Basic information

2024/2025(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Economic and Social Committee **Subject** 8.70.03.13 2023 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	BRUDZIŃSKI Joachim Stanisław (ECR)	11/09/2024
	Shadow rapporteur CHINNICI Caterina (EPP) MOLNÁR Csaba (S&D) JORON Virginie (PfE) WIEZIK Michal (Renew) BOESELAGER Damian (Greens/EFA) TRIDICO Pasquale (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
SEDE Security and Defence	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, Climate and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
SANT Public Health	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
25/06/2024	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2024)0272	
17/09/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/03/2025	Vote in committee		
01/04/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0054/2025	Summary
06/05/2025	Debate in Parliament		
07/05/2025	Decision by Parliament	T10-0082/2025	Summary
07/05/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		
08/10/2025	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2024/2025(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/10/00619

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE764.993	17/01/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE768.128	10/02/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A10-0054/2025	01/04/2025	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0082/2025	07/05/2025	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	05754/2025	05/02/2025	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2024)0272	25/06/2024	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	N10-0020/2024 OJ OJ L 10.10.2024	10/10/2024	

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

Final act
Budget 2025/1602 OJ OJ L 08.10.2025

2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Economic and Social Committee

2024/2025(DEC) - 07/05/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 538 votes to 96, with 27 abstentions, to **grant discharge** to the Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Economic and Social Committee for the financial year 2023, Section VI - European Economic and Social Committee.

In its resolution, adopted by 532 votes to 120, with 10 abstentions, Parliament made the following observations:

Budgetary and financial management

The final adopted budget for the Committee was **EUR 158 767 970 in 2023**, representing an overall increase of 4.1 % compared to 2022. The remuneration and allowances budget line increased by 8.4 % between 2022 and 2023 due to the inflation.

Its budget implementation rate was 98.70 % in 2023 with the payment appropriations execution rate increased to 90.67 % in 2023. The carry-over of appropriations from 2023 to 2024 amounted to EUR 13 827 713 (i.e. approx. 8.70 % of the Committee's budget for 2023), which represents a decrease from the previous year's level.

The impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continued to put pressure on the Committee's budget in 2023, through rising inflation and salary adjustments, challenges in building projects due to delays and higher raw material prices, the indexation of rental contracts, as well as indexation of maintenance and security service contracts.

Internal management, performance and internal control

In 2023, the Committee adopted 213 opinions and reports, an increase from 202 in 2022 and organised 146 hearings and 23 conferences, compared to 116 and 29 in 2022, respectively. The Committee's members participated in 429 high-level meetings, summits and conferences in 2023 compared to 345 in 2022.

Parliament highlighted that the efficient management of limited resources remained a key challenge throughout 2023 due to staffing constraints, compounded by increased activities under a continuous stable staffing policy.

Other observations

Parliament noted that:

- in the area of financial transactions, the Committee's internal audit service (IAS) adopted a new decision on the assessment of risks for the implementation of a simplified procedure in the beginning of 2023;

- the adoption of the new diversity and inclusion strategy, effective until 2027;

- the combined IT budget of both the Committee and the CoR was EUR 12 700 000 in 2023, compared to EUR 11 712 000 in 2022, i.e. an increase of 8.4 %. EUR 350 000 of that budget (or 3 % thereof) was paid for **cybersecurity** in 2023 and 6.24 % of the Committee's total budget for 2023 represented expenditure for actions implementing the new 'Digital Strategy 2024-2026'. Members urged the EESC to increase its cybersecurity budget to at least 10% of its total IT expenditures in line with EU cybersecurity directives, ensuring enhanced protection against cyber threats, especially for sensitive data related to policy and budgetary matters;

- in 2023, the Committee adopted a new procedure for handling **data breaches**, published a data protection guide and implemented several awareness-raising initiatives for its staff and members in 2023;

- budgetary and administrative **savings** were achieved through interinstitutional cooperation;

- the Committee and Parliament re-negotiated in 2023 and signed in 2024 their **inter-institutional agreement** which aims to provide more relevant and timely contributions throughout the legislative cycle and to reinforce bilateral cooperation.

2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Economic and Social Committee

2024/2025(DEC) - 01/04/2025 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Joachim Stanisław BRUDZIŃSKI (ECR, PL) on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2023, Section VI – European Economic and Social Committee.

