

2007 discharge: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

EUROFOUND

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The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report drawn up by Christofer FJELLNER (EPP-ED, SE) on discharge to be granted to the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, calling on the European Parliament to grant the Executive Director of the Foundation discharge in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2007.

Noting that the Foundation's annual accounts for the financial year 2007 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, MEPs approve the closure of the Foundation's accounts.

However, they make a number of recommendations as part of the decision on discharge. In addition to the general recommendations appearing in the draft resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies (see [2008/2207\(INI\)](#)), MEPs make the following observations:

- in relation to **weaknesses in recruitment procedures**, MEPs regret that in 2007, as in 2006, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) found weaknesses in recruitment procedures. Although measures have been taken, the Court notes that they do not ensure transparent and non-discriminatory recruitment procedures. MEPs therefore call on the Foundation to pay particular attention to the legality of its recruitment procedures and to specify, in its annual activity report for 2008, the action taken in follow-up to the ECA's observations;
- in relation to **weaknesses in procurement procedures**, MEPs regret the anomalies identified by the Court, which considers that they affected the quality of the final selection procedure. They therefore call on the Foundation to also specify, in its annual activity report for 2008, the action taken in follow-up to the ECA's observations;
- in relation to the **introduction of Accrual Based Accounting (ABAC)**, MEPs are satisfied that the Foundation introduced ABAC in 2008, although they note anomalies in terms of assigned revenue;
- in relation to **follow-up to the previous discharge exercise**, MEPs recall that, in 2006, the Foundation launched an ex-post evaluation of the 2001-2004 work programme, with a view to determining the organisation's impact. MEPs call on the Foundation to inform them of the results of the evaluation in time for the 2008 discharge exercise.