# 2014 discharge: Artemis Joint Undertaking to implement a Joint Technology Initiative in Embedded Computing Systems

2015/2199(DEC) - 27/10/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant the Executive Director of the ECSEL Joint Undertaking (formerly the ENIAC Joint Undertaking and the ARTEMIS Joint Undertaking) discharge in respect of the implementation of the joint undertaking's budget for the financial year 2014.**

At the same time, Parliament approved the closure of ITER's accounts.

Parliament also adopted by 498 votes to 108, with 18 abstentions, a resolution containing a number of recommendations that form an integral part of the discharge decision granted in plenary.

The principal observations made by Parliament may be summarised as follows:

- **Budgetary and financial management**: Parliament noted the Joint Undertaking's accounts for the period 1 January 2014 to 26 June 2014 present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position on 26 June 2014. It recalled that the Joint Undertaking and the ENIAC Joint Undertaking 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. It was concerned that the Court of Auditors in its report on the annual accounts of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2014 issued **a qualified opinion regarding the regularity and legality of the underlying transactions** on the grounds that the administrative agreements signed with the national funding authorities regarding the audit of project cost claims do not include practical arrangements for ex-post audits. Members noted that ECSEL JTI carried out an extensive assessment of the effectiveness of the assurance systems for a sample of 10 ARTEMIS and ENIAC Member States and noted that the assessment demonstrated that the coverage rate is **three times higher than the threshold** of 20% above which the national systems are considered sufficient as per the ex-post audit strategy. Parliament further noted that the ECSEL JTI has invited NFAs to produce evidence that the implementation of the national procedures provide a reasonable assurance on the legality and regularity of transactions. It remarked that by the deadline of 30 June 2016, 76 % of the NFAs so invited submitted the documents required and confirmed that the implementation of the national procedures provides a reasonable assurance on the legality and regularity of transactions.
- **Internal control**: Parliament was concerned concern that the Joint Undertaking took no action regarding some internal control standards relating to information and financial reporting and that this was due to the impending merger. In the meantime, ECSEL JTI achieved substantial progress with regard to the implementation of the ICS and establishing internal audit capability.