Basic information

2000/2263(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
1998 discharge: follow-up. Report **Subject** 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	CONT Budgetary Control	STAUNER Gabriele (PPE-DE)	05/12/2000
Council of the European Union	**Council configuration**	**Meetings**	**Date**
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2335	2001-03-12
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Budget		

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/10/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0558	Summary
13/11/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
12/03/2001	Debate in Council		Summary
27/03/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
27/03/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0112/2001	
03/04/2001	Debate in Parliament		
04/04/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0176/2001	Summary
04/04/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/01/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/2263(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 102
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/5/13934

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0112/2001	27/03/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0176/2001 OJ C 021 24.01.2002, p. 0130-0193 E	04/04/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0558	27/10/2000	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

1998 discharge: follow-up. Report

2000/2263(DEC) - 27/10/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present a follow-up report from the Commission on the 1998 financial year. CONTENT: The objective of the Commission's follow-up report is to set out the measures it has taken in response to the observations accompanying the decisions giving discharge and other observations by the European Parliament concerning the implementation of expenditure, and to the comments accompanying the recommendations on discharge adopted by the Council. The report is divided into several parts. Part One of this report is addressed to the Council, following its recommendation with a view to the European Parliament's vote on discharge. The aim here is to set out the measurs it has taken in response to the observations by the European Parliament concerning the implementation of expenditure, and to the comments accompanying the recommendations on discharge adopted by the Council. In addition, there are two annexes. The first annex, addressed to the Council, is a response to its Recommendation with a view to the European Parliament's vote on discharge. It has been drafted against the general background of the implementation of Agenda 2000 and the reforms at the Commission and therefore places special emphasis on measures already taken and projects under consideration. Also, for the first time, the report includes a Commission Action Plan, which has been welcomed by the Council. The second annex of the report sets out the Member States' replies to the observations in the Court of Auditors' annual report for 1998, in accordance with Article 274 of the Treaty, as amended by the Amsterdam Treaty. The quality of these replies varies. One factor detracting from their quality is that they generally relate to specific points and do not cover all of the Court's observations. Thus, certain Member States have failed to reply to observations on structural measures or fraud prevention. In some cases, the Member States contest the Court's remarks.

1998 discharge: follow-up. Report

2000/2263(DEC) - 12/03/2001

The Council takes note of the Commission's report on the actions undertaken in response to the comments of the Council on the discharge procedure in 1998. In general, the Council is aware of the fact that the process of overall reform which the Commission has been undertaking since September 1999 will have effects on a progressive basis. In this respect, it underlines the usefulness of a detailed follow-up by the Council of the different sectoral measures taken, most notably in the present follow-up. The Council takes note of the Commission's presentation of 19 October 2000 which proposed an altered financial regulation. In anticipation of the implementation of this regulation, the Council considers it imperative that the Commission continue its reform. In particular, in relation to the follow-up to the discharge for the implementation of the 1998 budget, the Council made some comments in relation to the following sectors: own resources, Common Agricultural Policy, structural measures, internal policies and external actions, administrative expenditure, financial instruments and banking activities.

1998 discharge: follow-up. Report

2000/2263(DEC) - 04/04/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Gabriele STAUNER (EPP/ED, D) on the measures taken in light of the observations of the European Parliament in its 1998 discharge resolution. Overall, the Parliament welcomes efforts undertaken by the Commission to date to reform its financial management following the resignation of the old Commission. It reaffirms its call on the Commission to arrive at a positive statement of assurance (DAS) for the financial year 2003 at the latest. On the other hand, the House regrets that the Commission, although it has presented an action plan to improve financial management, has neither expressely committed itself to that objective nor formulated any verifiable intermediate objectives towards that goal. Therefore, the Commission is called upon to submit a phased plan before 1 October 2001 on realising that objective. Moreover, the House welcomes the Commission's proposals for recasting the Financial Regulation. It also welcomed the adoption by the Commission of detailed rules for the implementation of the Structural Funds to ensure better management and more stringent controls. In relation to the officials' financial liability, the Parliament believes that a credible and effective system of holding authorising officers to account must be put in place and considers that authorising officers' responsibility for financial irregularities should be assessed by a specialised financial irregularities committee, which would be empowered to refer cases to the disciplinary procedure under the Staff Regulations, in accordance with the recommendation made by the Committee of Independent Experts and without prejudice to the competences of OLAF. MEPs are anxious to see an independent system of financial control in place. The Parliament recalls its position, expressed in the report by José Javier POMES RUIZ (EPP/ED, E) on the White Paper on reforming the Commission (adopted in November 2000) in which it noted that the effectiveness of the reform proposed in the White Paper would be judged by, inter alia, the application of the relevant financial provisions being monitored and implemented with appropriate supervisory and sanction mechanisms. The Parliament noted with satisfaction the Commission's decision to decentralise financial control within each Directorate-General, subject to a number of conditions being met and it considers it essential that the Internal Audit Service be entrusted with the task of coordinating and supervising the internal audits carried out within Directorates-General and of ensuring and monitoring of professional independence of these internal audits. Furthermore, the Parliament wants action to be taken against former members of the Commission of current investigations being undertaken by OLAF find that any members breached the obligations of their office. Parliament is also calling for access to more confidential information that for example is provided to the Court of Auditors.