Basic information

2022/2084(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2021 discharge: General budget of the EU - Court of Justice of the European Union **Subject** 8.70.03.11 2021 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	PEKSA Mikuláš (Greens/EFA)	14/07/2022
	Shadow rapporteur MARINESCU Marian-Jean (EPP) MANDA Claudiu (S&D) STRUGARIU Ramona (Renew) CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR) KUHS Joachim (ID) FLANAGAN Luke Ming (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
DEVE Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
INTA International Trade	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
TRAN Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
REGI Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PECH Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CULT Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI Legal Affairs	Chair on behalf of committee VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA Adrián (Renew)	05/09/2022
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Budget	HAHN Johannes

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/06/2022	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2022)0323	
13/09/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/02/2023	Vote in committee		
24/03/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0073/2023	Summary
09/05/2023	Debate in Parliament		
10/05/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0140/2023	Summary
10/05/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
29/09/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/2084(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/09709

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE738.384	16/12/2022	
Committee opinion	JURI	PE736.657	17/01/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE742.340	02/02/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0073/2023	24/03/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0140/2023	10/05/2023	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	06247/2023	16/02/2023	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
	COM(2022)0323		

Non-legislative basic document		23/06/2022	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	N9-0066/2022 OJ C 391 12.10.2022, p. 0006	12/10/2022	
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	N9-0003/2023 OJ C 429 11.11.2022, p. 0008	11/11/2022	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Budget 2023/1827
OJ L 242 29.09.2023, p. 0099

2021 discharge: General budget of the EU - Court of Justice of the European Union

2022/2084(DEC) - 24/03/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Mikuláš PEKSA (Greens/EFA, CZ) on the discharge for implementation of the European Union general budget for the financial year 2021, Section IV - Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

The committee responsible recommended that Parliament **give discharge** to the Registrar of the Court of Justice in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Court of Justice of the European Union for the financial year 2021.

Budgetary and financial management

Members note that the overall budget allocated to the CJEU for 2021 was approximately **EUR 444 million**, higher than the EUR 436 million for 2020 and the EUR 429 million for 2019. They note the **high budget implementation rate** of 98.69% in 2021.

For some budget lines, the net impact of the COVID-19 crisis was a reduction in the use of appropriations, while for others, the crisis required additional expenditure. In terms of figures, the additional expenditure due to the COVID-19 pandemic can be estimated at EUR 1.7 million while the savings are estimated at EUR 6 million.

Internal management, performance and control

In 2021, the measures to counter the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic enabled the CJEU to maintain a high level of performance.

The report notes the increase in 2021 in the total number of cases brought before the two courts (1 720 in 2021 compared with 1 584 in 2020), as well as in the number of cases closed (1 723 in 2021 compared with 1 540 in 2020). This increase mainly concerns the Court of Justice and is essentially linked to the significant increase in the number of appeals against decisions of the Court of First Instance, which in turn is due to the increase in the Court's activities.

The average duration of proceedings before the Court of Justice increased from 15.4 months in 2020 to 16.6 months in 2021, while at the General Court it reached 17.3 months in 2021 compared to 15.4 months in 2021. The number of cases pending before both courts remained stable in 2021.

Human resources, equality and staff well-being

In 2021, a significant partial renewal of the CJEU occurred with the arrival of nine new judges at the Court of Justice and five new judges at the General Court.

Members note that, since July 2022, the General Court has two judges per Member State, while the Court of Justice is still composed of one judge per Member State. They encourage the CJEU to continue its analysis on how to rebalance the workload between the two courts.

The report maintains that it is important to **address the lack of gender balance** in the panel of judges. In 2021, the proportion of men and women in staff and management positions is the same as in the previous year. By the end of 2021, women will represent 60% of the staff. Members note with satisfaction that the CJEU is seeking to achieve geographical balance by encouraging applications from people from under-represented Member States.

The report commends the CJEU for taking specific measures to ensure the physical and mental well-being of staff in the context of the particular teleworking conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. It encourages the CJEU to continue its policy of providing guidance to and involving management in safeguarding the well-being of staff.

Ethical framework and transparency

Members welcome the adoption of the new code of conduct for members of the Court of Justice and the General Court, which entered into force on 7 October 2021 and which focuses on the declaration of interests of members. They regret that the new code of conduct for staff members is still in the process of adoption and therefore call on the CJEU to conclude the procedure as soon as possible. They underlined the importance of providing staff with comprehensive and up-to-date references on many sensitive issues such as revolving doors, outside activities and professional activities after leaving the service.

The report also welcomed:

- the efforts made by the CJEU to accelerate and broaden the digitalisation of its activities and procedures, both in the judicial and administrative fields. The CJEU has played an active role in supporting initiatives to strengthen cybersecurity in all EU institutions, bodies and agencies;

- the detailed report to the Budgetary Authority on the CJEU's building investment plans;

- the adoption by the CJEU of an environmental policy, which is publicly available on its website. By 2021, the CJEU achieved a significant reduction of electricity, water and paper consumption, of canteen and office waste and of greenhouse gas emissions;

- the commitment of the CJEU to inter-institutional cooperation.

