Basic information

2008/2266(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2007 discharge: European Aviation Safety Agency EASA **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
TRAN Transport and Tourism	CRAMER Michael (Verts /ALE)	07/10/2008

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	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	A6-0163/2009	
21/04/2009	Debate in Parliament		
23/04/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0267/2009	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	2008/2266(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 102
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/67281

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE416.337	29/01/2009	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE416.340	18/02/2009	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0163/2009	20/03/2009	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0267/2009	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 2009/0647 OJ L 255 26.09.2009, p. 0122 Summary

2007 discharge: European Aviation Safety Agency EASA

2008/2266(DEC) - 23/07/2008 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present the final accounts of the European Aviation Safety Agency for the financial year 2007.

CONTENT: this document sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the European Aviation Safety Agency's budget for the financial year 2007. It notes that the final budget amounted to EUR 72 million, including EUR 55.8 million of revenue from fees and charges (65%), EUR 26.5 million from Community subsidy (31%) as well as a contribution from the Federal Republic of Germany (Ministry of Transport) and City of Cologne of EUR 300 000.

As regards the staffing policy, the Agency, whose head office is now based in Cologne (Germany), set out a total of 467 temporary members of staff in the establishment plan. 333 of these posts are currently occupied with 29 other posts (seconded national experts, contract and auxiliary staff) totalling 362 posts assigned to operational, administrative and mixed tasks.

In 2007, the Agency's main activities focused on the following:

Opinions: 5 opinions concerning amendments to Regulations (EC) No 1592/2002, (EC) No 1702/2003 and (EC) No 2042/2003;

Rulemaking decisions: 17 amendments of certification: Specifications and Acceptable Means of Compliance and Guidance Material ;

International cooperation:

- 7 Working Arrangements with China, New Zealand and Albania;
- Amendments to Working Arrangements with Interstate Aviation Committee (USA) and JCAB (Japan);
- Memorandum of Understanding with COCESNA/ACSA.

Certification decisions:

- Type certificates: 29;
- Supplementary type certificates: 879;
- Airworthiness directives: 380;
- European technical specifications: 198;
- Acceptable means of compliance: 87;
- Major changes: 1 193;
- Minor changes: 2 655;
- Major repairs: 245;
- Minor repairs: 156;
- Aircraft flight manual (AFM): 430;
- Approval of flight conditions (PTF): 508;
- Approval of design organisations: 429;
- Approval of maintenance organisations (bilateral): 1 380;
- Approval of maintenance organisations (foreign): 224;
- Approval of maintenance training organisations: 24;
- Approval of manufacturing organisations: 16;
- Standardisation inspections (number of countries by type) at 31 December 2007;
- In the field of maintenance (MAST): 28;
- In the field of production (POAST): 12.

The complete version of the final accounts may be found at the following address: http://www.easa.europa.eu/ws_prod/g/g_budget_and_accounts.php#

2007 discharge: European Aviation Safety Agency EASA

2008/2266(DEC) - 23/04/2009 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 582 votes to 32, with 21 abstentions, a decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Aviation Safety Agency for the financial year 2007. The decision to grant discharge is also an approval of the closure of the accounts of this EU agency.

Furthermore, the Parliament adopted a resolution with observations which are an integral part of the decision to grant discharge.

The Parliament notes anomalies in the Agency's 2007 establishment as well as the **imbalance between costs and revenue** highlighted in the previous discharge resolution, which triggered a need to reduce the planned number of staff by 25%, from 467 to a maximum of 342. In this context, the Parliament expects the Agency to provide information on how far a balance between costs and revenue in relation to certification activities could be achieved through implementation of the new fees and charges regulation.

Furthermore, the Parliament firmly supports the European Court of Auditors' (ECA) recommendation that the Agency carefully check the consistency of its expenditure forecasts. It notes that the ECA and the Agency disagree over the calculation of an amount of EUR 14.9 million in assigned revenue received by the Agency in 2007 to cover future certification costs, as well as criticism regarding procurement procedures (in particular, a lack of transparency). The Parliament therefore calls on the Agency to stick to the promise given in its replies to comply strictly with the procurement rules and to pay particular attention to the provision of clear information to potential bidders.

