Basic information

2020/2177(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2019 discharge: European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) **Subject** 8.70.03.09 2019 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	BRUDZIŃSKI Joachim Stanisław (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
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

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	A9-0078/2021	
27/04/2021	Debate in Parliament		
28/04/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0201/2021	Summary
24/09/2021	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/2177(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/03914

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE657.219	14/01/2021	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE680.769	04/03/2021	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0078/2021	30/03/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0201/2021	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 2021/1643
OJ L 340 24.09.2021, p. 0410

2019 discharge: European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

2020/2177(DEC) - 28/04/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 582 votes to 106 against, with 10 abstentions, to **grant discharge** to the Director of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) 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 Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2019 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted, by 602 votes to 56 with 33 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.

Agency's financial statements

The Agency's final budget for the year 2019 was EUR 16 147 153, an increase of 19.06% compared to 2018.

Budgetary and financial management

Parliament welcomed the budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2019 which resulted in a budget implementation rate of 99.50%, exceeding the Agency's objective of 95% and representing an increase of 0.25% compared to 2018. The execution rate for payment appropriations was 81.35%, which represents an increase of 1.62% compared to 2018.

Other observations

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

In particular, they noted that:

- the Agency managed to adopt important decisions, opinions and recommendations on the European electricity and gas markets following the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 on energy wholesale market integrity and transparency; lack of resources led to some priorities not being executed;

- accounting services were transferred to the Commission and the Agency shared resources with other EU agencies in the areas of human resources management, information and communication technology management, budget and finance, procurement and facilities management;

- at the end of 2019, 100% of the establishment plan was implemented, with 67 temporary agents hired. The lack of gender balance in the Agency's senior management (5 men and 1 woman) and in the Management Board is a concern;

- the Agency is at risk of having to work with limited resources, which will result in a large number of tasks being de-prioritised;

- 67 procurement procedures have been completed out of the 47 planned for 2019. Irregular payments made under contracts concluded as a result of these irregular procurement procedures represent 6.3% of all payments made by the Agency in 2019;

- the CVs and declarations of interest of the members of the Management Board and senior management are available on the Agency's website. However, the Court found that the recruitment procedures were not properly applied to the selection process;

- the strategic audit plan for the Agency for the period 2017-2019 has been fully implemented and the Internal Audit Service has defined the audit topics for the next planning period.

Members regretted that the Agency had not set CO2 reduction targets, but welcomed the Agency's efforts to create an environmentally friendly working environment and to reduce its carbon footprint and energy consumption and implement a paperless workflow.