Basic information

2003/2217(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2002 discharge: EC general budget, European Ombudsman **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	Summary
25/02/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/03/2004	Vote in committee		Summary
29/03/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0228/2004	
21/04/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0344/2004	Summary
21/04/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/04/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/2217(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 102
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/5/20334

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		T5-0344/2004 OJ C 104 30.04.2004, p. 0424-0702 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 2004/0728
OJ L 330 04.11.2004, p. 0156-0156 Summary

2002 discharge: EC general budget, European Ombudsman

2003/2217(DEC) - 21/04/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE : to grant discharge to the European Ombudsman for the financial year 2002.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 2004/728/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 VIII- European Ombudsman.

CONTENT : with this present Decision, the European Parliament gives discharge to the Ombudsman 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, European Ombudsman

2003/2217(DEC) - 21/04/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament has adopted the report by Gabriele STAUNER (EPP-ED, D) and grants the Ombudsman discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2002 financial year. In an accompanying resolution, the Parliament considers it reasonable that the Ombudsman has concluded an agreement with Parliament on cooperation on administrative, budgetary and financial matters. Parliament welcomes the Financial Controller's confirmation that the Ombudsman's financial management for 2001 and 2002 was satisfactory. The Internal Auditor will now carry out a critical review of the new financial management structures and procedures for the financial year 2003. In addition, Parliament welcomes the fact that the Ombudsman has undertaken to forward to the discharge authority the annual activity report drawn up by the principal authorising officer. Lastly, Parliament acknowledges that the Ombudsman is looking for a low-cost way of regularly travelling to Frankfurt am Main and Zurich airports and asks it to notify Parliament as to what solution he prefers.

2002 discharge: EC general budget, European Ombudsman

2003/2217(DEC) - 13/05/2003 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the revenue and expenditure account and the balance sheet concerning the activities of the budget for the financial year 2002 (Ombudsman). 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 European Ombudsman. The appropriations for the year 2002 amount to EUR 3.912.326, that is an amount of 96,72%. This budget is characterised in particular by the "frontloading" exercise decided by the budgetary authority and which had the effect of reducing its initial budget by EUR 50 000. One should also note the strengthening of translation and interpretation posts and also stages with the Ombudsman. Lastly, the Ombudsman's budget was marked by the publication of a "Citizen's Guide" which was widely distributed to the EU Information Offices, Permanent Representations and universities.

2002 discharge: EC general budget, European Ombudsman

2003/2217(DEC) - 08/10/2003 - Court of Auditors: opinion, report

PURPOSE : to present the Annual Report from Court of Auditors on the implementation of the budget of the other institutions for the year 2002 (Ombudsman). 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.