Basic information

1999/2051(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
1998 discharge: EC general budget, Parliament **Subject** 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	KUHNE Helmut (PSE)	13/10/1999

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	KUHNE Helmut (PSE)	13/10/1999

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	23/09/1999
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Budget	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/04/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(1999)0414	
23/07/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

28/03/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
28/03/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0097/2000	
11/04/2000	Debate in Parliament		
13/04/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0159/2000	Summary
26/06/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
26/06/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0189/2000	
04/07/2000	Debate in Parliament		
06/07/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0317/2000	Summary
06/07/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
16/09/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/2051(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 102
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/4/10956 CONT/4/10944

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0097/2000 OJ C 040 07.02.2001, p. 0006	28/03/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0159/2000 OJ C 040 07.02.2001, p. 0147-0398	13/04/2000	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0189/2000 OJ C 121 24.04.2001, p. 0009	26/06/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0317/2000 OJ C 121 24.04.2001, p. 0162-0366	06/07/2000	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	N5-0154/2000	13/03/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary

Non-legislative basic document	SEC(1999)0414	29/04/1999	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	RCC0022/1998 OJ C 349 03.12.1999, p. 0001-0206	15/11/1999	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2000/0545
OJ L 234 16.09.2000, p. 0020

1998 discharge: EC general budget, Parliament

1999/2051(DEC) - 13/03/2000

PURPOSE : Council Recommendation on the discharge to be given to the Parliament on the implementation of its budget for the 1998 financial year.
CONTENT : The Council is pleased that the Court of Auditors considers that the operations and accounts covered by heading 5 of the financial perspectives (Budget- administrative expenditure) are generally satisfactory. Following the example of the Court of Auditors, it calls for inter-institutional cooperation to be strengthened so that the presentation of the consolidated accounts and commitments not included in the balance sheet is improved. The Council also made some observations on each of the institutions. As far as real estate expenditure is concerned, in particular, the Council reaffirmed the fact that the Treaty does not permit a European Institution to borrow. Lastly, the Council pronounced itself pleased with the audit carried out by the Court of Auditors and called for expenditures on missions and meetings should be harmonised.

1998 discharge: EC general budget, Parliament

1999/2051(DEC) - 13/04/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution postponing the decision on giving discharge in respect of implementation of the general budget for the financial year 1998 regarding the European Parliament/Annex: Ombudsman. Parliament's Rapporteur was Mr. Helmut KUHNE (PES, D). Parliament welcomes the significant reduction in the cancellation of appropriations for 1998 and the modest improvement in the utilisation of non-automatic appropriations carried over from 1997, resulting from the measures introduced by the Secretary-General. It regrets, however, that there still remains a persistently high cancellation of appropriations automatically carried over; it underlines the continued need for sustained progress in this area and urges that corrective measures be promptly taken to that effect. It expects financial requirements to be more thoroughly defined by authorising officers so that subsequent contradictory requests for transfers of appropriations can be avoided. Parliament urges that the management of calls for tender ensures optimum use of available resources. It also considers unacceptable the dramatic increase in the number of contracts awarded by the exceptional 'direct treaty' procedure instead of by calls for tender and requests the Secretary-General to present by 1 June 2000 concrete measures to reverse this trend, including measures for training and improving qualifications of EP staff involved in the awarding of contracts. In relation to Parliament's buildings, the EP reiterates its regret at the Council's decision against the direct funding if the Alteiro Spinelli building, a decision that has created a series of difficult conditions for the Parliament's Bureau. It notes that the approach adopted for the funding of that building was based on the express recommendation of the Secretary-General, the Financial Controller and the Legal Service, who had come to the conclusion that the EU rules on the award of public service contracts were not applicable in this connection. It also notes the findings of the Court of Auditors that after exercising the option to purchase the Altiero Spinelli building, Parliament is in the position of a borrower, which represents a new departure which is not permitted under the Financial Regulation currently in force. It calls on the Court of Auditors to deliver an opinion in the very near future on whether the procedure adopted for funding the building is applicable to future projects in the light of amendments that have now been made to the Financial Regulation and

the rules on awarding public service contracts. It insists on the preservation of its rights with regard to the late hand-over of the Louise Weiss building, in particular as regards the interim interest payments and the penalties referred to in the framework contract. It takes the view that any costs arising from the settlement of legal disputes between the developer of the Louise Weiss building and its subcontractors and architects should not be part of the final investment cost of the building. It calls on the Court of Auditors to present a special report on the practice of awarding contracts for security services, including an examination of whether it is economically feasible. On the management of Members' Pension Fund, it requests theCollege of Quaestors and the Bureau to act on the recommendations in the Court of Auditors' Opinion No. 5/1999 so as to ensure the separation of the Fund's management from that of the administration of Parliament. On the question of staff policy, the Parliament demands that the Bureau define a long-term policy on staff recruitment and appointments which is based on predictable needs for specific qualifications and it urges the Secretary-General to deliver a report to the respective parliamentary committees by 30/06/2000. In connection with the Ombudsman Annex, the Parliament welcomes the increased take-up of appropriations earmarked for the 1998 budget of the Ombudsman; it notes, however, that the utilisation of appropriations automatically carried over from 1997 worsened by comparison with the previous year and it urges the Ombudsman, therefore, to improve implementation of these appropriations. The Parliament instructs its Secretary-General to take the following steps: - present an action plan to dramatically reduce the number of restricted tenders and direct agreements; - complete and present the 1998 inventory; - inform the appropriate bodies on the progress of current disciplinary procedures, especially those linked to cases lost in the Court of Justice; - present a long-term building policy, including financing, new investments and expected total costs, as well as an action plan to avoid contractual obligations limiting the European Parliament's possibilities for open tendering; - present a timetable for the administrative reform of the European Parliament. Furthermore, the Parliament expects that: - the new contracts authorised for the security and guarding of its buildings in Strasbourg will be in full accordance with the rules, especially on calls for tender; - in the light of the final report of the Court of Auditors on the expenditure of political groups, the latter will present specific measures in order to rectify the disclosed shortcomings within two months of receiving the report.

