granted to the Commission with respect to expenditure in the areas of environmental and climate policy, public health and food safety for the financial year 2016.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	24.1.2018
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 40 -: 7 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Marco Affronte, Pilar Ayuso, Ivo Belet, Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Birgit Collin-Langen, Seb Dance, Stefan Eck, José Inácio Faria, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Arne Gericke, Julie Girling, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Jytte Guteland, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Karin Kadenbach, Urszula Krupa, Giovanni La Via, Peter Liese, Susanne Melior, Gilles Pargneaux, Piernicola Pedicini, Bolesław G. Piecha, John Procter, Julia Reid, Frédérique Ries, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Renate Sommer, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Ivica Tolić, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Damiano Zoffoli
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Martin Häusling, Norbert Lins, Nuno Melo, Ulrike Müller, Christel Schaldemose, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor, Carlos Zorrinho
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Jiří Maštálka

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

40	+
ALDE	Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Ulrike Müller, Frédérique Ries
GUE/NGL	Stefan Eck, Jiří Maštálka
PPE	Pilar Ayuso, Ivo Belet, Birgit Collin-Langen, José Inácio Faria, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Giovanni La Via, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Nuno Melo, Renate Sommer, Ivica Tolić, Adina-Ioana Vălean
S&D	Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Seb Dance, Jytte Guteland, Karin Kadenbach, Susanne Melior, Gilles Pargneaux, Christel Schaldemose, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Damiano Zoffoli, Carlos Zorrinho
VERTS/ALE	Marco Affronte, Martin Häusling, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor

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ECR	Arne Gericke, Julie Girling, Urszula Krupa, Bolesław G. Piecha, John Procter, Jadwiga Wiśniewska
EFDD	Julia Reid

1	0
EFDD	Piernicola Pedicini

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention