


Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2001/2112(DEC)	Procedure completed
2000 discharge: European Centre for the Development for vocational Training ECDVT budget, Thessalonica		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control	V/ALE STAES Bart	06/11/2001

Key events			
10/10/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	N5-0127/2002	Summary
14/03/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/03/2002	Vote in committee		
19/03/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0101/2002	
20/03/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
09/04/2002	Debate in Parliament		
10/04/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0169/2002	Summary
10/04/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
16/04/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
17/06/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2112(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/5/16192; CONT/5/14817

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		N5-0127/2002 OJ C 372 28.12.2001, p. 0037-0044	10/10/2001	CofA	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		01639/2002	05/03/2002	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0101/2002	19/03/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0169/2002 OJ C 127 29.05.2003, p. 0163-0573 E	10/04/2002	EP	Summary

Final act

[Budget 2002/451](#)
[OJ L 158 17.06.2002, p. 0059](#) Summary

2000 discharge: European Centre for the Development for vocational Training ECDVT budget, Thessalonica

PURPOSE : to present the report from the Court of Auditors on the financial statements of the European Centre for the Development of Professional Training for the financial year ended 31 December 2000. **CONTENT** : this examination has enabled the Court to obtain reasonable assurances that the annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 1999 are reliable and that the underlying transactions, taken as a whole, are legal and reliable. As regards the implementation of the budget and budgetary accounts, definitive appropriations for the financial year amounted to EUR 13,3 million. Almost all of these appropriations were committed and EUR 10,5 million (80%) was paid. Carryovers of appropriations to 2001 amounted to EUR 2,7 million (2,5%). Of this total, EUR 2,2 million (78%) related to operating appropriations under Title III. The carryovers of appropriations from Title III mainly related to the headings 'Dissemination of information' and 'Pilot studies and projects'. Appropriations totalling EUR 3,7 million were carried over from 1999 to 2000. Of this amount, EUR 3,1 million (83%) was paid and EUR 0,6 million (17%) was cancelled. It should be noted that Cedefop has not been fully receptive to the observations made by the Court in its report concerning the financial year 1999, or honoured the undertakings given concerning the procedures which the Centre itself decided to apply to the awarding of contracts, not least in the field of informatics. With regard to the staff, 66 members of staff were transferred from Berlin to Thessaloniki. They were granted the status of permanent employees. As at 1 January 2000, 24 of these members of staff had obtained a transfer to one of the institutions or to another satellite agency, 6 had left the Centre, 11 were in receipt of an invalidity pension and 1 was receiving a retirement pension. Altogether, 42 out of the 66 member of staff transferred had left the Centre. In conclusion, generally speaking, it appears that, since 1996, the Centre has been able to employ the staff it has requested during the budgetary procedure. It has managed to recruit auxiliary employees, local staff and seconded national experts to bolster its staff numbers with the result that total staff numbers tend to exceed the authorised total. When employing staff, the Centre has used an essentially internal recruitment model, even if it has also turned to procedure of external type. Given the upward trend in the number of permanent posts at the Centre, it would perhaps be desirable, in the case of posts concerning support activities that require qualifications of an administrative nature, for it to join forces with the institutions and the other satellite agencies in order to recruit staff on the broadest possible basis. Furthermore, the Centre should improve its staff management and information system.?

2000 discharge: European Centre for the Development for vocational Training ECDVT budget, Thessalonica

PURPOSE : to present the Council's recommendations on the discharge to be given to the management board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training. **CONTENT** : the Council considers that discharge should be given to the Management Board of the Centre in respect of the implementation of the statement of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2000. The observations in the Court of Auditors' report in relation to the financial year 2000 call for certain comments by the Council. In particular, the Council: - welcomes the fact that the Court has been able to accord the Centre a statement of assurance in respect of the reliability of the Centre's accounts for the financial year 2000, and in respect of the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions as a whole. - invites the Centre to ensure that the implementation of its budget complies with the principle of annuality by limiting carryovers of appropriations and any cancellations resulting therefrom. - notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the Centre to improve its procurement procedures and encourages it to continue along that path. - invites the Centre subsequently to improve its staff management and information system, in particular its recruitment procedures, in order to make these more transparent. - takes note of the comments of the Court with respect to the consequences of the relocation from Berlin to Thessaloniki and states that it would take account of this experience should a similar situation arise.?

