Basic information

2024/2026(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed
2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - Committee of the Regions **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) JUNGBLUTH Alexander (ESN)	

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		
28/03/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0046/2025	Summary
06/05/2025	Debate in Parliament		
07/05/2025	Decision by Parliament	T10-0083/2025	Summary
07/05/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		
08/10/2025	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2024/2026(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/10/00638

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE764.992	15/01/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE768.129	10/02/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A10-0046/2025	28/03/2025	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0083/2025	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 2025/1604
OJ OJ L 08.10.2025

2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - Committee of the Regions

2024/2026(DEC) - 28/03/2025 - 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 VII - Committee of the Regions.

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

Budgetary and financial management

Members noted that the final budget adopted by the Committee amounted to **EUR 116 675 392** in 2023, including Amending Budget No. 4/2023 (salary and energy related), which represents an increase of EUR 6 698 534 (or +6.10%) compared to 2022. The Committee's budget implementation rate for commitment appropriations for the current financial year increased from 99.20% in 2022 to **99.9%** in 2023. The areas where the Committee was most affected by the high inflation rate include travel expenses (missions), energy, building rents and leases, maintenance contracts, construction projects, as well as paper and offset plates.

Noting that the mission budget has remained stable, Members encouraged the Committee to continue streamlining and reducing expenditure in this area. Members are concerned about the significant increase in travel and meeting allowances paid to Committee members, which rose from EUR 6.6 million in 2022 to EUR 8 million in 2023. They called on the Committee to adopt a clear strategy for cost-effective travel expenditure, including increased use of remote participation and hybrid meetings.

Internal management, performance and internal control

The Committee plays a key role in **EU decision-making** by representing the interests of local and regional authorities. In 2023, it assessed its performance across 25 objectives and 80 indicators. The majority of these indicators (around 75%) achieved 90% of their targets.

Members regretted that budgetary limitations have compromised the Committee's ability to fully achieve its objective of bringing citizens closer to the Union. They nevertheless acknowledged the impact of the Committee's work, in particular its opinions, some of which have been taken into account in resolutions, positions, proposals, reports, reviews, conclusions or trilogues of the Commission, Parliament or the Council. In 2023, the Committee adopted 53 opinions and 6 resolutions.

The Committee is invited to (i) ensure greater involvement of regional and local authorities in the Union's decision-making process by establishing structured consultation mechanisms with regional and local authorities, before issuing opinions; (ii) advocate for a mandatory consultation process on legislative matters with a significant impact on regional development and cohesion policy.

The Committee continued its efforts to improve its efficiency through the 'Going for IMPact' programme, promoting digitalisation, inter-institutional cooperation, and the simplification of procedures.

The competent committee makes the following observations, *inter alia*:

- at the end of 2023, the Committee had a total of **559 staff** (not including seconded national experts, temporary staff, *intra muros* staff and trainees), compared to 533 in 2022. The occupation rate of the posts in the establishment plan was 98%. The Committee employed **56.9% women and 43.1% men**. The Committee has not yet achieved gender balance in senior management positions, but Members acknowledged the significant progress made under the Committee's five-year diversity and inclusion strategy and action plan for 2022-2026, including a significant increase in the proportion of women in senior management positions from 37.5% in 2022 to 44.4% in 2023. Members also noted with concern that 18 cases of burnout were reported to the Committee in 2023;

- the Committee consolidated **ethical rules and practices** into a single ethical legal framework covering disciplinary procedure, dignity at work, **conflict management**, anti-harassment, outside activities and whistleblowing. It continued, in 2023, to offer ethics training to different groups of staff. The Committee is invited to strengthen the detection and prevention of conflicts of interest by introducing a mandatory cooling-off period for outgoing members before they can engage in lobbying or consultancy activities involving the Union institutions;

- the Committee made progress in 2023 in **digitalisation** in various areas such as administrative processes (including staff selection), procurement and interpretation, among others. It is urged to accelerate digital transformation efforts. It is also commended for having met the standards for cybersecurity risk assessment, as well as for having established a system based on incident response plans, recovery measures and lessons learned;

- budgetary and administrative savings have been achieved through **interinstitutional cooperation**, in particular the close cooperation established at administrative level with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), with which the Committee shares common premises and services in the areas of translation, infrastructure, logistics and IT, with 470 staff members and around EUR 60 million (excluding salary-related expenditure) being pooled by the two institutions in 2023. The Committee and the EESC are invited to examine the possibility of creating a **single administration** for their common services, while maintaining separate directorates or units for services dealing with issues related to their specific mandates;

- the Committee is invited to take steps to improve its budgetary planning with regard to **communication** related budget items. Members welcomed the Committee's efforts to increase outreach to regional governments and local communities, including the expansion of the Network of Regional and Local EU Councillors and the Young Elected Politicians Programme. Noting the Committee's success in media outreach, the report noted that by the end of 2023, the Committee had 200 000 followers on its social media channels, 15% more than in 2022.

