Basic information

2003/2240(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2002 Discharge: European Center for the Development of Vocattional Training ECDVT, Thessalonica **Subject** 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	MULDER Jan (ELDR)	10/09/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	PRONK Bartho (PPE-DE)	15/02/2001

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/10/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	N5-0020/2003	Summary
18/12/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/03/2004	Vote in committee		
18/03/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0212/2004	
20/04/2004	Debate in Parliament		
21/04/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0325/2004	Summary
21/04/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/04/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/2240(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		A5-0212/2004	18/03/2004	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0325/2004 OJ C 421 30.04.2004, p. 0421-0582 E	21/04/2004	Summary

Council of the EU			
Document type	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	06191/2004	09/03/2004	Summary

Other institutions and bodies				
Institution/body	**Document type**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
CofA	Non-legislative basic document	N5-0020/2003 OJ C 319 30.12.2003, p. 0036-0041	15/10/2003	Summary

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Budget 2004/0712 OJ L 330 04.11.2004, p. 0034-0034	Summary

2002 Discharge: European Center for the Development of Vocattional Training ECDVT, Thessalonica

2003/2240(DEC) - 21/04/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Jan MULDER (ELDR, NL) concerning the granting of discharge to the Director of the Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2002.

The Parliament records its comments in the accompanying resolution.

Firstly, the Parliament notes that the Centre's reply to the ECA's observation regarding the need to formalise the Centre's arrangement with the Commission for paying the costs of their joint participation in international events. It expects to be informed by the Centre and the Commission of the exact terms of the agreement, in particular as regards the checks to be performed, as the ECA suggested. It also expects the Centre to inform its competent committee once the internal audit capability is up and running and to indicate when it expects to have completed the work needed to ensure compliance with internal control standards.

In parallel, the Parliament has made a series of horizontal points on all of the Agencies' discharges which can be summarised as follows:

- Internal audit and control measures : Parliament reiterates the position taken in its resolutions 2003 accompanying the discharge given to the Agencies for 2001 as regards the implementation of the new Financial Regulation and invites the Commission and the Agencies to continue their cooperation, in particular in the areas of accounting, internal audit, management and control procedures, so as to ensure that a coherent harmonised framework for the functioning of the Agencies is established. It recalls that it expressed concern in the discharge resolution for 2001 concerning the lack of controls on the agencies carried out by the internal audit service of the Commission (IAS). Parliament expresses grave concern that such controls do not seem to have been carried out this year. It stresses that it is essential that the Agencies be required to submit to the investigative powers of OLAF under the same conditions as the other institutions.

- Financial Management : Parliament invites the Agencies to better explain their analysis and to indicate in particular which of their activities of a multi-annual nature might be financed by such appropriations. The Commission is invited to present its position on such a solution and, should it consider that this solution is not feasible, to outline alternatives allowing for a substantial reduction in carry-overs.

Review of the agencies : the Parliament states that that, prior to any decision to set up an agency, the Commission must make a rigorous analysis of the need for and added value of the functions that the agency will perform, with an eye to the principles of subsidiarity, budgetary rigour and procedural simplification. Like last year, the Commission is called upon to make a general study of activities currently carried out by various Community bodies that might overlap or serve the same goals, and to propose appropriate solutions, including the possible mergers of agencies. Parliament is concerned by the fact that there is an imbalance between administrative and operational expenditure in many Agencies, with administrative expenditure exceeding expenditure for operational purposes. The Commission and the Agencies are called upon to set targets and a timetable to reduce the level of administrative expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure. The Agencies are encouraged to improve cooperation between themselves in order to meet their needs in specific areas (for example, software development) and reduce costs. A close working relationship with the competent parliamentary committees should be developed.

- New sources of financing : Parliament calls on the Commission and the Agencies to come forward with constructive proposals with regard to further development of new sources of additional financing, which would increase the level of self-financing. It welcomes the financial contributions of some Member States and regions to the agencies located on their area and considers it important for Council and the Commission to demand such contributions, especially when new agencies are set up.

- Harmonised operating framework : Parliament recalls its that the multitude of different forms in the existing agencies' structures was thought to be "neither transparent nor comprehensible. Therefore, it has invited the Commission to present appropriate proposals, aimed at creating such a harmonised framework for the agencies, prior to or at least in parallel with the presentation of the legislative proposals for the new agencies; insists that an interinstitutional agreement spelling out common guidelines is a pre-condition for creating the harmonised framework.

- Staff policy : the Parliament considers that the staff policy of the Agencies should comply with the Financial Regulation, the Staff Regulations and the best practice generally followed by the Institutions. The Agencies should as far as possible employ staff on temporary contracts, in order to maintain flexibility and efficiency. In this respect, it is concerned about the serious anomalies detected in connection with the selection procedures of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and that selection procedures organised by the Agencies should meet the same standards as those organised by the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) and that they should not be perceived as a backdoor for easy entry into the European civil service.

2002 Discharge: European Center for the Development of Vocattional Training ECDVT, Thessalonica

2003/2240(DEC) - 09/03/2004 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the Council Recommendation on the discharge procedure to be given to the Director of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (ECDVT) for the financial year 2002. CONTENT : taking account of the observations contained in the Court of Auditors' report concerning the financial year 2002, the Council recommends that the European Parliament give discharge to the Director of ECDVT for the financial year 2002. It should be recalled that EUR 3,1 million in appropriations have been carried forward from the financial year 2002 to the financial year 2003 and EUR 0,5 million have been cancelled. The observations in the Court of Auditors' report in relation to the financial year 2002 call for certain comments by the Council, which are annexed to this Recommendation. The Council stresses the importance it attaches to those comments being followed up. The Council invites the Centre to formalise arrangements concerning the settlement of the costs incurred by a joint participation of the Centre and of the Commission in international events, including each party's responsibilities as regards the costs that are to be covered and the checks to be performed.

2002 Discharge: European Center for the Development of Vocattional Training ECDVT, Thessalonica

2003/2240(DEC) - 15/10/2003 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the report from the Curt of Auditors on the financial statements of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training for the financial year 2002. CONTENT : this report consists of the results of the audit performed by the Court on the financial statements of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training for the financial year ended 31 December 2002. This examination has enabled the Court to obtain reasonable assurance that the annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2002 are reliable and that the underlying transactions, taken as a whole, are legal and regular. The report highlights that the appropriations entered in the final budget amount to EUR 14,2

million of which EUR 13,9 million has been committed. EUR 10,9 million has actually been paid. EUR 3 million has been carried over and EUR 0,3 million has been cancelled. From the appropriations carried over from the previous financial year (EUR 3 million), EUR 2,8 million has been paid and EUR 0,2 million has been cancelled. The report highlights that since 2000, the Centre and the Commission have had an arrangement for the settlement of the costs incurred by their joint participation in international events. Service providers are selected by the Commission. In the majority of cases, the Commission also meets all the costs; where it does not, they are met in full by the Centre (cumulative total since 2000: EUR 138 000). The Centre should formalise this arrangement with the Commission; in particular, it should define each party's responsibilities as regards the costs that are to be covered and the checks to be performed. The Centre has replied to criticisms made by the Court. It takes note of the observation of the Court. It will contact the relevant service of the Commission in order to respond to the Court's concerns.

2002 Discharge: European Center for the Development of Vocattional Training ECDVT, Thessalonica

2003/2240(DEC) - 21/04/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE : to grant discharge the Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2002.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 2004/712/EC of the European Parliament concerning discharge to the Director of the Centre for the Development of Vocational Training for the financial year 2002.

CONTENT : with this present Decision, the European Parliament gives discharge to the Director of the Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2002.

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).