Basic information

2003/2042(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2001 discharge: European Centre on racism and xenophobia **Subject** 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	BLAK Freddy (GUE/NGL)	10/09/2002

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	BLAK Freddy (GUE/NGL)	10/09/2002

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2493	2003-03-07

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
25/09/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	N5-0004/2003	Summary
13/03/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/03/2003	Vote in committee		
19/03/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0074/2003	
08/04/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0140/2003	
08/04/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/04/2003	Debate in Parliament		
20/10/2003	Vote in committee		

20/10/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0360/2003	
05/11/2003	Debate in Parliament		
06/11/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0481/2003	Summary
06/11/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/12/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/2042(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 102
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0074/2003	19/03/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0140/2003 OJ C 064 12.03.2004, p. 0023-0124 E	08/04/2003	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0360/2003	20/10/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0481/2003 OJ C 083 02.04.2004, p. 0018-0172 E	06/11/2003	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	06006/2003	07/03/2003	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Non-legislative basic document	N5-0004/2003 OJ C 326 27.12.2002, p. 0072-0078	25/09/2002	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Budget 2003/0892
OJ L 333 20.12.2003, p. 0078-0078 Summary

2001 discharge: European Centre on racism and xenophobia

2003/2042(DEC) - 07/03/2003 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the Council recommendation on the discharge to be given to the Director of the European Monitoring Centre on racism and xenophobia in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and xenophobia for the financial year 2001. CONTENT : based on the remarks contained in the Court of Auditors report relating to the financial year 2001, the Council recommends that the Parliament give a discharge to the Director of the Centre in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2001. Recalling that the EUR 1,4 million in appropriations have been carried forward from the financial year 2001 to the financial year 2002 and EUR 0,1 million have been cancelled, the Council believes that that concerning the observations in the Court of Auditors' report in relation to the financial year 2001 calls for certain comments to be made. These are as follows. Firstly, the Council welcomes the fact that the Court of Auditors has been able to record a statement of assurance in respect of the reliability of the Centre's accounts for the financial year 2001, and in respect of the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions as a whole. Secondly, the Council shares the Court's view on the need to improve the quality and monitoring of the planning of the Centre's operational activities. It encourages the Centre to continue its efforts to adapt its internal rules with a view to ensuring that budgetary appropriations are implemented in accordance with initial plans. Lastly, the Council notes that the Centre has already taken appropriate steps to adapt its accounting programme so as to apply rules in force as regards fixed assets.

2001 discharge: European Centre on racism and xenophobia

2003/2042(DEC) - 06/11/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Freddy BLAK (EUL/NGL, Denmark) giving discharge to the European Monitoring on Racism and Xenophobia for the 2001 financial year. (Please see the document dated 20/10/03.) Parliament encouraged the Centre to continue its efforts to follow its operational activities closely and to make further efforts to resolve recurrent problems in its relations with the Raxen network. It noted that such problems are 'systemic' in nature, and there is scope for developing a harmonised approach between Agencies in dealing with such problems. The Centre should intensify its contacts with other agencies faced with similar problems in their relations with networks of national points in order for a 'best practice approach' to be developed and applied. As a general point with regard to the Agencies, Parliament expressed its concern that the Commission's Internal Audit Service (IAS) does not carry out any checks on the Agencies. This implies that Articles 71 and 72 of Regulation 2343/2002 /EC are not being adhered to and that, in practice, an outside control of the quality of management and control systems of the agencies is left to be carried out in the context of the Court of Auditors control. Parliament called on the Commission to ensure that the necessary resources are made available so that the IAS is in a position to fulfill its tasks with regard to the internal control systems in the Agencies. Finally, it asked the Commission to submit a proposal for an amendment to the constituent acts of the Agencies to ensure that their directors may in future be appointed only with the assent of Parliament.

