2005 discharge: European Agency for Networks and Information Security

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The committee adopted the report by Edit HERCZOG (PES, HU) granting discharge to the European Network and Information Security Agency for 2005. In its accompanying resolution, it made a number of general points concerning the majority of the EU agencies:

- the ever-growing number of Community Agencies and the activities of some of them do not seem to form part of an overall policy framework, and "the remits of some Agencies do not always reflect the real needs of the Union or the expectations of its citizens";

- the Commission should therefore define an overall policy framework and should present a cost-benefit study before the setting up of any new Agency, and the Court of Auditors should give its opinion on this study before Parliament takes its decision;

- every 5 years, the Commission should present a study on the added value of every existing Agency; where the evaluation is negative in the case of a particular Agency the latter’s mandate should be reformulated or the Agency should be closed;

- the Commission should improve administrative and technical support to the Agencies, given the growing complexity of the Community’s administrative rules and technical problems;

- the Agencies should improve their cooperation and benchmarking with actors in the field;

- the Commission should harmonise the format of the annual reporting by the Agencies to develop performance indicators which would allow a comparison of their efficiency.

In its specific remarks concerning the ENISA, the committee noted that the low rate of commitment and substantial rate of carry-over was in part due to problems inherent in the Agency's start-up period and to the fact that it did not start becoming operational until the second half of 2005. It also noted that no activity-based management had been brought in, despite the Agency's financial regulation making provision for its introduction, on the lines of that applied to the general budget, with a view to improving the monitoring of performance.