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

2008/2255(DEC) - 23/04/2009 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a decision concerning the discharge to be granted to the Director of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions discharge in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2007. The decision to grant discharge is also an approval of the closure of the accounts of this EU agency.

In parallel, the European Parliament adopted by 405 votes to 13, with 19 abstentions, a resolution with observations which are an integral part of the decision to grant discharge.

Parliament notes that certain weaknesses can be found in the following areas:

- **recruitment process**: Parliament regrets 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. Parliament therefore calls 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;
- **procurement procedures**: Parliamentregrets the anomalies identified by the Court, which considers that they affected the quality of the final selection procedure. It therefore calls on the Foundation to also specify, in its annual activity report for 2008, the action taken in follow-up to the ECA's observations;
- as regards the **introduction of Accrual Based Accounting (ABAC)**: Parliament is satisfied that the Foundation introduced ABAC in 2008, although it notes anomalies in terms of assigned revenue;
- in relation to **follow-up to the previous discharge exercise**: Parliamentrecalls 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. It calls on the Foundation to inform them of the results of the evaluation in time for the 2008 discharge exercise.

Lastly, noting that the Foundation’s annual accounts for the financial year 2007 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, the Parliament approves the closure of its accounts and refers, for other observations accompanying its decision on discharge, to its resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies - see 2008/2207(INI) - adopted in parallel.