Basic information

2022/2130(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2021 discharge: Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking **Subject** 8.70.03.11 2021 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR)	14/07/2022
	Shadow rapporteur WINZIG Angelika (EPP) HEIDE Hannes (S&D) WIEZIK Michal (Renew) RIVASI Michèle (Greens/EFA) ADINOLFI Matteo (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
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		

27/03/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0083/2023	
09/05/2023	Debate in Parliament		
10/05/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0185/2023	Summary
10/05/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
29/09/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/2130(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/09917

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE738.437	13/12/2022	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE742.334	02/02/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0083/2023	27/03/2023	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0185/2023	10/05/2023	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	06252/2023	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	N9-0004/2023 OJ C 433 15.11.2022, p. 0052	15/11/2022	

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

Final act
Budget 2023/1956 OJ L 242 29.09.2023, p. 0520

2021 discharge: Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking

2022/2130(DEC) - 10/05/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the Executive Director of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (before 30.11.2021 the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen 2 Joint Undertaking) in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2021 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 2021 present fairly the financial situation of the Joint Undertaking on 31 December 2021, as well as the results of its operations, Parliament adopted, by 578 votes to 30 with 7 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of observations which form an integral part of the discharge decision.

Budgetary and financial management

The Clean H2 Joint Undertaking final available budget, which includes re-entered unused appropriations of previous years, assigned revenues and reallocations to the next year, for the financial year 2021 included commitment appropriations of EUR 15.8 million (compared to EUR 104.2 million in 2020) and payment appropriations of EUR 56.2 million (compared to EUR 103.8 million in 2020). The overall 2021 budget execution of commitment and payment appropriations reached 97 % and 87 % respectively.

Compared to 2020, the 2021 appropriations decreased by 85 % in terms of commitments and by 44 % in terms of payments. The decrease in the 2021 budget was due to the lack of calls launched in 2021.

Out of the maximum contribution of EUR 470 million, the Union contributed a total of EUR 426.5 million in cash and in-kind from the Seventh Research Framework Programme and the members of the Industry and Research Groupings contributed a total of validated resources of EUR 466 million, comprising EUR 443.9 million in-kind contributions in the Seventh Research Framework Programme projects.

At the end of 2021, the Union contributed a total of EUR 545.5 million from Horizon 2020 and that the private members contributed a total of EUR 50 million in cash and validated in-kind contributions, comprising EUR 38.6 million in in-kind contributions in the Clean

The level of validated private members' in-kind contributions for operational activities of EUR 38.6 million, is due to the fact that the Clear H2 Joint Undertaking certifies them later in the Horizon 2020 programme, when the final payment for the projects is made and the certificates of financial statement are due. On the other hand, private members contributed a total of EUR 1 039 million in-kind to additional activities as at the end of 2021, significantly more than the minimum EUR 285 million for the entire duration of the Horizon 2020.

Other observations

The resolution also contains a series of observations on procurement, staff and internal control.

In particular, it noted the following:

- in terms of volume, the operational procurement activities, IT services and the organisation of the European Hydrogen Week for 2021 were the contracts with the highest value and that launching and publishing a call for tender, and receiving and opening of tenders have been simplified by using eTendering, eNotices and eSubmission modules;

- on 31 December 2021, the Clean H2 Joint Undertaking had 23 temporary agents, two contract agents and two seconded national experts;

- the Joint Undertaking formalised the current monitoring practices regarding risks and complexity of the grant agreements and developed internal guidance for monitoring dissemination and exploitation of the Horizon 2020 project results;

- systemic errors were found in the personnel costs declared by beneficiaries, in particular on the part of SMEs and new beneficiaries. Therefore, Parliament called on the Joint Undertaking should strengthen its internal control systems;

- specific measures have been implemented for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest of experts in charge of the evaluation of grant applications and of the review of projects and tenders.