

2014 discharge: European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (eu-LISA)

2015/2195(DEC) - 28/04/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to grant the Executive Director of the European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (eu-LISA) discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014. The vote on the decision on discharge covers the closure of the accounts (in accordance with Annex 5, Article 5 (1) (a) to Parliament's Rules of Procedure.

Noting that the Court of Auditors has stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2014 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted by 501 votes to 121 with 7 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations, which form an integral part of the decision on discharge and which add to the general recommendations set out in the [resolution on performance, financial management and control of EU agencies](#):

- **Agency's financial statements:** Parliament noted the Agency's final budget for the financial year 2014 was EUR 59 380 000, representing a decrease of 3.2% compared to the year 2013. The entire budget of the Agency derives from the Union budget.
- **Emphasis of matter:** Parliament noted that the Court's report emphasises the issues related to the valuation of the SIS II, VIS and EURODAC systems in the Agency's accounts. It stated that the systems were transferred from the Commission to the Agency in May 2013 by way of a non-exchange transaction. It took note that in the absence of reliable and complete information in respect of the total development cost of those systems, the value of the systems was recorded in the Agency's accounts at their net book values as per the Commission's books and updated at year-end. It acknowledged the Agency's comment that as long as the book value of the assets transferred by the Commission to the Agency was established in line with the Commission's internal accounting rules, **there was no action that the Agency had to or could have performed** in this respect. It also acknowledged that the value of transferred assets is expected to become **immaterial in the year 2015** due to the yearly application of depreciation of asset value and that as such, for future discharges, this comment will no longer be relevant.
- **Commitments and carryovers:** it noted that the committed appropriations carried over to 2015 were high for administrative expenditure at EUR 15 million (87 %). It acknowledged that these carry-overs mainly resulted from **delayed procurements** for the extension and refurbishment of the Agency's site in Strasbourg. The carry-overs for operational expenditure were high at EUR 24.5 million (85 %) and mainly related to multi-annual contracts for the maintenance of the Agency's IT systems. It therefore called on the Agency to reduce the high level of carry-overs as it is **at odds with the principle of annuality**.
- **Associated countries:** Parliament recalled that according to Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011, countries associated with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis and EURODAC-related measures **must make a contribution to the Agency's budget**.

Parliament also made a series of observations regarding the Agency's budget and financial management, prevention and management of conflicts of interest, as well as on contract award, recruitment and internal audit and control procedures.

Parliament noted that the negotiations between the Agency and France were successfully concluded and that the **seat agreement** was signed for the Agency's operational site in Strasbourg. It is also pleased that the negotiations between the Agency and Estonia were successfully concluded and the seat agreement was signed at the end of 2014.

Lastly, Parliament called for an overall improvement in the prevention of, and the fight against, corruption through a holistic approach, commencing with **better public access to documents and more stringent rules on conflicts of interest**, the introduction or strengthening of transparency registers and the provision of sufficient resources for law enforcement measures, and also through improved cooperation among Member States and with relevant third countries.