

2005 discharge: European Centre for Disease prevention and control ECDC

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The committee adopted the report by Edit HERCZOG (PES, HU) granting discharge to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control for 2005. In its accompanying resolution, it made a number of general points concerning the majority of the EU agencies:

- the ever-growing number of Community Agencies and the activities of some of them do not seem to form part of an overall policy framework, and "the remits of some Agencies do not always reflect the real needs of the Union or the expectations of its citizens";
- the Commission should therefore define an overall policy framework and should present a cost-benefit study before the setting up of any new Agency, and the Court of Auditors should give its opinion on this study before Parliament takes its decision;
- every 5 years, the Commission should present a study on the added value of every existing Agency; where the evaluation is negative in the case of a particular Agency the latter's mandate should be reformulated or the Agency should be closed;
- the Commission should improve administrative and technical support to the Agencies, given the growing complexity of the Community's administrative rules and technical problems;
- the Agencies should improve their cooperation and benchmarking with actors in the field;
- the Commission should harmonise the format of the annual reporting by the Agencies to develop performance indicators which would allow a comparison of their efficiency.

In its specific remarks concerning the ECDPC, the committee noted that the low rate of commitment and substantial rate of carry-over was in part due to problems inherent in the Centre's start-up period. It also noted that no activity-based management had been brought in, despite the Centre's financial regulation making provision for its introduction, on the lines of that applied to the general budget, with a view to improving the monitoring of performance. The committee insisted that requests to the Commission for the payment of subsidies should be justified by a forecast of cash needs and regretted that the Centre had no such system for producing forecasts. Lastly, it called for the strict application of the Centre's staff selection procedures.