## Basic information

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|---|---|
| **2023/2136(DEC)**<br>DEC - Discharge procedure | Procedure completed |
| 2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Committee of the Regions<br>**Subject**<br>8.70.03.12 2022 discharge | |

## Key players

European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| CONT Budgetary Control | FLANAGAN Luke Ming (The Left) | 26/05/2023 |
| | Shadow rapporteur<br>STAVROU Eleni (EPP)<br>RÓNAI Sándor (S&D)<br>MITUȚA Alin (Renew)<br>PEKSA Mikuláš (Greens/EFA)<br>CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR)<br>KUHS Joachim (ID) | |

| Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| AFET Foreign Affairs | 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. | |

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|---|---|---|
| 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 | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |
| 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 | A9-0073/2024 | Summary |
| 10/04/2024 | Debate in Parliament | | |
| 11/04/2024 | Decision by Parliament | T9-0233/2024 | Summary |
| 11/04/2024 | Results of vote in Parliament | | |
| 10/10/2024 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

## Technical information

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|---|---|
| **Procedure reference** | 2023/2136(DEC) |
| **Procedure type** | DEC - Discharge procedure |
| **Other legal basis** | Rules of Procedure EP 165 |
| **Stage reached in procedure** | Procedure completed |
| **Committee dossier** | CONT/9/12870 |

## Documentation gateway

**European Parliament**

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee draft report | | PE753.484 | 13/12/2023 | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | | PE758.203 | 31/01/2024 | |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | | A9-0073/2024 | 07/03/2024 | Summary |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T9-0233/2024 | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Non-legislative basic document | COM(2023)0391 | 28/06/2023 | |

**Other institutions and bodies**

| Institution/body | Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CofA | Court of Auditors: opinion, report | N9-0060/2023<br>OJ C 000 04.10.2023, p. 0000 | 04/10/2023 | |

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

## Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

### Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

| Transparency | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Name** | **Role** | **Committee** | **Date** | **Interest representatives** |
| FLANAGAN Luke Ming | Rapporteur | CONT | 08/11/2023 | Secretary General, Committee of Regions<br>Deputy Director, Directorate Human resources and finance<br>Head of unit infrastructure in the EESC-COR joint services |

| Final act | |
|---|---|
| Budget 2024/2241<br>OJ OJ L 10.10.2024 | Summary |

# 2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Committee of the Regions

2023/2136(DEC) - 11/04/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 547 votes to 43, with 20 abstentions, to grant the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Committee of the Regions for the financial year 2022.

In its resolution, adopted by 543 votes to 48 with 19 abstentions, Parliament made the following observations:

In its annual report for the financial year 2022, the Court of Auditors did not identify any specific problems concerning the Committee. Members noted that 14 (23%) of the 60 transactions contained errors, but that the Court considers, on the basis of the five errors that could be quantified, that the error rate is below the materiality threshold.

***Budgetary and financial management***

In 2022, the final adopted budget for the Committee amounted to **EUR 109 976 858**, including Amending Budget 5/2022, representing an overall increase of 3.03 % compared to 2021. The appropriations on budget line 1004 for ‘travel and subsistence allowances, attendance at meetings and associated expenditure’ increased from EUR 4 244 488 to EUR 8 158 838, i.e. by 92 %, between 2021 and 2022, owing to the resumption of travel after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The budget implementation rate was **99.2 %** in 2022, which is slightly higher than in 2021, when the budget implementation rate was 98.9 %.

The resolution noted that the Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine created budgetary pressure for the Committee, including through rising inflation and salary adjustments, strongly increasing energy costs and the cost of construction and raw materials.

***Internal management, performance and internal control***

In 2022, the Committee adopted 55 opinions and 8 resolutions which is slightly lower than in 2021 when the Committee adopted 60 opinions and 9 resolutions. Members welcomed that the Committee took concrete steps to strengthen its involvement in the entire Union political and legislative cycle

in line with its prerogatives under the Treaties. The Committee organised 56 preparatory and follow-up meetings with Parliament for the rapporteurs of its opinions.

