

2012 discharge: Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)

2013/2241(DEC) - 03/04/2014 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a decision to **postpone its decision on granting the Administrative Manager of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) discharge** in respect of the implementation of the Body's budget for the financial year 2012. In parallel, **Parliament postponed the closure of the Body's 2012 accounts.**

Parliament adopted by 572 votes to 10, with 14 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations that form an integral part of the discharge decision and as well as the general recommendations that appear in the [draft resolution on performance, financial management and control of EU agencies](#).

These recommendations are summarised as follows:

- **Legality and regularity of transactions:** Parliament regretted that the Body's accounting system has not been validated in 2013. It called on the Body to take steps in order to avoid such situations in the future and to report on the steps taken by 1 September 2014. It regretted that the committed appropriations carried over, amounting to EUR 61.5 million (10% of the total committed appropriations carried over), did not correspond to legal commitments and were thus **irregular**.
- **Budget and financial management:** it noted with concern that budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2012 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 63.4% and that the payment appropriations execution rate was 66.16%.
- **Commitments and carryovers:** Parliament also regretted that 45% of the committed appropriations carried over from 2011 were cancelled and that appropriations of EUR 545 000 were not used and had to be cancelled. It worried that the level of carry-overs of committed appropriations to 2013 was high at EUR 611 000. It believed that this indicates difficulties in the planning and/or implementation of the Body's activities.
- **Recruitment procedures:** Parliament regretted that the recruitment procedures examined showed significant shortcomings affecting transparency, namely that questions for written tests and interviews were set after the applications had been examined by the selection board. Improvements should be made in this area.
- **Conflicts of interests:** it also regretted that the Body has provided limited information regarding conflicts of interests policy. It noted that personal conflicts of interests declarations are requested from the members of the Body's Management Committee and the Board of Regulators, as well as from their staff members. Parliament called on the Body to inform the discharge authority of whether it plans to review its conflict of interests arrangements on the basis of the Commission's Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of Conflict of Interests in EU Decentralised Agencies.
- **Performance:** Parliament requested that the Body communicate the results and impact its work has on European citizens in an accessible way, mainly through its website.

Lastly, it made a series of observations on transfers, procurement and recruitment procedures as well as comments on internal controls.