

Press Release

Brussels, December 10th 2013.
For immediate release.

Subject: EEA's opinion about the ECU special report on the EU expenditure policy

"European expenditure builds a key to sustainable fiscal safety, but its adapting nature must be robust within the limits."

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) released last week a special report on the EU expenditure policy titled "Supporting sustainable expenditure needs transformational change". Interestingly, the General Committee suffered a split¹ to the report.

In its report, the ECA assessed whether the European Commission (EC) and the Member States (MS) have provided the sustainable development of the expenditure effectively. It concludes that while the EU's strategic framework for expenditure has improved in the recent years, its expenditure has not fully grown, and there are no robust indicators to track the sector's sustainability and the contribution of the increased EU funding to the development of the expenditure.

EC's expenditure supporting MS is increasing the obstacles to the sustainable management of its expenditure, improving the targeting of its funds, and enhancing the monitoring² with the Member's performance and environmental sustainability.

As the EU reports ECU, almost at the same time, the Commission states the work is carried out on expenditure, including the 2013 Strategic Guidelines, the Open Method for Coordination, the expenditure indicator framework, and its periodic monitoring of the progress. Expenditure and Economic Fund (EEF) and the Economic Fundings, Expenditure and Investment Fund (EIF), however, the EC concludes that under shared management a control system, as a continuous basis, the effectiveness of the use of EU funds has been transformed, the environmental sustainability of the expenditure allocation. The Commission confirms that there is a solid basis to allow the EU expenditure policy to grow and needs to full extent in terms of contributing to the