

Procedure file

| Basic information | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| INI - Own-initiative procedure | 2023/2046(INI) | Procedure completed |
| Control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank - annual report 2022 | | |
| Subject 8.40.07 European Investment Bank (EIB) | | |

| Key players | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|------------|
| European Parliament | Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
| |  Budgetary Control |  VON CRAMON-TAUBADEL Viola Shadow rapporteur | 15/03/2023 |
| | |  SARVAMAA Petri | |
| | |  CREU Corina | |
| | |  MITUA Alin | |
| | |  FLANAGAN Luke Ming | |
| | Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
| |  Development | Chair on behalf of committee | 05/04/2023 |
| | |  TOBÉ Tomas | |

| Key events | | | |
|------------|--|---|---------|
| 20/04/2023 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 24/05/2023 | Vote in committee | | |
| 05/06/2023 | Committee report tabled for plenary | A9-0212/2023 | Summary |
| 11/07/2023 | Debate in Parliament |  | |
| 12/07/2023 | Results of vote in Parliament |  | |
| 12/07/2023 | Decision by Parliament | T9-0287/2023 | Summary |

| Technical information | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Procedure reference | 2023/2046(INI) |
| Procedure type | INI - Own-initiative procedure |
| Procedure subtype | Annual report |
| Legal basis | Rules of Procedure EP 55 |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed |
| Committee dossier | CONT/9/11648 |

| Documentation gateway | | | | | |
|---|------|------------------------------|------------|----|---------|
| Committee draft report | | PE745.517 | 11/04/2023 | EP | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | | PE746.916 | 28/04/2023 | EP | |
| Specific opinion | DEVE | PE746.831 | 23/05/2023 | EP | |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | | A9-0212/2023 | 05/06/2023 | EP | Summary |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T9-0287/2023 | 12/07/2023 | EP | Summary |

Control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank - annual report 2022

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the own-initiative report by Viola VON CRAMON-TAUBADEL (Greens/EFA, DE) on the control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank annual report 2022.

The EIBs financial operations and performance

Members remarked that on 31 December 2022, the total EIB Group balance sheet stood at EUR 547.3 billion, showing a decrease of EUR 20.7 billion or 3.6 % compared to 31 December 2021, when the equivalent figure was EUR 568.0 billion. Financing was distributed across the main priorities as follows: EUR 17.93 billion for innovation, digital and human capital, EUR 20.86 billion for sustainable energy and natural resources, EUR 17.31 billion for sustainable cities and regions and EUR 16.35 billion for SMEs and mid-caps.

Also in 2022, the Banks new lending amounted to EUR 65.15 billion, close to the results of the preceding years (EUR 65.4 billion in 2021, EUR 66.1 billion in 2020 and EUR 63.3 billion in 2019). The biggest share of financing was allocated in Italy, France and Spain.

From 2021 to 2027, InvestEUs EUR 26.2 billion guarantee, with provisioning from the multiannual financial framework (MFF) and NextGenerationEU, is expected to mobilise more than EUR 372 billion in additional private and public investment in Europe, mainly for sustainable infrastructure, research, innovation and digitalisation, support for SMEs, and social investment and skills;

The EIBs support in key policy areas

Members noted that under the EUs current cohesion policy, for the 2021-2027 programming period, the EIB Groups contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion continues to help countries and regions across the EU where development is uneven. They reiterated their call for a fair and transparent geographical distribution of projects and investment, with a focus on less developed regions, especially in the health sector, innovation, digitalisation and infrastructure, with a view to promoting inclusive growth and economic, social and territorial convergence and cohesion.

The EIB is called on to:

- be more active in addressing recurring shortcomings that prevent certain regions or countries from taking full advantage of the EIBs financial activities;
- support digital transformation, to uphold strategic autonomy in the digital field and to promote digital infrastructure projects, to be integrated into standards and protocols that support network security and resilience, interoperability and an open, plural and secure internet;
- support the strengthening of cybersecurity capacities in the EU, in order to make Europe more resilient and reactive in the face of cyberthreats;

Members stressed the importance of SMEs for the European economy and pointed out that the 23 million SMEs in the Union account for 99 % of all businesses and more than half of Europes GDP. The EIB provided financing amounting to a total investment of EUR 16.35 billion for SMEs and mid-caps.

On energy, the report noted that over the past decade, the EIB Group has channelled more than EUR 100 billion into the EUs energy sector, investing in energy efficiency, renewables, grids and storage. Support is currently being provided to help the Member States in response to the crisis triggered by the abrupt cut in Russian gas supplies.

