

## Basic information

2004/2046(DEC)

DEC - Discharge procedure

2003 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

### Subject

8.70.03.07 Previous discharges

Procedure completed

## Key players

European  
Parliament

### Committee responsible

**CONT** Budgetary Control

### Rapporteur

STUBB Alexander (PPE-DE)

### Appointed

22/09/2004

### Committee for opinion

**AFET** Foreign Affairs

### Rapporteur for opinion

The committee decided not to give an opinion.

### Appointed

**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.

<b>TRAN</b>	Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
<b>REGI</b>	Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
<b>AGRI</b>	Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
<b>PECH</b>	Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
<b>CULT</b>	Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
<b>JURI</b>	Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
<b>LIBE</b>	Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
<b>AFCO</b>	Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
<b>FEMM</b>	Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
<b>PETI</b>	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	<a href="#">Summary</a>
26/01/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/03/2005	Vote in committee		
17/03/2005	Additional information		<a href="#">Summary</a>
22/03/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A6-0066/2005</a>	
12/04/2005	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T6-0098/2005</a>	<a href="#">Summary</a>
12/04/2005	Debate in Parliament		

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

<b>Technical information</b>	
<b>Procedure reference</b>	2004/2046(DEC)
<b>Procedure type</b>	DEC - Discharge procedure
<b>Legal basis</b>	Rules of Procedure EP 102
<b>Stage reached in procedure</b>	Procedure completed

<b>Documentation gateway</b>				
<b>European Parliament</b>				
<b>Document type</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A6-0066/2005</a>	22/03/2005	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T6-0098/2005</a> OJ C 033 09.02.2006, p. 0028-0215 E	12/04/2005	<a href="#">Summary</a>
<b>European Commission</b>				
<b>Document type</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>	
Non-legislative basic document	DECHARGEVOLUMEIII/2004	01/06/2004	<a href="#">Summary</a>	
<b>Other institutions and bodies</b>				
<b>Institution/body</b>	<b>Document type</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	C293/2004 OJ C 293 30.11.2004, p. 0001-0328	30/11/2004	<a href="#">Summary</a>

<b>Additional information</b>		
<b>Source</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>
European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>	

<b>Final act</b>	
Budget 2005/0536 <a href="#">OJ L 196 27.07.2005, p. 0053-0053</a>	<a href="#">Summary</a>

## 2003 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

2004/2046(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

Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2003 financial year. (Please see the summary of 17/03/2005.) The Committee of the Regions administered a budget of EUR 38 999 436, of which 97.29 % had been committed and 86.58% spent by 31 December 2003. Parliament noted it has received neither the Committee of the Regions' report pursuant to Article 86(4) of the Financial Regulation, nor the Internal Auditor's annual report. It also noted that the position of internal auditor was not occupied during the latter half of 2004 and was eventually advertised in a vacancy notice on two occasions. Parliament wanted to be informed about the outcome of this recruitment procedure.

Finally, Parliament welcomed the fact that the Committee regularly evaluates the impact of its political work, and asked to also receive the annual impact reports in the context of the discharge procedures.

## 2003 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

2004/2046(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 – Committee of the Regions).

CONTENT : in its 27<sup>th</sup> 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 Committee of the Regions' budget, the Court highlights some difficulties in the application of control standards. Other shortcomings have been identified in the area of procurement. Moreover, for staff remunerations, the Court identified weaknesses. Personnel data were input manually and separately in both the personnel database and the payroll system. As there was no computer link between the two systems, an automatic reconciliation of data was not possible. On the other hand, a systematic and periodic reconciliation was not made manually. The administration found a large number of differences between the payroll according to the system used in 2003 and the new system, introduced in May 2004.

## 2003 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

2004/2046(DEC) - 12/04/2005 - Final act

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

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 2005/536/EC of the European Parliament concerning the discharge for implementing the general budget of the EU for the 2003 financial year (Section VII – Committee of the Regions).

CONTENT : With this Decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions for the implementation of the budget for the 2003 financial year.

This decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 12 April 2005 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion of 12/04/2005).

## 2003 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

2004/2046(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 (Committee of the Regions).

CONTENT : this document sets out the amount of expenditure and the balance sheet for the Committee of the Regions (CoR). Its budget amounted to EUR 68 million in 2003. The report states that the CoR continued its consolidation process as an institution by strengthening the recognition of its institutional role.

The main issues of its activities in 2003 included the consolidation of its advisory role; the active participation in the work of Convention on the future of the Union; the implementation of additional actions aiming to improve the quality of opinions and their impact on the decision-making process.

Within the framework of its activities, the 4 political groups of the CoR (PES, EPP, ALDE, EA) play an essential role. It is for this reason that its Rules of procedure seek to accommodate them in terms of organising meetings, carrying out their activities and publishing work as well as the work of the Secretariat. The financial report is thus accompanied by a very precise description of the activities of the political groups within the framework of the budgetary headings which relate to them.

Other points to be retained as regards the execution of the 2003 budget include the low level of committed appropriations as regards allowances to Members because certain working groups were cancelled at the beginning of 2003 and also fewer meetings were envisaged (Plenary sessions, Convention...); increasing appropriations in order to receive 95 observers from the 10 applicant countries within the framework of enlargement (via a credit transfer between lines); the decrease of mission expenses; the significant decrease of costs for freelance interpreters.

Most of the surplus amounts were used to make new advances to the Belliard building and for the preparation of enlargement.