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<Commission>{DEVE}Committee on Development</Commission>

<RefProc>2022/2081(DEC)</RefProc>

<Date>{30/01/2023}30.1.2023</Date>

<TitreType>OPINION</TitreType>

<CommissionResp>of the Committee on Development</CommissionResp>

<CommissionInt>for the Committee on Budgetary Control</CommissionInt>

<Titre>on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021, section III - Commission </Titre>

<DocRef>(2022/2081(DEC))</DocRef>

Rapporteur for opinion: <Depute>Charles Goerens</Depute>

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Questions the large-scale tapping of the cushion within the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, established by Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council[[1]](#footnote-1) , for other purposes than the response to new needs it is aimed for; calls on Member States to ensure that the cushion is mobilised only for purposes within its intended scope;

2. Welcomes the fact that all recommendations from the Court of Auditors in the preceding year have been implemented fully or in most or some respects, despite the high-risk nature of development cooperation in implementing the EU budget;

3. Recognises the work of the Commission in applying controls to make sure that transactions are made in a legitimate manner and that activities are implemented in accordance with the priorities set by the legislator; calls on the Commission to further improve controls in order to decrease the amount of transactional errors and to implement the recommendations of the Court of Auditors in full;

4. Highlights the fact that the legitimacy and effectiveness of EU development cooperation hinges on the correct implementation of activities and their proper funding; calls on the Commission to redouble efforts to find eligible projects and to ensure a sufficient amount of payments under the current expenditure ceiling;

5. Supports the ambition to bring together public and private actors and achieve synergies between different policies through the Global Gateway (GG) strategy; stresses that allocations of official development assistance involved should be firmly aligned with Agenda 2030, the SDGs, as well as the Paris Agreement with the objective of limiting global warming to under 1,5°C as well as improving resilience to adverse climate change impacts, and that policy coherence for development, democratic country ownership and social and human right due diligence should consistently be applied; regrets that the only role for Parliament in the governance arrangements adopted by the Member States is that as an observer in the GG board; stresses the need to ensure proper influence for Parliament in strategic choices involving Union funds given its scrutiny role through NDICI Global Europe and as the budgetary authority; calls for regular assessments of the implementation of the Global Gateway and expects the European Parliament, as budgetary authority to be given a significant oversight in this process, beyond a simple observer role, given the scrutiny role the European Parliament is entitled to through the NDICI-Global Europe, which is the main source of financing of the Global Gateway;

6. Underlines that the Global Gateway strategy could be a game changer for developing partner countries, particularly in Africa, where shortcomings of physical infrastructure and connectivity are barriers for development, further notes that for the success of this initiative, the Commission needs to provide all relevant information to the Parliament as budgetary authority of the European Union;

7. Notes that enhanced Private-Public Partnership and domestic resource mobilisation in EU partner countries are essential to fulfil the funding gap to achieve SDGs, further calls on the Commission in this context to support good governance and tax governance in EU partner countries;

8. Encourages the Court of Auditors to resume its preparation of special reports relating to development cooperation expenditure and to regularly cover development cooperation aspects in its special reports on horizontal issues in accordance with the Policy Coherence for Development principle set in article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU; calls on the European Court of Auditors to carry out regular reports on the implementation of the recently initiated Global Gateway and European Financial Architecture for Development (EFAD) which will be made public and lead to policy recommendations including on actions to betaken for improvements;

9. Calls for an increase in the support to civil society organizations, given the shrinking space for and criminalisation of civil society in many developing countries; emphasises the value of service and support to local communities provided through local NGOs in developing countries; encourages the Commission to prioritise local NGOs whenever possible in order to provide better capacity-building for local NGOs on the ground; highlights the efficacy of local ownership in project implementation as concerns prioritisation, allocation of resources and building local know-how;

10. Regrets the continued great difficulties faced by small local NGOs, including Faith-Based Organisations, in accessing Union funding because of the highly demanding procedures involved; invites the Commission to fully use existing flexibilities, as well as the new flexibilities that the ongoing revision of the Financial Regulation may open, without taking unreasonable fiduciary risks, and to propose necessary changes to rules;

11. Supports the efforts the EU has made to support Ukraine via the EU’s external policy instruments, including forms of macro-financial assistance; emphasises that a broader structural instrument for financial support to Ukraine is required for all of 2023, as well as further ongoing EU support for Ukraine, including an action plan and funding for the reconstruction of the country;

12. Emphasizes the particular importance of involvement of local organizations in the implementation of EU development cooperation with particular regard to support to access to education to all;

13. Urges the Commission to indicate the country level spending targets regarding the announced assignment of at least 10% for education and to inform the Parliament about the involvement of local implementing partners;

14. Calls for action to boost the ‘visibility’ of efforts, and ultimately of the EU/European funding involved, among the final beneficiaries of the assistance.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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| **Date adopted** | 25.1.2023 |  |  |  |
| **Result of final vote** | +:–:0: | 2220 |
| **Members present for the final vote** | Barry Andrews, Eric Andrieu, Hildegard Bentele, Stéphane Bijoux, Dominique Bilde, Udo Bullmann, Catherine Chabaud, Beata Kempa, Karsten Lucke, Janina Ochojska, Michèle Rivasi, Christian Sagartz, Tomas Tobé, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Bernhard Zimniok |
| **Substitutes present for the final vote** | Ilan De Basso, Malte Gallée, Marlene Mortler, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Carlos Zorrinho |
| **Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote** | Claude Gruffat, Miriam Lexmann, Aušra Maldeikienė, Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó |

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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| 22 | + |
| ECR | Beata Kempa |
| NI | Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó |
| PPE | Hildegard Bentele, Miriam Lexmann, Aušra Maldeikienė, Marlene Mortler, Janina Ochojska, Christian Sagartz, Tomas Tobé |
| Renew | Barry Andrews, Stéphane Bijoux, Catherine Chabaud, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos |
| S&D | Eric Andrieu, Udo Bullmann, Ilan De Basso, Karsten Lucke, Carlos Zorrinho |
| The Left | Miguel Urbán Crespo |
| Verts/ALE | Malte Gallée, Claude Gruffat, Michèle Rivasi |

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| ID | Dominique Bilde, Bernhard Zimniok |

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Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

1. Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 (OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)