

2009 discharge: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

EUROFOUND

2010/2167(DEC) - 10/05/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 537 votes to 81, with 32 abstentions a decision on discharge to be granted to the Director of the European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) for implementation of the Foundation's budget for the financial year 2009.

Noting that the Foundation's annual accounts for the financial year 2009 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament approves the closure of the Foundation'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 notes that the Foundation carried out another ex-post assessment exercise of its 2005-2008 work programme which showed that it had deployed its financial resources efficiently and achieved the objectives of its work programme. It encourages it to further develop its performance monitoring system and to ensure that the results are fed back into management decision-making and planning. It calls on Eurofound to better define its target audiences at a national level (and to try and reach a broader range of employer and employee bodies and to set up a network of focal points);
- **governing board:** Parliament calls on the Foundation to take steps to strengthen the Governing Board's role in providing overall direction to Eurofound;
- **procurement procedures:** Parliament notes the presence of errors and anomalies in the evaluation of one open procurement procedure which affected its quality. Steps need to be taken to improve Eurofound's evaluation and review procedure to avoid repetition of such errors in the future;
- **budgetary management:** Parliament calls on the Foundation to make sure that appropriations are made available only when the corresponding assigned revenue has been received. It regrets that the Court of Auditors was compelled to comment on the budgetary and financial statement of the Foundation, especially to the effect that the initial provisional accounts presented by the Foundation contained serious shortcomings;
- **human resources:** lastly, Parliament calls on the Foundation to provide evidence of its staff selection decisions in order to guarantee the transparency of the recruitment procedures. In fact, the Court of Auditors reported irregularities in this respect for seven audited staff selection procedures. Parliament calls for the rectification of all the shortcomings identified by the Court since 2006 in respect of Eurofound's recruitment procedures.