Basic information

2004/2043(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2003 discharge: EC general budget, Court of Justice **Subject** 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	STUBB Alexander (PPE-DE)	22/09/2004

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
DEVE Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
INTA International Trade	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

TRAN Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
REGI Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PECH Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CULT Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PETI Petitions	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
01/06/2004	Non-legislative basic document published	DECHARGEVOLUMEIII/2004	Summary
26/01/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/03/2005	Vote in committee		
17/03/2005	Additional information		Summary
22/03/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0066/2005	
12/04/2005	Decision by Parliament	T6-0095/2005	Summary
12/04/2005	Debate in Parliament		

12/04/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/07/2005	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2004/2043(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		A6-0066/2005	22/03/2005	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0095/2005 OJ C 033 09.02.2006, p. 0028-0205 E	12/04/2005	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	DECHARGEVOLUMEIII/2004	01/06/2004	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	C293/2004 OJ C 293 30.11.2004, p. 0001-0328	30/11/2004	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Budget 2005/0533
OJ L 196 27.07.2005, p. 0042-0042 Summary

2003 discharge: EC general budget, Court of Justice

2004/2043(DEC) - 30/11/2004

PURPOSE : to present the report from the Court of Auditors on the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2003 (Other institutions – Court of Justice).

CONTENT : in its 27th Annual Report on the 2003 financial year, the Court states that, on the whole, the institutions have made a considerable effort to adapt their supervisory systems and controls to the requirements of the new Financial Regulation. Nevertheless, most of them have not succeeded to implement the changes necessary and weakness have been stated in terms of the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions. These discrepancies do not however jeopardise the positive character of the State of Assurance (DAS) on the implementation of the budget for the other institutions.

Concerning the expenditure, the Court highlights that there were no significant discrepancies. It does note that the new supervisory systems and controls should have been better applied by all the institutions in order to respect the rules of the new Financial Regulation.

It should be noted that in 2003, the authorising officers by delegation have presented for the first time annual activity reports which provide very useful information on the working of the control systems. The Court would like these report to be more comprehensive so that they can be used in the framework of the annual DAS.

More specifically, as regards the execution of the Court's budget, the Court of Auditors states that some of the most important requirements of the Financial Regulation or the implementing rules were not fully implemented. The lack of compliance with the Financial Regulation concerned the adoption of minimum control standards and the analysis of the risks associated with the management environment and the nature of the actions financed; drafting of charters describing tasks, rights and obligations of the financial actors; the definition of the scope of the mission of the internal auditor and the objectives and procedures for the exercise of the internal audit function.

2003 discharge: EC general budget, Court of Justice

2004/2043(DEC) - 12/04/2005 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: granting of discharge for implementing the EU's general budget for 2003 – Court of Justice.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2005/533/EC of the European Parliament concerning the discharge for implementing the general budget of the EU for the 2003 financial year (Section IV – Court of Justice).

CONTENT: With this Decision the European Parliament grants the Registrar of the Court of Justice discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2003 financial year. It records its comments in the accompanying resolution. (Please refer to the summary of the opinion of 12/04/2005).

2003 discharge: EC general budget, Court of Justice

2004/2043(DEC) - 12/04/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Alexander STUBB (EPP-ED, FI) granting the Registrar of the Court of Justice discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2003 financial year. (Please see the summary of 17/03/2005.) The European Court of Justice (ECJ) administered a budget of EUR 150 599 614, of which 99.34 % had been committed and 93.32 % spent by 31 December 2003.

Parliament is concerned about the growing backlog of cases in 2003, although initial indicative figures for 2004 show, with regard to the Court of Justice, a slight improvement. The cases at the Court of Justice mainly concerned environment and consumer law, agriculture, approximation of laws, social policy and taxation. Cases lasted on average two years.

With regard to the Court of First Instance, the main cases covered included actions for annulment, staff cases and intellectual property. Cases lasted on average a year and a half.

Parliament expects the ECJ to set performance targets and to establish action plans to achieve them, with a view to reducing the time span needed to bring pending cases to a conclusion in the years to come.

2003 discharge: EC general budget, Court of Justice

2004/2043(DEC) - 01/06/2004 - 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 2003 (Court of Justice).

CONTENT : this document sets out the amount of expenditure and the balance sheet for the other institutions of the Union (except the Commission) for the financial year 2003, in particular, the Court of Justice.

The document states that the Court’s 2003 budget amounted to EUR 149 598 960 committed to the height of 99.3%, an increase of 3.6% compared to 2002.

It is marked by the following elements

1) staff expenses on active duty : in the framework of pre-accession, the budget authority approved 53 permanent posts for the translation service. However, it was decided to employ the new personnel as auxiliary agents which created a deficit in the posts allocated to auxiliary staff. This sector was also marked by the superfluous expenditure for expatriation for the 53 people (amounts which revealed to be unnecessary because the agents were employed as auxiliary staff and not as statutory staff);

2) reception costs, representation and other associated costs : these costs have decreased in comparison to 2002. Medical infrastructure costs and other costs concerning missions have all been reduced;

3) real estate expenditure : this chapter was subjected to important amendments in comparison with the initial allocation : the indemnities of the leasing option of annexes A, B and C of the Court’s Palace have been increased by EUR 774 000 : it concerns a budgetary anticipation policy in which all the surplus appropriations identified at the end of the year were transferred to this post to anticipate the purchasing of these buildings by the Court;

4) costs associated with the organisation of student visits, journalists meetings, etc has risen by 8.1%;

5) expenses of certain institutions and bodies where Title 3 of the Court’s budget increases by 37% compared with 2002 to cover the lawyers fees assigned to the institution for free legal assistance.