2010 discharge: EU general budget, Committee of the Regions

2011/2207(DEC) - 30/03/2012 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Inés AYALA SENDER (S&D, ES) on discharge to be granted to the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2010.

Members emphasise that in its 2010 Annual Report the Court of Auditors identified errors in relation to the recruitment of a permanent member of staff and a procurement procedure for interpreting services. In this regard, they are satisfied with the explanations provided by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) regarding these errors, and with the decisions taken in order to ensure that such situations do not recur.

In parallel, Members recall that in 2010, the CoR had commitment appropriations available amounting to a total of EUR 90.8 million (EUR 88 million in 2009), with an improved utilisation rate of 99.4% for 2010 (in 2009 it stood at 98.37%). They stress that the CoR’s budget is purely administrative, with 72% of expenditure relating to persons working with the institution and 28% relating to buildings, furniture, equipment and miscellaneous running costs.

They call on the CoR to **limit increases of future budgets to a strict minimum** and to finance new or extended activities primarily from savings and rationalisation of existing expenditure.

They welcome:

- the fact that the two Committees (the CoR and the European Economic and Social Committee) finally obtained EMAS (EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) certification for the use of renewable energies;
- the administrative cooperation agreement between the two Committees is operating satisfactorily;
- the overall quality of the summary of the internal audit service’s activities;
- on the improvement plan drawn up in response to the organisation management self-assessment; etc.

Lastly, they reconfirm their position that, in the interests of transparency, declarations of financial interests, including regular updates, of members of all institutions should be accessible on the Internet and are pleased to note the CoR's Bureau decision in this regard.