2017 discharge: European Medicines Agency (EMA)

2018/2185(DEC) - 28/06/2018 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: presentation by the Commission of the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2017, as part of the 2017 discharge procedure.

Analysis of the accounts of the **European Medicines Agency (EMA)**.

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 2017** 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 with a view to granting discharge.

Discharge procedure: **the final step of a budget lifecycle is the discharge**. It is the decision by which the European Parliament '**releases**' the Commission from its responsibility for management of a given budget by marking the end of that budget's existence. It is granted by the European Parliament on the recommendation of the Council.

The decision is based in particular on the European Court of Auditors reports, in particular its annual report, in which the Court provides a Statement of Assurance (DAS) on the legality and regularity of transactions (payments and commitments).

The procedure results in the granting, postponement or refusal of 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.

All EU institutions and other agencies, bodies and joint undertakings are subject to their own discharge procedures.

The European Medicines Agency: the Agency, which is located in London (UK), was created by Council Regulation (EEC) No 2309/93, which was replaced by Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council and its role is the coordination of the scientific resources made available by the national authorities in order to ensure the evaluation and supervision of medicinal products for human or veterinary use on the basis of a centralised procedure.

The year 2017 was a challenging year for EMA. The impact of the UK's decision to withdraw from the European Union left its mark. As well as continuing with its day-to-day work and successfully delivering most of its work plan, the Agency worked with the national competent authorities to prepare the network for the impact of the UK's withdrawal.

The Agency received the long-awaited decision on its new home. On 20 November 2017, the General Affairs Council (Art. 50) decided on **Amsterdam as EMA's new location**. The decision ended a long period of uncertainty and allowed the Agency to begin more concrete decision-making on how to ensure a successful move and retain majority of the existing staff.

As regards Agency's accounts, these are presented in detail in the document on the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union for 2017:

Commitment appropriations:

- available: EUR 331 million;
- made: EUR 302 million.

Payment appropriations:

- available: EUR 347 million;
- made: EUR 292 million.

For further details on expenditure, please refer to the final accounts of the EMA.