

Basic information**2023/2132(DEC)**

DEC - Discharge procedure

2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Court of Justice of the European Union

Subject

8.70.03.12 2022 discharge

Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible**CONT**

Budgetary Control

Rapporteur

FLANAGAN Luke Ming (The Left)

Appointed

26/05/2023

Shadow rapporteur

STAVROU Eleni (EPP)

RÓNAI Sándor (S&D)

STRUGARIU Ramona (Renew)

PEKSA Mikuláš (Greens/EFA)

CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR)

KUHS Joachim (ID)

Committee for opinion**AFET**

Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur for opinion

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	VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA Adrián (Renew)	18/09/2023
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
28/06/2023	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2023)0391 	
12/09/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/02/2024	Vote in committee		
07/03/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0075/2024	Summary
10/04/2024	Debate in Parliament		
11/04/2024	Decision by Parliament	T9-0230/2024	Summary
11/04/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
10/10/2024	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2023/2132(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/12792

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE753.480	14/12/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE758.199	31/01/2024	
Committee opinion	JURI	PE753.556	06/02/2024	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0075/2024	07/03/2024	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0230/2024	11/04/2024	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	06179/2024	12/03/2024	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
	COM(2023)0391		

Non-legislative basic document			28/06/2023	
Other institutions and bodies				
Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	N9-0060/2023 OJ C 000 04.10.2023, p. 0000	04/10/2023	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Budget 2024/2235 OJ OJ L 10.10.2024	Summary

2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Court of Justice of the European Union

2023/2132(DEC) - 07/03/2024 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Luke Ming FLANAGAN (The Left, IE) on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022, Section IV – Court of Justice of the European Union.

The committee called on the European Parliament to grant the Registrar of the Court of Justice discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Court of Justice of the European Union for the financial year 2022.

Budgetary and financial management

The report noted that the overall budget allocated for the CJEU for 2022 amounted to EUR 467 900 000, an increase from EUR 444 049 000 in 2021 and in 2020, equivalent to an increase of 5.4 % from 2021 to 2022, and that 79 % of the budget in 2022 was used for its members and staff, 14 % for buildings, 6 % for IT and 1 % for other expenditure.

Members noted that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in various ways created budgetary pressures for the CJEU, including through rising inflation and salary adjustments, strongly increasing energy costs and costs for a number of goods and services.

Internal management, performance and internal control

In 2022, for the Court of Justice, 68 % of new cases were references for preliminary rulings, 24 % were appeals against decisions of the General Court, and 4 % were actions against Member States for failure to fulfil obligations. In addition, the report stated that, in 2022, for the General Court, 46 % of new cases concerned actions for annulment of acts of Union institutions, 30 % concerned actions relating to intellectual property, and 7 % concerned disputes between institutions of the Union and their staff.

The number of cases brought before the two courts in 2022 is comparable to that of the previous year (1 710 cases in 2022 as compared to 1 720 in 2021). The report noted that, together, the Court of Justice and the General Court were able to complete 1 666 cases in 2022, compared to 1 723 in 2021, which corresponds to the average in recent years (1 692 cases per year between 2018 and 2021). The total number of pending cases is increasing, with 2 585 cases pending in 2022 compared to 2 541 in 2021.

Human resources

The report noted with concern that the Court of Justice and the General Court continue to have a very unbalanced gender composition and that of the eight new Judges taking office in the General Court in 2022, five were men and three were women. There is also an overrepresentation of Union nationalities represented on the staff of the CJEU with French nationals accounting for 22 % of overall staff.

Ethical framework and transparency

Members continue to appreciate the reforms made in 2021 concerning the members of the Court of Justice and of the General Court concerning their code of conduct and the declarations of interest which together with the new requirements for the curriculum vitae of the members represents an improvement in the transparency of the CJEU. They are, nevertheless, of the opinion that the validity and usefulness of the declarations of interest could be improved through some kind of verification and quality control.

The Court is called on to finalise and adopt a new code of conduct with no delay, in line with requests from previous discharge cycles.

Interinstitutional cooperation

Members welcomed that the CJEU has a wide range of service level agreements with other Union institutions which helps reduce costs for the institutions involved and ensures that similar procedures, techniques and work flows are used across the institutions. They noted with appreciation that the CJEU, together with all other Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, have entered into a joint procurement for the supply of accident insurance.

The report noted enhanced cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).

Communication

Lastly, the report noted that, in 2022, the budget for communications, covering content preparation and printing of internal and external publications was EUR 527 500, equivalent to an increase of 3.3 % from 2021.

Regarding transparency, Members noted with appreciation that, in 2022, the CJEU started a streaming service of the case hearings assigned to the Grand Chamber, providing the public with an opportunity to have a better understanding of how the CJEU works. The CJEU is encouraged to widen this initiative to ensure more transparency.

2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Court of Justice of the European Union

2023/2132(DEC) - 11/04/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 550 votes to 55, with 6 abstentions, to grant the Registrar of the Court of Justice discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Court of Justice of the European Union for the financial year 2022.

In its resolution, adopted by 525 votes to 69 with 9 abstentions, Parliament made the following observations:

In its Annual Report for the financial year 2022, states that it did not identify any specific issues concerning the CJEU. Members noted that 14 (23 %) of the 60 transactions contained errors but that the Court of Auditors, based on the five errors which were quantified, estimates the level of error to be below the materiality threshold.

