Basic information

2019/2061(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2018 discharge: EU general budget, Committee of the Regions **Subject** 8.70.03.08 2018 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	ZDECHOVSKÝ Tomáš (EPP)	04/09/2019
	Shadow rapporteur GARCÍA MUÑOZ Isabel (S&D) GHINEA Cristian (Renew) PEKSA Mikuláš (Greens/EFA) FITTO Raffaele (ECR) KUHS Joachim (ID) FLANAGAN Luke Ming (GUE/NGL)	

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.	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner

Budget	OETTINGER Günther

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/06/2019	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2019)0316	
18/09/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/02/2020	Vote in committee		
04/03/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0071/2020	
13/05/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0116/2020	Summary
13/05/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/05/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/05/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/05/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/12/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2019/2061(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/00901

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE639.832	11/12/2019	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE645.094	30/01/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0071/2020	04/03/2020	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0116/2020	13/05/2020	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	05760/1/2020	17/02/2020	

European Commission			
Document type	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2019)0316	27/06/2019	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Budget 2020/1973 OJ L 417 11.12.2020, p. 0436

2018 discharge: EU general budget, Committee of the Regions

2019/2061(DEC) - 13/05/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 486 votes to 90, with 15 abstentions, to **grant discharge** to the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions in respect of the implementation of the Committee of the Regions' budget for the financial year 2018.

In the resolution accompanying its discharge decision (adopted by 604 votes to 85, with 5 abstentions), the European Parliament made a series of observations:

Budgetary and financial management

In its 2018 Annual Report, the Court of Auditors found no significant weaknesses in the audited topics of human resources and public procurement for the Committee of the Regions. It concluded that the payments for the financial year ended 31 December 2018 relating to the Committee's administrative expenditure were generally free of material error and that the supervisory and control systems examined were effective.

In 2018, the Committee's budget amounted to EUR 96 101 000, compared to EUR 93 295 000 in 2017, an increase of 3 %. 99.3 % of all appropriations were committed before the end of 2018 (compared to 98 % in 2017 and 98.7 % in 2016), and 91 % of the appropriations were paid in 2018 (compared to 89.9 % in 2017 and 89.6 % in 2016).

Parliament welcomed the Committee's overall prudent and sound financial management in the financial year 2018. Noting the unused appropriations for several budget lines, such as 59 % for courses for members, 33.3 % for staff missions, 77.9 % for medical services and 92.7 % for fitting-out of premises, it nevertheless reiterated the need to take measures to minimise over-budgeting.

Members noted that the administrative cooperation agreement concluded by the Committee, the Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and Parliament in 2014 had expired on 31 December 2019, as the agreement had not been renegotiated or extended. If a new agreement is negotiated, Members agreed that, from a political point of view, the agreement would need to be updated to meet current challenges, such as the new multiannual financial framework or the new cohesion policy rules.

Other observations

Parliament expressed its concern about the confirmation of the presence of asbestos in critical areas of the VMA building, including the parking area. Deploring the lack of information for stakeholders and Members and staff, it invited the Committee to remedy the situation.

The Committee was invited, *inter alia*, to:

- inform Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control of the amounts disbursed in the framework of interinstitutional cooperation agreements, including service level agreements concerning human resources policies, etc;

- report on the results achieved in developing a model, in cooperation with other Union institutions and bodies, for ongoing consultations of Union citizens, with a view to combining local debates and a feedback mechanism to inform decision-makers at Union level;

- urgently adopt rules to deal with cases of harassment involving its members;

- intensify its efforts with regard to the code of conduct for its members in order to prevent and resolve conflicts of interest;

- step up the deployment of IT tools to modernise its procurement procedures;

- report to Parliament on any progress made in increasing the proportion of women in middle and senior management positions;

- implement as soon as possible the new digital strategy and the new multi-annual IT expenditure plans and continue to pursue a real policy for the digitalisation of its services.

Parliament noted that the Council stipulated that, from the date on which the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union legally enters into force, three out of the 24 seats attributed to the United Kingdom shall be attributed to Estonia, Cyprus and Luxembourg respectively. The number of seats on the Committee is thus reduced by only 21 seats.

In general, Parliament highlighted the work achieved in recent years on issues such as performance-based budgeting, the ethical framework and the many related rules and procedures, enhanced communication activities and the increasing number of measures to improve transparency. It underlined the importance of collaboration and of sharing of experience among Union institutions and bodies and suggested that an analysis be made of the possibility of formalised networking activities in different domains in order to share best practises and to develop common solutions.