Basic information

2022/2133(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2021 discharge: Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (EU-Rail) **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) WIECZIK 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.	
TRAN Transport and Tourism	FALCĂ Gheorghe (EPP)	07/10/2022

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		
28/03/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0090/2023	
09/05/2023	Debate in Parliament		
10/05/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0186/2023	Summary
10/05/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
29/09/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/2133(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/09925

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE738.440	13/12/2022	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE738.519	31/01/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE742.338	02/02/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0090/2023	28/03/2023	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0186/2023	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 2023/1968 OJ L 242 29.09.2023, p. 0557

2021 discharge: Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (EU-Rail)

2022/2133(DEC) - 10/05/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the Executive Director *ad interim* of Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (before 30.11.2021 the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking) in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2021 and approve the closure of the 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 549 votes to 41 with 34 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of observations which form an integral part of the discharge decision.

General comments

Parliament welcomed the efforts of the Joint Undertaking to further develop synergies between the new partnership and existing funding mechanisms of the Union, including projects funded under Union programmes such as the Connecting Europe Facility, the Digital Europe Plan, the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund, as well as InvestEU.

Members stressed that the Horizon Europe programme should contribute to a 50% increase in high-speed rail traffic by 2030. They added that planned collective journeys of less than 500 km should be carbon-neutral within the Union, that automated mobility should be deployed on a large scale and that, by 2050, rail freight traffic should double. They pointed out that high-speed rail traffic should triple and the Trans-European Multimodal Transport Network (TEN-T), equipped for sustainable and intelligent transport with high-speed connectivity, should be operational for the global network by 2030. Full deployment of ERTMS by 2030 is a major priority.

Parliament called for more advanced automation, faster and more reliable connectivity, and a profound transformation of mobility service management through IT.

Budgetary and financial management

The 2021 Joint Undertaking budget does not include any revenue or commitment/payment appropriations in relation with Joint Undertaking's resources coming from Horizon Europe or its private members and that it consists only of appropriations related to Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking and Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking members.

In 2021, the Joint Undertaking budget, as finally adopted, including unused appropriations of previous years, which the Joint Undertaking re-entered in the budget of the current year, assigned revenues and reallocations to the next year, amounted to EUR 13.625 million (EUR 84.1 million in 2020) in commitment appropriations and EUR 68.440 million (EUR 75.8 million in 2020) in terms of payment appropriations.

By the end of the year, the Joint Undertaking had implemented 100 % of its commitment appropriations made available in its active budget, which include staff and administrative expenditure and that the payment appropriations were implemented up to 85 % of the active funds.

Other comments

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

In particular, it noted the following:

- during 2021, the Joint Undertaking further progressed in delivering the Shift2Rail Programme, although operational activities were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic;

- due to ongoing/pending recruitments, on 31 December 2021 there were 19 staff members including 1 seconded national expert available;

- the average annual rate of interim staff remained high, representing 18 % of statutory staff. Staff turnover also continued to be high;

- the Joint Undertaking played an active role for the visibility of the sector during the Year of Rail 2021;

- in 2020, the Joint Undertaking adopted a revised internal control framework and a first annual self-assessment of the revised internal control framework was performed in Q1 2021 in order to evaluate the compliance and effectiveness of internal controls.