

2017 discharge: European Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA)

2018/2209(DEC) - 01/03/2019 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Petri SARVAMAA (EPP, FI) on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (eu-LISA) for the financial year 2017.

The committee called on the European Parliament to grant the Agency's Executive Director discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2017.

Noting that the Court of Auditors stated that it had obtained reasonable assurance that the annual accounts of the Agency for the financial year 2017 were reliable and that the underlying transactions were legal and regular, Members called on Parliament to approve the closure of the Agency's accounts.

They made, however, a number of recommendations that needed to be taken into account when the discharge is granted, in addition to the general recommendations that appear in the [draft resolution on performance, financial management and control of EU agencies](#):

Agency's financial statements

Members noted that the final budget of the Agency for the financial year 2017 was EUR 155 801 818, representing a significant increase of 89.38 % compared with 2016. This increase was related to the additional tasks of the Agency.

Budget and financial management

Budget-monitoring efforts during the financial year 2017 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 100 %, representing an increase of 2.1 % compared with 2016. Payment appropriations execution rate was 91.53 %, representing an increase of 0.68 % compared with 2016.

Although the Agency paid the full price for construction works for its new premises in Strasbourg in 2016, the work is still not finalised, due to the inability of the contractor to deliver, and that only 70 % of the works are covered by the accepted works progress reports.

The cancellations of carry-overs from 2016 to 2017 amounted to EUR 658 000, representing 12.20 % of the total amount carried over, representing a notable increase of 7.11 % in comparison with 2016.

Members also made a series of observations regarding performance, staff policy, procurement, conflicts of interest and internal controls.

In particular, they noted that:

- the Agency underwent an external evaluation in 2016 which concluded that the Agency fulfils its mandate effectively and suggested particular ways of improving its operations and identified potential opportunities to extend its mandate;
- on 31 December 2017 the establishment plan was only 87.02 % executed, with 114 temporary agents appointed out of 131 temporary agents authorised under the Union budget;
- the Agency should continue its efforts to ensure staff retention and development within the Agency. Members welcomed how the Agency handled the substantially increased workload in 2017 despite the high turnover in expert staff;
- the relocation to new premises in Strasbourg suffered considerable delays and that there have been several failings on the part of the contractor responsible.