


# Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2004/2045(DEC)	Procedure completed
2003 discharge: EC general budget, Economic and social Committee ESC		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	<b>CONT</b> Budgetary Control		Appointed 22/09/2004
			PPE-DE <a href="#">STUBB Alexander</a>
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion
	<b>AFET</b> Foreign Affairs		Appointed The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>DEVE</b> Development		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>INTA</b> International Trade		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>BUDG</b> Budgets		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>ECON</b> Economic and Monetary Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>EMPL</b> Employment and Social Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>ITRE</b> Industry, Research and Energy		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>IMCO</b> Internal Market and Consumer Protection		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>TRAN</b> Transport and Tourism		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>REGI</b> Regional Development		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>AGRI</b> Agriculture and Rural Development		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>PECH</b> Fisheries		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>CULT</b> Culture and Education		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>JURI</b> Legal Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>LIBE</b> Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>AFCO</b> Constitutional Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.

	<b>FEMM</b> Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	<b>PETI</b> Petitions	The committee decided not to give an opinion.

## Key events

01/06/2004	Non-legislative basic document published	DECHARGEVOLUMEIII/2004	Summary
26/01/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/03/2005	Vote in committee		
17/03/2005	Additional information		Summary
22/03/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A6-0066/2005</a>	
12/04/2005	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/04/2005	Debate in Parliament		
12/04/2005	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T6-0097/2005</a>	Summary
12/04/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/07/2005	Final act published in Official Journal		

## Technical information

Procedure reference	2004/2045(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		DECHARGEVOLUMEIII/2004	01/06/2004	EC	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		C293/2004 <a href="#">OJ C 293 30.11.2004, p. 0001-0328</a>	30/11/2004	CofA	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A6-0066/2005</a>	22/03/2005	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T6-0097/2005</a> OJ C 033 09.02.2006, p. 0028-0212 E	12/04/2005	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		<a href="#">SP(2005)2124</a>	19/05/2005	EC	

## Final act

[Budget 2005/535](#)  
[OJ L 196 27.07.2005, p. 0050-0050](#) Summary

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## 2003 discharge: EC general budget, Economic and social Committee ESC

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**PURPOSE** : to present the revenue and expenditure account and the balance sheet concerning the activities of the budget for the financial year 2003 (Economic and Social Committee).

**CONTENT** : this document sets out the amount of expenditure and the balance sheet for the other institutions of the Union (except the Commission) for the financial year 2003, in particular, the Economic and Social Committee.

The ESC's 2003 budget amounted to EUR 81 million with 98.1% being committed. The implementation of the budget was marked by the following elements:

- implementation of 4 priority policies : to optimise the role of the consultative body of the Committee within the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission; to improve the representativeness of the ESC as a representative of the civil society; strengthen the presence of the ESC in the debate on the future of Europe; develop the internal structures of the Committee;
- aiming to improve the ESC's services, to reinforce its working methods and its cooperation with other institutions, to cooperate with the Committee of the Regions;
- on an operational level : 2003 was marked by the continuation of the work of the Committee which delivered 190 opinions (against 172 in 2002). Other salient issues can be summarized as follows: the development of interinstitutional cooperation, notably with the EP; the participation in the debate on the future of Europe; the preparation of enlargement; the strengthening of its communication, services offered to the Members and the modernization of its internal workings (in particular, in respect of the requirement of the new Financial Regulation).

The Committee highlighted that following the demands of the budgetary authority an amount of EUR 2 million was released in 2003 with a view to paying the ground rent for the "Belliard 97" building. The ESC stated that it concluded a new rent contract with the Committee of the Regions for the "Belliard 68" building to be taken account of in 2004.

Lastly, the Committee equally improved its accounting system and updated its inventory of its assets as was requested by the Court of Auditors.

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## 2003 discharge: EC general budget, Economic and social Committee ESC

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EP: decision of committee responsible, 1st reading/single reading

The committee adopted the report by Alexander STUBB (EPP-ED, FI) granting discharge to the Economic and Social Committee (ESC) for the 2003 financial year. In its accompanying remarks, the committee welcomed the fact that a new personnel management and payroll system had been put in place and that the ESC had, albeit belatedly, abolished the imprest account for the payment of members' allowances in early 2004. It was critical of the fact that, despite the ESC's public assurance during last year's discharge procedure that there had been no further irregularities regarding the settlement of travel expenses, the Court of Auditors had uncovered cases of excessive travel allowance payments to members. It noted, however, that the ESC, in the meantime, had clarified the travel reimbursement rules.

With regard to the follow-up of the 2002 discharge procedure, the committee noted that an internal auditor's report did not reveal any acts of fraud as far as the Belliard building was concerned and indeed recognised "the value of the building project for the Committees".

The committee called on the ESC to further improve its public profile as a body representing civil society and to use benchmarking means with a view to achieving measurable progress. Lastly, it asked the ESC to evaluate the implications of the new Financial Regulation for its administrative and political work in time for its review in 2005/2006.

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## 2003 discharge: EC general budget, Economic and social Committee ESC

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Alexander STUBB (EPP-ED, FI) granting the

Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2003 financial year. (Please see the summary of 17/03/2005.) The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) administered a budget of EUR 81 166 960, of which 98.12 % had been committed and 92.77 % spent by 31 December 2003.

With further regard to the travel reimbursement rules, Parliament noted that the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) has completed an investigation into allegations concerning the possible misuse of the committee's travel reimbursement scheme by a member. OLAF has found evidence of "double reimbursement" and forwarded its findings to the Belgian public prosecutor. Throughout the investigation the EESC fully co-operated with OLAF. The latter did not question the EESC's financial management system.

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## 2003 discharge: EC general budget, Economic and social Committee ESC

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**OBJECTIVE**: granting of discharge for implementing the EU's general budget for 2003 ? Economic and Social Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACT**: Decision 2005/535/EC of the European Parliament concerning the discharge for implementing the general budget of the EU for the 2003 financial year (Section VI? Economic and Social Committee).

CONTENT: With this Decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Economic and Social Committee for the implementation of the budget for the 2003 financial year.

This decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 12 April 2005 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion of 12/04/2005).