2001 discharge: European Centre on racism and xenophobia

2003/2042(DEC) - 08/04/2003

COMMUNITY MEASURE : European Parliament Decision 2003/407/EC on the postponement of the decision concerning discharge to the Director of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, the Director of the European Environment Agency, the Director of the Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union, the Director of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the Director of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, in respect of the implementation of each Agency's budget for the financial year 2001. CONTENT : with the present Decision, the European Parliament has decided to postpone the decision concerning discharge to the Directors of : - the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work; - the European Environment Agency; - the Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union; - the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, and - the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia; in respect of the implementation of each Agency's budget for the financial year 2001. Parliament also presents a resolution which contains the comments accompanying the decision on the postponement of the decisions (please refer to the summary of the European Parliament's opinion dated 8 April 2003).

2001 discharge: European Centre on racism and xenophobia

2003/2042(DEC) - 06/11/2003 - Final act

PURPOSE : to grant discharge to the Director of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2001. LEGISLATIVE ACT : European Parliament Decision 2003/892/EC on the discharge to the Director of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2001. CONTENT : the European

Parliament has given discharge to the Director of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2001. It records its comments in the accompanying resolution dated 6 November 2003 (please refer to the previous summary).

2001 discharge: European Centre on racism and xenophobia

2003/2042(DEC) - 25/09/2002 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the Court of Auditor's report on the financial statements of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia for the financial year 2001. CONTENT : the Court of Auditors has examined the financial statements of the Centre for the financial year ended 31 December 2001. This examination has allowed the Court to obtain reasonable assurance that the annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2001 are reliable and that the underlying transactions, taken as a whole, are legal and regular. The main observations are as follows: The Court states that the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2001 and the appropriations carried over from the previous financial year. Final appropriations for the financial year totalled 5,3 million EUR, 5,1 million of which were committed. Operating appropriations (Title III) amounted to EUR 2,2 million, almost all of which was committed. Payments in respect of the appropriations of the financial year amounted to 3,8 million; 1,4 million were carried over to the following financial year and 0,1 million had to be cancelled. Approximately 50 % of payments in respect of operating appropriations were made during the last three months of the year. Appropriations carried over to 2002 amounted to EUR 1,2 million (twice the previous year's figure) and mainly concerned operating appropriations. The volume of appropriations carried over was due to the late approval of the work programme by the Centre's Management Board and to the slowness in implementing the RAXEN Network which is the main reason for the Centre's creation. It shows the need for the Centre to increase the quality and monitoring of the planning of its operational activities. The appropriations carried over from the financial year 2000 to 2001 amounted to EUR 0,8 million; they were almost all disbursed. Over 40 % of the payments in respect of operating appropriations were made, however, during the last three months of 2001, which indicates that there was inadequate monitoring of the projects financed during the previous financial year. The Court states that at the end of 2001, a considerable number of payments, totalling EUR 297 546, were suspended, in accordance with Article 40 of the Centre's Financial Regulation, on account of the absence of sufficient supporting documents concerning the services actually rendered or the contracting parties' VAT arrangements. These suspended payments included a payment of EUR 70 961 concerning a contribution of EUR 100 000 for a project jointly financed with the Council of Europe. This financing in fact constitutes a subsidy intended mainly to reimburse work carried out beforehand by experts. The Authorising Officer responsible was able neither to give a precise description of the project nor to produce documentary evidence in support of the payment requested. From the point of view of sound financial management, it is not wise to grant retroactive financing which, precisely because it is retroactive, does not give any added value to the actions undertaken by the Centre. The Centre's Director should consider applying Article 61 of the Financial Regulation concerning the responsibility of Authorising Officers. Given that the payment was suspended pursuant toArticle 40 of the Centre's Financial Regulation, the commitment in question should be cancelled. In accordance with the provisions of Article 41 of this same Regulation, the Centre's Management Board may, however, ask, in writing and on its own responsibility, for the suspended payment to be made. The Monitor Centre replied point by point on all of the remarks made by the Court. It states in particular that: - it has already implemented a number of procedures to improve its planning system and the follow up to operational activities, to ensure a sound implementation of its budget; - In order to avoid difficulties, the Centre has decided to follow the recommendation of the Court and to cancel the commitment relating to the common project with the Council of Europe. Furthermore, the Monitoring Centre stated that it is willing to improve permanently the budget management of operational activities. After the current evaluation of the situation, it is intended to introduce the necessary corrections in the internal rules and to complement it with special training sessions.