



Europaudvalget

Til: Europaministeren

Dato: 14. februar 2013

Udvalget udbeder sig ministerens besvarelse af følgende spørgsmål:

EUU alm. del

Spørgsmål 37

Ministeren bedes redegøre for, hvorfor Danmark ikke er underskriver på det vedhæftede brev om EU's regnskaber sammen med Sverige, Holland og Storbritannien samt redegøre for, hvor regeringen evt. er uenig med det pågældende brev.

Spørgsmålet er stillet efter ønske fra Per Clausen (EL).

Svaret bedes sendt elektronisk til spørgeren på Per.Clausen@ft.dk og til udvalg@ft.dk.

På udvalgets vegne

Eva Kjer Hansen
formand

Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussel/Bruxelles
België/Belgique

12 February 2013

Joint Statement of Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom on the discharge of the 2011 general budget of the European Union.

Dear Sir,


Please find enclosed a joint statement of Sweden, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom on the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2011. We hope that the European Parliament will take this statement, alongside the Council's wider recommendations, into full account when deliberating on this year's discharge procedure.



Anders Borg
Sweden's Minister
for Finance



Jeroen Dijsselbloem
Minister of Finance of
The Netherlands



George Osborne MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
of the United Kingdom




Permanent Representative of
the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the European Union

Brussels, 12 February 2013

Mr President,

Please find enclosed today's letter to you from Mr Anders Borg, Minister for Finance of Sweden, Mr George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom and Mr Jeroen Dijsselbloem, Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of The Netherlands. With the letter they are sending you their Joint Statement on the discharge of the 2011 general budget of the European Union, while expressing their hope that the European Parliament will take the said Statement, alongside the Council's wider recommendations, into full account when deliberating on this year's discharge procedure. On the grounds explained in the Statement, Sweden, The United Kingdom and The Netherlands have voted today in the Council against the proposed discharge.

Please accept Mr President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,


Pieter de Gooijer

President of the European Parliament
Mr Martin Schulz
Rue Wiertz 60
1048 Brussels

Joint Statement on the Discharge of the 2011 EU Budget

With reference to:

The European Court of Auditors' annual report on implementation of the 2011 EU budget;

Discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the EU budget for the financial year 2011; and

Draft Council recommendations as in 5752/13 FIN 44 PE-L 4 + ADD 1;

Sweden, The Netherlands and The United Kingdom

Regret strongly that, for the eighteenth year in succession, the European Court of Auditors has been unable to grant a positive unqualified statement of assurance on the EU budget as a whole and, furthermore, that the overall error rate in recent years has increased, remaining significantly high above the acceptable threshold of 2%;

Stress the necessity to prevent the risk of increasing error rates in the following years, whilst agreeing that the credibility of EU spending depends crucially on sound financial management, on orderly accounting of EU expenditure and on transparent accountability by all relevant actors involved;

Note that around 80% of the EU budget is spent under the system of 'shared management' by Member States;

Affirm, like the European Court of Auditors, that improving the quality and effectiveness of EU spending should be given a high priority, in order to attain significantly better results, and that reporting standards on results should be improved;

Reiterate the importance of independent EU-level audit of EU funds and firmly support the work of the European Court of Auditors;

Reiterate the importance of all Member States taking full responsibility for putting in place effective and efficient controls for the management of EU funds at a national level;

Regret that only four out of seven of Member States' audit authorities assessed by the Court were considered to be effective, whilst recognizing that these national audit authorities are a crucial element in the chain of accountability, meriting a more systematic and transparent analysis of audit authorities' effectiveness in the future.

Call upon all Member States to undertake to provide full, transparent and accurate data as part of their annual summaries, and for this or similar data to be made publicly available in an accessible format; and,

Encourage the Commission to continue to drive better financial management by all Member States, including its strict application of sanctions such as suspensions and interruptions, and to continue to publish its Annual Activity Reports and other comprehensive reports in such a way as to provide European citizens with accessible and comparable data on the performance, legality and regularity of EU spending in Member States.