Basic information	
2022/2087(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2021 discharge: General budget of the EU - Committee of the Regions **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) MITUȚA Alin (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	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
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		
30/03/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0080/2023	Summary
09/05/2023	Debate in Parliament		
10/05/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0143/2023	Summary
10/05/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
29/09/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/2087(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/09769

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE738.387	18/01/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE742.343	02/02/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0080/2023	30/03/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0143/2023	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
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2022)0323	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 2023/1833
OJ L 242 29.09.2023, p. 0136

2021 discharge: General budget of the EU - Committee of the Regions

2022/2087(DEC) - 10/05/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 557 votes to 33, with 21 abstentions, to **grant discharge** to the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Committee of the Regions for the financial year 2021.

In its resolution, adopted by 558 votes to 57 with 21 abstentions, Parliament made the following observations:

Budgetary and financial management

The Committee's final budget for 2021 amounted to **EUR 106 740 880**, a slight increase of 5.15% compared to EUR 101 508 480 in 2020 and EUR 98 751 065 in 2019. It notes the high budget implementation of 98.9%, compared to 92.7% in 2020, closer to the pre-pandemic levels achieved in 2019 and 2018, while the payment rate at 31 December 2021 was 85.1%, an improvement on the 82.4% in 2020.

EUR 1.1 million was uncommitted at the end of 2021 and was thus returned to the Union budget, which is considerably less than in 2020, when approximately EUR 7.4 million remained uncommitted, bringing the current figure closer to the pre-pandemic levels.

The Committee is encouraged to continue enhancing the monitoring and management of the available appropriations.

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the Committee’s activity, meaning that there was a reduction in the use of appropriations for certain budget lines. The savings are estimated at over EUR 8 million, compared to EUR 11 million for the year 2020.

Internal management, performance and control

Parliament noted the collective efforts of all parties involved in providing continuous support to the Committee's political activities by ensuring that activities can be carried out through remote meetings and communication platforms in the new circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, the Committee adopted referrals referring to Commission legislative proposals, own-initiative opinions and opinions based on Union documents and resolutions, in total 69 documents, compared to 56 and 55 adopted in 2020 and 2019 respectively. The Committee published studies and reports on specific issues, including the second edition of the annual EU regional and local barometer on the state of the Union's regions and cities and awareness-raising for more than one million regional and local elected representatives.

In 2021, the Committee held more than 200 conferences and events. Members of the Committee intervened in 42 meetings of Parliament’s committees whereas Members of Parliament intervened in 58 plenaries or commissions’ meetings of the Committee.

The plenary of the Conference on the Future of Europe composed of 449 delegates, included 18 representatives of the Committee and 12 locally and regionally elected politicians. The Committee's extensive involvement in the Conference on the Future of Europe enabled it to organise a series of events that reached over 10 000 citizens.

Parliament welcomed the launch in March 2021 of the Committee's new generation network of regional hubs (RegHub 2.0) with more than 50 members and observers to monitor the implementation of EU policies on the ground. It underlined the Committee's key role in the design and implementation of missions under the Horizon Europe programme by encouraging the close alignment of the EUR 1.5 billion allocated to these missions. It welcomed the establishment of strategic cooperation in the implementation of the Green Deal for Europe.

Human resources, equality and staff welfare

In 2021, the number of establishment plan posts was 494, compared to 491 in 2020, and that the total number of staff was 606, compared to 601 in 2020. Parliament noted the high occupancy rate of 98% in 2021. It asked the Committee to consider synergies with other institutions in logistics, digital services, drivers and other administrative tasks.

Overall, the gender ratio is the same as in 2020, with women making up 56.8% of the Committee's total staff. Members deplore the **gender imbalance** in senior and middle management in 2021.

Parliament welcomed the diversity and inclusion strategy for the 2022-2027 period with its accompanying action plan and which sets the short term target of 40 % women in management with main overarching goal of 50 % once the short term goal is achieved. The Committee is invited to be more ambitious in the annual action plans implementing that strategy.

Members also welcomed the fact that among the measures expected in the new diversity and inclusion strategy are a mentoring programme for female candidates for management positions and workshops to raise awareness among management staff on various equal opportunities issues. They welcomed the attention given to specific gender issues, such as the appointment in 2021 of the first LGBTI+ contact person to assist colleagues who wish to discuss their personal experiences within the Committee.

The Committee is invited to integrate the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic into its internal business continuity and crisis management strategy, in order to develop a results-oriented management model that can support a healthy work-life balance.

Ethical framework and transparency

Members reiterate their request to the Committee to reconsider its participation in the **transparency register** created by the Interinstitutional Agreement of 20 May 2021 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission which allows for the voluntary involvement of Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies other the signatory institutions, but does not cover the activities of regional and local authorities and the associations representing them. They reaffirmed the importance of a high level of transparency regarding meetings of lobbyists who may influence the Committee in its advisory role to the EU institutions.

Members welcomed the fact that, following the Parliament's recommendations, the Committee has collected from its members and alternates the financial declarations that were still largely missing. They encouraged the Committee to follow up any missing financial declarations and to pursue a strict policy of enforcing transparency obligations.

