

Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2004/2047(DEC)	Procedure completed
2003 discharge: EC general budget, European Ombudsman		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	CONT Budgetary Control		Appointed 22/09/2004
			PPE-DE STUBB Alexander
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion
	AFET Foreign Affairs		Appointed 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	T6-0099/2005	Summary
12/04/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/07/2005	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2004/2047(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/22231

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		T6-0099/2005 OJ C 033 09.02.2006, p. 0028-0218 E	12/04/2005	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2005)2124	19/05/2005	EC	

Final act

[Budget 2005/537](#)

2003 discharge: EC general budget, European Ombudsman

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

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 European Ombudsman.

The appropriations entered in the final budget 2003 amount to EUR 4 438 653 committed to the amount of 91.3%.

In 2003, the year of the appointment of the new European Ombudsman, the implementation of the budget was marked by several transfers of appropriations between posts in particular as regards:

- the reinforcement of the allocation of ?stages? given that the number of ?stages? within the Ombudsman keeps increasing;
- the readjustment of the allocation of posts in order to take account of the Ombudsman?s new requests;
- the strengthening of positions within the publications sector given that the new Ombudsman wishes to increase the dissemination of brochures concerning the Ombudsman?s role in the new Member States;
- the increase of appropriations for translation (notably for the Ombudsman?s Annual Report);
- the increase of certain specific posts such as ?agents? in order to take account of the recruitment of new staff.

It should be noted that the Ombudsman regrets that the position ?mission costs?, which was strengthening by a transfer of appropriations in 2003, was not as sufficiently funded as it should have been. It wishes therefore that its allocation be strengthened.

2003 discharge: EC general budget, European Ombudsman

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

The committee adopted the report by Alexander STUBB (EPP-ED, FI) granting discharge to the Ombudsman for the 2003 financial year. In its accompanying remarks, the committee noted that the Court of Auditors did not make any observations regarding the execution of the budget and asked how the Court intended to evaluate such execution in future. However, it also noted that Parliament gave a favourable opinion on the work of the Ombudsman on the basis of his annual report. It further pointed out that 75% of the complaints received fell outside the Ombudsman's mandate and that he only dealt with 363 enquiries although the overall caseload amounted to 2611.

Follow-up of the 2002 discharge procedure had been good, with the Ombudsman supplying comprehensive information to the committee.

Lastly, the report congratulated the Ombudsman on the swift transposition of the provisions of the Financial Regulation, despite the enormous strain this had placed on his administration.

2003 discharge: EC general budget, European Ombudsman

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Alexander STUBB (EPP-ED, FI) granting the Ombudsman discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 2003 financial year. The Ombudsman administered a budget of EUR 4 438 653, of which 91.29% was committed and 87.65 % spent. Parliament noted that the Ombudsman?s explanation that the lower level of budget execution in 2003 was caused by the transition period following the retirement of the former Ombudsman and the election of the new Ombudsman. Parliament welcomed the fact that the Ombudsman has willingly provided the authorising officer's and the internal auditor's annual reports, including a statement of assurance.

2003 discharge: EC general budget, European Ombudsman

OBJECTIVE: granting of discharge for implementing the EU?s general budget for 2003 ?European Ombudsman.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2005/537/EC of the European Parliament concerning the discharge for implementing the general budget of the EU for the 2003 financial year (Section VIII? Ombudsman).

CONTENT: With this Decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the European Ombudsman 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).