

2009 discharge: SESAR Joint Undertaking to develop the new generation European air traffic management system

2010/2188(DEC) - 10/05/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 537 votes to 81, with 26 abstentions, a decision to grant discharge to the Executive Director of the SESAR Joint Undertaking in respect of the implementation of the SESAR's budget for the financial year 2009.

Noting that the SESAR's (Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research) annual accounts for the financial year 2009 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament approves the closure of the SESAR's accounts. However, it makes a number of recommendations that need to be taken into account when the discharge is granted:

- **implementation of the budget:** Parliament notes that the Joint Undertaking final 2009 budget included commitment appropriations of EUR 325 million and payment appropriations of EUR 157 million. It also notes that the utilisation rates for commitment and payment appropriations were 97.1% and 43.2% respectively. Members recognise that the Joint Undertaking is still in a start-up period. They also stress that year-end bank deposits totalling EUR 86.8 million represent a breach of the budgetary principle of equilibrium. They consider it important to set out the conditions under which, if the balance of the outturn account is positive, it shall be entered in the budget of the Joint Undertaking of the following financial year in order to specify the application of this derogation from the general budgetary principle of equilibrium. Parliament is also concerned by the fact that, in December 2009, no integrated management system had been set in place. It asks that a report on carryovers of appropriations not used in the previous year specifying the reasons why these resources were not deployed be attached to the budget of each financial year;
- **Members' contribution:** Parliament calls on SESAR to harmonise the presentation of members' contributions in the Accounts under the guidance of the Commission;
- **internal control systems:** Parliament urges SESAR to complete the implementation of its internal controls and financial information system and to include in its Financial Rules a specific reference to the powers of the Internal Audit Service of the Commission as its internal auditor. Members consider that the role of the Commission as internal auditor should be to advise SESAR on dealing with risks, by issuing independent opinions on the quality of management and control systems and by issuing recommendations for improving the conditions of implementation of operations and promoting sound financial management. In view of the size of its budget and the complexity of its tasks, SESAR should consider establishing an audit committee, reporting directly to the Administrative Board;
- **Financial Regulation:** Members welcome the adoption by SESAR of new Financial Rules.