2011 discharge: European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (Fusion for Energy)

2012/2215(DEC) - 17/04/2013 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a decision on discharge to be granted to the Director of the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy for the financial year 2011. The vote on the decision to grant discharge covers the closure of the accounts (in accordance with Annex VI, Article 5(1) of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure).

Noting that the Court of Auditors stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the annual accounts of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2011 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted a resolution containing 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 draft resolution on performance, financial management and control of EU agencies.

- **Financing, budget and financial management:** Parliament recalls that at the creation of the Joint Undertaking the indicative total resources deemed necessary for the period 2007 to 2014 were EUR 9.653 million.
- **Implementation rate of appropriations and carryovers:** Parliament notes that the utilisation rates for the available commitment and payment appropriations were 99.7% and 85.7% respectively and that out of the EUR 611 000 000 of commitment appropriations available for operational activities, 42 % were implemented through direct individual commitments while the remaining 58% was implemented through global commitments.
- **Procurement procedures:** the Joint Undertaking needs to enhance its efforts to **increase competition** as the number of offers received for the operational procurement procedures was still low and amounted to two on average while for grants the average number of proposals received was only one per call. It reiterates that **the Joint Undertaking must find value for money in all possible acquisitions**.
- **Host State agreement:** Parliament recognises that although a Host State agreement on the site and support, privileges and immunities was signed between Spain and the Joint Undertaking, the permanent premises were yet not made available to the Joint Undertaking. It notes, however, that the Joint Undertaking continues to occupy temporary premises sponsored by Spain.

Parliament makes a series of observations as regards the Undertaking's internal control standards, intellectual property rights and industrial policy, and other issues relating to its management. It also raises the issue of the Union's contribution to ITER construction phase.

Lastly, Parliament reiterates the invitation for the Court of Auditors to provide, within a reasonable deadline, a special report to Parliament on common issues which occur due to the nature of the joint undertakings in order to ensure their **added value and efficient execution of Union research, technological development and demonstration programmes.** It further notes that the same report should include **an assessment of the effectiveness of the joint undertakings' establishment and structure**.