2004 discharge: Eurojust

2005/2115(DEC) - 27/04/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Umberto **GUIDONI** (GUE/NGL, IT) and granted discharge to the Administrative Director of Eurojust for the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2004. In its accompanying comments, Parliament wished to be kept fully informed of the intentions of the Dutch host authorities regarding any new premises for Eurojust. It wanted to know, in particular, about the possibilities for Eurojust and Europol occupying the same premises and about the financial support that the host state will grant to Eurojust in that respect.

Parliament noted that Eurojust implemented a different budget from the one set by the budgetary authority. It insisted that Eurojust follow the correct procedures and await approval from the budgetary authority before implementing any such change in future. Parliament stressed that the principle of the segregation of the duties of authorising officer and accounting officer should be respected and that there should be no repetition of the situation which occurred in 2004, when one member of staff filled both roles.

Parliament also made a series of general remarks on the agencies. As well as spending money properly, agencies should also strive to spend money as efficiently and effectively as possible. The Court of Auditors was asked to consider the possibility of extending its specific annual reports on the agencies to include an examination of performance and achievement of objectives. The following aspects should be taken into account: duplication of work among the agencies must be avoided as much as possible and measures designed to improve transparency and communication with the public must be clarified, along with Community affirmative action measures at all levels of recruitment, training and the assignment of responsibilities.

Parliament noted that Community agencies did not always have a good image or good press and that many of them did not deserve such a negative image. EU citizens should be made aware of this, and Parliament called on the Commission to act accordingly, using whatever means it considers necessary.

Furthermore, the enlargement of the European Union in 2004 had affected the structures and operating arrangements of the Community agencies in many ways, and several of the agencies draw attention to these effects in their activity reports, focusing in particular on the increase in the number of administrators. The Commission needed to assess the problems encountered and recommend the regulatory changes required.

The Commission had made a commitment to harmonising the way in which activity reports concerning its directorates-general were presented. Parliament called for a similar approach to be taken in respect of the activity reports of the Communities" agencies, which differed significantly in terms of content. The Commission should point out to the agencies the information and activity indicators that they must provide.

Finally, Parliament asked the Commission to improve synergies between agencies by making cooperation more effective, avoiding duplication of work and addressing shortcomings, in particular as regards common areas such as training, the implementation of Community policies across the board, the use of the latest management systems and solving problems relating to sound management of the budget.