Basic information

2008/2264(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2007 discharge: European Training Foundation ETF **Subject** 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	FJELLNER Christofer (PPE-DE)	26/03/2008

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2922	2009-02-10

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Budget	KALLAS Siim

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/07/2008	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(2008)2359	Summary
20/11/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/03/2009	Vote in committee		Summary
20/03/2009	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0157/2009	
21/04/2009	Debate in Parliament		
23/04/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0293/2009	Summary
23/04/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		

23/04/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		
26/09/2009	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2008/2264(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 102
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/67277

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE416.341	29/01/2009	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0157/2009	20/03/2009	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0293/2009	23/04/2009	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	05588/2009	23/01/2009	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	SEC(2008)2359	23/07/2008	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	N6-0004/2009 OJ C 311 05.12.2008, p. 0001	05/12/2008	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Budget 2009/0659
OJ L 255 26.09.2009, p. 0149 Summary

2007 discharge: European Training Foundation ETF

2008/2264(DEC) - 23/04/2009 - Final act

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Training Foundation for the financial year 2007.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2009/659/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Training Foundation for the financial year 2007.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Director of the European Training Foundation for the implementation of the Foundation's budget for the financial year 2007.

This decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 23 April 2009 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion of 23/04/2009). The decision to grant discharge is also an approval of the closure of the accounts of this EU agency.

2007 discharge: European Training Foundation ETF

2008/2264(DEC) - 05/12/2008

PURPOSE: to present the report of the Court of Auditors on the 2007 accounts of the European Training Foundation (ETF).

CONTENT: the Court of Auditor's report includes a detailed section on the European Training Foundation's expenditure and an analysis of the expenditure, as well as the Foundations's replies.

- **Analysis of the accounts by the Court**: in its report, the Court makes a number of observations, particularly with regard to the presentation of the budget. The budget incorporates the amount of assigned revenue (included in an amending budget). However, this amount is incorrect. It should have been EUR 1.2 million instead of the EUR 3.4 million shown, which erroneously included assigned revenue carried over from the previous year;
- **The Agency's replies**: the Foundation takes notes of the Court's observation and states that, while at no stage was the principle of transparency disrespected, further efforts will be made to align ETF's budget presentation practices with regulatory requirements.

2007 discharge: European Training Foundation ETF

2008/2264(DEC) - 23/04/2009 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a decision concerning the discharge to be granted to the Director of the European Training Foundation in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2007. The decision to grant discharge is also an approval of the closure of the accounts of this EU agency.

In parallel, the European Parliament adopted by 434 votes to 16, with 12 abstentions, a resolution with observations which are an integral part of the decision to grant discharge.

Parliament notes that in the amending budget, the amount of assigned revenue was stated in an incorrect way (it should have been EUR 1.2 million instead of the EUR 3.4 million shown, which included assigned revenue carried over from the previous year).

It also underlines that in the declaration of assurance (annexed to the annual activity report), the Director maintains reservations made last year concerning political uncertainty in partner countries, financial management of part of the Tempus convention and possible social, reputational, legal and financial implications of the repatriation of Tempus technical assistance from the Foundation. Parliament therefore calls on the Court of Auditors to examine and comment on the Director's reservations in the forthcoming audit report on the Foundation.

Lastly, noting that the Foundation's annual accounts for the financial year 2007 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, the Parliament approves the closure of its accounts and refers, for other observations accompanying its decision on discharge, to its resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies - see 2008/2207(INI) - adopted in parallel.

2007 discharge: European Training Foundation ETF

2008/2264(DEC) - 23/07/2008 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present the final accounts of the European Training Foundation for the financial year 2007.

CONTENT: this document sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the European Training Foundation's budget for the financial year 2007. It notes that the final budget amounted to EUR 21.1 million (compared to EUR 26.5 million in 2006) funded by a Commission subsidy and EUR 1.4 million funded by other bodies as assigned revenue.

As regards the staffing policy, the Foundation, whose headquarters are based in Turin (Italy) officially set out 100 posts in the establishment plan. 91 posts are currently occupied with 40 other posts (auxiliaries, local agents and contract agents) totalling 131 posts assigned to operational, administrative and mixed tasks.

In 2007, the Foundation's main activities concentrated on the following:

- **Activities**: the assistance provided by the ETF covers a large range of technical fields including: initial vocational training, lifelong learning, continuing (adult) education, human resources development in companies, employment policies, training of the unemployed, poverty alleviation and social inclusion, and training to encourage local development;
- **Support for the Commission**: in 2007, 115 new requests for support were received from the Commission. Most came from the delegations (40%), EAR (17%), DG AIDCO (10%), DG EAC and DG ENTRE (9%), DG EMPL (6%), DG ELARG (4%), DG RELEX (3%) and DG JLS (3%), This included 29 analyses of the situation in the ENPI countries. The Commission's satisfaction rate with the ETF's response was 96%. The most frequent applications were those in the field of programming (32%), followed by policies and contributions in the preparation of European Neighbourhood Instruments (25%), the identification of projects (14%) and followup;
- **Information and analysis**: country sector studies, statistics on education, policy advice to countries;
- **Innovation and development support projects**: as a centre of expertise, the ETF contributes towards the setting up of development projects in order to test innovative approaches allowing partner countries to carry out reforms of their education and vocational training systems;
- **Technical assistance to DG EAC for the implementation of the Tempus Programme**: assistance Conventions with CARDS, MEDA and Tacis for the Tempus programme. This assistance covers the whole cycle of the project. It includes the selection, management and follow-up of contracts and information and communications, including general administrative support. IT tools such as online applications and report forms have greatly facilitated the administrative management of the various project cycles.

The complete version of the final accounts may be found at the following address: http://www.etf.europa.eu/Wpubdocs.nsf/0/6d08a4916a401d3ac125747800306eeb/$FILE/ETF-GB-08-009_EN.pdf

2007 discharge: European Training Foundation ETF

2008/2264(DEC) - 23/01/2009

Based on the observations contained in the revenue and expenditure account and the balance sheet of the European Training Foundation for the financial year 2007, as well as on the Court of Auditor's report and the Foundation's replies to the Court's observations, the Council recommends that the Parliament grant the Director of the Foundation discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2007.

In doing so, the Council confirms that EUR 2.53 million (46%) of the appropriations carried over from 2006 to 2007 (EUR 5.48 million) were used, that the appropriations carried over from 2007 to 2008 amount to EUR 1.95 million and that a total of EUR 2.18 million was cancelled.

Recalling that the Court of Auditors was able to obtain reasonable assurance that the Foundation's annual accounts were, in all material aspects, reliable, the Council believes that there is a certain number of observations that must be taken into consideration when granting discharge in respect of the implementation of the 2007 budget, particularly regarding the following points:

- **Presentation of the budget**: the Council notes that the amount of the assigned revenue entered in the sole Amending Budget issued for 2007 was incorrect, because it included assigned revenue carried over from the previous year. As assigned revenue is an issue of the utmost importance for the Council and an essential element for a transparent and accountable financial management, it calls on the Foundation to pay particular attention to their budgeting in the future.