2000 discharge: European Centre for the Development for vocational Training ECDVT budget, Thessalonica

The committee adopted the report by Eluned MORGAN (PES, UK) on discharge in respect of the EU general budget for the 2000 financial year for sections II (Council), IV (Court of Justice), V (Court of Auditors), VI (Economic and Social Committee), VII (Committee of the Regions) and VIII (Ombudsman) and on discharge for the 1996-1999 financial years for Section VI (Economic and Social Committee). Although in the past the Parliament and Council had refrained from scrutinising each other's budgets, the committee said that in view of the increases in administrative expenditure and the increasingly operational nature of expenditure in the fields of foreign affairs, security and defence policy and justice and home affairs, the administrative expenditure of both institutions should be checked as part of the discharge procedure. MEPs accordingly recommended that the discharge to the Council for the 2000 financial year should be postponed pending a satisfactory answer by 15 May 2002 to questions that had been put by the committee in December 2001. The committee also decided to refuse discharge to the Economic and Social Committee (ESC) for the implementation of the budgets for 1996 and 1997. MEPs were especially unhappy with the outcome of the OLAF investigation into irregularities concerning the payment of ESC Members' travel allowances in 1995-1996. The investigation had been hampered in such a way that the Belgian legal authorities were unable to take action because the facts disclosed were so old as to be time-barred under the Belgian statute of limitations. However, the committee decided to recommend granting discharge to the ESC for the implementation of the budgets for 1998, 1999 and 2000 in recognition of the administrative reforms made by the ESC. The committee also recommended granting discharge to the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the Committee of the Regions and the Ombudsman for the implementation of their budgets for 2000. ?

2000 discharge: European Centre for the Development for vocational Training ECDVT budget, Thessalonica

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Bart STAES (GREENS, EFA, B) concerning the discharge to the management board of the European Centre for the Development of vocational Training in respect of the implementation of its budget for the 2000 financial year. (Please refer to the previous text). In the resolution attached to its opinion, the Parliament regrets that the Cedefop has failed to take full account of the observations made by the Court of Auditors in its 1999 annual report. However, it welcomes the decision taken by the Greek authorities on 16 May 2001 to transfer to Cedefop ownership of the building and site in Thessaloniki. The Parliament welcomes the Action Plan drafted by the Management Board (29.11.2001) as a follow-up to the final report of the external evaluation of Cedefop and notes that the Action Plan takes into account the Commission's position paper and assesses the validity of all conclusions and recommendations formulated in the evaluation report. Moreover, it welcomes the fact that the Cedefop promises to implement the Action Plan in conformity with the objectives and time-schedule indicated and further welcomes the proposal that the Director will report on progress annually (November meetings) to the Management Board, which will forward the results to the European Parliament. As regards the co-operation with the European Training Foundation (ETF) - Turin, the Parliament notes that the evaluation concludes that co-operation between the two Agencies is satisfactory and that, at present, ETF makes appropriate use of Cedefop as a resource centre. It welcomes the fact that at that, at the request of the Commission, the two Agencies have drawn up a co-operation framework which was agreed by the Cedefop and ETF Boards in March and June 2001 respectively. Further, it welcomes that this joint framework paper sets out the overall objectives of this new co-operation, namely the preparation of the applicant countries for full participation in Cedefop at a time of accession and the means of facilitating the participation and involvement of applicant countries in the policy development of the Community during the transition period.?

2000 discharge: European Centre for the Development for vocational Training ECDVT budget, Thessalonica

PURPOSE : to grant discharge to the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational training in respect of the implementation of its budget for the 2000 financial year. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Decision 2002/451/EC of the European Parliament concerning discharge to the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in respect of the implementation of its budget for the 2000 financial year. CONTENT : with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Management Board of the CEDEFOP in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2000. This is in accordance with the Parliament's opinion (please refer to the summary of 10 April 2002).?

2000 discharge: European Centre for the Development for vocational Training ECDVT budget, Thessalonica

The committee adopted a second report by Eluned MORGAN (PES, UK) on granting discharge to the institutions other than the Commission for 2000 (the first report was referred back to committee by decision of the April 2002 plenary following a Council promise to provide more information on CFSP expenditure - please refer to previous text). The second report recommended a gentler approach to the question of the Council's accounts by including a separate section in the report containing comments in relation to the Council but without going so far as to make a specific reference to the Council in its discharge recommendation. At the same time, the Court of Auditors was asked "to extend its activities to cover the Council budget" as part of the discharge procedure. In this latest report the committee also recommended granting discharge to the Economic and Social Committee (ESC) for the implementation of its budgets for the years 1996 and 1997, which represented a change from the position adopted in the first report. MEPs acknowledged the administrative reforms made by the ESC after irregularities concerning the payment of ESC Members' travel allowances in 1995-1996, although they reiterated the concern expressed in the first report about the outcome of the OLAF investigation into this case. Finally, the committee once more endorsed the recommendations in its first report that discharge be granted to the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the Committee of the Regions and the Ombudsman for the implementation of their budgets for 2000, and to the ESC for 1998, 1999 and 2000. It was thus recommending that discharge be granted for the ESC for the whole period 1996-2000.?