



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgetary Control

2010/2079(INI)

13.7.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgetary Control

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on simplifying the implementation of framework programmes for research
(2010/2079(INI))

Rapporteur: Aldo Patriciello

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgetary Control calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the simplification measures already introduced by the Commission in the implementation of the 7th framework programme (FP) and supports the Commission in its efforts to simplify and clarify the rules still further, to leave no room for differing interpretations and to reduce the risk of error, thereby also reducing the cost of monitoring; calls on the Commission, nevertheless, to specify the measures it intends to take when simplifying and clarifying the current rules;
2. Regrets the extreme multiplication of research bodies, cooperation models and management mechanisms and the resultant complexity, which creates problems of transparency in relation to the budgetary authority and differences in the treatment of beneficiaries;
3. Reiterates its call on the Commission to ensure increased legal certainty as regards audit requirements, to refrain from making any retroactive changes, not to repeat audits unnecessarily or because of differing criteria within the Commission, to meet the legitimate expectations of beneficiaries by a uniform interpretation of rules and to step up its acceptance of certificates on the methodology used to calculate average personnel costs, in respect of which no progress appears to have been made;
4. Supports the simplification of the rules for calculating the costs declared; calls for a clear definition of the criteria necessary for assessing whether the beneficiaries' calculation methods meet the regulatory requirements;
5. Stresses the need to simplify the rules without impairing the quality of expenditure and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of implementation; takes the view that a transparent, robust and easy-to-manage funding system should be counterbalanced by a rigorous monitoring system; calls on the Commission to draw up proposals for a methodology for checking the effectiveness and efficiency of research expenditure;
6. Insists that the Commission, in its preparations for the next FP, should put forward a set of ambitious proposals aimed at establishing a financing system that is based on scientific results and performance, rather than on inputs and costs, whilst ensuring that innovative applications are not deterred; stresses that this science-based approach does not run counter to budgetary control requirements;
7. Calls on the Commission to ensure that all applicants receive assistance in finding a suitable partner;
8. Calls on the Commission to examine its move towards lump sum and flat rate payments, which could have a detrimental effect on beneficiaries' ability to adequately fulfil audit requirements.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	12.7.2010
Result of final vote	+: 22 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Marta Andreasen, Jean-Pierre Audy, Inés Ayala Sender, Zigmantas Balčytis, Luigi de Magistris, Tamás Deutsch, Martin Ehrenhauser, Jens Geier, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Ingeborg Gräßle, Ville Itälä, Bogusław Liberadzki, Monica Luisa Macovei, Jan Olbrycht, Aldo Patriciello, Theodoros Skylakakis, Georgios Stavrakakis, Søren Bo Søndergaard
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Zuzana Brzobohatá, Edit Herczog, Ivailo Kalfin, Olle Schmidt, Derek Vaughan