Moreover, the Parliament calls on the Commission to ensure that the Agency maintains strict financial discipline in the future and always works within the agreed budgets.

Lastly, noting that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2007 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, the Parliament approves the closure of the Agency's 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 Aviation Safety Agency EASA

2008/2266(DEC) - 23/04/2009 - Final act

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Aviation Safety Agency for the financial year 2007.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2009/647/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Aviation Safety Agency for the financial year 2007.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Executive Director of the European Aviation Safety Agency for the implementation of the Agency'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 Aviation Safety Agency EASA

2008/2266(DEC) - 05/12/2008

PURPOSE: to present the report of the Court of Auditors on the 2007 accounts of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

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

- **Analysis of the accounts by the Court**: in its report, the Court makes a number of observations, particularly with regard to expenditure forecasts. The 2007 establishment plan consisted of 467 temporary posts, which was an increase of 139 posts compared with the 2006 plan. As the appropriations for staff expenditure did not cover actual staff costs, the Agency reduced its recruitments and agreed with the Commission to reduce the number of posts to a maximum of 342. However, the establishment plan was not amended accordingly. The Agency should therefore carefully check the consistency of the expenditure forecasts. Moreover, the Court notes that, according to the new fees and charges regulation, the Agency considered EUR 14.9 million as assigned revenue to cover future certification costs. This amount, however, is overestimated as it also includes fees levied under the rules of the former regulation. In one procurement procedure, the absence of clear and complete information on the award criteria and their respective weightings, on the one hand, and the financial evaluation method, on the other hand, led to a situation of non-transparency for the bidders. The Court notes that in three other cases the restricted procedure after a call for expressions of interest was applied although the overall value of the services to be awarded exceeded the threshold requiring an open procedure;
- **The Agency's replies**: the Agency notes that, During the first two years of the implementation of the fees and charges regulations, the revenue of the Agency was insufficient to cover its forecasted overall costs. For the sake of prudence, the Agency decided to slow down recruitment. This was reflected in the Staff Policy Plan 2008-2010 which has been agreed with the Commission. Moreover, it notes that the year 2007 was a transition phase for which both old and new fees and charges regulations were applied. Lastly, the Agency notes that it is fully aware of the necessity to comply strictly with the procurement rules of the Commission. It will pay particular attention to clearly informing the potential bidders on the award criteria and their evaluation.

2007 discharge: European Aviation Safety Agency EASA

2008/2266(DEC) - 23/01/2009

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

In doing so, the Council confirms that EUR 17 million (88%) of the appropriations carried over from 2006 to 2007 (EUR 19.2 million) were used, that the appropriations carried over from 2007 to 2008 amount to EUR 35 million and that a total of EUR 1.4 million was cancelled.

Recalling that the Court of Auditors was able to obtain reasonable assurance that the Agency’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:

- **Carry-overs**: the Council reiterates that certain practices, namely increasingly high carry-over rates for operating expenditure and a high number of vacant posts, require further improvements in the Agency's financial, budgetary and human resources management and calls on the Agency to remedy this situation without delay;
- **Recruitment**: the Council takes note of the Court's finding that the decision of the Agency, in agreement with the Commission, to slow down recruitment was taken without amending the establishment plan accordingly. In this context, the Council calls on the Agency to comply with the provisions of the Financial Regulation;
- **Budgetary planning**: the Council notes with concern that in application of the new fees and charges regulation the Agency has overestimated the amounts of assigned revenue which should cover future certification costs. Therefore, the Council calls on the Agency to carefully check the consistency of its forecasts and work more on its financial and operational planning;
- **Procurement**: the Council regrets the serious deficiencies in the procurement procedures carried out by the Agency, as identified again by the Court, particularly as regards the choice of the appropriate type of procedure, the financial evaluation method as well as the information on the award criteria. The Council reiterates its call on the Agency to comply strictly with the applicable rules thus ensuring correct and transparent procurement practices.