Basic information

2003/2045(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2001 discharge: Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union **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

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	N5-0009/2003	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	T5-0479/2003	Summary
06/11/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/12/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/2045(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		T5-0479/2003 OJ C 083 02.04.2004, p. 0018-0162 E	06/11/2003	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	06009/2003	07/03/2003	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Non-legislative basic document	N5-0009/2003 OJ C 326 27.12.2002, p. 0035-0041	25/09/2002	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Budget 2003/0890
OJ L 333 20.12.2003, p. 0065-0065 Summary

2001 discharge: Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union

2003/2045(DEC) - 06/11/2003 - Final act

PURPOSE : to grant discharge to the Director of the Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union for the year 2001. LEGISLATIVE ACT : European Parliament Decision 2003/890/EC on the discharge to the Director of the Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union 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 Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union 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: Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union

2003/2045(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: Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union

2003/2045(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 Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union for the financial year 2001. CONTENT : based on the observations made by the Court of Auditors concerning the financial year 2001, the Council recommends that the Parliament grant a discharge to the Director of the Centre in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2001. Recalling that EUR 2,2 million (92%) of the EUR 2,4 million in appropriations carried forward from the financial year 2000 to the financial year 2001 have been used and that EUR 1,8 million in appropriations have been carried forward from the financial year 2001 to the financial year 2002 and EUR 8,3 million have been cancelled, the Council believes that the implementation of the Centre's budget calls for a series of certain comments to be made. In particular, 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. The Council invites the Centre and the Luxembourg authorities to reach agreement swiftly reach on the rental of the Centre's offices. The Council shares the Court's opinion on the need to improve the estimates and planning of requirements for all the Centre's acquisitions. The Council encourages the Centre to continue its efforts to improve cooperation with the institutions and other Community bodies with a view to obtaining better conditions while ensuring the quality of services. The Council notes that an interinstitutional evaluation system project on the quality of external translation services is underway and it expects this system to be put in place as soon as possible.

2001 discharge: Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union

2003/2045(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 Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2001. (Please see the document dated 20/10/03.) Parliament felt that, concerning the evaluation of tenders for the purchase of goods and services other than external translations, there is scope for further improvement in the application by the Centre of quality assessment criteria. It went on to note the Centre's active participation in the Interinstitutional Translation and Interpretation Committee, which seeks to define and apply evaluation rules and criteria, on the quality of translation work. Parliament encouraged the Centre to continue such action ensuring better cooperation between institutions, especially with a view to finding the best way to meet the needs in this field in the light of the forthcoming enlargement. 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: Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union

2003/2045(DEC) - 25/09/2002 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the report on the financial statement of the Translation Centre for the bodies of the European union for the financial year 2001. CONTENT : the Court of Auditors has examined the financial statements of the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union for the financial year ended 31 December 2001. The examination has enabled 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 made by the Court are as follows. The report states that the appropriations available totalled EUR 27.2 million, of which EUR 24.8 million were for the financial year and EUR 2.4 million had been carried over from the previous financial year. Commitments in respect of the appropriations for the financial year proper amounted to EUR 16.8 million, which led to payments totalling EUR 15.0 million. The balance of appropriations was either carried over (EUR 1.8 million) or cancelled. The considerable value of the cancellations (EUR 8.1 million) is explained by the fact that the reserve (EUR 3.9 million) was not used. The appropriations carried over from the previous financial year totalled EUR 2.4 million, EUR 2.2 million of which resulted in payments (the balance was cancelled). The Court also highlights that there are other problems concerning the financial management of the Centre. Concerning the purchases of goods and services, the Court recommends that the Centre should improve its system for estimating requirements and for planning the totally of its purchases by going beyond the current framework, which is essentially annual. It could be more formalised and documented, thereby enabling establishes to be compared with actual requirements. Furthermore, the Court takes note of the fact that Centre participates in the Interinstitutional Group for Harmonisation of Purchasing Procedures and in interinstitutional calls for tender, as well as exchanges of information on purchases of everyday goods and services. However, it has made clear that invitations to tender for translations should be improved. The Centre has responded to the main observations made by the Court of Auditors. The replies are as follows. The Centre states that the Luxembourg authorities have expressed on several occasions their intention to deal with this matter, as well as to approve these at and security issues once the financing plan for the permanent seat of the Centre has been established. At its meeting on 14 March 2002, the Management Board established budget heading 'Reserve for potential obligations relating to rental of buildings' in the preliminary draft budget for 2003 to take account of the uncertainty regarding any obligations arising from the premises made available to the Centre. The Management Board will examine progress made with regard to this matter at its next meeting on 24 October 2002. Concerning external translation services, contracts are awarded on the basis of various criteria enabling the most advantageous bid in economic terms to be determined. In applying a value-for-money ratio, the Centre is convinced, through its experience in procuring external translation services, of the importance of the quality factor, which will enable, inter alia,a reduction in revision costs. Because of this, for the last calls for tenders for language services, the quality criteria was revised upwards (a minimum quality score of 60 % now being necessary in order for a bid to be considered of sufficient quality and accepted for the rest of the procedure). For services other than translation services, the authorising authority may however base its decision to award contracts only on the basis of the lowest price. The Centre recognises the importance of absolute clarity in the operational procedures of the evaluation committees. Constant efforts are being made to this end. For services other than translation, the procedures have been clearly established. The committees are always made up of a minimum of three persons, at least one of whom does not belong to the department concerned. The committees are composed according to field of expertise. Thus, even though the decisions of the committees are always taken jointly, the expert's opinion is highlighted in specific areas. Concerning cooperation between the external translation services in the field of quality, an interinstitutional evaluation system project is underway. The difficulty of the texts to be translated is one of the points to be considered, among others, in this project. The cooperation recommended by the Court is already underway within the framework of the Interinstitutional Committee for the Evaluation of Quality (CIEQ), to whom the documents are sent for an opinion as soon as a quality problem arises in house.