Evaluation activities by the Commission

2002/2131(INI) - 10/10/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on its own-initiative report drafted by Christopher HEATON-HARRIS (EPP-ED, United Kingdom) on the Commission's evaluation activities. (Please refer to the document dated 09/09/02.) Parliament made some additional remarks on recurrent findings. Different evaluators in different policy areas have been repeating similar types of criticisms for several years, such as a heavy administrative burden on beneficiaries, complexity of procedures, lack of clear strategy and clear objectives, lack of coherence between interventions and lack of efficiency. The Commission is asked to analyse further the background to these recurrent criticisms and to put its conclusions in the next evaluation review. A useful evaluation system is one that is able to react rapidly, and the Commission should also consider whether its own abilities in this regard should be improved. Finally, Parliament pointed out that the special report of the Court of Auditors, whilst focusing on an audit-based assessment of programmes, often levels criticism of operational effectiveness as well as budget management. This can be taken into account in evaluation reviews. The two processes should work together in a complementary fashion.