

Basic information	
<b>2022/2124(DEC)</b> DEC - Discharge procedure 2021 discharge: European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)	Procedure completed
<b>Subject</b> 8.70.03.11 2021 discharge	

Key players				
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>		<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<b>CONT</b> Budgetary Control		STRUGARIU Ramona (Renew)	14/07/2022
			Shadow rapporteur ZDECHOVSKÝ Tomáš (EPP) MANDA Claudiu (S&D) EICKHOUT Bas (Greens /EFA) CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR) KUHS Joachim (ID) OMARJEE Younous (The Left)	
	<b>Committee for opinion</b>		<b>Rapporteur for opinion</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<b>AFET</b> Foreign Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	<b>LIBE</b> Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		BRICMONT Saskia (Greens /EFA)	10/10/2022
European Commission	<b>Commission DG</b>		<b>Commissioner</b>	
	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		
22/03/2023	Vote in committee		
13/04/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0142/2023	Summary
09/05/2023	Debate in Parliament		
10/05/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0165/2023	Summary
10/05/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
29/09/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2022/2124(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/09901

Documentation gateway				
<b>European Parliament</b>				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE737.501	24/01/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE742.596	21/02/2023	
Committee opinion	<span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">LIBE</span>	PE739.540	13/03/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0142/2023	13/04/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0165/2023	10/05/2023	Summary
<b>Council of the EU</b>				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	06248/2023	13/02/2023		
<b>European Commission</b>				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2022)0323 	23/06/2022		
<b>Other institutions and bodies</b>				
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	
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<b>Final act</b>
Budget 2023/1940 OJ L 242 29.09.2023, p. 0457

## 2021 discharge: European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)

2022/2124(DEC) - 10/05/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 388 votes to 238, with 4 abstentions, to **grant discharge** to the Executive Director of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in regard to the implementation of the agency's budget for the 2021 financial year and to approve the closure of the accounts for the financial year in question.

Noting that the Court of Auditors has stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2021 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted by 498 votes to 82 with 44 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations, which form an integral part of the decision on discharge and which add to the general recommendations set out in the [resolution](#) on performance, financial management and control of EU agencies.

### **Agency's financial statements**

The Agency's final budget for the financial year 2020 was EUR 535 245 042, representing an increase of 46.87% compared to 2020.

### **Budget and financial management**

Budget-monitoring efforts during the financial year 2021 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 94.70%, representing a decrease of 4.27% compared to 2020. According to Parliament, the Agency should pay more attention in order to avoid lower levels of commitments and to reach a rate closer to the target of 100%.

In spite of the Agency's financial unit having put in place certain mechanisms to improve budget execution, in 2021 the payment appropriations execution rate was only 50.42%, representing a decrease of 4.90% compared to 2020.

Parliament noted the second amendment of the Agency's budget in 2021 in connection with a return to the Union budget of EUR 14.5 million. The Agency's justification for having adopted this amendment is insufficient and it should, in its future reporting, provide the discharge authority with more elaborate justifications as to why budgetary amendments, returning money to the Union, are adopted.

The level of carry-over from 2020 to 2021 was EUR 159 400 000, while from 2021 to 2022 it was EUR 237 000 000. This level is particularly high.

### **Other observations**

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

In particular, it noted that:

- in 2021, the Agency implemented a new organisational structure, a major endeavour for effectively addressing its extended mandate;
- the level of the perceived quality of the Agency's delivered products and services has improved, as in 2021 it reached a mark of 94.34% of assessments from average, high to very high;
- the Agency successfully deployed to the host Member States and to four Union airports the first officers of the European Border and Coast Guard standing;
- operational activities conducted on land borders in 2021 resulted in 3 546 incidents reported, involving 16 304 apprehended irregular migrants, 6 461 irregular migrants and 368 arrested smugglers;
- the Agency's efforts led to the return by air of 18 301 non-EU nationals, of which 10 193 were persons on 337 operations by charter flights to 33 countries of return and 8 108 persons by scheduled flights to 107 countries of return;
- on 31 December 2021, the establishment plan was 82% executed, with 861 temporary agents appointed out of 1050 temporary agents authorised under the Union budget;

- on procurement, the Agency secured strategically important contracts in areas such as surveillance aircraft support, the provision of personal protective equipment and sanitary supplies, the supply of four-wheel drive off-road vehicles, the supply of service weapons, satellite imagery provisioning, the delivery of map production services, the provision of meteorological and oceanographic information services or the purchase of drones and payloads;

- the Agency is urged to ensure greater transparency and public accountability by better-utilising media and social media channels.

