

Basic information	
2023/2160(DEC)	Procedure completed
DEC - Discharge procedure	
2022 discharge: European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)	
Subject	
8.70.03.12 2022 discharge	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control	SARVAMAA Petri (EPP)	14/06/2023
		Shadow rapporteur RÓNAI Sándor (S&D) CHASTEL Olivier (Renew) EICKHOUT Bas (Greens /EFA) CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR) KUHS Joachim (ID) OMARJEE Younous (The Left)	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	TRAN Transport and Tourism	GHEORGHE Vlad (Renew)	10/10/2023
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		
04/03/2024	Vote in committee		

12/03/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0092/2024	
10/04/2024	Debate in Parliament		
11/04/2024	Decision by Parliament	T9-0253/2024	Summary
11/04/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
10/10/2024	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/2160(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/12958

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE753.528	10/01/2024	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE753.751	24/01/2024	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE757.230	12/02/2024	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0092/2024	12/03/2024	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0253/2024	11/04/2024	Summary

Council of the EU				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	06180/2024	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	N9-0096/2023 OJ C 000 27.10.2023, p. 0000	26/10/2023	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Budget 2024/2318 OJ OJ L 10.10.2024

2022 discharge: European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)

2023/2160(DEC) - 11/04/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to grant discharge to the Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Railways in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2022 and to approve the closure of the accounts for that year.

Noting that the Court of Auditors stated that it had obtained reasonable assurance that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2022 were reliable and that the underlying transactions were legal and regular, Parliament adopted, by 527 votes to 63 with 9 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations which form an integral part of the discharge decision and which complement the general recommendations contained in the resolution on the performance, financial management and control of EU agencies.

Agency's financial statements

The Agency's final budget for the financial year 2022 was **EUR 34 814 691**, representing an increase of 9.38 % compared to 2021.

Budgetary and financial management

Budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2022 resulted in a budget implementation rate of current year appropriations of 99.95 %, representing a slight increase of 0.13 % compared to 2021. Payment appropriations execution rate was 94.97 %, representing an increase of 1.43 % compared to 2021. The budget outturn in 2022 was EUR 81 821, up from EUR 69 638 in 2021.

The main impact on the budget implementation in 2022 was due to global external factors such as the volatile geopolitical context and the energy crisis, which led to high volatility resulting in unpredictable increase of the Agency's costs. The Agency has, however, implemented strong measures to control its expenditure and has adjusted the fees and charges level (i.e. hourly rate increased and regularly adjusted according to inflation rate) and has put in place a regular monitoring process of the budget execution with several planning and monitoring tools to automatise that process.

Parliament noted the non-respect by the Agency of the time limit foreseen in the Financial Regulation regarding payments, with 12.2 % of payments being late by more than 30 days in 2022.

Other observations

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

In particular, it noted that:

- the Agency reported a 81.13 % achievement of its 2022 annual work programme, compared to 76.41 % in 2021, a welcomed increase for a second year in a row. The Agency adopted a new structure of its work programme, moving from an activity-based work programme to a strategic statement-based one and launched a new platform for monthly reporting of all projects and services and a new monitoring dashboard;
- the implementation of enhanced controls for verifying the SMEs status for Single Safety Certificates and Vehicle Authorizations applications was welcomed;
- the illegal and unjustified Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has showcased the crucial role railways can play. The Agency contributed to EU cooperation with Ukraine on resilience and development of rail links, it supported Ukraine and the people around the world by finding additional ways to increase the volume of transport of Ukrainian food products by rail;
- the Agency has achieved a very high degree of digitalisation to increase its efficiency, eliminating paper-processes and bringing forward online solutions such as e-procurement, e-invoicing, electronic travel booking, including through the roll out in 2022 of the HR management system (SYSPER) of the Commission and the migration, in pilot phase, to the new budgetary, accounting and financial system, SUMMA;

- on 31 December 2022, the establishment plan was 97.40 % executed, with 150 temporary agents appointed out of 154 temporary agents authorised under the Union budget (compared to 151 authorised posts in 2021);
- the Agency carried out 2 open calls for tenders, 3 negotiated procedures and one reopening of competition in 2022 and 2 open calls for tenders and 3 negotiated procedures financed by administrative appropriations;
- there are some shortcomings in the Agency's management and control systems, namely a lack of a policy for classifying and protecting sensitive information and the use of non-valid approval methods, other than physical or qualified electronic signatures, in the area of procurement procedures.