Basic information

2013/2231(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2012 discharge: European GNSS Agency (GSA) **Subject** 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	SARVAMAA Petri (PPE)	10/10/2013
	Shadow rapporteur KADENBACH Karin (S&D) GERBRANDY Gerben-Jan (ALDE) STAES Bart (Verts/ALE) ANDREASEN Marta (ECR) DE JONG Dennis (GUE/NGL) VANHECKE Frank (EFD) EHRENHAUSER Martin (NI)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Budget	ŠEMETA Algirdas

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
26/07/2013	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2013)0570	Summary
22/10/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

17/03/2014	Vote in committee		
21/03/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0223/2014	Summary
02/04/2014	Debate in Parliament		
03/04/2014	Decision by Parliament	T7-0330/2014	Summary
03/04/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
03/04/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		
05/09/2014	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2013/2231(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/7/14202

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE521.657	22/01/2014	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE521.815	25/02/2014	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0223/2014	21/03/2014	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0330/2014	03/04/2014	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	05849/2014	05/02/2014	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2013)0570	26/07/2013	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	N7-0040/2014 OJ C 365 13.12.2013, p. 0261	10/09/2013	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Budget 2014/0619 OJ L 266 05.09.2014, p. 0307	Summary

2012 discharge: European GNSS Agency (GSA)

2013/2231(DEC) - 03/04/2014 - Final act

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European GNSS Agency (GSA) for the financial year 2012.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2014/619/EU of the European Parliament on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European GNSS Agency for the financial year 2012.

CONTENT: by means of this Decision, the European Parliament grants the Executive Director of the European GNSS Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012.

The Decision is in accordance with the European Parliament's resolution of 3 April 2014 and includes a series of observations that are an integral part of the Decision on discharge (please see the summary of 3 April 2014).

Amongst the main observations made, Parliament called on the Agency to improve the **transparency of its recruitment procedures**.

2012 discharge: European GNSS Agency (GSA)

2013/2231(DEC) - 26/07/2013 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: presentation by the Commission of the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2012, as part of the 2012 discharge procedure.

Analysis of the accounts of the **(GSA)**.

CONTENT: this Commission document sets out the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2012 as prepared on the basis of the information presented by the institutions, organisations and bodies of the EU, in accordance with Article 129 (2) of the Financial Regulation applicable to the EU's General Budget, including the European GNSS Agency (GSA).

In 2012, the tasks and budget of this Authority were as follows:

- **description of the Authority's tasks**: the GNSS Supervisory Authority was set up by Council Regulation (EC) No 1321/2004 and its main task is to manage the public interests relating to the European GNSS programmes and to act as the regulatory authority for the programme during the deployment and operational phases of the Galileo Programme. Regulation (EC) No 683/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council reduced the responsibilities of the Authority to the control of the security of Galileo systems and to the preparation of their commercialisation. In 2012, the GSA's headquarters was relocated to Prague, Czech Republic. Part of the GSA staff remained located in Brussels awaiting relocation to other GSA sites in France and UK in 2013;
- **GNSS' budget for the 2012 financial year**: the Authority's budget for 2012, as presented in the Commission document on the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union, gives the following figures:

  § **Commitment appropriations** :

  - **committed** : EUR 106 million;

  - **paid** : EUR 58 million;

  - **carried-over** : EUR 47 million.

§ **Payment appropriations** :

- **committed** : EUR 55 million;

- **paid** : EUR 33 million;

- **carried-over** : EUR 22 million.

Please refer also to the final accounts of the GSA.

2012 discharge: European GNSS Agency (GSA)

2013/2231(DEC) - 10/09/2013 - Court of Auditors: opinion, report

PURPOSE: presentation of the EU Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the European GNSS Agency for the year 2012, together with the Agency's reply.

CONTENT: in accordance with the tasks conferred on the Court of Auditors by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Court presents to the European Parliament and to the Council, in the context of the discharge procedure, a Statement of Assurance as to the reliability of the annual accounts of each institution, body or agency of the EU, and the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying them, on the basis of an independent external audit.

This audit concerned, amongst others, the annual accounts of the European GNSS Agency.

In the Court's opinion, the European GNSS Agency**'s Annual Accounts fairly present, in all material respects, its financial position as of 31 December 2012** and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the provisions of its Financial Regulation and the accounting rules adopted by the Commission's accounting officer.

The Court also considers that the **transactions underlying the annual accounts** of the Agency for the financial year ended 31 December 2012 are, in all material respects, **legal and regular.**

The report confirms that the Agency's 2012 budget amounted to EUR 20.8 million.

The report also makes a series of observations on the budgetary and financial management of the Agency, accompanied by the latter's response. The main observations may be summarised as follows:

The Court's observations:

- budgetary management: the Court notes that the overall level of committed appropriations was close to 100 % for all titles. However, carry-overs of committed appropriations were relatively high for administrative expenditure at EUR 1.7 million euro (38 %). This was partly due to events beyond the Agency's control, such as the relocation of its seat to Prague (EUR 0.4 million) and the setting-up of the Galileo Security Monitoring Centre (EUR 0.4 million);

- recruitment procedures: the Court identified weaknesses in the recruitment procedures.

The Agency's reply:

- carry-overs: the Agency indicates that the major part of the carry-overs is related to the set up of the Galileo Security Monitoring Centres in France and UK. As this is a complex project in terms of security, IT, logistics and legal support, the Agency has decided to advance as much as possible the project preparations in 2012. In that respect, the Administrative Board approved a significant transfer of credits in order to ensure that the necessary framework contracts are in place on time. Another significant part of the carry-overs is related to the relocation of the Agency's headquarters from Brussels to Prague in September 2012;

- recruitment: the Agency has revised the selection procedures.

