2009 disharge: Clean Sky Joint Undertaking

2010/2189(DEC) - 10/05/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 530 votes to 83, with 34 abstentions, a decision on discharge to be granted to the Executive Director of the Clean Sky Joint Undertaking in respect of the implementation of the Undertaking's budget for the financial year 2009.

Noting that the Joint Undertaking's annual accounts for the financial year 2009 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament approves the closure of its accounts. However, it makes a number of recommendations that need to be taken into account when the discharge is granted:

- **implementation of the budget:** although the Joint Undertaking is still in a start-up period; parliament is concerned that the research activities pre-financed by the Commission in 2008 on its behalf were not fully implemented during 2009 and that, as a result of delays in the projects, only EUR 8.7 million or 65% of the EUR 13.6 million pre-financing was used. It is particularly concerned that the adoption, structure and presentation of the approved budget of the Joint Undertaking for 2009 were not in line with Regulation (EC) No 71/2008 setting up the Clean Sky Joint Undertaking, or with the Financial Rules of the Joint Undertaking. It therefore urges the Joint undertaking to rapidly remedy this grave deficiency;
- **Members' contributions:** Parliament calls on the Joint Undertaking to harmonise the presentation of members' contributions in the Accounts under the guidance of the Commission;
- **internal control systems:** Parliament urges the Joint Undertaking to complete the implementation of its internal controls and financial information system. It invites it to include in its Financial Rules a specific reference to the powers of the Internal Audit Service of the Commission as its internal auditor. It considers that the role of the Commission as internal auditor should be to advise the Joint Undertaking on dealing with risks, by issuing independent opinions on the quality of management and control systems and by issuing recommendations for improving the conditions of implementation of operations and promoting sound financial management. In view of the size of its budget and the complexity of its tasks, the Joint Undertaking should consider establishing an audit committee, reporting directly to the Administrative Board;
- **lack of host agreement:** Parliament urges the Joint Undertaking to rapidly conclude a host agreement with Belgium.