Basic information

2022/2153(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Resolution on the control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank – Annual Report 2021 **Subject** 8.40.07 European Investment Bank (EIB)	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	WINZIG Angelika (EPP)	13/07/2022
	Shadow rapporteur CREȚU Corina (S&D) MITUȚA Alin (Renew) VON CRAMON-TAUBADEL Viola (Greens/EFA) CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR) KUHS Joachim (ID) FLANAGAN Luke Ming (The Left)	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/10/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/12/2022	Vote in committee		
12/12/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0294/2022	Summary
18/01/2023	Debate in Parliament		
19/01/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0017/2023	Summary
19/01/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/01/2023	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/2153(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/10205

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE737.340	24/10/2022	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE738.707	16/11/2022	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0294/2022	12/12/2022	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0017/2023	19/01/2023	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2023)126	22/03/2023	

Resolution on the control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank – Annual Report 2021

2022/2153(INI) - 12/12/2022 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the own-initiative report by Angelika WINZIG (EPP, AT) on the control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank - Annual Report 2021.

Performance of the EIB's financial transactions

In 2021, the total EIB Group balance sheet stood at EUR 568 billion, which was an increase of EUR 11.9 billion compared to 31 December 2020. The bank's new lending signatures amounted to EUR 65.4 billion which are close to the results of the previous years (EUR 66.1 billion in 2020 and EUR 63.3 billion in 2019). EUR 54.3 billion of this amount was under the bank's own resources (compared to EUR 64.6 billion in 2020, also under the bank's own resources).

The biggest share was allocated in **Italy, France and Spain** (16 %, 14 % and 12 % of the total signatures respectively) with the **transport, global loans and energy sectors** receiving the largest shares (30.2 %, 18.5 % and 14.8 % respectively).

The EIB is called on to play an active role in supporting projects that contribute to the just transition, such as research, innovation, digitalisation, SMEs' access to finance, social investment and skills.

Actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic

Members stress that the European Union's 2021-2027 long-term budget (EUR 1.2 trillion in current prices), together with the NextGenerationEU (NGEU) temporary recovery instrument (EUR 806.9 billion in current prices), are an unprecedented and unique response aimed at helping to repair the economic and social damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitating the digital and green transitions.

In 2021, the various pandemic waves disrupted the activities of many of the bank's clients, including SMEs and large companies as well as financial institutions, which resulted in reductions in volumes and disbursements.

The EIB approved 109 stand-alone transactions aiming to respond directly to the COVID-19 crisis totalling EUR 12.9 billion (out of a total approved volume of EUR 55.8 billion). Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EIB Group has approved almost EUR 72 billion in targeted support for the public health sector, the delivery of vaccines and for businesses which have been severely hit by the crisis.

EIB support in key policy areas

The report notes that the **InvestEU** programme, the successor to the European Fund for Strategic Investments, is to be deployed under the 2021-2027 MFF and that the EIB will also be the key implementing partner, responsible for managing 75 % of the overall budget of the mandate. Over the 2021-2027 period, InvestEU's EUR 26.2 billion guarantee, with provisioning from the MFF and NGEU, is expected to mobilise more than EUR 372 billion in additional private and public investment in Europe.

The EIB should respect the EU priorities supported by InvestEU and report to Parliament about its activities and investments related to the InvestEU programme in 2022.

Concerned about the high **energy prices**, Members call on the EIB to assess whether the current level of support for SMEs is sufficient in the context of high energy prices and rising costs of raw materials and to inform Parliament about how it intends to adapt its actions to tackle these new challenges.

The EIB should also increase financing in order to boost the technological transition, provide funds to SMEs for long-term research and innovation, support the development of skills adapted to real labour market needs, and promote investment in employees' and entrepreneurs' digital skills, digital infrastructure and capacity-building for digitalisation.

EIB compliance, transparency and accountability

Members consider that financial strength, good governance, conservative risk appetite, long-term sustainability and the EU's support are essential components as well as intrinsic qualities of its successful business model.

While welcoming the EIB's focus on digitisation strategy and information security risk management and cyber-security, Members expect the EIB to adopt an action plan encompassing both **defence against and recovery from cyber-attacks**, with specific deliverables and clear indicators, and to promote a strong cyber-security culture among employees.

The EIB is invited to better implement its transparency policy and adopt a more ambitious approach to its disclosure practice, in line with EU transparency legislation, and to take several transparency steps. The importance of greater Parliament scrutiny over decisions of the EIB Board of Directors, with enhanced transparency from the Commission on the position it takes in the EIB Board of Directors meetings is stressed.