Budgetary and financial management

The overall budget allocated for the CJEU for 2022 amounted to **EUR 467 900 000**, an increase from EUR 444 049 000 in 2021 and in 2020, equivalent to an increase of 5.4 % from 2021 to 2022, and that 79 % of the budget in 2022 was used for its members and staff, 14 % for buildings, 6 % for IT and 1 % for other expenditure. The general mission budget of the CJEU declined from EUR 405 000 in 2021 to EUR 390 000 in 2022, equivalent to a reduction of 3.7 %, which was primarily due to changes in working methods with a larger number of remote meetings.

Members noted that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in various ways created budgetary pressures for the CJEU, including through rising inflation and salary adjustments, strongly increasing energy costs and costs for a number of goods and services.

Internal management, performance and internal control

In 2022, for the Court of Justice, 68 % of new cases were references for preliminary rulings, 24 % were appeals against decisions of the General Court, and 4 % were actions against Member States for failure to fulfil obligations. In addition, the resolution stated that, in 2022, for the General Court, 46 % of new cases concerned actions for annulment of acts of Union institutions, 30 % concerned actions relating to intellectual property, and 7 % concerned disputes between institutions of the Union and their staff.

The number of cases brought before the two courts in 2022 is comparable to that of the previous year (1 710 cases in 2022 as compared to 1 720 in 2021). The resolution noted that, together, the Court of Justice and the General Court were able to complete 1 666 cases in 2022, compared to 1 723 in 2021, which corresponds to the average in recent years (1 692 cases per year between 2018 and 2021). The total number of pending cases is increasing, with 2 585 cases pending in 2022 compared to 2 541 in 2021.

Human resources

Members noted with concern that the Court of Justice and the General Court continue to have a **very unbalanced gender composition** and that of the eight new Judges taking office in the General Court in 2022, five were men and three were women. For senior management, the gender distribution was nine men and six women, equivalent to 60 % men and 40 % women. There is also an overrepresentation of Union nationalities represented on the staff of the CJEU with French nationals accounting for 22 % of overall staff. The CJEU is encouraged to support a multilingual working

environment. All necessary measures should be taken to ensure the wellbeing of its staff in order to bring the number of cases associated with burnout down.

Ethical framework and transparency

Members continue to appreciate the reforms made in 2021 concerning the members of the Court of Justice and of the General Court concerning their code of conduct and the declarations of interest which together with the new requirements for the curriculum vitae of the members represents an improvement in the transparency of the CJEU. They are, nevertheless, of the opinion that the validity and usefulness of the declarations of interest could be improved through some kind of verification and quality control.

Members welcomed the publication of the list of external activities carried out by Members of the Court of Justice and the General Court, but recommend that it be made more informative for the general public.

Members noted that no new investigations involving the CJEU were opened by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) in 2022, and that four cases dealt with by the European Ombudsman concerning the CJEU found no maladministration. There were no cases of whistleblowing at the CJEU in 2022 and no cases of conflict of interest were detected.

The Court is called on to finalise and adopt a **new code of conduct** with no delay, in line with requests from previous discharge cycles.

Interinstitutional cooperation

Members welcomed that the CJEU has a wide range of service level agreements with other Union institutions which helps reduce costs for the institutions involved and ensures that similar procedures, techniques and work flows are used across the institutions. They noted with appreciation that the CJEU, together with all other Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, have entered into a joint procurement for the supply of accident insurance.

The resolution noted enhanced cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).

Digitisation, cyber security and data protection

Members welcomed the fact that the CJEU sped up the implementation of an integrated case management system (SIGA), which will allow it to work on an entirely digital, secure and integrated workflow. They welcomed that the CJEU decided to no longer use cloud platforms for sensitive judicial data. They welcomed the CJEU's consideration of how and to what extent digital technologies should be used in its work and the CJEU's commitment to the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) tools into its work and the adoption of a comprehensive AI strategy in July 2023.

Communication

Lastly, the resolution noted that, in 2022, the budget for communications, covering content preparation and printing of internal and external publications was EUR 527 500, equivalent to an increase of 3.3 % from 2021.

Regarding transparency, Members noted with appreciation that, in 2022, the CJEU started a streaming service of the case hearings assigned to the Grand Chamber, providing the public with an opportunity to have a better understanding of how the CJEU works. The CJEU is encouraged to widen this initiative to ensure more transparency.

2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Court of Justice of the European Union

2023/2132(DEC) - 10/10/2024 - Final act

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the Court of Justice for the financial year 2022.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision (EU) 2024/2235 of the European Parliament on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022, Section IV – Court of Justice of the European Union.

CONTENT: the European Parliament decided to grant discharge to the Registrar of the Court of Justice in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Court of Justice for the financial year 2022.

This decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 11 April 2024 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary dated 11 April 2024).

Parliament noted with satisfaction that 2022 marked the 70-year anniversary of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) which constitutes a very important anniversary for the entire Union. It also welcomed an initiative offering remote visits to the CJEU which was launched in 2022 giving young people between the ages of 15 and 18 an understanding of the CJEU and the impact of case-law on their daily lives and increasing their understanding of their rights as Union citizens and of the democratic values of the Union.

The overall budget allocated for the CJEU for 2022 amounted to **EUR 467 900 000**, an increase from EUR 444 049 000 in 2021 and in 2020, equivalent to an increase of 5.4 % from 2021 to 2022, and 79 % of the budget in 2022 was used for its members and staff, 14 % for buildings, 6 % for IT and 1 % for other expenditure. The general mission budget of the CJEU declined from EUR 405 000 in 2021 to EUR 390 000 in 2022, equivalent to a reduction of 3.7 %, which was primarily due to changes in working methods with a larger number of remote meetings.

Moreover, Members noted that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in various ways created budgetary pressures for the CJEU, including through rising inflation and salary adjustments, strongly increasing energy costs and costs for a number of goods and services.