2017 discharge: European Environment Agency (EEA)

2018/2182(DEC) - 31/01/2019 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

Having examined the revenue and expenditure accounts for the financial year 2017 and the balance sheet as at 31 December 2017 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 2017, 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 2017.

The Council welcomed the Court's opinion that the Agency's annual accounts present fairly its financial position as at 31 December 2017 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 2017 are legal and regular in all material respects.

Nevertheless, the following observations were made:

- ***accounting***: the Council regretted the deficiencies found by the Court in the Agency’s accounting environment. It called on the Agency to take appropriate actions mainly to ensure the accounting officer's independence;

- ***performance***: the Council welcomed the improvements in the financial and performance checks for grants carried out by the Agency, which led to a reduction in the final grant amount paid to one of the European Topic Centres (ETC) for the implementation of its 2016 action plan;

- ***procurement***: weaknesses were found by the Court in the Agency's procurement procedures, the Council called on the Agency to take appropriate actions in order to ensure the effectiveness of the process, an appropriate assessment of bidders, as well as the full implementation without unjustified delay of electronic public procurement.