Members noted that, in 2022, the Committee reviewed and strengthened its internal control framework at the levels of planning and reporting, systems, financial verification and sensitive functions.

*Human resources, equality and staff well-being*

At the end of 2022, the Committee had a total of 533 members of staff, compared to 547 in 2021 and 537 in 2020. It employed 56.8 % women and 43.2 % men. The situation remains particularly unbalanced both at senior and middle management levels.

Members noted that the Committee continued to raise awareness about the measures put in place to combat harassment in the workplace, managing conflict and combatting harassment.

Ethical framework and transparency

The Committee continued the implementation of its 2020 code of conduct for members and, in that respect, intensified its efforts to collect missing financial declarations of members. The Committee continued to implement transparency measures such as the publication of members' declarations of financial interest on its website but did not formally join the EU Transparency Register. The Committee did not detect any conflicts of interest nor was any mismanagement signalled. Members regretted that the Committee has not adopted an internal anti-fraud strategy.

*Buildings*

Parliament noted that the Committee and the EESC lost 5 000 m² in office space following the take-over of the rental contract of the former EEAS building at Belliard 100 (B100), which took effect in September 2021, and the buildings exchange between the Committee and the EESC's Belliard 68 and Trèves 74 and the Commission's Van Maerlant 2 (VMA), which took effect in September 2022. Fitting-out works in the two newly acquired buildings were necessary to enable a denser use of the office space.

*Interinstitutional cooperation*

Members welcomed the budgetary and administrative savings achieved through interinstitutional cooperation, in particular the close cooperation established at administrative level with the EESC with which the Committee shares premises and joint services in the areas of translation, infrastructure, logistics and IT, while maintaining its full institutional autonomy. They called on the Committee to keep explore synergies with other institutions both in terms of logistics, digital services, driver's service and other administrative tasks.

The resolution welcomed the willingness of the Committee to further develop its cooperation with other institutions, in particular Parliament, ahead of the 2024 European elections through a roadmap predicting a further intensification of cooperation and a bigger role for the Committee and local and regional authorities in that context.

*Communication*

In 2022, the Committee's overall budget for communication was EUR 2.2 million, compared to EUR 2.1 million in 2021, i.e. an increase of 4 %. Within that budget, approximately EUR 439 000 was used for events, EUR 795 000 for media and EUR 1 099 000 for digital communication.

Members welcomed the data-driven communication strategy developed by the Committee to close the gap with Union citizens at local and regional levels using multiplication channels, such as the European networks of regional and local counsellors that had 2 037 registered members at the end of 2022 and the programme for young elected politicians with 775 participants in events in 2022, i.e. an increase of 15 % as compared to 2021.

By the end of 2022, the Committee had 175 000 subscribers on its social media channels, 16% more than in 2021.

With regard to **digitalisation**, the Committee has worked to adapt and develop several strategic IT tools to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its political activities as well as its administrative processes and workflow. Members encouraged the Committee to raise awareness of cyber security among its members and staff. On the **environment and sustainability**, Parliament welcomed the sustainable practices, including the paperless approach, of the Committee and the EESC, which have helped to reduce their environmental footprint.

# 2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Committee of the Regions

2023/2136(DEC) - 10/10/2024 - Final act

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the Committee of the Regions for the financial year 2022.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision (EU) 2024/2241 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 VII – Committee of the Regions.

CONTENT: the European Parliament decided to grant discharge to the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Committee of the Regions 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 of the opinion of 11 April 2024).

In 2022, the final adopted budget for the Committee amounted to **EUR 109 976 858**, including Amending Budget 5/2022, representing an overall increase of 3.03 % compared to 2021. The appropriations on budget line 1004 for ‘travel and subsistence allowances, attendance at meetings and associated expenditure’ increased from EUR 4 244 488 to EUR 8 158 838, i.e. by 92 %, between 2021 and 2022, owing to the resumption of travel after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The budget implementation rate was 99.2 % in 2022, which is slightly higher than in 2021, when the budget implementation rate was 98.9 %.

The resolution noted that Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine created budgetary pressure for the Committee, including through rising inflation and salary adjustments, strongly increasing energy costs and the cost of construction and raw materials.

