


Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	1996/2002(DEC)	Procedure completed
1994 discharge: European Parliament budget		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control	PSE DANKERT Pieter	13/11/1995

Key events			
01/01/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/04/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
25/04/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0132/1996	
22/05/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
23/05/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0279/1996	Summary
23/05/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
10/06/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2002(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/4/07459

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0132/1996 OJ C 152 27.05.1996, p. 0004	25/04/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0279/1996	23/05/1996	EP	Summary

		OJ C 166 10.06.1996, p. 0133-0189			
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0280/1996 OJ C 166 10.06.1996, p. 0133-0190	23/05/1996	EP	

1994 discharge: European Parliament budget

The committee adopted the draft report by Mr Pieter DANKERT giving discharge in respect of the implementation of the European Parliament budget for the 1994 financial year (EP 216.843). The rapporteur regretted that the contract for the new Parliament building in Strasbourg was signed without the financial controller's prior approval. The amendments approved included an amendment by Mr John TOMLINSON (PSE, UK) deploring the fact that the contract was signed nonetheless (paragraph 5). The amendments to paragraphs 2 and 8 by Mrs Edith MÜLLER (V, D) stressed the need for a policy of equality between men and women and introduced a new paragraph 9 stipulating that the European Parliament was concerned about the present and future effectiveness of the organizational structure and management of Parliament.?

1994 discharge: European Parliament budget

The rapporteur, Mr DANKERT (PSE, NL), said that according to the findings of the Court of Auditors the decision to construct a new building in Strasbourg should not have been taken in the way it was. The rapporteur referred in particular to the fact that when it took the decision on Strasbourg the Bureau had completely failed to take into account that the financial perspectives at that time could not accommodate the financial consequences of such a decision. Moreover, as things still stood, if Ecofin or the Florence European Summit refused to extend the financial perspectives for heading 5, serious funding problems would result. Mr Dankert then pointed out that the report on discharge included for the first time a number of the Community's smaller institutions, including the Committee of the Regions, and that serious concerns had been expressed as regards the latter's personnel recruitment procedures. In fact, this Committee had almost completely failed to respect the geographical distribution of the recruitment process, which had resulted in a serious imbalance in its make-up. Finally, the rapporteur criticised the system used by some institutions for recruiting assistants, with the Court of Auditors being a case in point. Mrs THEATO (EPP, D) responded to the rapporteur by stating that "the decisions concerning the seat of the European Parliament in Strasbourg are political decisions that have to be respected if one wishes to ensure proper working conditions in Brussels as well as in Strasbourg?".

1994 discharge: European Parliament budget

Adopting the report by Mr DANKERT (PSE, NL), the European Parliament gave discharge to its secretary-general in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 1994 financial year but regretted that the contract for the new building in Strasbourg was signed without the financial controller's prior approval (the President of the Parliament apparently signed a lease without taking account of the financial perspectives and the decision was taken by the Bureau without taking account of these perspectives). It agreed with the Court of Auditors that there can be no "de facto" approval. The report also addressed the administrative structure and management of the European Parliament, taking account of the increased workload, and called for a report within the next 18 months on how the European Parliament can increase the efficiency of its management and structures in order to be prepared for future enlargement. At the same time, Parliament gave discharge to the secretaries-general of the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the ESC and the Committee of the Regions in respect of the implementation of their individual budgets for the 1994 financial year, while drawing the attention of these institutions to their recruitment policies. Parliament was particularly concerned by the recruitment policy of the Committee of the Regions and called for a report on all aspects of this policy (including an audit of mission and travel expenses of the Committee members).