Basic information

2020/2045(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Implementation report on the EU Trust Funds and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey **Subject** 6.50 Emergency, food, humanitarian aid, aid to refugees, Emergency Aid Reserve 7.10.06 Asylum, refugees, displaced persons; Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 7.10.08 Migration policy **Geographical area** Türkiye	

Key players

European Parliament	Joint committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs	ZVER Milan (EPP)	03/12/2019
	DEVE Development	HÖLVÉNYI György (EPP)	03/12/2019
	BUDG Budgets	LEWANDOWSKI Janusz (EPP)	03/12/2019
		Shadow rapporteur GUALMINI Elisabetta (S&D) MAJORINO Pierfrancesco (S&D) GOERENS Charles (Renew) GHEORGHE Vlad (Renew) CSEH Katalin (Renew) ANDRESEN Rasmus (Greens/EFA) STRIK Tineke (Greens/EFA) MARQUARDT Erik (Greens /EFA) RZOŃCA Bogdan (ECR) KEMPA Beata (ECR) KANKO Assita (ECR) LAPORTE Hélène (ID)	

	ZIMNIOK Bernhard (ID) RIVIÈRE Jérôme (ID) PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios (The Left) URBÁN CRESPO Miguel (The Left) DEMIREL Özlem (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	ZDECHOVSKÝ Tomáš (EPP)	08/02/2021
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (Associated committee)	REGO Sira (GUE/NGL)	02/04/2020

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
International Cooperation and Development	URPILAINEN Jutta

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/04/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/04/2020	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
16/04/2020	Referral to joint committee announced in Parliament		
13/07/2021	Vote in committee		
26/07/2021	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0255/2021	Summary
05/10/2021	Debate in Parliament		
07/10/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0411/2021	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/2045(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 59 Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CJ31/9/02641

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE680.999	07/04/2021	
Committee opinion	CONT	PE680.939	15/04/2021	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE691.287	05/05/2021	
Committee opinion	LIBE	PE680.984	17/05/2021	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0255/2021	26/07/2021	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0411/2021	07/10/2021	Summary

Implementation report on the EU Trust Funds and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey

2020/2045(INI) - 07/10/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 493 votes to 88, with 103 abstentions, a resolution on the implementation of the EU Trust Fund and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

Budgetary aspects

Parliament noted that as of 31 December 2020, total pledges for all EU trust funds amounted to **EUR 7 691 million**, with the EU budget contributing EUR 3 170 million, of which EUR 3 534 million came from the European Development Fund (EDF), and Member States and other donors contributing EUR 988 million.

As of 31 December 2020, the implementation rate for commitment appropriations of all EU trust funds was 98% (while the overall implementation rate for payment appropriations was 63%).

Parliament's involvement in the decision-making framework

Members regretted **Parliament's limited role** in the decision-making, supervision and control of EU contributions to the Trust Funds, reiterating that existing legal, regulatory and budgetary solutions should have been used to their full extent before creating and/or extending these Funds, which must remain an instrument of last resort.

The resolution called on the Commission to provide detailed information on the decisions taken by the operational committees so that Parliament can use its powers of scrutiny over implementation and budgetary control. It insisted that the extensions of the EU trust funds until December 2021 should be mainly technical in order to allow for a smooth transition to the new multi-annual financial framework (MFF).

Bêkou Trust Fund

Parliament considered that the Bêkou Trust Fund has partially contributed as one of the tools to address the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), as well as to the nexus approach of development and humanitarian needs in the CAR.

Given the humanitarian crisis, poverty and new security challenges in CAR, Members believe that continued EU support will be achieved through well-targeted programmes and, where appropriate, flexible EU funding under the Neighbourhood, Development Cooperation and International Cooperation Instrument (NDIC) to strengthen humanitarian action, peace and security, democratisation and the strengthening of democratic institutions and respect for human rights.

Madad Trust Fund

In response to the Syrian crisis, the Fund was established in December 2014 to address the long-term resilience needs of Syrian refugees and displaced persons in neighbouring countries, as well as to support host communities and their administrations. According to the October 2018 strategic mid-term evaluation report, the Madad Fund has been large and cost-effective, reaching a large number of beneficiaries at a comparatively low cost, and it has allowed the EU to operate flexibly.

Parliament highlighted the importance of continuing to support refugees, internally displaced people and vulnerable host communities affected by the continuing conflict.

Trust Fund for Africa

The Fund was established as an emergency trust fund to help resolve crises in three regions of Africa, with the aim of achieving long-term stability and development goals.

Members believe that the EU must help partner countries to tackle the root causes of irregular migration flows, smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

Noting reports of ongoing human rights abuses in Libya in the context of Libyan coastguard operations, Members called for a review of cooperation activities with the relevant authorities in border and sea surveillance and management, financed under the Fund, to ensure an objective assessment of respect for human rights.

Trust Fund for Colombia

The fund was established in December 2016 to support the implementation of the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the FARC. The fund has mobilised more than EUR 128 million from the EU budget, 20 Member States, Chile and the UK. Members called for the implementation of the Colombian peace process to remain a priority in funding programmes.

Facility for Refugees in Turkey

With nearly 4 million registered Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan refugees, Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees in the world. Parliament recalled the important role played by the facility in welcoming refugees from Syria. It called for a thorough human rights impact assessment of the EU-Turkey declaration.

The EU should continue to provide the necessary support by ensuring that funds are primarily channelled directly to refugees and host communities and are managed by organisations that guarantee accountability and transparency. Members stressed the importance of the transition from humanitarian relief to development cooperation and called on the Commission to implement a transition strategy, focusing on helping to create livelihood opportunities for refugees.