Impact outside of the EU

The EIB Group supports the objectives and priorities of the EUs external actions and deploys its expertise and experience outside the EU in priority areas such as climate action, health and digitalisation, EU values, and good governance principles. The EU is called on to further maximise the EIBs potential as a tool for leveraging the EUs strategic autonomy, particularly in terms of energy and raw materials, and for promoting the EUs external policy priorities in its relations with non-EU countries.

The EIB is urged to ensure strict conditionality regarding the financial assistance provided to Ukraine, including clear and comprehensive oversight over the spending of EU funds aimed for reconstruction and humanitarian aid. According to Members, there is a need for a systematic EU approach to improve the coordination of funds disbursement and enhance the monitoring of spending.

EIB actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic

In 2022, the EIB maintained its efforts to support actions to counter the pandemic. It provided EUR 5.1 billion for health and life sciences projects that have benefited around 980 million people worldwide.

EIB compliance, transparency and accountability

Members underlined the need for regular, structured dialogue between the European Parliament and the EIB, which could be enhanced through an interinstitutional agreement between Parliament and the EIB, to improve access to EIB documents and data under terms and conditions that would guarantee confidentiality and, where needed, compliance with the legal requirements.

Members also welcomed the establishment, announced in 2021, of a new system for following up and reporting on recommendations and opinions issued by the Investigations Division of the EIB.

The report regretted that the EIB still does not fully disclose the details of the beneficial ownership of its clients and called for enhanced transparency regarding the EIBs operations through financial intermediaries such as commercial banks and investment funds, within the relevant legislative framework, including the General Data Protection Regulation, and for the definition of standard reporting obligations that can provide an adequate level of data and information.

Members called on the Bank to bridge the gap in salaries between the administrative and professional categories of staff, improve gender balance and ensure transparency regarding recruitment.

Follow-up on Parliaments recommendations

Members called on the EIB to continue reporting on the state of play and status of the previous recommendations issued by Parliament in its annual resolutions, especially as regards:

- the economic, environmental and social impacts of its investment strategy and results achieved in contributing to the balanced and steady development of the internal market in the interests of the Union;
- actions adopted to enhance the countering of misconduct, conflicts of interest, tax avoidance, fraud and corruption;
- new measures to strengthen transparency and human rights due diligence;
- measures to strengthen support for SMEs and eligible economic operators during the implementation of EU policies.

Control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank - annual report 2022

The European Parliament adopted by 507 votes to 54, with 51 abstentions, a resolution on the control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank annual report 2022.

The EIBs financial operations and performance

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The EIBs support in key policy areas

The resolution noted that under the EUs current cohesion policy, for the 2021-2027 programming period, the EIB Groups contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion continues to help countries and regions across the EU where development is uneven. Members reiterated their call for a fair and transparent geographical distribution of projects and investment, with a focus on less developed regions, especially in the health sector, innovation, digitalisation and infrastructure, with a view to promoting inclusive growth and economic, social and territorial convergence and cohesion.

The EIB is called on to:

- support digital transformation, to uphold strategic autonomy in the digital field and to promote digital infrastructure projects, to be integrated into standards and protocols that support network security and resilience, interoperability and an open, plural and secure internet;
- support the strengthening of cybersecurity capacities in the EU, in order to make Europe more resilient and reactive in the face of cyberthreats.

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SMEs and mid-caps.

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Parliament called for enhanced transparency regarding the EIB's operations through financial intermediaries such as commercial banks and investment funds.

Concerns were expressed about reports of non-transparent internal appointment procedures among managerial staff at the headquarters and in the external offices. In this regard, the Bank is called on to ensure that all recruitment and internal mobility procedures are executed in compliance with the highest transparency and ethics standards.

Parliament reiterated the need for more transparency when projects are implemented through financial intermediaries as well as on internal decision-making procedures and on the environmental and human rights impact of projects throughout their implementation.

Follow-up on Parliament's recommendations

The EIB is called on to continue reporting on the state of play and status of the previous recommendations issued by Parliament in its annual resolutions, especially as regards:

- the economic, environmental and social impacts of its investment strategy and results achieved in contributing to the balanced and steady development of the internal market in the interests of the Union;
- actions adopted to enhance the countering of misconduct, conflicts of interest, tax avoidance, fraud and corruption;
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- measures to strengthen support for SMEs and eligible economic operators during the implementation of EU policies.