

Financial activities of the European Investment Bank. Annual report

2017/2071(INI) - 30/01/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Budgets adopted the own-initiative report by Eider GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL (S&D, ES) on the annual report on the financial activities of the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, exercising its prerogatives as an associated committee under [Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament](#), also expressed its opinion on this report.

Members recalled that one of the main fallouts from the economic crisis has been the decline in investment in the EU and called on the EIB to further support the EU countries in order to contribute to economic recovery.

The report welcomed the EIB Groups willingness to enhance EU competitiveness, provide real support for growth and job creation, and contribute to solving socio-economic challenges within and outside the EU, by pursuing its overarching public policy goals relating to innovation, SMEs and midcap finance, infrastructure, the environment, economic and social cohesion, and the climate.

Members said that in order to achieve the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, the EIB Group's activities should not only be economically sustainable, but also contribute to a smarter, greener and more inclusive EU.

Climate change: Members called on the EIB to align its activities with the objectives of the Paris Agreement by phasing out all fossil fuel projects and giving priority to energy efficiency projects and projects involving renewable energy sources. The EIB should also extend its financial support to local sustainable energy sources in order to put an end to Europe's high level of external energy dependence and ensure security of supply.

Brexit: the United Kingdom provided 16.11 % of the EIBs capital, accounting for EUR 3.5 billion of the paid-in capital and EUR 35.7 billion of the banks callable capital. The report stressed the importance of clarifying the amount of the UK contribution to the EIB budget as well as the UKs future economic participation. It called for Member States to make sure that the departure of the UK does not result in a loss of the EIBs ability to support the EU economy.

Eastern and Southern neighbourhood: the report underlined the importance of EIB financing activities in the eastern and southern neighbourhood in supporting those countries which are implementing difficult economic and democratic reforms on their path towards the EU. It recalled that the main financing activities should also aim to address both urgent needs and longer-term challenges, such as rebuilding infrastructure, ensuring adequate housing and emergency response infrastructure and combating youth unemployment.

Migration: the report welcomed the EIB's commitment to tackle the root causes of migration and to taking action in countries particularly affected by the migration crisis. It called for an increase in financial assistance for projects that would help mitigate the economic costs associated with the migration crisis while having a positive impact on citizens, refugees and other migrants in Member States that receive the largest inflows of refugees and migrants.

European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI): welcoming the agreement reached on the prolongation and adjustment of the EFSI, Members expect that the revised fund and the enhanced European Investment Advisory Hub will enable the problems identified in the current scheme, namely in relation to additionality, sustainability, climate action, geographic balance and advisory hub activities, to be overcome.

Cohesion policy: the report emphasised that the EIB, as a public financial institution which finances projects aimed at fulfilling EU policies and priorities, should contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion, including in less developed regions. It stressed the need for broader territorial distribution of funds, including as regards the European Fund for Strategic Investment, which should always be complementary to the ESI funds, in order to achieve the objective of reducing regional disparities.

Compliance: Members called for country-by-country reporting without exemptions to be made a key part of the EIBs corporate social responsibility strategy. They called on the EIB to comply with the relevant standards and applicable legislation on the prevention of money laundering and on the fight against terrorism, tax fraud and tax evasion.

Members reiterated their call to strengthen the EIB groups overall corporate accountability and credibility. They also called for the signing of an interinstitutional agreement between the EIB and Parliament on the exchange of information, including the possibility for Members to address written questions to the President of the EIB.

Lastly, Members called on the EIB Group to further develop its risk culture in order to improve its effectiveness and the complementarity and synergies between its interventions and various EU policies, in particular by supporting innovative companies, infrastructure projects and SMEs that are taking risks or evolving in economically disadvantaged regions or regions that lack stability.