Basic information

2019/2105(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2018 discharge: Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (S2R Joint Undertaking) **Subject** 8.70.03.08 2018 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	BRUDZIŃSKI Joachim Stanisław (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.	
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
		COM(2019)0316	

27/06/2019	Non-legislative basic document published		
18/09/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/02/2020	Vote in committee		
03/03/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0055/2020	
13/05/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0076/2020	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	2019/2105(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/00762

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE639.843	13/12/2019	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE643.062	22/01/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE645.088	30/01/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0055/2020	03/03/2020	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0076/2020	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 2020/1855 OJ L 417 11.12.2020, p. 0058

2018 discharge: Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (S2R Joint Undertaking)

2019/2105(DEC) - 13/05/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the Executive Director of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2018 and approve the closure of the accounts of the Joint Undertaking 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 598 votes to 87 with 8 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations, which form an integral part of the discharge decision.

Budget and financial management

The final 2018 budget available for implementation included commitment appropriations of EUR 84 756 000 and payment appropriations of EUR 71 890 204. The utilisation rates for commitment and payment appropriations were 100 % and 82.3 % respectively which represent a low level, especially for payment appropriations. The lower than expected payment appropriations' implementation is due to a pending legal decision concerning the membership of the Joint Undertaking.

Other observations

Members also made a series of observations regarding performance, recruitment and internal control.

They noted in particular:

- that in 2018, the Joint Undertaking signed 17 grant agreements resulting from the calls for proposals of 2018. They noted with regret that only 76 SMEs participated to the 2018 call and only 40 of these were retained for funding;

- that at the end of 2018, the Joint Undertaking's staff consisted of 22 members out of the 23 who were foreseen in the Staff Establishment Plan; - the importance of the cooperation between the Joint Undertaking and the Union Agency for Railways (ERA). The Joint Undertaking assessed the requests for research and innovation coming from ERA in order to avoid overlapping activities and to maximise the efficiency of use of the public funding;

- that the Joint Undertaking needs to be given the necessary financial, material and human resources to contribute to a real modal shift from road to rail and for the attractiveness of this shift to be increased;

- that the continued implementation of the Joint Undertaking's anti-fraud strategy 2017 - 2020, which did not result in any cases of 'close monitoring due to an assessment of high risk of fraud' or in any files being sent to OLAF for investigation.