



Procedure file

| Basic information | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| DEC - Discharge procedure | 2002/2107(DEC) | Procedure completed |
| 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 | | 10/09/2002 |
| | CONT Budgetary Control | | |
| | | PPE-DE AVILÉS PEREA Maria Antonia | |
| European Commission | Commission DG Budget | Commissioner | |

| 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 |

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|------------|---|--|--|
| 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

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|---|--|---|------------|------|---------|
| 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

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.?

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).?