Basic information

1997/2078(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
ECSC: annual Report of the Court of Auditors 1996 **Subject** 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	BLAK Freddy (PSE)	28/10/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/11/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	N4-0127/1998	Summary
09/03/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/03/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
17/03/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0093/1998	
31/03/1998	Debate in Parliament		
31/03/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
16/05/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2078(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 102
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/4/08870

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0093/1998 OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0004	17/03/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0184/1998 OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0019-0054	31/03/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0186/1998 OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0019-0058	31/03/1998	Summary
Other institutions and bodies				
Institution/body	**Document type**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
CofA	Non-legislative basic document	N4-0127/1998	20/11/1997	Summary

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Decision 1998/0328 OJ L 146 16.05.1998, p. 0022

ECSC: annual Report of the Court of Auditors 1996

1997/2078(DEC) - 31/03/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Freddy BLAK (PSE, DK), Parliament gave discharge to the Commission in respect of the management of the ECSC for the financial year 1996, observing that it continued to be managed in a financially prudent manner and that its financial position could be considered secure. In view of the forthcoming expiry of the ECSC Treaty Parliament considered that further comment was unnecessary in the context of its discharge decision.

ECSC: annual Report of the Court of Auditors 1996

1997/2078(DEC) - 20/11/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to present the annual report of the Court of Auditors on the management of the ECSC (for the 1996 financial year) on the basis of which the Court issues its Declaration of Assurance (DAS) on the financial statements of the ECSC. CONTENT: the Court found in its report that the ECSC was solvent on the eve of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty (2002). The 1996 financial year was well in the black (solvency ratio of 21.07% compared with 15.99% in 1995), allowing the ECSC to consolidate its financial standing, set up provisions and make the necessary revaluations. In a second chapter, the Court addresses ECSC loan activities and, more importantly, the problem of the interest rate subsidies attached to ECSC loans. The Court notes that the objective of global ECSC loans is to promote the consumption of steel in the Community. The Court found, however, that there were no specific criteria governing the application of this clause, of which only an approximate audit was possible. It noted in particular that the non-application of this clause did not have any effect on the beneficiaries. As regards the interest rate subsidies attached to these loans (granted under the job creation

scheme), the situation in 1996 was similar to that in 1995: apart from the lack of control, the Court found that there was a problem relating to eligibility for subsidies (especially in the new German Länder). At the same time, the Court's audit brought serious malfunctions in the Copenhagen "SME mechanism" to light with the risk of a job created being subsidized twice. DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE: the Court gave its declaration of assurance (DAS) on the reliability of the ECSC accounts at the end of its report in accordance with Article 45C of the ECSC Treaty. The Court found that the financial statements of the ECSC gave a true picture of the assets of the ECSC. It also confirmed that, overall, the transactions undertaken by the ECSC were legal and regular. However, it drew attention to the eligibility criteria for interest rate subsidies attached to ECSC loans.