



Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure		Procedure completed
2002/2107(DEC)		
2001 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions		
Subject		
8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control		10/09/2002
		PPE-DE AVILÉS PEREA Maria Antonia	
	Former committee responsible		
	CONT Budgetary Control		10/09/2002
		PPE-DE AVILÉS PEREA Maria Antonia	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Budget		

Key events			
30/04/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(2002)0405	Summary
10/06/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/03/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
24/03/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0101/2003	
08/04/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/04/2003	Debate in Parliament		
08/04/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0155/2003	Summary
15/12/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
15/12/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0486/2003	
28/01/2004	Debate in Parliament		
29/01/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0048/2004	Summary

29/01/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/02/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2002/2107(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/5/20115

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		SEC(2002)0405	30/04/2002	EC	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		N5-0538/2002 OJ C 295 28.11.2002, p. 0001-0288	10/10/2002	CofA	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		01375/2003	07/03/2003	CSL	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		01376/2003	07/03/2003	CSL	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0101/2003	24/03/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0155/2003 OJ C 064 12.03.2004, p. 0027-0228 E	08/04/2003	EP	Summary
Implementing legislative act		32003B0414 OJ L 148 16.06.2003, p. 0057-0057	08/04/2003	EU	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0486/2003	15/12/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0048/2004 OJ C 096 21.04.2004, p. 0021-0108 E	29/01/2004	EP	Summary

Final act

[Budget 2004/180](#)
[OJ L 057 25.02.2004, p. 0006-0007](#) Summary

2001 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

PURPOSE : to postpone discharge to the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of the European Union general budget for the financial year 2001. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Decision 2003/414/EC of the European Parliament concerning discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2001 (Section VII - Committee of the Regions). CONTENT : with the present decision, the European Parliament postpones discharge to the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2001 financial year. This decision to postpone discharge is accompanied by a series of comments which complete the discharge decision. These comments are included in the Parliament's opinion (please refer to the summary of the European Parliament's resolution dated 8 April 2003). ?

2001 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

The committee adopted the report by María Antonia AVILES PEREA (EPP-ED, E) proposing that Parliament should grant discharge to the

Committee of the Regions (CoR) for the 2001 financial year. Parliament had postponed the granting of discharge in April 2003 following concerns about the CoR's administrative and financial management (see summary dated 08/04/2003). In its comments accompanying the discharge decision, the committee pointed to the inconsistencies in the audit subsequently carried out by the Court of Auditors, which appeared to contradict the Court's own earlier findings. It regretted, for instance, that the Court of Auditors did not detect the shortcomings highlighted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) as regards the procedures used by the CoR when concluding contracts and tenders. On the basis of OLAF's conclusions, the committee said that the CoR should in future provide its staff with training in financial and tendering procedures, should consider opening disciplinary proceedings against certain officials and should re-evaluate and, where necessary, recover payments made to certain Members for daily allowances and travel expenses. The report was particularly critical of the treatment meted out to the CoR's Financial Controller, saying that there had been "disrespect" for his institutional role and that the efforts of the Administration had been focused on discouraging or destabilising "the messenger of the bad news" rather than on changing things for the benefit of the CoR. However, the committee welcomed the various measures that had been taken by the President of the CoR in response to the OLAF report, in particular the efforts to recover payments. It noted the President's acknowledgement that there had been "an endemic culture of cronyism in the Committee of the Regions in 2001" and his intention of submitting an overall proposal in February 2004 for the administrative reform of the CoR. MEPs said that this proposal should be drawn up with "the active help of an outside expert" and forwarded as soon as possible to Parliament, which would take into account the CoR's commitment to the reform process when considering the discharge decision for 2002. In conclusion, the report called on the Committee of the Regions to provide a full report on the action taken to follow up the OLAF report, to provide Parliament with regular progress reports and to ensure that the reform measures allowed open reporting of irregularity and fraud "without risk of individual or institutional harassment". In this connection, it demanded better treatment of whistleblowers in future and called for the Financial Controller to receive a formal apology from the CoR's President and Secretary-General. ?

2001 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

PURPOSE : to give discharge on the implementation of the budget for the Committee of the Regions for the financial year 2001.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 2004/180/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the 2001 financial year - Section VII - Committee of the Regions. CONTENT : this Decision gives discharge to the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2001 financial year. The Decision is accompanied by a resolution, the contents of which are set out in the Parliament's opinion (please refer to the opinion dated 29 January 2004).?

2001 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

The European Parliament adopted a report by Maria AVILES PEREA (EPP-ED, E), giving discharge to the Committee of the Regions for 2001 by 318 votes in favour, 153 against and 5 abstentions. In April last year, Parliament had postponed granting discharge, as there were a number of serious concerns, among other things over the reimbursement of expenses to Members of the Committee of the Regions and over tendering procedures. (Please see the document dated 15/12/03.) Parliament also stated that the Committee of the Regions should involve its legal service in administrative procedures. In addition, Parliament demanded a declaration by the Committee of the Regions that everything possible will be done to ensure that all its Members cooperate sincerely in order to guarantee consistent and correct application of the rules on the payment of allowances to its Members. All possible steps should be taken to recover all the sums unduly paid to Members and former Members of the Committee of the Regions, but under no circumstances can claims from Members be backdated.?