



Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	1999/2004(DEC)	Procedure completed
1998 discharge: 6th, 7th and 8th European Development Funds EDF		
Subject 6.30.03 European Development Fund (EDF) 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control	V/ALE RÜHLE Heide	13/10/1999
	Former committee responsible		
	CONT Budgetary Control	V/ALE RÜHLE Heide	13/10/1999
	Former committee for opinion		
	DEVE Development and Cooperation	PSE VAN DEN BERG Margrietus	21/09/1999
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2246	13/03/2000

Key events			
11/05/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0227	Summary
23/07/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/03/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
22/03/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0089/2000	
11/04/2000	Debate in Parliament		
13/04/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0151/2000	Summary
21/06/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
21/06/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0167/2000	
04/07/2000	Debate in Parliament		

06/07/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0314/2000	Summary
06/07/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
16/09/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2004(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/4/10703

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1999)0227	11/05/1999	EC	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		06536/2000	06/03/2000	CSL	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		06537/2000	06/03/2000	CSL	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		06538/2000	06/03/2000	CSL	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0089/2000 OJ C 040 07.02.2001, p. 0006	22/03/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0151/2000 OJ C 040 07.02.2001, p. 0147-0383	13/04/2000	EP	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0167/2000 OJ C 121 24.04.2001, p. 0007	21/06/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0314/2000 OJ C 121 24.04.2001, p. 0162-0359	06/07/2000	EP	Summary

Final act
Decision 2000/548 OJ L 234 16.09.2000, p. 0036

1998 discharge: 6th, 7th and 8th European Development Funds EDF

PURPOSE: presentation of the financial statements and revenue and expenditure accounts of the 6th, 7th and 8th European Regional Development Funds for the 1998 financial year. **CONTENT:** This document serves as an accounting statement for the 6th, 7th and 8th European Regional Development Funds (EDFs). EDFs are a distinct type of Community financial instrument because their resources do not come from the EC budget, but from the Member States. As a result, the financial regulations generally applicable to budget appropriations do not apply to the EDF which operate on a multi-annual basis, requiring the Commission to manage several FEDs in parallel until their definitive completion (in the case of 1998, there were 3 EDFs at the one time). The document outlines the overall expenditures committed and spent under the 3 EDFs concerned with details on the trends in expenditures by type of action (emergency aid, refugee aid, SYSMIN, STABEX, etc.). The consolidated figures in the annex of the document show that up to 31.12.1998, the allocations from the various EDFs were as follows: 1) 6th EDF: 7.883 billion euros, 2) 7th EDF: 11.583 billion euros, 3) 8th EDF: 13.151 billion euros, amounting to a total of around 32.6 billion euros. The Commission also provides details of the amount of payments to 31.12.1998: 1) 6th EDF: 6.9 billion euros (88% of the 6th EDF), 2) 7th EDF: 7.4 billion euros (64% of the 7th EDF), 3) 8th EDF: 467 million euros (4% of the 8th EDF). Details are also provided of allocations by country and financial instrument.?

1998 discharge: 6th, 7th and 8th European Development Funds EDF

PURPOSE : To present three Council Recommendations to the European Parliament concerning the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the operations of the European Development Fund (1995)(Eighth EDF) for the financial year 1998 and also for the Seventh EDF (1989) for the financial year 1998 and the Sixth EDF (1984) for the financial year 1998. CONTENT : The discharge for the the management of the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth EDF must be given to the Commission to the Parliament on a recommendation from the Council. In three separate recommendations, the Council recommends that the European Parliament give the Commission discharges in respect of the implementation of operations of the EDFs.?

1998 discharge: 6th, 7th and 8th European Development Funds EDF

The European Parliament adopted its resolution to postpone the decision concerning discharge to the Commission in respect of the financial management of EDFs 6, 7 and 8 for the 1998 financial year. Parliament's rapporteur was Ms. Heide RÜHLE (Green/EFA, D). Parliament requests the Commission to draw up by 15 May 2000 an Action Plan with dates, where appropriate, incorporating the following elements: - a confirmation by the Commission of the procedures by which it will inform Parliament, OLAF and the Court of Auditors of fraud and irregularities in development aid programmes; - a breakdown of the corrective measures to be requested from beneficiary governments when found to be responsible for fraud and irregularities, including measures to strengthen national and EU control systems; - a statement of the monies which, according to the measures agreed by the Commission, have been or remain to be reimbursed by national authorities following the result of audits; - a commitment to a policy of zero tolerance of fraud and irregularity in the use of counterpart funds by beneficiary governments; - a full list of the administrative and/or disciplinary enquiries relating to delegation staff which need to be carried out in the light of audits of structural adjustment programmes, and other development assistance; - an outline of the measures which it will take to revise the policy framework for structural adjustment, in coordination with the donors, in order to ensure that the responsibilities given to beneficiary governments are matched with adequate independent controls of the counterpart funds at their disposal (to include strengthening of controls carried out both by national bodies and by the Commission); - the full measures to be taken to strengthen the internal audit and evaluation functions which deal with external aid; - a full response to the conclusions contained in the opinion of the Development Committee on the 1998 discharge; - rapid implementation of a standard model contract for services and supplies and an appraisal of all technical assistance, as requested repeatedly by the Court of Auditors; - a commitment to a benchmarking exercise with audit and evaluation systems of aid delivered by Member States and to propose a fail-safe system whereby key findings are systematically and immediately flagged to senior management.?

1998 discharge: 6th, 7th and 8th European Development Funds EDF

The committee adopted the report by Heide RÜHLE (Greens/EFA, D) recommending that Parliament grant the Commission the budgetary discharge for 1998 in respect of the sixth, seventh and eighth European Development Funds. The report welcomed the fact that Parliament's pressure had paid off (Parliament voted in April to postpone a decision on whether to grant the discharge) and that the Commission had embarked upon a major reform of development aid, as it had promised Parliament on 16 May. The committee stressed that it expected the Commission to supply it with a clear timetable of the measures to be carried out and to keep Parliament regularly informed (every six months) of progress achieved in implementing the action plan for reform. It called for Parliament, the Commission, the Court of Auditors and OLAF to cooperate closely to ensure the success of the reform and improve the effectiveness of the Community's external aid measures. ?

1998 discharge: 6th, 7th and 8th European Development Funds EDF

The European Parliament adopted its decision drafted by Heide RÜHLE (Greens/EFA, Germany) granting the Commission the budgetary discharge for 1998 in respect of the sixth, seventh and eighth European Development Funds (EDF). Its comments on the discharge are recorded in the resolution forming part of the decision. Parliament noted the relevant figures, and closed the accounts relating to the implementation of the sixth, seventh and eighth EDF. The main points in the resolution recording its comments are as follows: -Parliament welcomed the Commission's adoption of an Action Plan and looked forward to receiving clear timetables and measures, and information on steps taken by beneficiary countries. With regard to ongoing monitoring of the Action Plan, it recommended an output-oriented approach, in which clear and disaggregated targets are sector specific results expected from the aid programme. A number of recommendations are made on delegations. there should be more locally-hired staff. A culture of accountability and a sense of responsibility in delegation staff should be fostered by spelling out clearly the role of officials, local agents and other staff. -On relations between headquarters and delegations, it was noted that Communications would be improved markedly with more systematic use of IT tools. Capacity building in beneficiary countries was also emphasised. ?