Basic information

2019/2081(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2018 discharge: European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) **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) CHASTEL Olivier (Renew) EICKHOUT Bas (Greens/EFA) KUHS Joachim (ID) OMARJEE Younous (GUE/NGL)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
TRAN Transport and Tourism	GRAPINI Maria (S&D)	07/10/2019

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	A9-0061/2020	
13/05/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0078/2020	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	2019/2081(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/00837

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE639.858	05/12/2019	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE642.920	22/01/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE645.002	31/01/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0061/2020	03/03/2020	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0078/2020	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	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
NOVAKOV Andrey	Shadow rapporteur	CONT	27/01/2020	European Railways Agency

Final act
Budget 2020/1861 OJ L 417 11.12.2020, p. 0074

2018 discharge: European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)

2019/2081(DEC) - 13/05/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) in regard to the implementation of the agency's budget for the 2018 financial year 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 2018 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted by 602 votes to 87 with 4 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 Railways for the financial year 2018 was EUR 28 793 243, representing a decrease of 6.31 % compared to 2017.

Budget and financial management

The budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2018 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 99.98 %, representing a slight decrease of 0.02 % compared to 2017. The payment appropriations execution rate was 88.96 %, representing an increase of 1.66 % compared to 2017.

Parliament noted, following the Agency's enlarged mandate, in 2019 the Agency will start to collect fees and charges for certification tasks, taking into account the specific needs of medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It called on the Agency to report to the discharge authority on the implementation of this new system and to take into account the specific needs of SMEs during the certification process, in particular by reducing their administrative and financial burdens.

Other observations

Members also made a series of observations regarding performance, procurement, staff policy and internal controls.

In particular, they noted that:

- the objective set by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of establishing a single European railway market has not been achieved. They called on the Agency to focus its efforts and publications on this area and to draw up a set of measures designed to ensure that in future, rail transport can be incorporated into modern logistics chains;

- the next five years will be crucial for the future of the rail sector and that the Agency must be provided with the funding and staff it needs in order to meet the coming challenges;

- the Agency shall take up, in June 2019, its role as the EU authority responsible for issuing authorisations for placing railway vehicles on the market, single safety certificates for railway undertakings and ERTMS trackside approvals;

- as regards both infrastructure and rolling stock, far too little progress has been made in introducing the equipment required for the ERTMS in Europe;

- on 31 December 2018, the establishment plan was 89.19 % executed, with 132 temporary agents appointed out of 148 temporary agents authorised under the Union budget;

- the Agency has adopted a policy on protecting the dignity of persons and preventing harassment, confidential counsellors are promoted and staff is encouraged to address their issues to them;

- on 15 April 2019, the Agency signed the headquarter agreement with the French authorities. It acknowledged that the decision for the double seat is a Council decision that the Agency must apply.