2013 discharge: IMI Joint Undertaking for the implementation of the Joint Technology Initiative on Innovative Medicines

2014/2133(DEC) - 29/04/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 286 votes to 402, with 7 abstentions, to defer the decision to postpone granting discharge to Executive Director of the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 (IMI) Joint Undertaking discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Joint Undertaking for the implementation of the Joint Technology Initiative on Innovative Medicines for the financial year 2013. With the rejection of the decision to postpone, discharge shall be granted and the accounts shall be deemed closed (see Annex V, Article 5(1) of the Rules of Procedure).

Parliament also adopted by 633 votes to 42, with 17 abstentions, a resolution containing a number of recommendations that form an integral part of the discharge decision and as well as the general recommendations that appear in the resolution on performance, financial management and control of EU agencies:

Budgetary and financial management: Parliament noted that the error rate resulting from audits was at 5.82%, which meant that a qualified opinion was issued on the legality and the regularity of the transactions underlying the accounts of the Joint Undertaking, in view of the fact that the rate was above the materiality threshold of 2%. Whilst acknowledging that follow-up actions related to audited beneficiaries with detected errors were launched, Parliament asked for an action plan with clear objectives aimed at fixing the deficiencies and errors identified by the Court to be submitted to the discharge authority in a timely manner. It also asked IMI 2 to provide the discharge authority with detailed information on the in-kind contributions of EFPIA companies especially on the type of the in-kind contributions and their respective value. Members called on the Joint Undertaking to submit a report to the discharge authority concerning the contributions of all members other than the Commission including the application of the methodology for evaluating in-kind contributions, together with an assessment by the Commission.

Internal control: Parliament observed that the Commission's Internal Audit Service (IAS) performed an assurance engagement of project management and reporting on operational performance, and included recommendations regarding improvements particularly regarding risk assessment of the Joint Undertaking's specific IT systems as well as the common infrastructure it shares with the FCH, Clean Sky, ENIAC and ARTEMIS Joint Undertakings.

Parliament went on to make a series of observation on conflicts of interests at the Joint Undertaking as well as on the management of calls for proposals and the legal framework of IMI 2.

Regarding the conflict of interests: Parliament took note that in order to prevent conflicts of interest in respect to its Governing Board members, experts and employees, the Joint Undertaking has put in place specific measures which are included in the rules of procedure of both the Governing Board and the Scientific Committee, as well as in the documentation on the code of conduct and conflicts of interest in the case of independent experts during evaluation. The Joint Undertaking has also adopted an updated and comprehensive policy on conflicts of interest for both management and staff members.

Other observations: lastly, Parliament called on IMI 2 to submit a report to the discharge authority on the social-economic benefits of the already completed projects and for that report to be submitted to the

discharge authority together with an assessment by the Commission. It recalled that the discharge authority had previously requested the Court to draw up a special report on the capacity of the joint undertakings, together with their private partners, to ensure **added value and efficient execution** of Union research, technological development and demonstration programmes.