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Inge Gräßle (EPP/CDU):

European Court of Auditors annual report 2012 reveals collapsing administrations in Member States

"The opportunity to fraudulently obtain money from the EU budget has again increased in 2012, as well as the chance for keeping it," the spokeswoman of the EPP Group on Budgetary Control, Inge Gräßle MEP commented on today's report submitted by the European Court of Auditors concerning the financial year 2012. "The third consecutive increase in error rates reveals that administrative authorities in Member States increasingly abandon working legally." She criticizes that violation of EU law are rewarded locally, as there is no money loss connected with it. 80 % of the EU budget is spent by member states. The systematic signing of false statements by the head of the paying agencies or the head of the certifying agencies for the use of EU funds must finally have consequences, she demanded.

Numerous questions arise concerning the willingness of the court, to significantly correct downward, the level of error rate after discussions with the audited authority, the EU Commission." Obviously, the one subject to an audit outwitted his examiner. This is the reason that half of the errors in the structural funds sector were excluded from the estimate of the damage of the court, otherwise the numbers would be even worse," Gräßle said.

The report of the auditors shows clearly which costs are waiting for the member states. End of 2012 311 billion euros ran up for the old payment obligations of the Member States. For Germany for example, it is 62 billion euros of old payment obligations to the EU." If we do not act now and solve this problem, there will be a giant bill for each member state. "

For more information

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