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

The resolution made the following observations, *inter alia*:

- the Committee has made considerable progress in fully **digitising** its work processes and has implemented several important projects to further digitise its business processes and facilitate the political work of Committee members. The Committee spent EUR 6 112 846 on IT projects and IT equipment in 2021, compared to EUR 6 392 372 and EUR 4 033 320 in 2020 and 2019. The Committee is encouraged to maintain a high level of attention to cyber security issues;

- on 10 May 2021, the Budgetary Authority approved the takeover of the rental contract in September 2021 by the Committee and the EESC of the former EEAS building in Belliard 100, the rental costs of which will be covered by the savings made by renting the Van Maerlant building (VMA) at a lower price than the rental costs of the Belliard 68 (B68) and Trier 74 (TRE74) buildings, which were transferred to the Commission in September 2022;

- the Committee has achieved positive environmental results in 2021 with regard to electricity, water and paper consumption (reduction of 2.1%, 14.3% and 55% respectively compared to 2020);

- lastly, the new inter-institutional cooperation agreement with the EESC will significantly contribute to strengthening governance in terms of cooperation and control mechanisms and is a further demonstration of the willingness to share resources efficiently and create synergies.

2021 discharge: General budget of the EU - Committee of the Regions

2022/2087(DEC) - 30/03/2023 - 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 VII - Committee of the Regions (CoR).

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament **give discharge** to the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Committee of the Regions for the financial year 2021.

Budgetary and financial management

The report notes that the Committee's final budget for 2021 amounted to **EUR 106 740 880**, a slight increase of 5.15% compared to EUR 101 508 480 in 2020 and EUR 98 751 065 in 2019. It notes the high budget implementation of 98.9%, compared to 92.7% in 2020, closer to the pre-pandemic levels achieved in 2019 and 2018, while the payment rate at 31 December 2021 was 85.1%, an improvement on the 82.4% in 2020.

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the Committee's activity, meaning that there was a reduction in the use of appropriations for certain budget lines. The savings are estimated at over EUR 8 million, compared to EUR 11 million for the year 2020.

Internal management, performance and control

The report acknowledges the collective efforts of all parties involved in providing continuous support to the Committee's political activities by ensuring that activities can be carried out through remote meetings and communication platforms in the new circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021 the Committee adopted referrals referring to Commission legislative proposals, own-initiative opinions and opinions based on Union documents and resolutions, in total **69 documents**, compared to 56 and 55 adopted in 2020 and 2019 respectively. The Committee published studies and reports on specific issues, including the second edition of the annual EU regional and local barometer on the state of the Union's regions and cities and awareness-raising for more than one million regional and local elected representatives.

In 2021, Committee members spoke at 42 parliamentary committee meetings. The Committee's extensive involvement in the Future of Europe conference enabled it to organise 6 high-level events, 60 local events, 63 events during the European Week of Regions and Cities and 7 events in the Young Elected People's Programme, reaching over 10 000 citizens.

The report welcomes the launch in March 2021 of the Committee's new generation network of regional hubs (RegHub 2.0) with more than 50 members and observers to monitor the implementation of EU policies on the ground. It underlines the Committee's key role in the design and implementation of missions under the Horizon Europe programme by encouraging the close alignment of the EUR 1.5 billion allocated to these missions. It welcomes the establishment of strategic cooperation in the implementation of the Green Deal for Europe.

Human resources, equality and staff welfare

The report notes that in 2021 the number of establishment plan posts was 494, compared to 491 in 2020, and that the total number of staff was 606, compared to 601 in 2020. It notes the high occupancy rate of 98% in 2021. It asked the Committee to consider synergies with other institutions in logistics, digital services, drivers and other administrative tasks.

Overall, the gender ratio is the same as in 2020, with women making up 56.8% of the Committee's total staff. Members deplore the **gender imbalance** in senior and middle management in 2021. They welcome the fact that among the measures expected in the new diversity and inclusion strategy are a mentoring programme for female candidates for management positions and workshops to raise awareness among management staff on various equal opportunities issues. They also welcome the attention given to specific gender issues, such as the appointment in 2021 of the first LGBTI+ contact person to assist colleagues who wish to discuss their personal experiences within the Committee.

The Committee is invited to integrate the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic into its internal business continuity and crisis management strategy, in order to develop a results-oriented management model that can support a healthy work-life balance.

Ethical framework and transparency

Members reiterate their request to the Committee to reconsider its participation in the transparency register created by the Interinstitutional Agreement of 20 May 2021 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission. They reaffirm the importance of a high level of transparency regarding meetings of lobbyists who may influence the Committee in its advisory role to the EU institutions.

The report welcomes the fact that, following the Parliament's recommendations, the Committee has collected from its members and alternates the financial declarations that were still largely missing. It encourages the Committee to follow up any missing financial declarations and to pursue a strict policy of enforcing transparency obligations.

The report makes the following observations, *inter alia*:

- the Committee has made considerable progress in **fully digitising** its work processes and has implemented several important projects to further digitise its business processes and facilitate the political work of Committee members. The Committee is encouraged to maintain a high level of attention to cyber security issues;

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