

# 2013 discharge: European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

2014/2116(DEC) - 30/03/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Ryszard CZARNECKI (ECR, PL) on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) for the financial year 2013.

It called on the European Parliament to grant the Executive Director of the Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2013.

Noting that the Court of Auditors stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the annual accounts of the Agency for the financial year 2013 are reliable, and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Members called on the Parliament to approve the closure of the Agency's accounts. They made, however, a number of recommendations that needed 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](#).

- **Agency's financial statements:** Members noted that the final budget of the Agency for the financial year 2013 was EUR 107 270 800. It received Union subsidies of EUR 7.632 from the Commission and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance pre-financing amounting to EUR 103 524, as well as other contributions and funding from the Commission amounting to EUR 920 900.
- **Commitments and carry-overs:** Members noted that budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2013 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 98.64% and that the payment appropriations execution rate was 86.18%. They noted with concern that the level of committed appropriations carried over to 2014 remained high at 46% mainly due to the multiannual nature of planned IT development projects.

Members also made a series of observations on procurement procedures, recruitment and internal control.

They also noted with concern that the Agency's Executive Director made a **reservation** regarding his declaration of assurance for the year 2013, since the Agency's mandate does not include controls or inspections at national level and therefore, no confirmation could be given that only registered or authorised substances and products, for which a fee was paid to the Agency, were circulating on the Union market. Lastly, they noted the appointment of a small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) ambassador who advocates the interest of smaller enterprises externally and internally within the Agency. Members noted furthermore that the **Agency's priority is to provide intensive support so that SMEs** will be able to comply with the requirements as well as the introduction of the authorisation process as part of the REACH Regulation, in order to encourage the substitution of the most hazardous chemicals and innovation by swapping them for safer alternatives.