Basic information

2020/2174(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2019 discharge: European Banking Authority (EBA) **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) MITUȚA Alin (Renew) EICKHOUT Bas (Greens/EFA)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	EPPINK Derk Jan (ECR)	07/09/2020

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	A9-0091/2021	

27/04/2021	Debate in Parliament		
28/04/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0198/2021	Summary
24/09/2021	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/2174(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/03907

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE657.194	14/01/2021	
Committee opinion	ECON	PE660.353	04/02/2021	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE680.778	03/03/2021	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0091/2021	30/03/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0198/2021	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 2021/1634
OJ L 340 24.09.2021, p. 0382

2019 discharge: European Banking Authority (EBA)

2020/2174(DEC) - 28/04/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 574 votes to 93, with 31 abstentions, to **grant discharge** to the Executive Director of the European Banking Authority (EBA) for the financial year 2019 and to approve the closure of the accounts for that year.

Noting that the Court of Auditors has stated that it has obtained reasonable assurance that the Authority's annual accounts for the financial year 2019 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted, by 596 votes to 65, with 30 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations which form an integral part of the discharge decision and which complement the general recommendations contained in the resolution on the performance, financial management and control of EU agencies.

Financial statements of the Authority

The Authority's final budget for the financial year 2019 was EUR 45 326 900, which represents an increase of 6.44% compared to 2018. The Authority is financed by a contribution from the Union (EUR 17 394 600 or 38.38%) and by contributions from the national supervisory authorities of the Member States and observers (EUR 27 160 689.50 or 59.92%).

Budgetary and financial management

Parliament noted with concern that the budget monitoring efforts in the 2019 financial year resulted in a budget implementation rate of 97.29%, which represents a decrease of 2.56% compared to the 2018 financial year. The implementation rate for payment appropriations was 85.88%, a decrease of 2.35% compared to the previous year.

The Authority's amending budget for 2019 and the 2020 budget contain insufficient information on the contributions of the new host Member State to the Authority's running costs. The Authority is invited to correct this omission and to communicate the reasons for it.

Other observations

Members also made a number of observations concerning performance, staff policy, public procurement and the prevention of conflicts of interest.

In particular, they noted that:

- in 2019, the Authority moved its headquarters from London to Paris and associated activities, such as migration to new data centres, were carried out throughout the year in addition to the obligations under the Authority's mandate. Members appreciated the challenges faced by the Authority in this process;

- the administrative staff of the Authority, the European Securities and Markets Authority and the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority meet regularly to discuss issues of common interest;

- only 19 of the 30 activities in the Authority's work programme were delivered for 2019;

- the Authority has made efforts to establish a more coordinated supervisory regime across the European financial system;

- in the light of the Authority's new mandate in the field of anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism, Members are awaiting the Authority's ten-point action plan for the period 2020-2021 for the strengthening of the future framework of prudential and anti-money laundering requirements covering dividend arbitrage trading schemes;

- efforts are being made by the Authority to fully integrate environmental, social and governance factors into its work so that the financial system responds adequately to the challenges of financial sustainability, the European Green Deal and the Paris Agreement;

- the Authority has carried out an investigation into dividend arbitrage trading schemes, such as "*cum ex*" and "*cum cum*" schemes, requested by the European Parliament. However, Members noted that the report does not shed light on these illegal practices and regretted that no date has been set for a formal investigation;

- at the end of 2019, 99.31% of the establishment plan was implemented, with 144 temporary staff engaged out of the 145 temporary staff authorised under the EU budget. The Authority employed staff of 28 nationalities, of which 50% were women and 50% men. However, 83% of the Agency's senior management is male and 17% is female;

- the Authority conducted four procurement procedures exceeding the threshold set by Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and also concluded 14 contracts resulting from negotiated procedures for an amount exceeding EUR 15 000;

- additional measures were taken to increase the transparency of the Authority's activities by reporting on meetings attended by staff with external stakeholders and publishing them on its website;

- following the findings of the Ombudsman's enquiry which followed the Authority's decision not to forbid its former Executive Director from taking up a role in the Association for Financial Markets in Europe (AFME), Members await full information on the state of play of the measures taken or planned to prevent and manage conflicts of interest in order to avoid the recurrence of such a scenario and to prevent future ‘revolving door’ cases.