Basic information

2021/2126(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2020 discharge: European Environment Agency (EEA) **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) CSEH Katalin (Renew) EICKHOUT Bas (Greens/EFA) CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR) KUHS Joachim (ID) OMARJEE Younous (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	CANFIN Pascal (Renew)	29/09/2021

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	A9-0113/2022	
04/05/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0158/2022	Summary
04/05/2022	Debate in Parliament		
05/10/2022	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/2126(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/06749

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE698.967	14/01/2022	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE699.219	17/01/2022	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE704.727	02/03/2022	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0113/2022	07/04/2022	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0158/2022	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 2022/1746 OJ L 258 05.10.2022, p. 0259

2020 discharge: European Environment Agency (EEA)

2021/2126(DEC) - 04/05/2022 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA) for the financial year 2020 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 2020 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted, by 549 votes to 76 with 9 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 2020 was EUR 89 649 723, representing an increase of 18.48 % compared to 2019 due to an increase in external assigned revenue. The Agency's budget derives mainly from the Union budget (75.29 %) and the contributions under specific agreement for the Copernicus programme (22.68 %).

Budgetary and financial management

Parliament welcomed the budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2020 which resulted in a budget implementation rate of 99.96 %, representing a slight decrease of 0.04 % compared to 2019. The payment appropriations execution rate was 86.12 %, representing a decrease of 3.71 % compared to the previous year.

Other observations

Parliament also made a series of observations concerning performance, staff, conflicts of interest, internal controls and Covid-19.

In particular, it noted that:

- the Agency has achieved what it had set out to do by exceeding the expectations of its key performance indicators in 2020 despite the risks and challenges the organisation had to manage due to the Covid-19 pandemic;

- concerning its IT network, the Agency had initiated digitalisation initiatives prior to the pandemic in 2020 and that, since March 2020, those initiatives were accelerated by the lockdown situation. Parliament called on the Agency to continue to monitor the cybersecurity threat landscape and take the appropriate measures;

- the Agency presented the '2020 Air quality in Europe report', documenting the impact of lockdown measures on air quality in European cities, using the unique situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic;

- on 31 December 2020, the establishment plan was 96.92 % filled, with three permanent officials and 123 temporary agents appointed out of 130 posts authorised under the Union budget. However, there is no gender balance in senior management and the Management Board;

- the Agency focuses on converting to electronic administration processes (procurement, finance and human resources), which has delivered efficiency gains and supported it to switch quickly and effectively to a working-from-home environment at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic;

- ongoing efforts have been made to secure transparency to prevent and manage conflicts of interests, and to provide whistleblower protection;

- even though the Agency's staff managed to adapt quickly to the Covid-19 situation and delivered the work programme envisaged for 2020, the internal control framework needs to be improved;

- the Agency should increase its digitalisation in terms of internal operation and management but also in order to speed up the digitalisation of procedures;

- all necessary security measures should be taken to avoid any risk to the online security of the processed information.