2008 discharge: European Environment Agency EEA

2009/2115(DEC) - 01/02/2010

Based on the observations contained in the expenditure account and balance sheet of the European Environment Agency for the financial year 2008, as well as on the Court of Auditor’s report and the Agency’s replies to the Court’s observations, the Council recommends that Parliament grant the Executive Director of the Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2008.

The Council welcomes the Court's opinion that, on the one hand, the Agency's annual accounts present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position as at 31 December 2008 and the results of operations and cash-flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the provisions of the Agency's Financial Regulation, and that, on the other hand, the underlying transactions for the financial year ended on 31 December 2008 are, in all material respects, legal and regular.

However, the Council considers that observations made in the Court of Auditor’s report call for a certain number of observations to be taken into account when granting discharge, particularly on the following points:

- **procurement activities**: the Council calls on the Agency to fully respect the requirements of the Financial Regulation in its procurement activities. Moreover, the Council supports the Court's recommendation to improve the Agency's instructions given to beneficiaries how to calculate costs, and to take additional measures to harmonise costs charged and costs estimated in the implementation plans, in order to mitigate the risk of unjustified payments.