2009 discharge: European Environment Agency EEA

2010/2170(DEC) - 10/05/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 514 votes to 79, with 36 abstentions a decision to grant discharge to the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2009.

Noting that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2009 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament approves the closure of the Agency's accounts. However, it makes 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 resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies - see DEC/2010/2271):

- **performance**: Parliament encourages the Agency to continue its efforts to further develop its communication methods in order to attract more media coverage for its findings and thus feed public debate on important environmental issues, such as climate change, biodiversity and the management of natural resources. It also considers that such measures may lead to a more transparent working method and greater public interest in the Agency's work;
- **budgetary procedures:** Parliament acknowledges that the Court of Auditors reported insufficiently rigorous procedures for drawing up the budget leading to a considerable number of budgetary transfers affecting most of the budget lines (equivalent to 8 % of the Agency's budget). It is concerned about the Agency's practice of making transfers to increase a budget line in order to pay the rent for the Agency's premises for the first quarter of 2010 and charging it to the 2009 budget. This practice by the Agency is at odds with the principle of annuality. It therefore calls on the Agency to improve, by the end of the year, the accuracy of the information provided by the operational departments on the estimation of accrued operational expenditure;
- **human resources:** lastly, Parliament calls on the Agency to redress its deficiencies in the recruitment procedures. It notes, in particular, that vacancy notices did not specify a number of crucial aspects and calls on the Agency to enhance the transparency of its procedures in this regard.