2016 discharge: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)

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PURPOSE: presentation by the Commission of the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2016, as part of the 2016 discharge procedure.

Analysis of the accounts of the **European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).**

CONTENT: the organisational governance of the EU consists of institutions, agencies and other EU bodies whose expenditure is included in the general budget of the Union.

This Commission document concerns the EU's consolidated accounts for the year 2016 and details how spending by the EU institutions and bodies was carried out. The consolidated annual accounts of the EU provide financial information on the activities of the institutions, agencies and other bodies of the EU from an accrual accounting and budgetary perspective.

It is the responsibility of the Commission's Accounting Officer to prepare the EU's consolidated annual accounts and ensure that they present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position, the result of the operations and the cash flows of the EU institutions and bodies, including the **European Fisheries Control Agency** (EFCA), with a view to granting discharge.

Discharge procedure: the final step of a budget lifecycle is the discharge of the budget for a given financial year. It represents the political aspect of the external control of budget implementation and is the decision by which the European Parliament, acting on a Council recommendation, "**releases**" the Commission (and other EU bodies) from its responsibility for management of a given budget by marking the end of that budget's existence. The European Parliament is the discharge authority within the EU.

The discharge procedure may produce three outcomes: (i) the granting; (ii) postponement or; (iii) the refusal of the discharge.

The final discharge report including specific recommendations to the Commission for action is adopted in plenary by the European Parliament and are subject to an annual follow up report in which the Commission outlines the concrete actions it has taken to implement the recommendations made.

Each agency is subject to its own discharge procedure, including **European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)**.

The European Fisheries Control Agency: EFCA, which is located in Vigo (ES) was created by Council Regulation (EC) No 768/2005. Its main task is to organise the operational coordination of fisheries control and inspection activities by the Member States in order to ensure effective and uniform application of the rules of the common fisheries policy.

2016 was marked by:

- the opening of a new chapter for EFCA: its involvement in the European Coast Guard Function;
- the EFCA assisting the European Union in cooperating with developing countries and with international fisheries organisations to help combat illegal fishing;

- a successful execution of the budget during 2016. The budget implementation reached 99.6% for commitment appropriations and 88.5% for payment appropriations. EFCA managed its finances cost-effectively, whilst assuming more tasks than ever.

As regards the accounts, the contribution of the EU budget to EFCA has been kept stable since 2012 at EUR 9.2 million. In 2016, in addition to the subsidy contribution, EFCA received two grants from the Commission to be implemented in 2016 and 2017 for an amount of EUR 750 000, which following an amendment of EFCA´s budget, totalled EUR 9.97 million revenue in 2016.

Commitment appropriations:

- available: EUR 10 million;
- made: EUR 10 million.

Payment appropriations:

- available: EUR 11 million;
- paid: EUR 9 million.

Please also refer to the final accounts of the EFCA.