Resolution on the control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank – Annual Report 2021

2022/2153(INI) - 19/01/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 475 votes to 47, with 26 abstentions, a resolution on the control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank - Annual Report 2021.

Performance of the EIB's financial transactions

In 2021, the total EIB Group balance sheet stood at **EUR 568 billion**, which was an increase of EUR 11.9 billion compared to 31 December 2020. The bank's new lending signatures amounted to EUR 65.4 billion which are close to the results of the previous years (EUR 66.1 billion in 2020 and EUR 63.3 billion in 2019). EUR 54.3 billion of this amount was under the bank's own resources (compared to EUR 64.6 billion in 2020, also under the bank's own resources).

The biggest share was allocated in **Italy, France and Spain** (16 %, 14 % and 12 % of the total signatures respectively) with the **transport, global loans and energy sectors** receiving the largest shares (30.2 %, 18.5 % and 14.8 % respectively).

The EIB is called on to play an active role in supporting projects that contribute to the just transition, such as research, innovation, digitalisation, SMEs' access to finance, social investment and skills.

Actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic

Members stressed that the European Union's 2021-2027 long-term budget (EUR 1.2 trillion in current prices), together with the NextGenerationEU (NGEU) temporary recovery instrument (EUR 806.9 billion in current prices), are an unprecedented and unique response aimed at helping to repair the economic and social damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitating the digital and green transitions.

In 2021, the various pandemic waves disrupted the activities of many of the bank's clients, including SMEs and large companies as well as financial institutions, which resulted in reductions in volumes and disbursements.

The EIB approved 109 stand-alone transactions aiming to respond directly to the COVID-19 crisis totalling EUR 12.9 billion (out of a total approved volume of EUR 55.8 billion). Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EIB Group has approved almost EUR 72 billion in targeted support for the **public health sector, the delivery of vaccines and for businesses** which have been severely hit by the crisis.

EIB support in key policy areas

The EIB will be the key implementing partner for the **InvestEU programme** to be deployed under the 2021-2027 MFF. The EIB is called upon to respect the Union's priorities supported by the InvestEU instrument and to ensure strong protection of the Union's financial interests.

Members congratulated the EIB Group, whose financial support in 2021 to more than **431 000 SMEs** and mid-cap companies has helped to safeguard 4.5 million jobs. They called on the EIB to continue its actions and strengthen its support with additional growth capital to enable SMEs to scale up their activities.

Concerned about high energy prices, Members asked the EIB to assess whether the current level of support for SMEs is sufficient in the context of **high energy prices** and rising raw material costs and to inform Parliament how it intends to adapt its actions to meet these new challenges.

The EIB should also:

- increase investment in **breakthrough innovations** to facilitate the digital and green transition;

- exercise **due diligence** in the preparation phase of all projects to ensure that they include careful consideration and respect for human rights and indigenous communities, and develop a clear human rights strategy;

- increase funding to **stimulate the technological transition**, provide funding to SMEs for long-term research and innovation, support the development of skills adapted to the real labour market needs, and promote investment in digital skills for employees and entrepreneurs, digital infrastructure and digitalisation capacity building;

- continue to prioritise investment in **health infrastructure**, staff training and quality of health services to reduce inequalities between countries.

Parliament reiterated its call for a fair and transparent geographical distribution of projects and investments, as well as for increased technical assistance to and financial expertise for local and regional authorities, especially in regions with low investment capacity.

Members called for EIB Global to focus on an equitable and sustainable development agenda in beneficiary countries while clearly demonstrating development additionality.

EIB compliance, transparency and accountability

While stressing the need to preserve the EIB's AAA rating, Members consider that financial strength, good governance, conservative risk appetite, long-term sustainability and EU support are essential components and intrinsic qualities of its successful business model. Members believe that there is a need to strengthen the monitoring, management and supervision of operational and technological risks, including IT and other non-financial risks.

The EIB is urged to ensure that its **complaints mechanism** is accessible, effective and independent, in order to detect and correct possible human rights violations in the projects with which it is associated. Parliament believes that a **strengthened anti-fraud policy** should indicate effective ways of correcting misconduct and mitigating risks and provide a set of tools compatible with the regulatory framework to freeze projects where there are credible suspicions and to terminate contracts with non-compliant clients.

Members reiterated their call for the EIB to be **more transparent and accountable to Parliament**. They reiterated the need for greater parliamentary scrutiny of EIB board decisions and for greater transparency on the part of the Commission on the positions it adopts on the EIB board.