

Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2003/2216(DEC)	Procedure completed
2002 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	PPE-DE STAUNER Gabriele	10/09/2002
European Commission	Commission DG Budget	Commissioner	

Key events			
13/05/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	N5-0034/2003	Summary
25/02/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/03/2004	Vote in committee		Summary
29/03/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0228/2004	
21/04/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0343/2004	Summary
21/04/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/04/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2216(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		N5-0034/2003	13/05/2003	CSL	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		N5-0019/2003	08/10/2003	CofA	Summary

		OJ C 286 28.11.2003, p. 0325-0361			
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0228/2004	29/03/2004	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0343/2004 OJ C 104 30.04.2004, p. 0424-0700 E	21/04/2004	EP	Summary

Final act

[Budget 2004/727](#)
[OJ L 330 04.11.2004, p. 0152-0152](#) Summary

2002 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

In adopting the report by Gabriele STAUNER (EPP-ED, D), the European Parliament voted to grant the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2002 financial year. In an accompanying resolution, Parliament notes that in its report concerning the financial year 2002 the Court of Auditors established the same irregularities as the Anti-Fraud Office. It also points out that Parliament did not grant the Committee of the Regions discharge in respect of financial management in 2001 until 29 January 2004 and, in the resolution accompanying the discharge decision, called on the Committee of the Regions 'to provide a full report on the current discharge decision in good time for it to be taken into account in the context of the discharge procedure for the 2002 financial year'. The setting up of working groups is welcomed, with the involvement of staff of the institution and an external advisor, to examine and propose solutions to the various structural, administrative and financial problems. Parliament remains however to be convinced that they will lead to significant improvements as long as the administrative culture remains the same; points out that, following the example of the Commission in the Eurostat affair, a root and branch overhaul of senior management, working methods and respect for internal audit is essential to create a climate of reform and renewal. It awaits confirmation that the Committee has strengthened its internal audit unit with the A7 and B5 posts agreed by Parliament and seeks a justification for any further delay in recruitment procedures. Parliament expresses its general surprise at the dismissal of the OLAF findings and recommendations and suggests that real reform can only begin by acknowledging past mistakes and weaknesses. The Committee of the Regions is criticised for failing to replace the staff of the Financial Controller or to give him the necessary information to carry out an audit report in 2002. The European Parliament welcomes in this connection the Bureau's decision of 10 February 2004 to bring its "whistleblowing" provisions into line with rules currently in force in the Commission which make it possible for officials to turn to a body outside their Institution, so as to ensure that their anonymity remains intact. It is also noted that such a doctrine is only truly effective if staff members are aware of it. It also encourages the Committee of Regions to ensure that this information is freely available to its staff. Parliament highlights that on 18 November 2003 the President of the Committee of the Regions called on the acting Secretary-General to clarify whether disciplinary proceedings ought to be instituted against staff. It criticises the fact that, on the one hand, the administrative inquiry is not to be concluded until April, but that, on the other, the Administration has already been able to establish that the Internal Auditor has not been intimidated or harassed at all. Parliament notes that the Committee of the Regions introduced a new staff policy in 2003 and will return to this in its discharge report for the 2003 financial year. Lastly, Parliament notes that the Committee of the Regions spent some EUR 100 000 on studies in 2002 and asks how the topics were selected and to what use the studies were put and asks whether an assessment was made of their usefulness.?

2002 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

PURPOSE : to grant discharge to the Committee of the Regions for the financial year 2002.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 2004/727/EC of the European Parliament concerning discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the 2002 financial year - Section VII- Committee of the Regions.

CONTENT : with this present Decision, the European Parliament gives discharge to the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2002 financial year.

This Decision is in conformity with the European Parliament's resolution approved on 21 April 2004 and which is accompanied by a series of which complete the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion).