Basic information

2004/2046(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2003 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions **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	T6-0098/2005	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	2004/2046(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		T6-0098/2005 OJ C 033 09.02.2006, p. 0028-0215 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 2005/0536
OJ L 196 27.07.2005, p. 0053-0053 Summary

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 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 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. Pe rsonnel 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.