2017 discharge: European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)

2018/2189(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 Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), 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, in all material respects, 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 weaknesses 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;

- ***procurement***: deficiencies were also found by the Court in three specific procedures for the procurement of IT services where in one case the Agency has not followed the rules of application of the Financial Regulation relating to a requirement of having a competitive selection procedure, where in another case it has significantly exceeded the financing decision for a framework contract and in a further case where the Agency has made a purchase without a required competitive procedure. The Council called on the Agency to ensure competitive procurement and purchase procedures, fully aligned with the Agency's Financial Regulation.