Basic information

2012/2320(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
First annual report from the Commission to the European Parliament on the activities of Member States' export credit agencies See also 2006/0167(COD) **Subject** 6.20 Common commercial policy in general	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INTA International Trade	JADOT Yannick (Verts/ALE)	26/11/2012
	Shadow rapporteur QUISTHOUDT-ROWOHL Godelieve (PPE) LANGE Bernd (S&D) ZAHRADIL Jan (ECR) MURPHY Paul (GUE/NGL) (THE EARL OF) DARTMOUTH William (EFD)	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Trade and Economic Security	DE GUCHT Karel

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/01/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/05/2013	Vote in committee		
19/06/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0193/2013	Summary
01/07/2013	Debate in Parliament		
02/07/2013	Decision by Parliament	T7-0291/2013	Summary
02/07/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		

02/07/2013	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2012/2320(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Amendments and repeals	See also 2006/0167(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/7/11265

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE508.182	04/04/2013	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE510.663	07/05/2013	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0193/2013	19/06/2013	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0291/2013	02/07/2013	Summary

First annual report from the Commission to the European Parliament on the activities of Member States' export credit agencies

2012/2320(INI) - 19/06/2013 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the initiative report by Yannick JADOT (Greens/EFA, FR) on the first annual report from the Commission to the European Parliament on the activities of Member States' Export Credit Agencies.

Members recall that the main objective of reporting on the activities of Member States' Export Credit Agencies(ECAs) is to **monitor the compliance of these ECAs with the international disciplines applicable to export credits and with obligations laid down in the Treaty on t the European Union (TEU)**, and in particular its Articles 3 and 21 which define the principles governing the Union's relations with the rest of the world as well as the guiding principles of the Unions action on the international stage.

Given the broad scale of the Member States' export credit activities, the committee highlights the importance of Recital 4 of **Regulation (EU) 1233/2011** on the application of certain guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits, which calls for compliance with the Union's general provisions on external action, such as consolidating democracy, respect for human rights and policy coherence for development, and the fight against climate change. Members recall, in this regard, the importance of the specific reporting requirements formulated in Annex I of the regulation to ensure that the Commission and Parliament are able to make an assessment of this compliance.

Members **welcome the Commission's efforts to establish a framework for annual reporting by Member States on their export credit activities** in accordance with Regulation 1233/2011, in order to step up transparency at EU level. They commend the fact that the Commission report clearly indicates the scale and importance of the Member States' export credit activities during 2011, which amount to a total exposure of more than EUR 250 billion (including 260 transactions with reported high environmental implications) and which translate into significant trade and business opportunities for European companies.

Members stress, however, that the annual reports of the Member States, and the Commission's evaluation of these reports, **do not yet satisfy Parliament's intention to be able to make an assessment as to whether the Member States'export credit activities'are in compliance with the Union's foreign policy goals**, as enshrined in Articles 3 and 21 TEU, and with the regulations in force for treatment of environmental risks in the calculation of ECA premiums.

In regard to the **comparative assessment of the compliance of export credit agencies with the Union's objectives** with respect to the external action goals, Members share the view of the Commission in it annual report according to which it is difficult to define a precise benchmark to measure compliance with Community law.

As a result, Members:

- recommend that the Council Working Group on Export Credits and the Commission consult with the European External Action Service (EEAS) on **developing a methodology for meaningful reporting on Article 21 TEU compliance**, and on the application in the EU of certain OECD guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits;
- call on Member State ECAs to continue to report on their **evaluation of environmental risks**, and considers such reporting by all OECD and non-OECD ECAs to be essential for ensuring a level playing field;
- ask the Commission to provide for a **common definition** which reflects the wish of Parliament to be informed about **off-balance sheet exposures;**
- call on the Commission to provide guidance to the Member States for the next reporting period, *inter alia* on how to report on the existence and effectiveness of **due diligence procedures with regard to their human rights policies**, and on how to report on the treatment of environmental risks.

