Basic information

2019/2068(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2018 discharge: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) **Subject** 8.70.03.08 2018 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR)	07/10/2019
	Shadow rapporteur NOVAKOV Andrey (EPP) WOLTERS Lara (S&D) STRUGARIU Ramona (Renew) EICKHOUT Bas (Greens/EFA) KUHS Joachim (ID) OMARJEE Younous (GUE/NGL)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	METSOLA Roberta (EPP)	06/11/2019

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		
03/03/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0070/2020	
13/05/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0115/2020	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		
11/12/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2019/2068(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/00861

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE639.879	06/12/2019	
Committee opinion	LIBE	PE643.087	29/01/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE645.055	31/01/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0070/2020	03/03/2020	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0115/2020	13/05/2020	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	05761/2020	06/02/2020	

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 2020/1970 OJ L 417 11.12.2020, p. 0429

2018 discharge: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

2019/2068(DEC) - 13/05/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) for the financial year 2017 and to approve the closure of the accounts for the financial year in question.

Noting that the Court of Auditors has stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2017 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted by 460 votes to 225 with 7 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations, which form an integral part of the decision on discharge and which add to the general recommendations set out in the resolution on performance, financial management and control of EU agencies:

Agency's financial statements

The final budget of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights for the financial year 2018 was EUR 22 960 429, representing a slight increase of 0.47 % compared to 2017.

Budget and financial management

Budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2018 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 100 %, the same rate as in 2017. The payment appropriations execution rate was low at 76.20 %, this represented a slight increase of 4.09 % compared to 2017.

Parliament noted that according to the Court's report, carry-overs of committed appropriations were high for operating expenditure, mainly due to the nature of the activities which include financing studies that span several months and often beyond year-end. The Agency has introduced planning procedures to monitor the inevitable delays between the signing of contracts, deliveries and payments. Budget planning should be improved according to Parliament.

Other observations

Members also made a series of observations regarding performance, procurement, conflicts of interest and internal controls.

In particular, they noted that:

- in 2018 a new operational unit was established to strengthen interdepartmental cooperation on projects and enhance capacity for real-time responses;

- a feasibility study should be conducted in order to assess the possibility of, at the very least, setting up shared synergies with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), if not fully merging them;

- the Agency is encouraged to intensify its cooperation with international organisations, such as the Council of Europe and the United Nations, in order to find and use synergies, whenever possible;

- on 31 December 2018 the establishment plan was 98.61 % executed, with 71 temporary agents appointed out of 72 temporary agents authorised under the Union budget;

- the Agency completed a revision of the anti-fraud strategy which was adopted at a meeting of the management board in December 2018 and complemented by a specific action plan

- the remit of the Agency's competences should extend to all rights protected under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, to include, *inter alia*, matters of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, and that the Agency should be able to issue opinions on legislative proposals on its own initiative.