

Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2004/2046(DEC)	Procedure completed
2003 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		22/09/2004
		PPE-DE STUBB Alexander	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	DEVE Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	INTA International Trade	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	TRAN Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	REGI Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	PECH Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CULT Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
JURI Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		

FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality

The committee decided not to give an opinion.

PETI 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	A6-0066/2005	
12/04/2005	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/04/2005	Debate in Parliament		
12/04/2005	Decision by Parliament	T6-0098/2005	Summary
12/04/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/07/2005	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2004/2046(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 OJ C 293 30.11.2004, p. 0001-0328	30/11/2004	CofA	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0066/2005	22/03/2005	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0098/2005 OJ C 033 09.02.2006, p. 0028-0215 E	12/04/2005	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2005)2124	19/05/2005	EC	

Final act

[Budget 2005/536](#)
[OJ L 196 27.07.2005, p. 0053-0053](#) Summary

2003 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

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

CONTENT : this document sets out the amount of expenditure and the balance sheet for the Committee of the Regions (CoR). Its budget amounted to EUR 68 million in 2003. The report states that the CoR continued its consolidation process as an institution by strengthening the recognition of its institutional role.

The main issues of its activities in 2003 included the consolidation of its advisory role; the active participation in the work of Convention on the future of the Union; the implementation of additional actions aiming to improve the quality of opinions and their impact on the decision-making process.

Within the framework of its activities, the 4 political groups of the CoR (PES, EPP, ALDE, EA) play an essential role. It is for this reason that its Rules of procedure seek to accommodate them in terms of organising meetings, carrying out their activities and publishing work as well as the work of the Secretariat. The financial report is thus accompanied by a very precise description of the activities of the political groups within the framework of the budgetary headings which relate to them.

Other points to be retained as regards the execution of the 2003 budget include the low level of committed appropriations as regards allowances to Members because certain working groups were cancelled at the beginning of 2003 and also fewer meetings were envisaged (Plenary sessions, Convention...); increasing appropriations in order to receive 95 observers from the 10 applicant countries within the framework of enlargement (via a credit transfer between lines); the decrease of mission expenses; the significant decrease of costs for freelance interpreters.

Most of the surplus amounts were used to make new advances to the Belliard building and for the preparation of enlargement.

2003 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

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

The committee adopted the report by Alexander STUBB (EPP-ED, FI) granting discharge to the Committee of the Regions (CoR) for the 2003 financial year. In its accompanying remarks, the committee noted that the CoR did not comply with a number of rules concerning the supervisory system and controls, although some delays in implementing the financial regulation could be explained by the need to assist OLAF in an internal investigation in 2003. The CoR was urged *inter alia* to "systematically verify the entitlements of officials".

The committee referred to the remarks in the 2001 discharge highlighting evidence of "systemic incompetence and disregard for the essential rules of tendering procedures and financial management". It once more emphasised its support for the Internal Auditor, who drew Parliament's attention to irregularities occurring in the CoR, and "its confidence in his personal and professional integrity". MEPs also noted that the former Secretary-General of the CoR was initially granted unpaid leave and then early retirement as from September 2004 "against the express wish of the European Parliament".

The report acknowledged that, under the new Secretary-General, the CoR had made "strenuous efforts to bring its administration up to speed" and had kept Parliament informed. It noted however that the position of Internal Auditor was not occupied during the latter half of 2004 and asked to be informed about the outcome of the recruitment procedure for this post.

The committee remained concerned about the system of political control in the CoR and called on it to look into setting up a Conference of (Group) Presidents, as the political steering committee, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the Bureau (which has more than 50 members).

Lastly, the CoR was urged to evaluate the implications of the new Financial Regulation for its administrative and political work in time for its review in 2005/2006.

2003 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

OBJECTIVE : granting of discharge for implementing the EU's general budget for 2003 ? Committee of the Regions.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 2005/536/EC of the European Parliament concerning the discharge for implementing the general budget of the EU for the 2003 financial year (Section VII ? Committee of the Regions).

CONTENT : With this Decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions 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).

2003 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions

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

Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2003 financial year. (Please see the summary of 17/03/2005.) The Committee of the Regions administered a budget of EUR 38 999 436, of which 97.29 % had been committed and 86.58% spent by 31 December 2003. Parliament noted it has received neither the Committee of the Regions' report pursuant to Article 86(4) of the Financial Regulation, nor the Internal Auditor's annual report. It also noted that the position of internal auditor

was not occupied during the latter half of 2004 and was eventually advertised in a vacancy notice on two occasions. Parliament wanted to be informed about the outcome of this recruitment procedure.

Finally, Parliament welcomed the fact that the Committee regularly evaluates the impact of its political work, and asked to also receive the annual impact reports in the context of the discharge procedures.