Lastly, regarding interinstitutional cooperation, Parliament welcomed the willingness of the Committee to further develop its cooperation with other institutions, in particular Parliament, ahead of the 2024 European elections through a roadmap predicting a further intensification of cooperation and a bigger role for the Committee and local and regional authorities in that context.

# 2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Committee of the Regions

2023/2136(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 VII – Committee of the Regions.

The committee called on the European Parliament to grant the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Committee of the Regions for the financial year 2022.

*Budgetary and financial management*

In 2022, the final adopted budget for the Committee amounted to EUR 109 976 858, including Amending Budget 5/2022, representing an overall increase of 3.03 % compared to 2021. The appropriations on budget line 1004 for ‘travel and subsistence allowances, attendance at meetings and associated expenditure’ increased from EUR 4 244 488 to EUR 8 158 838, i.e. by 92 %, between 2021 and 2022, owing to the resumption of travel after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The budget implementation rate was 99.2 % in 2022, which is slightly higher than in 2021, when the budget implementation rate was 98.9 %.

The report noted that the Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine created budgetary pressure for the Committee, including through rising inflation and salary adjustments, strongly increasing energy costs and the cost of construction and raw materials.

*Internal management, performance and internal control*

In 2022, the Committee adopted 55 opinions and 8 resolutions which is slightly lower than in 2021 when the Committee adopted 60 opinions and 9 resolutions. Members welcomed that the Committee took concrete steps to strengthen its involvement in the entire Union political and legislative cycle in line with its prerogatives under the Treaties.

The report also noted that, in 2022, the Committee reviewed and strengthened its internal control framework at the levels of planning and reporting, systems, financial verification and sensitive functions.

*Human resources, equality and staff well-being*

At the end of 2022, the Committee had a total of 533 members of staff, compared to 547 in 2021 and 537 in 2020. The report noted that the Committee continued to raise awareness about the measures put in place to combat harassment in the workplace, managing conflict and combatting harassment.

*Ethical framework and transparency*

The Committee continued the implementation of its 2020 code of conduct for members and, in that respect, intensified its efforts to collect missing financial declarations of members. Moreover, new transparency measures focusing on office-holding members and rapporteurs, in line with the principles of the EU Transparency Register, were adopted by the Committee. Members welcomed that the Committee formally joined the EU Transparency Register as from 1 January 2024. Members regretted that the Committee has not adopted an internal anti-fraud strategy.

*Buildings*

The report noted that the Committee and the EESC lost 5 000 m² in office space following the take-over of the rental contract of the former EEAS building at Belliard 100 (B100), which took effect in September 2021, and the buildings exchange between the Committee and the EESC’s Belliard 68 and Trèves 74 and the Commission’s Van Maerlant 2 (VMA), which took effect in September 2022. Fitting-out works in the two newly acquired buildings were necessary to enable a denser use of the office space.

*Interinstitutional cooperation*

Members welcomed the budgetary and administrative savings achieved through interinstitutional cooperation, in particular the close cooperation established at administrative level with the EESC with which the Committee shares premises and joint services in the areas of translation, infrastructure, logistics and IT, while maintaining its full institutional autonomy. They called on the Committee to keep explore synergies with other institutions both in terms of logistics, digital services, driver's service and other administrative tasks.

The report welcomed the willingness of the Committee to further develop its cooperation with other institutions, in particular Parliament, ahead of the 2024 European elections through a roadmap predicting a further intensification of cooperation and a bigger role for the Committee and local and regional authorities in that context.

*Communication*

The report noted that, in 2022, the Committee's overall budget for communication was EUR 2.2 million, compared to EUR 2.1 million in 2021, i.e. an increase of 4 %. Within that budget, approximately EUR 439 000 was used for events, EUR 795 000 for media and EUR 1 099 000 for digital communication.

Members welcomed the data-driven communication strategy developed by the Committee to close the gap with Union citizens at local and regional levels using multiplication channels, such as the European networks of regional and local counsellors that had 2 037 registered members at the end of 2022 and the programme for young elected politicians with 775 participants in events in 2022, i.e. an increase of 15 % as compared to 2021.