Lastly, as regards **contacts with countries that are not OECD members**, Members applaud the efforts undertaken in 2012 by the Commission, together with the USA, to engage China, Brazil, Russia and other major emerging economies in the setting up of the International Working Group of Major Providers of Export Finance (IWG). They recommend that the relevance of a sectoral approach in developing the IWG be explored in order to build the base for horizontal provisions in a second phase that will **ensure the common adoption of effective and high standards, and of new international rules** on ECAs, by all OECD and non-OECD countries, with a view to ensuring a level playing field.

First annual report from the Commission to the European Parliament on the activities of Member States' export credit agencies

2012/2320(INI) - 02/07/2013 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 670 votes to 27, with 15 abstentions, a resolution on the first annual report from the Commission to the European Parliament on the activities of Member States' Export Credit Agencies.

Members recall that the main objective of reporting on the activities of Member States' Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) is to **monitor the compliance of these ECAs with the international disciplines applicable to export credits and with obligations laid down in the Treaty on t the European Union (TEU)**, and in particular its Articles 3 and 21 which define the principles governing the Union's relations with the rest of the world as well as the guiding principles of the Unions action on the international stage.

Importance of the reporting obligations: export credit programmes of the Member States constitute an important instrument to enhance trade and business opportunities for European companies.

Given the broad scale of the Member States' export credit activities, Parliament highlights the importance of Recital 4 of **Regulation (EU) 1233/2011** on the application of certain guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits, which calls for compliance with the Union's general provisions on external action, such as consolidating democracy, respect for human rights and policy coherence for development, and the fight against climate change. Members recall, in this regard, the importance of the specific reporting requirements formulated in Annex I of the regulation to **ensure that the Commission and Parliament are able to make an assessment of this compliance**.

Evaluation of reports: Parliament **welcomes the Commission's efforts to establish a framework for annual reporting by Member States on their export credit activities** in order to step up transparency at EU level. It commends the fact that the Commission report clearly indicates the scale and importance of the Member States' export credit activities during 2011, which amount to a total exposure of more than EUR 250 billion (including 260 transactions with reported high environmental implications) and which translate into significant trade and business opportunities for European companies.

Members stress, however, that the annual reports of the Member States, and the Commission's evaluation of these reports, **do not yet satisfy Parliament's intention to be able to make an assessment as to whether the Member States' export credit activities' are in compliance with the Union's foreign policy goals**, as enshrined in Articles 3 and 21 TEU, and with the regulations in force for treatment of environmental risks in the calculation of ECA premiums.

Benchmarking ECA compliance with the Union's external action goals: Members share the view of the Commission in it annual report according to which it is **difficult to define a precise benchmark** to measure compliance with Community law.

As a result, Parliament:

- recommends that the Council Working Group on Export Credits and the Commission consult with the European External Action Service (EEAS) on **developing a methodology for meaningful reporting on Article 21 TEU compliance**, and on the application in the EU of certain OECD guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits;
- calls on Member State ECAs to continue to report on their **evaluation of environmental risks**, and considers such reporting by all OECD and non-OECD ECAs to be essential for ensuring a level playing field;
- asks the Commission to provide for a **common definition** which reflects the wish of Parliament to be informed about **off-balance sheet exposures;**
- calls on the Commission to provide guidance to the Member States for the next reporting period, *inter alia* on how to report on the existence and effectiveness of **due diligence procedures with regard to their human rights policies**, and on how to report on the treatment of environmental risks.

Contacts with non-OECD countries: Members applaud the efforts undertaken in 2012 by the Commission, together with the USA, to **engage China, Brazil, Russia and other major emerging economies** in the setting up of the International Working Group of Major Providers of Export Finance (IWG).

Parliament suggests that the relevance of a **sectoral approach** in developing the IWG be explored in order to build the base for **horizontal provisions** in a second phase that will ensure the common adoption of effective and high standards, and of new international rules on ECAs, by **all OECD and non-OECD countries**, with a view to ensuring a level playing field.