Basic information

2020/2162(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2019 discharge: European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) **Subject** 8.70.03.09 2019 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR)	08/09/2020
	Shadow rapporteur CHRISTOFOROU Lefteris (EPP) RÓNAI Sándor (S&D) CSEH Katalin (Renew) EICKHOUT Bas (Greens/EFA) OMARJEE Younous (GUE/NGL)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	CANFIN Pascal (Renew)	10/09/2020

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Budget	HAHN Johannes

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/06/2020	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2020)0288	
15/09/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/03/2021	Vote in committee		

30/03/2021	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0097/2021	
27/04/2021	Debate in Parliament		
28/04/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0186/2021	Summary
24/09/2021	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/2162(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/03882

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE657.225	12/01/2021	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE660.252	01/02/2021	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE680.783	04/03/2021	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0097/2021	30/03/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0186/2021	28/04/2021	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	05793/2021	05/02/2021	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2020)0288	29/06/2020	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Budget 2021/1598
OJ L 340 24.09.2021, p. 0284

2019 discharge: European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

2020/2162(DEC) - 28/04/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 568 votes to 100, with 30 abstentions, to **grant discharge** to the Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for the financial year 2019 and to approve the closure of the accounts for that year.

Noting that the Court of Auditors had stated that it had obtained reasonable assurance that the Authority's annual accounts for the financial year 2019 were reliable and that the underlying transactions were legal and regular, Parliament adopted, by 605 votes to 58 with 28 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations which form an integral part of the discharge decision and which complement the general recommendations set out in the resolution on the performance, financial management and control of EU agencies.

Authority's financial statements

The Authority's final budget for the financial year 2019 was EUR 80 736 785.59, which represents an increase of 1.96% compared to 2018.

Budgetary and financial management

Members welcomed the budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2019 which resulted in a budget implementation rate of 99.99%, which represents a slight decrease of 0.01% compared to the financial year 2018. The execution rate for payment appropriations was 91.45%, which represents a slight increase of 0.15% compared to 2018.

The Commission is invited to grant the Authority, in duly justified cases, a set of means to use their budget in the most impactful way which would, inter alia, include the option of hiring contract agents in excess of the establishment plans, for a limited period of time and without exceeding the Authority’s agreed annual budget envelope.

Other comments

Members also made a number of observations concerning performance, staff policy, procurement, conflicts of interest and internal controls.

In particular, they noted that:

- the Authority contributes to the safety of the food and feed chain in the EU and makes considerable efforts to provide risk managers with comprehensive, independent and up-to-date scientific advice on issues related to the food chain, clearly communicating its findings and the information on which they are based to the public, and cooperating with stakeholders and institutional partners to enhance coherence and confidence in the food safety system;

- in 2019, the Authority finalised 838 issues through scientific opinions, technical reports and related publications;

- the Authority shares resources and activities with the European Chemicals Agency, the European Environment Agency, the European Medicines Agency and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control within the same policy cluster;

- the Authority, which is one of the EU's regulatory agencies responsible for the risk assessment of regulated products, is not given sufficient resources to carry out its responsibilities effectively;

- Parliament adopted 16 objections to the import of GM food and feed crops;

- on 31 December 2019, the establishment plan was 97.81 % implemented, with five officials and 308 temporary agents appointed out of 320 posts authorised under the Union budget;

- the Authority has taken measures to ensure transparency, prevention and management of conflicts of interest and protection of whistleblowers;

- as regards the two-year cooling-off period, the Authority's independence policy still requires it to monitor the interests of experts only in relation to the mandate of the scientific panel to which the expert is applying. Members called for the policy to be updated without delay to ensure that the interests of experts are considered in the context of the Authority's overall remit;

- the Authority should update its anti-fraud strategy and focus on disseminating the results of its research to the general public.