2021 discharge: General budget of the EU - Court of Justice of the European Union

2022/2084(DEC) - 10/05/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 563 votes to 73, with 1 abstention, to **grant discharge** to the Registrar of the Court of Justice in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Court of Justice of the European Union for the financial year 2021.

In its resolution, adopted by 560 votes to 75 with 2 abstentions, Parliament made the following observations:

Budgetary and financial management

The overall budget allocated to the CJEU for 2021 was approximately EUR 444 million, higher than the EUR 436 million for 2020 and the EUR 429 million for 2019. Members noted the high budget implementation rate of 98.69% in 2021.

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on all the activities of the CJEU, both judicial and administrative, and this crisis had an impact on the budget consumption of several of the CJEU's budget lines. For some budget lines, the net impact of the COVID-19 crisis was a reduction in the use of appropriations, while for others, the crisis required additional expenditure. In terms of figures, the additional expenditure due to the COVID-19 pandemic can be estimated at EUR 1.7 million while the savings are estimated at EUR 6 million. The net amount of savings can be estimated at EUR 4.3 million.

Internal management, performance and control

In 2021, the measures to counter the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic enabled the CJEU to maintain a high level of performance.

The resolution noted the increase in 2021 in the total **number of cases** brought before the two courts (1 720 in 2021 compared with 1 584 in 2020), as well as in the number of cases closed (1 723 in 2021 compared with 1 540 in 2020). This increase mainly concerns the Court of Justice and is essentially linked to the significant increase in the number of appeals against decisions of the Court of First Instance, which in turn is due to the increase in the Court's activities.

The **average duration of proceedings** before the Court of Justice increased from 15.4 months in 2020 to 16.6 months in 2021, while at the General Court it reached 17.3 months in 2021 compared to 15.4 months in 2021. The number of cases pending before both courts remained stable in 2021.

Human resources, equality and staff well-being

In 2021, a significant partial renewal of the CJEU occurred with the arrival of nine new judges at the Court of Justice and five new judges at the General Court.

Parliament maintained that it is important to **remedy the lack of gender balance in the College of Judges**. At the end of 2021, women represented 60% of the staff, which shows that the CJEU has surpassed the average of the EU institutions as regards the representation of women in positions of responsibility within the administration.

At the end of 2021, there were 2 247 officials and other staff working at the CJEU. Members were pleased to note that the CJEU is seeking to achieve geographical balance by encouraging applications from people from under-represented Member States. They regretted that in 2021, the percentage of paid trainees (68%) had fallen compared to the previous year (72% in 2020).

Parliament noted with satisfaction that in 2021 the activities of the Training and Development Unit of the CJEU included specific initiatives relating to equal opportunities, diversity and inclusion. It welcomed the fact that the CJEU has deployed more resources to prevent cases of burnout and commended the CJEU for taking specific measures to ensure the physical and mental well-being of staff in the context of the particular teleworking conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

Ethical framework and transparency

Members welcomed the adoption of the **new code of conduct** for members of the Court of Justice and the General Court, which entered into force on 7 October 2021 and which places emphasis on members' declarations of interest. They regretted that the new code of conduct for members of staff was still in the process of being adopted and called on the CJEU to conclude the procedure as soon as possible. They stressed the importance of providing staff with an updated and comprehensive term of reference on many sensitive topics such as revolving doors, outside activities and occupational activities after leaving the service.

Parliament noted the satisfactory degree of transparency achieved through the annual publication on the Curia website, since 2018, of lists of the outside activities of the members of the Court of Justice and the General Court. In addition, 96 requests were submitted by staff for an authorisation to engage in professional activity after leaving the CJEU, all of which were approved, that no breach of the cooling-off period was detected.

Parliament also commented on digital transition, cybersecurity and data protection, buildings and security, environment and sustainability, interinstitutional cooperation and communication.

In particular, the resolution welcomed:

- the efforts made by the CJEU to accelerate and broaden the digitalisation of its activities and procedures, both in judicial and administrative areas. The CJEU has played an active role in supporting initiatives to strengthen cybersecurity in all EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies;

- the detailed report provided to the budgetary authority on the CJEU's property investment plans; since June 2021, the CJEU has had a contract for the establishment of an inventory of its architectural assets and their systematic inspection, a contract to which EUR 140 000 has been allocated in 2021 and EUR 230 000 in 2022;

- the adoption by the CJEU of an environmental policy, which is publicly available on its website. By 2021, the CJEU had considerably reduced its consumption of electricity, water and paper, its catering and office waste, and its greenhouse gas emissions;

- the commitment of the CJEU to inter-institutional cooperation;

- the rate of use of e-Curia, which was 85% before the Court of Justice and 93% for the General Court. The Curia website was consulted by 6.1 million visitors and its pages were viewed 25.3 million times in 2021. The CJEU is encouraged to step up its communication efforts to strengthen the link with citizens.