2015 discharge: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)

2016/2181(DEC) - 13/09/2016 - Court of Auditors: opinion, report

PURPOSE: presentation of the EU Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) for the year 2015, together with the Agency's reply.

CONTENT: in accordance with the tasks conferred on the Court of Auditors by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Court presents to the European Parliament and to the Council, in the context of the discharge procedure, a Statement of Assurance as to the reliability of the annual accounts of each institution, body or agency of the EU, and the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying them, on the basis of an independent external audit.

This audit focused on the annual accounts of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA). The Agency's main task is to organise the operational coordination of fisheries control and inspection activities by the Member States in order to ensure an effective and uniform application of the rules of the common fisheries policy.

Statement of assurance: pursuant to the provisions of Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Court has audited:

- the annual accounts of the Agency, which comprise the financial statements and the reports on the implementation of the budget for the financial year ended 31 December 2015, and
- the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying those accounts.

Opinion on the reliability of the accounts: in the Court's opinion, the Agency's annual accounts present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as at 31 December 2015 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the provisions of its Financial Regulation and the accounting rules adopted by the Commission's accounting officer.

Opinion on the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the accounts: in the Court's opinion, the transactions underlying the annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015 are legal and regular in all material respects.

The report made a series of observations on the budgetary and financial management of the Agency, accompanied by the latter's response. The main observations may be summarised as follows:

The Court's observations:

- **internal controls**: the Court stated that the Agency is not yet fully complying with Internal Control Standards (e.g. on information and communication).

The Agency's reply:

- **internal controls**: the Agency noted that it assesses yearly the level of implementation of the internal control standards and reports the result in its annual report. The main developments expected for each standard are also reported in the annual report.

Lastly, the Court of Auditors' report also contained a summary of **the Agency's key figures in 2015**:

- **Budget**: EUR 9.2 million (payment appropriations).
- **Staff**: 64 including officials, temporary and contract staff and seconded national experts.