Perspectives and recommendations

Parliament considered that **external assistance should be financed in full from the EU budget** and be implemented in a coherent way following a streamlined set of rules, based on co-legislated instruments and in full respect of Parliament's legislative, budgetary and control prerogatives. The EU Trust Funds and the Refugee Facility in Turkey should be considered as exceptional or truly emergency-led instruments whose added value and effects on the ground should be very well justified and carefully monitored.

Members expected the Commission to fully make use of the possibilities afforded by the programme-based approach under the geographic pillar of the **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)** and IPA III. They advocated that the potential of the NDICI-Global Europe should be fully used and, where necessary, improved, while the use of extraordinary financing tools should be limited to unforeseen emergency situations, in order to preserve the unity and democratic accountability of the EU budget.

Should the need for a new EU Trust Fund or an ad hoc instrument arise in the future, Members believe that the contribution mechanism from the EU budget should be clearly defined and **negotiated from the outset with the full involvement of Parliament**.

The Commission is called on to withhold or review the cooperation with third countries that do not fully respect fundamental rights, including suspending specific funding and projects which endanger or undermine human rights.

Implementation report on the EU Trust Funds and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey

2020/2045(INI) - 26/07/2021 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Development and the Committee on Budgets adopted an own-initiative report by György HÖLVÉNYI (EPP, HU), Janusz LEWANDOWSKI (EPP, PL) and Milan ZVER (EPP, SI) on the implementation of the EU Trust Fund and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

Budgetary aspects

The report noted that as of 31 December 2020, total pledges for all EU trust funds amounted to **EUR 7 691 million**, with the EU budget contributing EUR 3 170 million, of which EUR 3 534 million came from the European Development Fund (EDF), and Member States and other donors contributing EUR 988 million.

As of 31 December 2020, the implementation rate for commitment appropriations of all EU trust funds was 98% (while the overall implementation rate for payment appropriations was 63%). International organisations were the main actors in the implementation of EU Trust Funds (36.8%), followed by the European Commission (35.7%), Member State agencies (24.2%) and public service bodies (3.4%).

Parliament's involvement in the decision-making framework

The report regretted **Parliament's limited role** in the decision-making, supervision and control of EU contributions to the Trust Funds, reiterating that existing legal, regulatory and budgetary solutions should have been used to their full extent before creating and/or extending these Funds, which must remain an instrument of last resort.

Members reiterated that Parliament should be represented at the meetings of the operational committees and be able to follow their activities. They called on the Commission to provide detailed information on the decisions taken by these committees. They also considered that the Parliament should make full use of its powers of scrutiny of implementation and budgetary control and ensure that EU funding decisions and allocations comply with the principles of legality and sound financial management of the EU.

Bêkou Trust Fund

The Bêkou Trust Fund for the Central African Republic (CAR) was established by the EU and three Member States (France, Germany, the Netherlands) in July 2014 as the first EU Trust Fund to pool and manage support for the CAR in the aftermath of the crisis that hit the country in 2012-2013 and thereafter.

Since 2014, the EU, by far the first partner of CAR, and its Member States and other contributors, devoted more than EUR 910 million in total for the basic services to the population (particularly education and health, including, since the outbreak of the epidemic, the fight against the COVID-19), the stability and the peace process.

Madad Trust Fund

In response to the Syrian crisis, the Fund was established in December 2014 to address the long-term resilience needs of Syrian refugees and displaced persons in neighbouring countries, as well as to support host communities and their administrations. The Fund has mobilised more than EUR 2.2 billion from the EU budget, 21 Member States, Turkey and the UK, including EUR 2 billion contracted (as of December 2020) in more than 94 projects. The report highlighted the importance of continuing to support refugees, internally displaced people and vulnerable host communities affected by the continuing conflict.

Trust Fund for Africa

The Fund was established as an emergency trust fund to help resolve crises in three regions of Africa, with the aim of achieving long-term stability and development goals. The Fund represents a rapid and flexible tool to address common global challenges, such as migration and forced displacement, the impact of climate change and economic crises. EUR 0.6 billion from EU Member States and other donors.

Trust Fund for Colombia

The fund was established in December 2016 to support the implementation of the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the FARC. The fund has mobilised more than EUR 128 million from the EU budget, 20 Member States, Chile and the UK. Members called for the implementation of the Colombian peace process to remain a priority in funding programmes.

Facility for Refugees in Turkey

In October and November 2015, the EU pledged an initial EUR 3 billion in additional resources to support Syrians under temporary protection and host communities in Turkey. The Facility consists of two tranches of EUR 3 billion each. MEPs deplored the fact that, unlike the first 2016-2017 tranche, for which the EU budget contributed EUR 1 billion and the Member States EUR 2 billion, for the second 2018-2019 tranche the ratio of contributions has been reversed to the detriment of existing EU projects.

Perspectives and recommendations

Members consider that **external assistance should be financed in full from the EU budget** and be implemented in a coherent way following a streamlined set of rules, based on co-legislated instruments and in full respect of Parliament's legislative, budgetary and control prerogatives. The EU Trust Funds and the Refugee Facility in Turkey should be considered as exceptional or truly emergency-led instruments whose added value and effects on the ground should be very well justified and carefully monitored.

Members expected the Commission to fully make use of the possibilities afforded by the programme-based approach under **the geographic pillar of the NDICI Global Europe** and IPA III. They advocated that the potential of the NDICI-Global Europe should be fully used and, where necessary, improved, while the use of extraordinary financing tools should be limited to unforeseen emergency situations, in order to preserve the unity and democratic accountability of the EU budget.

Should the need for a new EU Trust Fund or an ad hoc instrument arise in the future, Members believe that the contribution mechanism from the EU budget should be clearly defined and **negotiated from the outset with the full involvement of Parliament**.