The committee called on the European Parliament to **grant discharge** to the Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Economic and Social Committee for the financial year 2023.

Budgetary and financial management

The report noted that the final adopted budget for the Committee was **EUR 158 767 970** in 2023, representing an overall increase of 4.1 % compared to 2022. The remuneration and allowances budget line increased by 8.4 % between 2022 and 2023 due to the inflation. It also noted that the distribution of appropriations across other budget lines in the Committee's 2023 budget remained comparable to previous years' distribution.

The European Economic and Social Committee's budget implementation rate was **98.70 %** in 2023. Members noted that the payment appropriations execution rate increased to 90.67 % in 2023. The carry-over of appropriations from 2023 to 2024 amounted to EUR 13 827 713 (i.e. approx. 8.70 % of the Committee's budget for 2023), which represents a decrease from the previous year's level.

In 2023, the Committee continued to improve the cost-effectiveness of its activities, including through hybrid work, increased teleworking, full dematerialisation of financial circuits and reduced energy consumption.

Members noted that the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continued to put pressure on the Committee's budget in 2023, through rising inflation and salary adjustments, challenges in building projects due to delays and higher raw material prices, the indexation of rental contracts, as well as indexation of maintenance and security service contracts.

Internal management, performance and internal control

The report noted that the Committee pursues its mission through opinions, which refer to legislative proposals made by the Commission (referrals), own-initiative opinions, which call on the Union institutions to take action, and exploratory opinions, which feed into the Commission's work on its planned initiatives, and that the Committee's positions can be highlighted in resolutions or included in evaluation and information reports. In 2023, the Committee adopted 213 opinions and reports, an increase from 202 in 2022 and organised 146 hearings and 23 conferences, compared to 116 and 29 in 2022, respectively. The Committee's members participated in 429 high-level meetings, summits and conferences in 2023 compared to 345 in 2022.

Members highlighted that the efficient management of limited resources remained a key challenge throughout 2023 due to staffing constraints, compounded by increased activities under a continuous stable staffing policy. The noted the Committee's plan to introduce a new approach to strategic workforce planning and staff allocation.

The report noted that, in the area of financial transactions, the Committee's internal audit service (IAS) adopted a new decision on the assessment of risks for the implementation of a simplified procedure in the beginning of 2023.

Ethical framework and transparency

Members welcomed the adoption of the new diversity and inclusion strategy, effective until 2027 and commended the specific awareness-raising actions on disability undertaken in early 2024. The Committee also continued its internal reform process with the adoption of a decision on the general implementing provisions on administrative investigations and implementing rules for disciplinary proceedings in 2023.

Digitalisation, cybersecurity and data protection

The report noted that the combined IT budget of both the Committee and the CoR was EUR 12 700 000 in 2023, compared to EUR 11 712 000 in 2022, i.e. an increase of 8.4 %. EUR 350 000 of that budget (or 3 % thereof) was paid for cybersecurity in 2023 and 6.24 % of the Committee's total budget for 2023 represented expenditure for actions implementing the new 'Digital Strategy 2024-2026'. Members urged the EESC to increase its cybersecurity budget to at least 10% of its total IT expenditures in line with EU cybersecurity directives, ensuring enhanced protection against cyber threats, especially for sensitive data related to policy and budgetary matters.

Also in 2023, the Committee adopted a new procedure for handling data breaches, published a data protection guide and implemented several awareness-raising initiatives for its staff and members in 2023.

Interinstitutional cooperation

The report welcomed the budgetary and administrative savings achieved through interinstitutional cooperation, in particular the close cooperation established at administrative level with the CoR with which the Committee shares premises and joint services in the areas of translation, infrastructure, logistics and IT while maintaining its full institutional autonomy.

Members also noted with satisfaction that the Committee and Parliament re-negotiated in 2023 and signed in 2024 their inter-institutional agreement which aims to provide more relevant and timely contributions throughout the legislative cycle and to reinforce bilateral cooperation.

Communication

In 2023, the Committee's overall budget for communication was increased to EUR 2.15 million from EUR 1.5 million in 2022. This budget was primarily allocated to four flagship events organised in 2023 as well as the improvement and/or revamping of the Committee's social media, external website and audio-visual production, as well as for media and press publications.