Basic information

2025/2147(DEC) DEC - Discharge procedure	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
Discharge 2024: General budget of the EU - European Council and Council **Subject** 8.70.03.14 2024 discharge	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	TRIDICO Pasquale (The Left)	22/09/2025
	Shadow rapporteur KOVATCHEV Andrey (EPP) MOLNÁR Csaba (S&D) KNOTEK Ondřej (PfE) STURDZA Şerban Dimitrie (ECR) GERBRANDY Gerben-Jan (Renew)	

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	TRIDICO Pasquale (The Left)	22/09/2025

Former committee for opinion	Former 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	SERAFIN Piotr

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
25/06/2025	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2025)0359	
09/09/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
02/03/2026	Vote in committee		
27/03/2026	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0051/2026	
28/04/2026	Debate in Parliament		
29/04/2026	Decision by Parliament	T10-0127/2026	Summary
29/04/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		
29/04/2026	Report referred back to committee		
10/09/2026	Final act published in Official Journal		
01/10/2026	Vote in committee		
06/10/2026	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0258/2026	
21/10/2026	Decision by Parliament	T10-0353/2026	Summary
21/10/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2025/2147(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
Committee dossier	CONT/10/06028 CONT/10/03392

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Committee draft report		PE778.049	17/12/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE782.497	27/01/2026	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A10-0051/2026	27/03/2026	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0127/2026	29/04/2026	Summary
Committee draft report		PE790.743	02/07/2026	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE792.137	10/09/2026	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A10-0258/2026	06/10/2026	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0353/2026	21/10/2026	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	05749/2026	17/02/2026	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2025)0359	25/06/2025	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	N10-0064/2025 OJ OJ C 08.10.2025	08/10/2025	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Budget 2026/1580
OJ OJ L 10.09.2026

Discharge 2024: General budget of the EU - European Council and Council

2025/2147(DEC) - 29/04/2026 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided, by 432 votes to 160, with 65 abstentions, to **refuse to grant the Secretary-General of the Council discharge** in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Council and of the Council for the financial year 2024.

State of play

Parliament deeply regrets that since 2009 and again for the financial year 2024, Parliament has had to **refuse discharge** to the Council because the Council continues to refuse to cooperate with Parliament on the discharge procedure despite Parliament's repeated efforts to establish constructive cooperation, thereby preventing Parliament from taking an informed decision based on a serious and thorough scrutiny of the implementation of the Council's budget. It stressed that, while the current situation has to be improved through better interinstitutional cooperation within the framework of the Treaties, a revision of the Treaties could make the discharge procedure clearer and more transparent by giving Parliament the explicit competence to grant discharge to all Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies individually. However, pending such a review, the current situation must be improved through enhanced inter-institutional cooperation. Parliament urged in this sense the Council to actively engage with Parliament.

Political priorities

The resolution recalled that in 2024 the Union agreed to provide predictable financial support to Ukraine through the Ukraine Facility for 2024–2027. In this context, the Council and the Secretariat have a heightened responsibility to ensure transparency, integrity and sound financial management in all Council-related administrative spending connected to Ukraine-related decision-making, meetings and logistical arrangements, including clear reporting of related costs and contract management.

Parliament regretted that the Council exerts its prerogative in the nomination and appointment procedures for many Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, without taking into account the views of interested parties or the recommendations of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). In this regard, the Council has repeatedly disregarded Parliament's recommendations in its consultative role regarding the appointment of the members of the Court. This practice may limit the extent to which the professional qualifications of candidates are checked.

In addition, Parliament also regretted that the participation of the Member States' Permanent Representatives in the mandatory transparency register is completely voluntary as the application of the conditionality principle is left to the discretion of each Member State's Permanent Representation. Only a limited number of Member States and the Union institutions abide by the best practice of applying a mandatory broad-scope definition of lobbyist in their regulatory framework. Members insisted that all Permanent Representations should take an **active part in the mandatory transparency register** before, during and after their Member State's Council presidency.

Parliament reaffirmed its call for the creation of a **Council of Defence Ministers** as an institutional forum for political and strategic coordination. It considered that a permanent and dedicated Council configuration on defence would reflect the need for the Union to assume greater responsibility for its own security and defence, complementing the establishment of a Security and Defence Committee in Parliament and a Commissioner for Defence and Space in the Commission.

Furthermore, the resolution called on the rotating Council Presidencies to stop using **corporate sponsorship** to contribute to covering their expenses as this entails a risk of creating conflicts of interest.

Separate budget

Once again, Parliament reiterated its regret that the budget of the European Council and the Council has not been divided into two clearly separated budgets as recommended by Parliament in previous discharge resolutions in order to improve transparency and accountability.

Improved decision-making

Parliament regretted that the decision-making process in the Council is still far from fully transparent, which affects citizens' trust in the Union as a transparent entity and thereby jeopardises the reputation of the Union as a whole. It recalled that the CJEU underlined that clearer legislative transparency would be needed from the Council in order to ensure access to legislative documents, simply corresponding to the Council's obligation in terms of public scrutiny and accountability of the co-legislators as the basis of any democratic legitimacy.

Interinstitutional cooperation

The Council is called on to resume negotiations at the highest level to resolve the longstanding discharge impasse. Parliament requested the Commission and the Council Legal Service to provide a legal opinion on potential Treaty-based solutions to enforce Council accountability in the discharge procedure.

Discharge 2024: General budget of the EU - European Council and Council

2025/2147(DEC) - 21/10/2026 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided, by 434 votes to 203, with 21 abstentions, to **refuse to grant the Secretary-General of the Council discharge** in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Council and of the Council for the financial year 2024.

State of play

Parliament initially postponed its final decision on the Council's 2024 budget during the April 2026 plenary session. It reiterated its deep regret that the Council continues to evade the standard discharge procedure and insisted that the administrative expenditures of the European Council and the Council must be subject to the exact same democratic scrutiny and accountability standards as those of any other Union institution. The Council is called on to resume negotiations with Parliament without delay to establish a binding working arrangement for the discharge procedure.

The resolution stressed that Parliament's observations concerning budgetary and financial management, internal management, performance and internal control, human resources, equality and well-being, ethical framework and transparency, digitalisation, cybersecurity and data protection, buildings, environment and sustainability, interinstitutional cooperation and communication from its discharge resolution of 29 April 2026 are still valid.

Members reiterated their regret that the budget of the European Council and the Council has **not been divided into two clearly separated budgets** as recommended by Parliament in previous discharge resolutions in order to improve transparency and accountability, not least concerning the European Council, given that it is currently impossible to obtain reliable information regarding its costs.

Lastly, Parliament stressed that, while unanimity voting remains a core principle of the Treaties, its application in certain circumstances and in critical policy areas can affect the Union's timelines and effectiveness, including by paralysing the Union’s decision-making process and thereby leaving it vulnerable to being blocked or prone to blackmail by individual Member States, particularly those that fail to respect the rule of law. It called for **targeted Treaty reforms** or, alternatively, practical improvements within the existing Treaty framework, in order to strengthen transparency, democratic decision-making, accountability and the efficiency of the Council's works.