Basic information

2013/2236(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2012 discharge: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) **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
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	MATERA Barbara (PPE)	18/02/2013

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	A7-0230/2014	Summary
02/04/2014	Debate in Parliament		
03/04/2014	Decision by Parliament	T7-0313/2014	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	2013/2236(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/7/14212

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE521.666	22/01/2014	
Committee opinion	FEMM	PE524.608	12/02/2014	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE521.769	26/02/2014	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0230/2014	21/03/2014	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0313/2014	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	N7-0024/2014 OJ C 365 13.12.2013, p. 0127	10/09/2013	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Budget 2014/0585 OJ L 266 05.09.2014, p. 0222	Summary

2012 discharge: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

2013/2236(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 **European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)**.

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 Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

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

description of the EIGE's tasks: the Institute, which is located in Vilnius, was established by Regulation (EC) No 1922/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The Institute's task is to : (i) collect, analyse and disseminate information as regards gender equality, (ii) develop, analyse, evaluate and disseminate methodological tools in order to support the integration of gender equality into all Union policies and the resulting national policies, (iii) raise awareness on all issues regarding this area;

the EIGE's budget for the 2012 financial year: the Institute'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 8 million;
- **paid** : EUR 7 million;
- **carried-over** : 0.

§ **Payment appropriations** :

- **committed** : EUR 11 million;
- **paid** : EUR 8 million;
- **carried-over** : EUR 2 million.

Please refer also to the final accounts of the EIGE.

2012 discharge: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

2013/2236(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 Institute for Gender Equality for the year 2012, together with the Institute'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 Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

In the Court's opinion, the European Institute for Gender Equality'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 Institute for the financial year ended 31 December 2012 are, in all material respects, **legal and regular.**

The report confirms that EIGE's 2012 budget amounted to EUR 7.7 million.

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

The Court's observations:

- carryovers: the Institute has reduced the overall level of carry-overs of committed appropriations from 50 % in 2011 to 32 % in 2012. The Institute does not have a formalised procurement planning and monitoring procedure. In particular, its Annual Work Programme does not include a procurement schedule linked to the planned activities that would define the optimal scope and timing of procurements;

- recruitment: the Court identified shortcomings in the documentation of recruitment procedures. There is no evidence that questions for written tests and interviews, as well as their respective weightings were prepared before the examination of the applications.

EIGE's reply:

- carry-overs: the majority of the operational projects were finalised by the end of 2012. This led to carry-forward of appropriations up to 60 % under the procurement of Title III (around EUR 2.1 million). In order to improve the procurement planning and monitoring EIGE is creating a monitoring tool which follows the expected dates of each step of the annual procurement proceedings;

- recruitment : EIGE's recruitment guidelines have been updated so that (i) an indicative maximum number of candidates to be placed on the reserve list appears in the vacancy announcement of posts for temporary and contract staff and (ii) both the interview and test questions are to be completed by the appointed selection committee before the review of any candidates takes place.

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

- comparable and reliable data and indicators on gender equality;

- collecting and processing methods and good practices for gender equality work;

resource and documentation centre;

- awareness-raising, networking and communication ;
- studies, experts' and working group meetings, organisation of international conference, and research reports.

2012 discharge: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

2013/2236(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 Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), and the report by the Court of Auditors on the annual accounts of the Institute for the financial year 2012, accompanied by the Institute's replies to the Court's observations, the Council recommends the European Parliament to give a discharge to the Director of the Institute 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 Institute'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 Institute'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.
- **Procurement**: the Council urges the Institute to continue improving its financial management, notably by setting up a system for procurement scheduling and monitoring linked to the Institute's planned activities, and by launching procurement procedures in good time before the end of

the budgetary year, in order to limit carry-overs of appropriations to the following year to the minimum necessary, in line with the budgetary principle of annuality.
- **Recruitment**: moreover, the Council invites the Institute to enhance the transparency of its recruitment procedures by ensuring full respect of staff selection criteria.

2012 discharge: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

2013/2236(DEC) - 03/04/2014 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a decision concerning the discharge to be granted to the Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality in respect of the implementation of the Institute'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 Institute for the financial year 2012 are reliable, and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted by 496 votes to 80, with 14 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 95.56% and that the payment appropriations execution rate was 63.95%. It acknowledged from the Institute that in the third quarter of 2014, it plans to create budget monitoring guidelines, including control functions and deviations, in order to ensure adequate monitoring and reporting of the budget implementation.
- **Commitments and carryovers**: Parliament noted that the Institute has reduced the overall level of carry-overs of committed appropriations from 50% in 2011. It pointed out that the carry-overs to 2013 amount to EUR 2.5 million and mainly concern administrative expenditure. It also noted that 7% of committed appropriations carried over from 2011 to 2012 had not been used and had to be cancelled.
- **Performance**: Parliament requested that the Institute communicate the results and impact its work has on European citizens in an accessible way, mainly through its website. It took note of the main findings of the Institute's activity report and points out that in 2012, inter alia, the Institute produced two reports for the Presidencies, focusing on ‘gender equality - climate change’ and ‘violence against women - victims support’, finalised the construction of the Gender Equality Index, launched seven studies and developed an online database of gender training resources.

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

Lastly, it acknowledged that the Institute's conflict of interests policy was presented to the Commission for consultation on 12 November 2013. It called on the Institute to inform the discharge authority of the results of that consultation and of the final adoption of its conflict of interests policy.

2012 discharge: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

2013/2236(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 Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality in respect of the implementation of the Institute'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 Institute for the financial year 2012 are reliable, and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Members approved the closure of the Institute’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 95.56% and that the payment appropriations execution rate was 63.95%. They acknowledged from the Institute that in the third quarter of 2014, it plans to create budget monitoring guidelines, including control functions and deviations, in order to ensure adequate monitoring and reporting of the budget implementation.
- **Commitments and carryovers**: Members noted that the Institute has reduced the overall level of carry-overs of committed appropriations from 50% in 2011. They pointed out that the carry-overs to 2013 amount to EUR 2.5 million and mainly concern administrative expenditure. They noted that 7% of committed appropriations carried over from 2011 to 2012 had not been used and had to be cancelled.

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

Lastly, they acknowledged that the Institute's conflict of interests policy was presented to the Commission for consultation on 12 November 2013. They called on the Institute to inform the discharge authority of the results of that consultation and of the final adoption of its conflict of interests policy.

2012 discharge: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

2013/2236(DEC) - 03/04/2014 - Final act

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) for the financial year 2012.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2014/585/EU of the European Parliament on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2012.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Director of the EIGE for the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2012.

This decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 3 April 2014 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion of 3 April 2014).

Amongst the main observations made, Parliament called on the Institute to address the **shortcomings** identified by the Court of Auditors in the Institutes documentation of **recruitment procedures**.