## 2021 discharge: European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)

2022/2124(DEC) - 13/04/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Ramona STRUGARIU (Renew Europe, RO) on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency for the financial year 2021.

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament **give discharge** to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2021.

### ***Budgetary and financial management***

Since December 2019 the Agency has been implementing a new mandate with a scale-up that is significant in terms of missions and staff, that requires an adequate budget. Therefore, the final budget of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency for the financial year 2021 was EUR 535 245 042, representing an increase of 46.87% compared to 2020.

The budget-monitoring efforts during the financial year 2021 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 94.70%, representing a decrease of 4.27% compared to 2020. The report regrets that, in spite of the Agency's financial unit having put in place certain mechanisms to improve budget execution, in 2021 the payment appropriations execution rate was only 50.42%, representing a decrease of 4.90% compared to 2020.

### ***Performance***

In 2021, the Agency implemented a new organisational structure, a major endeavour for effectively addressing its extended mandate. Members commend the Agency's strategy for efficiency gains through the digitalisation, automation or simplification of rules and procedures applied in certain areas.

Operational activities conducted on land borders in 2021 resulted in 3 546 incidents reported, involving 16 304 apprehended irregular migrants, 6 461 irregular migrants and 368 arrested smugglers. The Agency's efforts led to the return by air of 18 301 non-EU nationals, of which 10 193 were persons on 337 operations by charter flights to 33 countries of return and 8 108 persons by scheduled flights to 107 countries of return.

Members stress that every operational plan should include a **transparent reporting mechanism** ensuring that every incident in the operational area is reported and properly followed up.

### ***Staff policy***

In 2021, the establishment plan was 82% executed, with 861 temporary agents appointed out of 1050 temporary agents authorised under the Union budget. In addition, 506 contract agents and 187 seconded national experts worked for the Agency (with 730 contract agents and 220 seconded national experts authorised for the Agency in 2021).

The Agency's gender breakdown reported for 2021 at senior management level with 15 men (68.18%) and 7 women (31.82%), at the level of the management board with 55 men (83.3%) and 11 women (16.7%), and for the Agency's staff overall, with 1116 men (71.8%) and 438 women (28.2%). The responsibility to ensure gender balance within the management board lies with the Member States.

Moreover, the report welcomes the Agency's extensive anti-harassment measures and policies put in place.

### ***Procurement***

In 2021, the Agency launched 36 open tenders, with 18 resulting in signed contracts for a total value of EUR 218 400 000, and that 18 of these are still ongoing, with an estimated value of EUR 241 000 000. Members commend the Agency's efforts in 2021 to secure strategically important contracts in areas such as surveillance aircraft support, the provision of personal protective equipment and sanitary supplies, the supply of four-wheel drive off-road vehicles, the supply of service weapons, satellite imagery provisioning, the delivery of map production services, the provision of meteorological and oceanographic information services or the purchase of drones and payloads.

### ***Internal control***

The report takes note of the Agency's assessment of the internal control system being partially effective in 2021. Weaknesses are to be found in the areas of recruitment procedures, procurement procedures and with regard to the delegation of powers to authorising officers by delegation or sub-delegation.

### ***Digitalisation and green transition***

The Agency put in place various measures to reduce the environmental impact of its activities, including through digital solutions for paperless document circulation, paperless workflow for financial transactions, e-learning tools for training activities or remote meetings.

Lasty, Member remind the Agency of the fact it is accountable to the Parliament, and that the Parliament is resolved to ensure that the Agency contributes to the continuous and uniform application of Union law, including the Union acquis on fundamental rights, in particular the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. To achieve this goal, an enhanced cooperation with the Agency's management board by strengthening the transparency, accountability and democratic oversight of the Agency is needed. The Agency should ensure greater transparency and public accountability by utilizing media and social media channels.