Lastly, the Court of Auditors' report contains **a summary of the Agency's activities in 2012**. This is focused on the following:

- systems security (security accreditation of the systems and sites, Galileo system- specific security requirements, flight key cell activities) ;
- support for Public Regulated Service – PRS (Preparation of the PRS User Segment)
- preparation of Galileo Security Monitoring Centre – GSMC ;
- preparatory activities for EGNOS and Galileo exploitation ;
- market development actions focused on receiver manufacturers to foster Galileo penetration in consumer and professional markets ;
- research and development.

2012 discharge: European GNSS Agency (GSA)

2013/2231(DEC) - 05/02/2014

Having examined the revenue and expenditure accounts for the financial year 2012 and the balance sheet at 31 December 2012 of the European GNSS Agency (GSA), as well as the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the Agency for the financial year 2012, accompanied by the

Agency's replies to the Court's observations, the Council recommends the European Parliament to give a discharge to the Executive Director of the Agency in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2012.

The observations in the Court of Auditors' report in relation to the financial year 2012 call for some comments by the Council, which may be summarised as follows:

- in general, the Council welcomes the Court's opinion that, in all material respects, the Agency's annual accounts present fairly its financial position as at 31 December 2012 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the provisions of the Agency's Financial Regulation and the accounting rules adopted by the Commission's accounting officer, and that the underlying transactions for that financial year are legal and regular.
- **Carry-overs**: the Council calls on the Agency to continue to improve its financial programming and monitoring of budget implementation, in order to reduce the level of commitments carried over to the minimum necessary, in line with the budgetary principle of annuality.
- **Recruitment**: furthermore, the Council welcomes the efforts already made by the Agency to improve transparency of its recruitment procedures, and encourages the Agency to closely monitor the effectiveness of the measures put in place.

2012 discharge: European GNSS Agency (GSA)

2013/2231(DEC) - 21/03/2014 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Petri SARVAMAA (EPP, FI) in which it recommended the European Parliament to grant discharge to the Executive Director of the European GNSS Agency in respect of the implementation of the Authority's budget for the financial year 2012.

Noting that the Court of Auditors stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the annual accounts of the Agency for the financial year 2012 are reliable, and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Members approved the closure of the Agency’s accounts. They made, however, a number of recommendations that needed to be taken into account when the discharge is granted, in addition to the general recommendations that appear in the draft resolution on performance, financial management and control of EU agencies.

- **Budget and financial management**: Members noted that budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2012 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 100% and that the payment appropriations execution rate was 99.99%.
- **Commitments and carryovers**: Members noted that the carry-over of committed appropriations was relatively high for administrative expenditure at EUR 1.7 million (38%). This was partly due to events beyond the Authority's control, such as the relocation of its seat to Prague in September 2012 (EUR 400 000) and the setting-up of the Galileo Security Monitoring Centre (EUR 400 000) which necessitated the provision of certain goods and services in the last quarter of the year.
- **Prevention and management of conflicts of interests and transparency**: Members regretted that the Agency did not answer questionnaire on the management and prevention of conflicts of interests; urges the Agency to report to the discharge authority on the actions it has implemented to become in line with the Court of Auditors' Special Report No 15/2012 and Parliament's recommendations that all agencies develop and implement comprehensive independence policies and procedures, inter alia, by establishing a breach of trust mechanism and clear penalties, or by changing those already in place.

Members also made a series of observations on transfers, procurement and recruitment procedures as well as comments on internal controls.

2012 discharge: European GNSS Agency (GSA)

2013/2231(DEC) - 03/04/2014 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a decision concerning the discharge to be granted to the Executive Director of the European GNSS Agency in respect of the implementation of the Authority's budget for the financial year 2012. The vote on the discharge decision approved the closure of the accounts (in accordance with Annex VI, Article 5(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament.

Noting that the Court of Auditors stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the annual accounts of the Agency for the financial year 2012 are reliable, and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted by 477 votes to 67, with 24 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations that form an integral part of the discharge decision and as well as the general recommendations that appear in the draft resolution on performance, financial management and control of EU agencies.

These recommendations are summarised as follows:

- **Budget and financial management**: Parliament noted that budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2012 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 100% and that the payment appropriations execution rate was 99.99%.
- **Commitments and carryovers**: Parliament noted that the carry-over of committed appropriations was relatively high for administrative expenditure at EUR 1.7 million (38%). This was partly due to events beyond the Authority's control, such as the relocation of its seat to Prague in September 2012 (EUR 400 000) and the setting-up of the Galileo Security Monitoring Centre (EUR 400 000) which necessitated the provision of certain goods and services in the last quarter of the year.
- **Prevention and management of conflicts of interests and transparency**: Parliament regretted that the Agency did not answer questionnaire on the management and prevention of conflicts of interests. It urged the Agency to report to the discharge authority on the actions it has implemented to become in line with the Court of Auditors' Special Report No 15/2012 and Parliament's recommendations that all agencies develop and implement comprehensive independence policies and procedures.

- **Performance**: Parliament requested that the Agency communicate the results and impact its work has on European citizens in an accessible way, mainly through its website.

It also made a series of observations on transfers, procurement and recruitment procedures as well as comments on internal controls.