# 2014 discharge: ENIAC Joint Undertaking for the implementation of the Joint Technology Initiative on nanoelectronics

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The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Marian-Jean MARINESCU (EPP, RO) on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the ENIAC Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2014.

The parliamentary committee calls on the European Parliament to **postpone its decision to grant the Executive Director of the joint undertaking the discharge in respect of the implementation of the joint undertaking's budget for the financial year 2014**.

Accordingly, Members call on Parliament to delay the approval the closure of the joint undertaking's accounts.

They made, however, a number of recommendations that need to be taken into account when the discharge is granted. They may be summarised as follows:

- **General remark:** Members recall that the Artemis Joint Undertaking and the ENIAC Joint Undertaking (ENIAC) were merged to create the Electronic Components and Systems for European leadership Joint Technology Initiative (ECSEL JTI), which started its activity in June 2014 and will run for 10 years.
- **Qualified opinion of the Court of Auditors:** Members are concerned that the Court issued a qualified opinion for the fourth consecutive year regarding the regularity and legality of the underlying transactions on the grounds that the administrative agreements signed with the national funding authorities ("the NFAs") regarding audit of project cost claims do not include practical arrangements for *ex-post* audits. They note that the Joint Undertaking did not assess the quality of the audit reports received from the NFAs even though the ECSEL JTI confirmed that its extensive assessment of the national assurance systems concluded that they can provide reasonable protection of the financial interests of the Joint Undertakings' members. Members invite the ECSEL initiative to further strengthen its controls and the Court to collect additional and necessary documents and information as an alternative way to justify its opinion.
- **Budget and financial management:** Members note that the Joint Undertaking's final budget for the financial year 2014 included commitment appropriations of EUR 2 356 000 and payment appropriations of EUR 76 500 250. They note that the initial budget for 2014 included only commitment appropriations for running costs amounting to EUR 2 300 000 and that the budget did not include commitment appropriations for operational activities, with a low utilisation rate for administrative commitment appropriations of 43 %. Members regret the lack of information regarding in-kind and cash contributions. They call on the Court to include, in future reports, concrete provisions regarding the evaluation procedure and the level of in kind and cash paid contributions.

Lastly, Members issued a series of observations regarding the internal audit.