Basic information

2021/2153(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2020 discharge: Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH) **Subject** 8.70.03.10 2020 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR)	28/07/2021
	Shadow rapporteur MARINESCU Marian-Jean (EPP) CREȚU Corina (S&D) WIEZIK Michal (Renew) RIVASI Michèle (Greens/EFA) KUHS Joachim (ID) OMARJEE Younous (The Left)	

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
30/06/2021	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2021)0381	
14/09/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

28/02/2022	Vote in committee		
29/03/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0075/2022	
04/05/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0191/2022	Summary
04/05/2022	Debate in Parliament		
05/10/2022	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/2153(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/06668

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE698.996	17/12/2021	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE703.129	02/02/2022	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0075/2022	29/03/2022	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0191/2022	04/05/2022	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	06005/2022	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	N9-0045/2022 OJ C 458 12.11.2021, p. 0020	12/11/2021	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Budget 2022/1822 OJ L 258 05.10.2022, p. 0464

2020 discharge: Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH)

2021/2153(DEC) - 04/05/2022 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the Executive Director of the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen 2 Joint Undertaking (now the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking) in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2020 and approve the closure of Joint Undertaking's accounts.

Noting that the Court of Auditors considered that the annual accounts of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2020 present fairly the financial situation of the Joint Undertaking on 31 December 2020, as well as the results of its operations, Parliament adopted, by 574 votes to 22 with 40 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of observations which form an integral part of the discharge decision.

Budgetary and financial management

The FCH2´s final available budget, which includes re-entered unused appropriations of previous years, assigned revenues and reallocations to the following year, for the financial year 2020 included commitment appropriations of EUR 104 231 642 and payment appropriations of EUR 103 779 004. The overall 2020 budget execution of commitment and payment appropriations reached 94.4 % and 95.3 % respectively.

Out of the maximum contribution of EUR 470 000 000, the Union contributed a total of EUR 426 127 000 in cash and in-kind from the Seventh Framework programme and the members from the Industry Grouping and the Research Grouping contributed a total of validated resources of EUR 458 275 000, comprising EUR 440 391 000 in-kind validated contributions in the Seventh Framework projects.

Parliament noted that for the whole Seventh Framework programme, at the end of 2020, the FCH2 had committed EUR 428 477 494 for signed Seventh Framework grant agreements, of which around EUR 7 062 748 (or 2 %) remain to be paid in the coming years, and that regarding the FCH2's 2020 payment budget available for Seventh Framework projects, the implementation rate for payment appropriations was 89 %.

By the end of 2020, the total EU contribution was EUR 498 577 000 from Horizon 2020. Industry Grouping and Research Grouping together contributed a total of EUR 20 630 000 in validated in-kind contributions.

The low level of in-kind contributions from industry members for operational activities is due to the fact that the Joint Undertaking certifies them at the time of the final cost claims. Parliament called for harmonisation of the calculation of in-kind contributions to the Joint Undertaking.

Other observations

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

In particular, it noted the following:

- 2020 was a key year for the FCH2 in the context of the Commission's adoption on 8 July of the Union's Hydrogen Strategy in line with the NextGenerationEU recovery package and the European Green Deal and that that was marked by the first European Hydrogen Week;

- one call for proposal was published covering 24 topics and the Undertaking received 71 proposals and following that 22 of the 23 grant agreements were signed in 2020;

- by the end of 2020 the FCH 2's global portfolio was 131 projects signed under the Horizon 2020 programme of which 26 were closed and 105 open;

- the public launch of the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Observatory took place in collaboration with DG R&I, which is expected to be an important tool for all policymakers and other stakeholders;

- at the end of 2020, the FCH2 had 27 members of staff and two seconded national experts from 10 Member States and is pleased to note that there is gender balance among staff (56 % men and 44 % women);

- the FCH2 has set up an efficient and effective internal control system for the implementation and closing of grant agreements under the Horizon 2020 programme and it has re-enforced ex-ante controls;

- a common research anti-fraud strategy was set up and internal training sessions were organised on the early detection and exclusion system and on the anti-plagiarism tool.