



2015/2128(INI)

28.9.2015

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on the Annual Report 2014 on the Protection of the EU's Financial Interests -
Fight against fraud
(2015/2128(INI))

Rapporteur: Petr Ježek

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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:

- A. whereas in view of the ineffectiveness of existing instruments such as the Convention for the protection of the financial interests of the European Communities (PIF Convention) in fighting fraud, corruption, money laundering and other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union, the Commission submitted in 2012 two legislative proposals for criminal law instruments, the PIF Directive and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) Regulation aimed at strengthening and increasing the efficiency of criminal law regarding the protection of the EU's financial interests;
1. Encourages the Council to give a new impetus to the negotiations on the PIF Directive in order to strengthen the existing legal framework by establishing common minimum rules for the definition of offences affecting the Union's financial interests and by laying down sanctions and time limits for such cases, particularly in view of the decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the *Taricco* case;
 2. Reiterates its call to the Council to keep the Parliament informed of and closely involved in the current negotiations for the establishment of the EPPO and recalls the recommendations made in its resolutions of March 2014 and April 2015;
 3. Expresses its concern about the estimated losses on VAT collections in the EU, amounting to EUR 168 billion;
 4. Welcomes the setting-up of a network of Member State National Contact Points and the incorporation of anti-corruption objectives in the European Semester process of economic governance;
 5. Welcomes the Commission's first Anti-Corruption Report and its recommendations to the administrations of the Member States, and calls on the Commission to publish its second Anti-Corruption Report no later than the beginning of 2016;
 6. Insists that, in order to be credible, EU institutions must lead by example and live up to the highest standards on transparency, integrity and conflicts of interest; asks the Commission, in this connection, to add a chapter to the upcoming report on the performance of the EU institutions in fighting corruption.