

2008 discharge: European Railway Agency ERA

2009/2126(DEC) - 23/03/2010

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Véronique MATHIEU (EPP, FR) on discharge to be granted to the European Railway Agency, calling on the European Parliament to grant the Executive Director of the Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2008.

Noting that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2008 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, MEPs approve the closure of the Agency's accounts. However, they make a number of recommendations that need to be taken into account when the discharge is granted, in addition to the general recommendations that appear in the draft resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies (see [2010/2007\(INI\)](#):

- **performance:** Members call on the Agency to set out a comparison of operations carried out during the year for which discharge is to be granted and in the previous financial year so as to enable the discharge authority to assess its performance from one year to the next more effectively. They also invite it to consider making a Gantt diagram part of the programming for each of its operational activities, with a view to indicating the amount of time spent by each staff member on a project and encouraging an approach geared towards achieving results;
- **location:** Members note that the Agency still carries out its operations in two locations (Lille and Valenciennes), exposing it to additional costs;
- **carryover of appropriations:** noting that more than EUR 4.1 million were carried forward to 2009, Members emphasise that this state of affairs reveals that the Agency had difficulties in the programming and the budgeting of its activities;
- **internal audit:** Members call on the Agency to implement the recommendations made by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) in particular in regard to bank signatures, segregation of duties, sensitive posts and maintenance of delegation powers.