

2010 discharge: European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (EUROJUST)

2011/2221(DEC) - 06/09/2011 - Court of Auditors: opinion, report

PURPOSE: presentation of the EU Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of EUROJUST for the financial year 2010, together with the Centre's reply.

CONTENT: in accordance with the tasks conferred on the Court of Auditors by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Court presents to the European Parliament and to the Council, in the context of the discharge procedure, a Statement of Assurance as to the reliability of the annual accounts of each institution, body or agency of the EU, and the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying them, on the basis of an independent external audit.

This audit concerned, amongst others, the annual accounts of EUROJUST.

In the Court's opinion, EUROJUST's **Annual Accounts fairly present, in all material respects, its financial position as of 31 December 2010** and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the provisions of its Financial Regulation.

The Court also considers that the **transactions underlying the annual accounts** of EUROJUST for the financial year ended 31 December 2010 are, in all material respects, **legal and regular**.

The report confirms that EUROJUST's 2010 budget amounted to EUR 32.3 million. The number of staff employed by EUROJUST at the end of the year was 295.

The report also makes a series of observations on the budgetary and financial management of

EUROJUST, accompanied by the latter's response. The main observations may be summarised as follows:

The Court's observations:

- **budgetary and financial management:** the level of operational expenditure carried forward to 2011 amounted to 38 % of the budget. This level of carry-over was excessive and at odds with the principle of annuality.
- **governance:** the Director of EUROJUST is accountable to the discharge authority for all of the duties detailed in the paragraph, 'The Director's responsibility'. However the Court states that he is not de facto responsible for the majority of the daily management decisions, which are taken by the College of EUROJUST on the basis of the relevant provisions of the founding Regulation. There is scope to consider redefining the respective roles and responsibilities of the actors involved to effectively deal with this accountability overlap;
- **recruitment:** despite the fact that recruitments cannot be made from expired reserve lists, an official was recruited in 2010 using a reserve list which had expired in January 2009.

EUROJUST's response:

- due to higher activities in 2010, automatic carry-overs increased compared to the previous year, mainly due to IT costs. If one makes abstraction of these elements, there was a reduction in carried forward as a whole on a like for like basis;

- on governance, the College needs to rectify this anomaly or a new regulation should redress this structural deficiency;
- on recruitment, although the documentation corresponding to the recruitment file was not complete, the Acting Administrative Director at the time confirmed having taken the decision for the extension of the reserve list. In order to ensure that such a situation does not arise in the future, EUROJUST will take measures to ensure that all the decisions concerning recruitments are adequately documented.

Lastly, the Court of Auditors' report contains a **summary of EUROJUST's activities** in 2010. This is focused on the following activities:

- coordination meetings on current cases;
- dealing with cases on fraud, drug trafficking, terrorism, human trafficking with a total of 1424 cases.