Basic information

2020/2188(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2019 discharge: Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (Shift2Rail) **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 MARINESCU Marian-Jean (EPP) CREȚU Corina (S&D) DLABAJOVÁ Martina (Renew) RIVASI Michèle (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.	
TRAN Transport and Tourism	GRAPINI Maria (S&D)	08/10/2020

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		
06/04/2021	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0111/2021	
27/04/2021	Debate in Parliament		
28/04/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0212/2021	Summary
24/09/2021	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/2188(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/03942

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE657.266	15/01/2021	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE660.276	29/01/2021	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE689.539	04/03/2021	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0111/2021	06/04/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0212/2021	28/04/2021	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	05795/2021	05/02/2021	

European Commission

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

Final act

Budget 2021/1676
OJ L 340 24.09.2021, p. 0500

2019 discharge: Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (Shift2Rail)

2020/2188(DEC) - 28/04/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 611 votes to 54, with 33 abstentions, to **grant discharge** to the Executive Director of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2019 and to approve the closure of the Joint Undertaking's accounts.

Noting that the Court of Auditors considered that the annual accounts of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2019 present fairly the financial situation of the Joint Undertaking on 31 December 2019, as well as the results of its operations, Parliament adopted, by 603 votes to 56 with 32 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of observations which form an integral part of the discharge decision.

General comments

The main objectives of the Joint Undertaking are to contribute to the achievement of the Single European Railway Area, and to enhance the attractiveness, competitiveness, sustainability, and integration of the European railway system, facilitating, inter alia, a modal shift from road and air to rail transport.

Members noted that in total, more than 400 public and private entities, representing the rail sector, are involved in Shift2Rail's research and innovation activities. They stressed the Joint Undertaking’s contribution to achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal and supported the proposal to set up a European Railway Partnership in the field of research and innovation that will capitalise on the success of the Joint Undertaking.

Parliament recommended:

- exploring the possibilities of funding projects under EU programmes such as the Connecting European Facility, the Digital Europe Plan, the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund;

- ensure that the successor to Shift2Rail includes in the research programme joint work with other modes of transport to prepare the ground for seamless and integrated transport, while prioritising the automation and digitalisation of the rail sector;

- to ensure that the future programme of activities respects the requirements and objectives of EU law on climate change mitigation and digitalisation and follows the strategies developed by the Commission and industry in this field.

Budgetary and financial management

The final budget available in 2019 included commitment appropriations of EUR 83 071 000 and payment appropriations of EUR 81 563 000. In 2019, the utilisation rates of available commitment and payment appropriations reached 97% and 86% respectively. By the end of 2029, the Joint Undertaking had implemented 100% of the commitment appropriations and 88% of the payment appropriations available for Horizon 2020 projects.

Other comments

The resolution also contains a series of observations on performance, staff and procurement, internal control and internal audits.

In particular, it noted the following:

- at the end of 2019, 72 projects were ongoing (32 reserved for members and 40 open calls). More than 50% of the Joint Undertaking's Research and Innovation Activity programme had been completed to reach the level of technological maturity required for operational demonstrations (expected to be completed in 2022);

- the Joint Undertaking uses Horizon 2020 specific KPIs as well as Joint Undertaking specific KPIs, such as those for assessing the efficiency of the rail transport system;

- a thorough performance monitoring methodology for assessing the added value of the Joint Undertaking, including the social and employment impact and the market impact should be put in place;

- during 2019, the Joint Undertaking made progress towards its objective, implemented the Shift2Rail programme and ensured sound, efficient and effective financial management. The total project cost for the work carried out in 2019 is EUR 117.5 million (of which EUR 98.9 million is provided by members other than the Union);

- the issue of intellectual property rights (IPR) should be addressed in all contracts that are likely to produce the expected effects or lead to the desired performance outcome;

- as of 31 December 2019, 24 posts were filled. There is a very low percentage of women (only 16%) in the Administrative Board, while they constituted 33% of the Joint Undertaking's representatives and 33% of the Scientific Committee;

- the Joint Undertaking has put in place reliable ex-ante control procedures based on reviews of financial and operational documents. It assessed its research and innovation activities through a third monitoring exercise and continued to implement the Shift2Rail anti-fraud strategy for 2017-2020.