Basic information

2021/2122(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2020 discharge: European Asylum Support Office (EASO) **Subject** 8.70.03.10 2020 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	ZDECHOVSKÝ Tomáš (EPP)	28/07/2021
	Shadow rapporteur CHINNICI Caterina (S&D) STRUGARIU Ramona (Renew) EICKHOUT Bas (Greens/EFA) CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR) KUHS Joachim (ID) OMARJEE Younous (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	STRUGARIU Ramona (Renew)	26/10/2021

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Budget	HAHN Johannes

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/06/2021	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2021)0381	

14/09/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
31/03/2022	Vote in committee		
07/04/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0107/2022	
04/05/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0184/2022	Summary
04/05/2022	Debate in Parliament		
05/10/2022	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/2122(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/06757

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE698.962	14/01/2022	
Committee opinion	LIBE	PE702.928	17/02/2022	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE704.723	02/03/2022	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0107/2022	07/04/2022	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0184/2022	04/05/2022	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	06003/2022	16/02/2022	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2021)0381	30/06/2021	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	N9-0044/2022 OJ C 439 29.10.2021, p. 0003	29/10/2021	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Budget 2022/1734 OJ L 258 05.10.2022, p. 0226

2020 discharge: European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

2021/2122(DEC) - 04/05/2022 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the Executive Director of the European Asylum Support Office in respect of the implementation of the Office's budget for the financial year 2020 and to approve the closure of the accounts for that year.

Parliament noted with appreciation that after four years in a row, the reasons for qualifying the opinion on expenditure underlying the accounts have been solved by the Office.

Noting that the Court of Auditors stated that it had obtained reasonable assurance that the Institute's annual accounts for the financial year 2020 were reliable and that the underlying transactions were legal and regular, Parliament adopted, by 503 votes to 85 with 53 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.

Office’s financial statements

The final budget of the Office for the financial year 2020 was EUR 130 986 611, representing an increase of 27.25 % compared to 2019. The increase mostly concerns an increase in expenditure related to operational support.

Budgetary and financial management

The budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2020 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 95.14 %, at approximately the same level as 2019 (95.22 %). Parliament noted with concern that the payment appropriations execution rate was at 80.91 %, which the Court deems as low, representing a decrease of 8.95 % compared to the previous year (89.86 %). It also noted with concern the Court’s conclusion that the carry-overs of committed appropriations for operating expenditure were high, at 33.8 %, and that the cancellation rate of budget appropriations carried over from 2019 to 2020 was also high, at 19 %. The Office should improve its budget planning and implementation cycles.

Moreover, effective policies have been established for managing rented premises and related services which has been welcomed by Parliament.

Other comments

Parliament also made a series of observations concerning performance, staff policy, public procurement and Covid-19.

In particular, it noted that:

- the Office reported that it executed a total of 5 313 payments in 2020, compared to 9 871 payments in 2019, with 334 (6.29 %) of the payments executed more than 30 days after receipt of the invoice, compared to 1 312 (13.29 %) in 2019;

- about 13 600 applications for asylum were lodged by unaccompanied minors in the Member States. Parliament stressed the importance of providing a specific reception system for minors that protects them;

- the Office achieved or surpassed targets for a majority of key performance indicators, despite the difficulties faced because of the Covid-19 pandemic;

- unfortunately, the Office continued to face difficulties in fulfilling certain tasks as a result of its outdated mandate, especially in terms of the legal framework and mechanisms for deployment of asylum support teams providing the support required by the Member States;

- it signed a new operational support plan with Spain in 2020, bringing the total number of countries assisted by the Office to eight;

- on 31 December 2020, the establishment plan was 78.96 % executed, with 289 temporary agents appointed out of 366 temporary agents authorised under the Union budget (compared to 284 authorised posts in 2019) and a further 17 posts offered or accepted. While progress has been made in attracting new staff, the low execution rate meant that for a fourth consecutive year in a row the Office did not succeed in achieving its establishment plan targets;

- gender balance is worrying at senior management level with 83.3 % men and 16.7 % women;

- the Office launched 65 procedures in 2020, compared to 48 in 2019, of which a majority negotiated procedures with one candidate (40 %) and open calls (26.15 %);

- lastly, a Covid-19 response team was established and support was given to Member States to address the challenges arising from the pandemic.