

Basic information	
2023/2177(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2022 discharge: European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC) Subject 8.70.03.12 2022 discharge	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	<div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">CONT</div> Budgetary Control		WIEZIK Michal (Renew)	23/05/2023
			Shadow rapporteur WINZIG Angelika (EPP) CREȚU Corina (S&D) THIOULET François (Greens /EFA) CZARNECKI Ryszard (ECR) ADINOLFI Matteo (ID) OMARJEE Younous (The Left)	
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
<div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">ITRE</div> 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
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		
12/03/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0095/2024	
10/04/2024	Debate in Parliament		
11/04/2024	Decision by Parliament	T9-0278/2024	Summary
11/04/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
10/10/2024	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/2177(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/13016

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE753.492	15/12/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE757.343	31/01/2024	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0095/2024	12/03/2024	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0278/2024	11/04/2024	Summary
Council of the EU				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		06182/2024	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	N9-0085/2023 OJ C 000 16.11.2023, p. 0000	14/11/2023	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Budget 2024/2379 OJ OJ L 10.10.2024

2022 discharge: European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC)

2023/2177(DEC) - 11/04/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the Executive Director of the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking in respect of the implementation of the Joint Undertaking's budget for the financial year 2022.

Noting that the Court of Auditors finds that the accounts of the Joint Undertaking for the year 2022 present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position at 31 December 2022, the results of its operations, its cash flows, Parliament adopted by 518 votes to 17, with 55 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of observations which form an integral part of the discharge decision.

Parliament welcomed the Joint Undertaking's objective and role in developing a supercomputing ecosystem in Europe. It noted, however, that the Court assessed the risk to the legality and regularity of recruitment procedures as medium for the Joint Undertaking, due to the need to recruit a large number of staff quickly. In addition, the risk related to the Joint Undertaking operational contract expenditure was assessed by the Court as medium due to its complex procurement procedures for high-value contracts.

Budgetary and financial management

For 2022, the available payment budget amounted to **EUR 629.9 million** (EUR 348.2 million in 2021) and the available committed budget amounted to EUR 1 374.5 million (EUR 753.4 million in 2021).

The Court categorises the risk to budget management as medium because the complex and lengthy acquisition process for supercomputers.

Members noted that due to the length of time it takes to procure supercomputers, the **low implementation** of both 2022 operational - commitment and payment appropriations were at 79% and 24% respectively (2% and 47% in 2021) - and administrative budgets - 45% for administrative commitment appropriations and 37% of its administrative payment appropriations.

Parliament called on the Joint Undertaking' to disclose important information regarding members' contributions at programme level, relevant for the complete communication of the Joint Undertaking's achievements at the year-end.

Members welcomed that, at the end of 2022, the Joint Undertaking fully committed the maximum Union operational contribution of **EUR 526 million** for signed grant agreements and contracts under the Horizon 2020 and Connecting Europe Facility (CEF 1) programmes. Of this amount, around EUR 266.3 million (or 50.6 %) remains to be paid in the coming years for projects yet to be completed.

At the end of 2022, the participating states signed contractual commitments amounting to EUR 447.3 million for the Joint Undertaking's Horizon 2020 and Connecting Europe Facility 1 activities. Members noted, however, that at the end of 2022, the Joint Undertaking's private members had only committed and reported EUR 11 million (or 2.6 %) in in-kind contributions for Horizon 2020 projects, a figure considerably below the minimum private members' target of EUR 420 million to be achieved by the end of the Horizon 2020 programme.

The significant reduction in private members' in-kind contributions to the Joint Undertaking's operational activities presents a risk to the overall achievement of its parts of the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

Other comments

The resolution also contains a series of observations on management and control systems, public procurement and personnel.

In particular, it noted that:

- the main reasons for the low implementation rate of the operational payment budget were (i) delays in completing the pre-exascale supercomputers that prevented interim payments related to the Joint Undertaking's operating grants; (ii) delays in the procurement for supercomputers that prevented the related pre-financing payments; (iii) the postponement of the Connecting Europe Facility 2 call on Hyperconnectivity to 2023 due to the need of a pre-study; and (iv) delays in beneficiaries' cost claims for ongoing research activities;
- by the end of 2022, the Joint Undertaking had only recruited 8 staff and 20 by mid-2023, so had not met its 2022 recruitment target; however, Members welcomed the gender balance of staff;
- the fact that key jobs are not being filled could jeopardise the continuity of the Joint Undertaking's activities;
- the Joint Undertaking should include specific ex-post audits in its internal control system for expenditure co-financed under the Connecting Europe Facility for the purchase of supercomputers;
- the Joint Undertaking has carried out, on an ad hoc basis, risk-based ex-ante controls for risky projects, but had not yet applied a structured risk-based approach to ex-ante controls by the end of 2022;
- the Joint Undertaking should apply a structured risk-based approach to ex-ante controls covering relevant project and beneficiary risks;
- the Joint Undertaking should ensure that all reinforced monitoring actions are accompanied by specific control actions targeting the identified risks, and that they are followed-up at a pre-defined deadline.