2016 discharge: European Environment Agency (EEA)

2017/2151(DEC) - 09/02/2018 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

Having examined the revenue and expenditure accounts for the financial year 2016 and the balance sheet as at 31 December 2016 of the European Environment Agency (EEA), as well as the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the Agency for the financial year 2016, accompanied by the Agency's replies to the Court's observations, the Council recommended the European Parliament to give a discharge to the Executive Director of the Agency in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2016.

The Council welcomed the Court's opinion that the Agency's annual accounts present fairly its financial position as at 31 December 2016 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the provisions of the Agency's Financial Regulation, and that the underlying transactions for 2016 are legal and regular in all material respects.

Nevertheless, the following observations were made:

- **internal audits**: the Council welcomed the intention of the Agency and the Commission's internal Audit Service to further improve the processes for preparing the State of the Environment Report. It encouraged the Agency to update its internal control procedures where these are outdated;
- **external contracts**: the Council regretted the application of a framework contract with an intermediary contractor for the purchase and renewal of software licences, despite the fact that the contractor did not have an exclusive right under the framework contract for such sales and that the licences were for products used either only exceptionally or that were offered by one exclusive reseller in Scandinavia. It called on the Agency to ensure the use of the most economical solution for acquiring software licences.