Basic information

2003/2215(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2002 discharge: EC general budget, Economic and social Committee ESC **Subject** 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	CONT Budgetary Control	STAUNER Gabriele (PPE-DE)	10/09/2002
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Budget		

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/05/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	N5-0034/2003	
25/02/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/03/2004	Vote in committee		
29/03/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0228/2004	
21/04/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0342/2004	Summary
21/04/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/04/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/2215(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		A5-0228/2004	29/03/2004	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0342/2004 OJ C 104 30.04.2004, p. 0424-0698 E	21/04/2004	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	N5-0034/2003	13/05/2003	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	N5-0019/2003 OJ C 286 28.11.2003, p. 0325-0361	08/10/2003	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Budget 2004/0726
OJ L 330 04.11.2004, p. 0149-0149 Summary

2002 discharge: EC general budget, Economic and social Committee ESC

2003/2215(DEC) - 13/05/2003

PURPOSE : to present the revenue and expenditure account and the balance sheet concerning the activities of the budget for the financial year 2002 (Section VI – Economic and Social Committee).

CONTENT : this document sets out the amount of expenditure and the balance sheet for the other institutions of the Union (except the Commission) for 2002, in particular the Economic and Social Committee (ESC). The initial 2002 budget of the ESC was EUR 76 million.

The budget was marked by the following elements :

- new budgetary accounting system : the development of the new general accounting and budgetary systems is continued which, in turn, improves in the financial management of the Committee.

- SAB : given the difficult financial perspectives in 2003, the budgetary authority had asked for the budgetary surplus of the ESC to be identified and to anticipate the 2002 expenditure appropriations initially foreseen in 2003 : this was to be done with the releasing of EUR 3.2 million of which a major part (EUR 2.2 million) was subject to a supplementary amending budget at the disposition of the other institutions to finance their own operations.

- physical inventory : this inventory carried out in 2002 highlighted certain problems which were amended in 2003 (inventory updated via the database which was created for this purpose for the institutions).

- interinstitutional cooperation : in 2002 a technical assistance to certain agencies. The European Agency of Reconstruction in Thessaloniki had been proposed once again to receive know-how from the ESC.

Other important points to be retained from the implementation of the 2002 budget concern the cooperation with the Committee of the Regions (renovation of the Belliard Building and the physical inventory).

2002 discharge: EC general budget, Economic and social Committee ESC

2003/2215(DEC) - 21/04/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Gabriele STAUNER (EPP-ED, D), the European Parliament has voted to grant the Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2002 financial year. In an accompanying resolution, Parliament thanks the EESC for forwarding its internal rules governing budget implementation and the charter of the internal auditor. Parliament notes the EESC's assurance that there have been no further irregularities whatever with regard to the settlement of travel expenses. It is also noted that, on 10 December 2003, the EESC adopted a statute for its Members and asks the Court of Auditors for an opinion on the financial implications of the provisions thereof. Parliament asks the Court of Auditors to submit that opinion no later than in the context of its annual report for 2003. Parliament welcomes the fact that the EESC has given an account of the extent to which the objectives it set itself for the period 1998-2002 were met and it is convinced that a critical evaluation of activities can be the basis for better public awareness of the EESC's work. The EESC is thanked for the progress report of 26 June 2003 on renovating the Belliard Building, according to which it will be handed over on 31 May 2004. It asks, however, for an explanation of the Financial Controller's comment on 2002 budget implementation that 'Shortcomings in the management of the 'Belliard' dossier, meaning that the Committees had a lack of oversight of certain aspects, were noted and pointed out. Parliament welcomes the fact that the two committees have managed to make early payments to the owner of the Belliard Building, Cofinimmo, so as to reduce liabilities more quickly. Lastly, the EESC whether it updated the inventory in 2002 and whether, as Parliament insisted, the Court of Auditors has verified the inventory.

2002 discharge: EC general budget, Economic and social Committee ESC

2003/2215(DEC) - 21/04/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE : to grant discharge to the Economic and Social Committee for the financial year 2002.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 2004/726/EC of the European Parliament concerning discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the 2002 financial year - Section VI- Economic and Social Committee.

CONTENT : with this present Decision, the European Parliament gives discharge to the Secretary-General of the Economic and Social Committee in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2002 financial year.

This Decision is in conformity with the European Parliament's resolution approved on 21 April 2004 and which is accompanied by a series of which complete the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion).

2002 discharge: EC general budget, Economic and social Committee ESC

2003/2215(DEC) - 08/10/2003

PURPOSE : to present the Annual Report from Court of Auditors on the implementation of the budget of the other institutions for the year 2002 (Economic and Social Committee). CONTENT : the 2002 Annual Report from the Court of Auditors concerning the financial year 2002 concentrates on the Community budget as a whole and contains the institutions' and other bodies' administrative appropriations. These appropriations are managed directly by each institution or body and are used primarily to pay the salaries, allowances and pensions of persons working for the Community Institutions, as well as rent, property, purchases and miscellaneous administrative expenditure. In the Commission's case, these appropriations also enable subsidies to be given to associations and organisations that assist in the implementation of various aspects of the European Union's activities. The Court carried out an audit of the European institutions' Invalidity Pensions Scheme in order to assess the cost of invalidity pensions, identify potential savings, determine whether invalidity pensions are only granted where a real invalidity has been duly recognised, and evaluate whether the institutions have set up the management systems required for adequate monitoring of, and effective control over, the operation of the scheme (3/2003). The Court's audit revealed a complex picture. On the one hand the rate of invalidity retirement has remained stable over the last 15 years, and, in the opinion of the Court's medical adviser, invalidity pensions are awarded in a justified way. On the other hand, retirement on invalidity grounds is more common in some grades than normal retirement, and there is evidence that frustration in the working environment is a significant element in demotivating some staff who are eventually retired on ill-health grounds. A part of invalidity retirements could, moreover, be avoided if adequate administrative measures for prevention and early treatment of medical problems and the associated employment problems were taken in good time. The result is frequent and costly delays in the opening and progress of the invalidity procedure, with the length of the process itself associated with deteriorating health and consequently with extremely low rates of reinstatement, especially in the 50 % of cases involving psychological disorders. The Court states that the total net actuarial cost of the invalidity pensions awarded each year has been estimated by the Court at about EUR 74 million. The audit found scope for financial savings through the adoption of adequate administrative measures for prevention and early treatment, particularly in cases where the grounds for invalidity are psychological. Such measures should include the development by the institutions of an overall policy on absences due to illness and on invalidity, with performance indicators, strong support from senior management, clearly allocated roles and responsibilities, strong medical and administrative synergy, and with careful and resource-intensive attention given to the needs of those members of staff who need support. This policy should focus both on actions to be taken in the early stages through preventative measures that consider the organisation of work and working conditions, and on those actions required at a subsequent stageto help rehabilitation and encourage members of

staff who are in poorer health to continue to work under reasonable conditions. Lastly, the Court's audit found no important failures of the systems or other material errors affecting the legality and regularity of administrative expenditure. The Court recommends that, in the framework of the enforcement of the new Financial Regulation, attention be specifically paid to the reinforcement of the supervisory systems and controls.