Basic information

2019/2099(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2018 discharge: Fusion for Energy Joint Undertaking (F4E) **Subject** 8.70.03.08 2018 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	LEGUTKO Ryszard Antoni (ECR)	19/09/2019
	Shadow rapporteur PIEPER Markus (EPP) GRAPINI Maria (S&D) DLABAJOVÁ Martina (Renew) RIVASI Michèle (Greens/EFA) KUHS Joachim (ID) OMARJEE Younous (GUE/NGL)	

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	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	A9-0049/2020	
13/05/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0098/2020	Summary
13/05/2020	Results of vote 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	2019/2099(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/00780

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE639.837	09/01/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE645.084	31/01/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0049/2020	03/03/2020	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0098/2020	13/05/2020	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	05763/2020	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 2020/1913 OJ L 417 11.12.2020, p. 0241

2018 discharge: Fusion for Energy Joint Undertaking (F4E)

2019/2099(DEC) - 13/05/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the Director of the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy on the implementation of the budget of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2018 and to approve the closure of the accounts of the Joint Undertaking for the same financial year.

Noting that the Court of Auditors considered that the annual accounts of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2018 accurately reflected the financial position of the Joint Undertaking as at 31 December 2018, as well as the results of its operations, Parliament adopted by 619 votes to 55 against and 17 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of observations which form an integral part of the discharge decision.

General

Parliament noted that in November 2016, the ITER Organization Council (ITER Council) approved a new ITER project baseline. The new ITER baseline estimates the achievement of ‘first plasma’ and the start of the operational phase in 2025 with the completion of the construction phase in 2035. It observed that the previous 2010 baseline estimated the completion of the construction phase in 2020. The new baseline is considered to be the earliest possible technically achievable date.

Members noted that in March 2017, the United Kingdom notified the Council of its decision to withdraw from the Union and from Euratom. This may have effects on the post-2020 activities of the Joint Undertaking and the ITER project.

In April 2018, the Council mandated the Commission to approve the new ITER baseline on behalf of Euratom and reaffirmed the commitment to make resources available within the limits of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) without prejudice to any subsequent MFF negotiations, which will determine the details of the future funding. In addition to the construction phase, the Joint Undertaking will have to contribute to the ITER operational phase after 2035 and to the subsequent ITER deactivation and decommissioning phases. The contribution to the deactivation and the decommissioning phases were estimated to be EUR 95 540 000 and EUR 180 200 000 respectively. The ITER project will continue to operate until the expiry of the ITER Agreement in 2042 and that the Union will continue to contribute to the ITER costs until then.

Budget and financial management

The final 2018 budget available for implementation included commitment appropriations of EUR 706 230 231 and payment appropriations of EUR 847 366 988. The utilisation rates for commitment and payment appropriations were 98.4 % and 96.1 % respectively. Due to the shortcomings in the budget planning process in 2017, the payment appropriations needed in 2017 and 2018 exceeded the payment appropriations of the initial budget. The additional payment appropriations needed by the Joint Undertaking amounted to EUR 160 700 000, 25 % above the initial budget.

In 2018, the Joint Undertaking made a regulation payment transferring EUR 1 000 000 of authorised and verified payments relating to staff duty travel costs from the administrative budget to the operational budget.

Other observations

The resolution also contained a series of observations on the prevention and management of conflicts of interests, personal selection and recruitment, internal control measures, operational procurements and grants.

It noted in particular:

- that the Joint Undertaking adopted a checklist based in its own set of procurement fraud risk indicators, namely, red flags, considered a prerequisite to the development of the anti-fraud IT tool, having developed them internally;

- significant shortcomings were found by the Court in relation to the recruitment of key management staff;

- at the end of 2018, the Joint Undertaking had 162 women and 284 men on its establishment plan, with men occupying the majority of posts in three out of the five staff categories, while over 50 % of Union contract agents and officials in assistant posts are women;

- shortcomings in the internal communication strategies were also highlighted;

- that during 2018, 55 operational procurement procedures were launched, and 69 operational procurement contracts were signed, while one grant procedure was launched and two were signed.