

Basic information**2025/2153(DEC)**

DEC - Discharge procedure

Discharge 2024: General budget of the EU - European Ombudsman

Subject

8.70.03.14 2024 discharge




Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control	TRIDICO Pasquale (The Left)	26/09/2025
		Shadow rapporteur CHINNICI Caterina (EPP) CEPEDA José (S&D) KNOTEK Ondřej (PfE) STURDZA Șerban Dimitrie (ECR) VASILE-VOICULESCU Vlad (Renew)	
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 DG	Commissioner

Commission	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		
12/03/2026	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0054/2026	
28/04/2026	Debate in Parliament		
29/04/2026	Decision by Parliament	T10-0133/2026	Summary
29/04/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2025/2153(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
Committee dossier	CONT/10/03502

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE778.065	15/12/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE784.148	28/01/2026	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A10-0054/2026	12/03/2026	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0133/2026	29/04/2026	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	
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Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
KNOTEK Ondřej	Shadow rapporteur	CONT	20/01/2026	Teresa Anjinho

Discharge 2024: General budget of the EU - European Ombudsman

2025/2153(DEC) - 29/04/2026 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to **grant discharge** to the European Ombudsman discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Ombudsman for the financial year 2024, Section VIII - European Ombudsman.

In its resolution, adopted by 593 votes to 14, with 45 abstentions, Parliament made the following observations:

Budgetary and financial management

The Ombudsman's budget amounted to **EUR 13 843 160** in 2024, which represents an increase of EUR 630 713 (i.e. +4.77 %) compared to 2023 which is mainly due to salary adjustments. Budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2024 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 97.55 %, representing an increase of 2.16 % compared to 2023. The current year payment appropriations execution rate was 97.08 %, representing a decrease of 0.50 % compared to 2023.

In 2024, the Ombudsman significantly reduced its expenditure for translation, following the successful integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the translation processes for the Ombudsman's website. The resulting savings were used to reinforce other areas via budgetary transfers.

Parliament noted that the impact of Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine continued to create budgetary pressure for the Ombudsman in 2024 notable in the field of energy costs.

Internal management, performance and internal control

In 2024, the Ombudsman handled 2 264 new complaints (2 392 in 2023), opened 411 inquiries (392 in 2023), including 49 inquiries of public importance (56 in 2023), closed 421 inquiries (372 in 2023) and dealt with a high number of public access complaints which has increased from 167 in 2023 to a (new) record number of 212 in 2024 (160 of them were followed up with inquiries and 193 of them were closed). Parliament commended the Ombudsman for having reduced the time needed to process files at different levels of the procedure, such as the average time for dealing with a complaint (from 39 days in 2023 to 36 days in 2024) and for dealing with a complaint within the mandate (from 91 days in 2023 to 86 days in 2024).

Parliament recognised the efforts made by and the positive impact of the Ombudsman in the areas of ethics, transparency and accountability in 2024, especially as a result of inquiries concerning various Union institutions, offices, bodies and agencies. The vast majority of those inquiries (65 %) concerned the Commission in 2025.

According to the Ombudsman, restrictions on access to documents, particularly legislative documents, should be exceptional and limited to what is absolutely necessary. Any decision denying public access to documents must be based on clearly and strictly defined legal exemptions, accompanied by a reasoned and specific justification, to enable citizens to understand the denial of access and make effective use of the legal remedies available.

Parliament agreed that in matters of significant public interest, such as the RRF, there should be no substantial delays in providing access to documents and considers that such delays amount to a denial of transparency and weaken democratic scrutiny.

Other observations

Parliament noted that:

- there was a decrease of 4.90 % in the total number of the **Ombudsman's staff** from 82 in 2023 to 78 in 2024. The staff occupation rate increased from 95 % in 2023 to 97 % in 2024.
- in terms of gender balance, the Ombudsman employs more women than men in all categories of staff, in particular at management level where all posts are held by women. An overall staff representation of 68 % women and 32 % men, compared to 67 % women and 33 % men in 2023. No cases of harassment were reported in 2024;
- the Ombudsman organised trainings on ethical matters for the Ombudsman's newly appointed confidential counsellors and the members of the conciliation committee, as well as mandatory tailor-made trainings on **conflict resolution** for all staff;
- the Ombudsman has continued to strengthen the institution's **ethical framework** and revised the whistleblower policy. Staff confirm a high level of awareness of ethical issues. No cases of conflict of interest or cases involving whistleblowers were reported in 2024;
- the Ombudsman's use of **automatic translations** is welcomed, which enhanced the accessibility of the Ombudsman's website, streamlined case allocation and accelerated the processing of complaints, leading to a reduction in translation costs by over 65 % (from 2022 to 2024) and in administrative burden;
- financial and administrative **savings** have been achieved through **interinstitutional cooperation**. Members welcomed the formalisation of collaboration between Parliament and the Ombudsman in the area of cybersecurity and congratulated the Ombudsman on his good cooperation with OLAF and the European Court of Auditors;
- the overall budget for **communication** and promotional activities (publications, event organisation, digital communication, etc.) decreased by approximately 38 % from EUR 155 200 in 2023 to EUR 96 515 in 2024.