Basic information

2022/2093(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2021 discharge: Agency for Support for BEREC (BEREC Office) **Subject** 8.70.03.11 2021 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	CSEH Katalin (Renew)	14/07/2022
	Shadow rapporteur SARVAMAA Petri (EPP) MANDA Claudiu (S&D) EICKHOUT Bas (Greens /EFA) CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR) 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.	
IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Budget	HAHN Johannes

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
		COM(2022)0323	

23/06/2022	Non-legislative basic document published		
13/09/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/03/2023	Vote in committee		
05/04/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0129/2023	
09/05/2023	Debate in Parliament		
10/05/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0176/2023	Summary
10/05/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
29/09/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/2093(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/09835

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE737.508	20/01/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE742.564	21/02/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0129/2023	05/04/2023	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0176/2023	10/05/2023	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	06248/2023	13/02/2023	

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	N9-0002/2023 OJ C 412 27.10.2022, p. 0012	27/10/2022	

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

Final act
Budget 2023/1847 OJ L 242 29.09.2023, p. 0200

2021 discharge: Agency for Support for BEREC (BEREC Office)

2022/2093(DEC) - 10/05/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the Director of the Agency for Support for BEREC (BEREC Office) in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the 2021 financial year and to approve the closure of the Joint Undertaking's accounts for the same financial year.

Noting that the Court of Auditors stated that it had obtained reasonable assurance that the Office's annual accounts for the financial year 2021 were reliable and that the underlying transactions were legal and regular, Parliament adopted, by 547 votes to 57 with 17 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations which form an integral part of the discharge decision and which complement the general recommendations set out in the resolution on the performance, financial management and control of EU agencies.

Agency's financial statements

The Agency's final budget for the financial year 2021 was EUR 7 341 357, representing an increase of 1.49 % compared to 2020, which mainly represents an increase in staff expenditure.

Budgetary and financial management

Budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2021 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 99.97 % for the commitment appropriations of the final adopted budget for the year, representing an increase of 0.89 % compared to 2020. The budget implementation rate is the highest one of the last five years and is within the threshold of above 95 % established by the management board. Payment appropriations execution rate was 69.33 %, representing an increase of 8.19 % compared to 2020 but below the rates in 2017 and 2019 due to carry-overs related to the launch of a high number of specific projects that were intended to be finalised in 2022.

Parliament noted that the Court found, for the financial year 2019, that a procurement procedure for legal services was irregular and as a result the subsequent payments made based on this framework contract are irregular, and that in 2021, the associated payments amounted to EUR 4 444.

Other observations

Parliament also made a series of observations concerning performance, staff policy, public procurement and internal controls.

In particular, it noted that:

- the Agency delivered two studies for BEREC in 2021, namely, the ‘Study on consumer behaviour toward digital platforms as means of communication’ and the ‘Study on post-COVID measures to close the digital divide’, and part of one on reducing the environmental footprint of the BEREC and Agency, with its final report due in 2022, for which three specific contracts were signed in 2021;

- on 31 December 2021, the establishment plan was 93.75 % implemented, with 15 temporary agents appointed out of 16 temporary agents authorised under the Union budget (the same number of authorised posts as in 2020). Measures should be taken to achieve gender balance as soon as possible;

- the Agency should improve its internal recruitment procedure to clarify evaluation processes and vacancy notices;

- more systematic rules on transparency, incompatibilities, conflict of interests, illegal lobbying and revolving doors should be put in place. The Agency should also strengthen its internal control mechanisms, including the setting up of an internal anticorruption mechanism;

- in 2021 a project of workshops to define a strategic roadmap for the future digital workplace projects on technologies and way of working, and a data protection impact assessment and IT security plan for Microsoft Office services and possible cloud migration strategies. Moreover, the Agency is asked to speed up the development of the cybersecurity policy.