2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - Committee of the Regions

2024/2026(DEC) - 07/05/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 549 votes to 110, with 9 abstentions, to **grant discharge** to the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions in respect of the implementation of the Committee of the Regions' budget for the financial year 2023, Section VII - Committee of the Regions.

In its resolution, adopted by 549 votes to 97, with 18 abstentions, Parliament made the following observations:

Budgetary and financial management

The final budget adopted by the Committee amounted to **EUR 116 675 392** in 2023, including Amending Budget No. 4/2023 (salary and energy related), which represents an increase of EUR 6 698 534 (or +6.10%) compared to 2022. The implementation rate for commitment appropriations for the current financial year increased from 99.20% in 2022 to **99.9%** in 2023. The areas where the Committee was most affected by the high inflation rate include travel expenses (missions), energy, building rents and leases, maintenance contracts, construction projects, as well as paper and offset plates.

Members called on the Committee to adopt a clear strategy for cost-effective travel expenditure, including increased use of remote participation and hybrid meetings.

Internal management, performance and internal control

The Committee assessed its performance across 25 objectives and 80 indicators. The majority of these indicators (around 75%) achieved 90% of their targets. Members regretted that budgetary limitations have compromised the Committee's ability to fully achieve its objective of bringing citizens closer to the Union. They nevertheless acknowledged the impact of the Committee's work, in particular its opinions, some of which have been taken into account in resolutions, positions, proposals, reports, reviews, conclusions or trilogues of the Commission, Parliament or the Council. In 2023, the Committee adopted 53 opinions and 6 resolutions.

The Committee is invited to (i) ensure greater involvement of regional and local authorities in the Union's decision-making process by establishing structured consultation mechanisms with regional and local authorities, before issuing opinions; (ii) advocate for a mandatory consultation process on legislative matters with a significant impact on regional development and cohesion policy.

The Committee continued its efforts to improve its efficiency through the ‘Going for IMPact’ programme, promoting digitalisation, inter-institutional cooperation, and the simplification of procedures.

Other observations

Parliament noted that:

- at the end of 2023, the Committee had a total of **559 staff** (not including seconded national experts, temporary staff, *intra muros* staff and trainees), compared to 533 in 2022. The occupation rate of the posts in the establishment plan was 98%. The Committee employed **56.9% women and 43.1% men**. The Committee has not yet achieved gender balance in senior management positions, but Members acknowledged the significant progress made under the Committee's five-year diversity and inclusion strategy and action plan for 2022-2026, including a significant increase in the proportion of women in senior management positions from 37.5% in 2022 to 44.4% in 2023. Members also noted with concern that 18 cases of burnout were reported to the Committee in 2023;

- **ethical rules and practices** were consolidated into a single ethical legal framework covering disciplinary procedure, dignity at work, **conflict management**, anti-harassment, outside activities and whistleblowing. The Committee is invited to strengthen the detection and prevention of conflicts of interest by introducing a mandatory cooling-off period for outgoing members before they can engage in lobbying or consultancy activities involving the Union institutions;

- progress was made in the field of **digitalisation** in various areas such as administrative processes (including staff selection), procurement and interpretation, among others;

- budgetary and administrative savings have been achieved through **interinstitutional cooperation**, in particular the close cooperation established at administrative level with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), with which the Committee shares common premises and services in the areas of translation, infrastructure, logistics and IT, with 470 staff members and around EUR 60 million (excluding salary-related expenditure) being pooled by the two institutions in 2023. The Committee and the EESC are invited to examine the possibility of creating a **single administration** for their common services, while maintaining separate directorates or units for services dealing with issues related to their specific mandates;

- the Committee is invited to take steps to improve its budgetary planning with regard to **communication** related budget items. Members welcomed the Committee's efforts to increase outreach to regional governments and local communities, including the expansion of the Network of Regional and Local EU Councillors and the Young Elected Politicians Programme.