1998 discharge: EC general budget, Parliament

1999/2051(DEC) - 06/07/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament in its decision drafted by Helmut KUHNE (PES, Germany) authorised discharge in respect of implementation of the general budget for 1998 on the European Parliament/ Ombudsman Annex. Parliament felt that its judgement to have been confirmed that postponing the discharge for 1998 had a constructive effect and spurred the administration on to greater efforts to use taxpayers money more efficiently. Many of its concerns had been addressed. It endorsed the action plan to facilitate competitive tendering, and asked for the adoption of rules governing inventory management on an inter-institutional basis. On buildings policy, it reiterated its regrets at the arrangements arrived at between governments and asked for future buildings policy to be governed by the principle of functionality, particularly as regards the regrouping of OParliament's services in each working place and the optimal use of financial resources. On the financing of political groups and parties, Parliament wanted measures aimed at radically transforming the relevant legal framework to be completed without delay in conformity with financial regulations and the principle of transparency. As a result of the Court of Auditors' findings, Parliament demanded that internal bookkeeping procedures be transparent and followed by all groups, and supplemented by specific group financial regulations. Measures must be taken to avoid the possibility that financial assistance could be provided to national political parties or other similar organisations as a result of jointactions undertaken between them and political groups.

1998 discharge: EC general budget, Parliament

1999/2051(DEC) - 29/04/1999

PURPOSE: presentation of the revenue and expenditure account and the financial statement relating to budget operations during the 1998 financial year (other sections). CONTENT: this document draws up the amount of expenditures and the financial statement for the Union's institutions (other than the Commission) for the 1998 financial year: - European Parliament (and the Ombudsman), - Council of Ministers, - Court of Justice, - Court of Auditors, - Economic and Social Committee, - Committee of the Regions. As far as the European Parliament is specifically concerned, the document indicates that the appropriations allocated to its budget (including the amending supplementary budget (ASB) 1/98) amounted to 1,060,936,503 euros (a rate of increase in the EP's budget between 1997 and 1998, excluding the ASB, of 2.7%), with commitments to the amount of 950,205,608 euros. Payments of up to the sum of 788,043,887 were in fact made. The document also underlines the fact that the implementation of the 1998 budget was affected by changes in the real estate sector: the occupancy of building D3 and the surrender of other buildings, delay in the availability of the IPE IV (the date of the handing over of the building was 15.12.1998 instead of October 1997). This situation gave rise to the partial use of appropriations for the rental and occupancy of new buildings. It also involved the cancelling of appropriations and the re-commitment of 1998 appropriations (for the installation of the premises in Strasbourg). This financial year was also affected by: - the adoption of an ASB of 150 million euros for the purchase of real estate, - the entry of 52 million euros in the reserve, - an ECU/BF conversion rate higher than that used in drawing up the budget (40.0786 instead of 40.6690). As far as the other institutions are concerned, the following should be noted: 1) As far as the Council is concerned, the efforts undertaken by this institution regarding recruitment in the context of the Union's enlargement, the need for unplanned installations, the conversion of meeting rooms, as well as the unplanned hosting in the Justus Lipsius building of the ECOFIN and General Affairs Council on 1 and 3 May 1998. The appropriations to the Council for 1998 were 320,272,000 euros. 99.03% of them were used; 2) as far as the Court of Justice is concerned, the expenditures were linked to the introduction of inter-institutional cooperation and the modernisation of equipment in the document printshop with a view to paper-saving. It should also be noted that, like last year, the slight appreciation in the value of the ECU in comparison with the Luxembourg franc required the revalorisation of the institutions' budget enabling new budgetary allocations to be allocated to translation and computing. 3) as far as the Court of Auditors is concerned, the filling of 23 additional posts granted by the budgetary authority under ASB 1/97 and 25 others granted under the 1998 budget wasnot fully achieved given the standard abatement of 3%. The Court had, therefore, to leave 15-18 posts open until the 1999 financial year. 4) as far as the ESC and COR are concerned, there was a reorganisation of the internal structure of these 2 institutions following the renewal of the mandate of their respective members. In particular, it should be noted that a new report on the management of these institutions was presented following Parliament's criticisms regarding the poor quality of the management report for the 1996 financial year. Furthermore, an administrative agreement was signed between these two institutions and the European Parliament with a view to them assuming the rental and security costs of the Belliard I and II buildings for the period 15.10.1998 to 31.03.1999 in the context of the expenses of the common organisational structure.