



# Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	<a href="#">2004/2054(DEC)</a>	Procedure completed
2003 discharge: European Food Safety Authority		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>CONT</b> Budgetary Control		22/09/2004
		PSE <a href="#">AYALA SENDER Inés</a>	26/07/2004
			22/09/2004
		PSE <a href="#">AYALA SENDER Inés</a>	
		Verts/ALE <a href="#">SCHLYTER Carl</a>	
Council of the European Union	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		27/07/2004
		PSE <a href="#">HAUG Jutta</a>	
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN</a>	<a href="#">2646</a>	08/03/2005

Key events			
01/03/2004	Non-legislative basic document published	<a href="#">N6-0217/2004</a>	Summary
10/01/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/03/2005	Vote in committee		
16/03/2005	Additional information		Summary
23/03/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A6-0074/2005</a>	
12/04/2005	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/04/2005	Debate in Parliament		
12/04/2005	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T6-0111/2005</a>	Summary
12/04/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2004/2054(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		N6-0217/2004	01/03/2004	OS	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		C324/2004 <a href="#">OJ C 324 30.12.2004, p. 0001</a>	30/12/2004	CofA	Summary
Committee opinion	<b>ENVI</b>	<a href="#">PE353.298</a>	07/02/2005	EP	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		<a href="#">06857/2005</a>	08/03/2005	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A6-0074/2005</a>	23/03/2005	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T6-0111/2005</a> OJ C 033 09.02.2006, p. 0029-0286 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
<a href="#">Budget 2005/549</a> <a href="#">OJ L 196 27.07.2005, p. 0132-0132</a> Summary

## 2003 discharge: European Food Safety Authority

**PURPOSE** : presentation of the financial statements and balance sheets of the European Food Safety Authority for the financial year 2003.

**CONTENT** : this report presented by the European Food Safety Authority presents the financial statements and balance sheets of its activities in 2003 which was its first complete financial year since its creation on 28 January 2002 by Regulation 178/2002/EC.

The report highlights that the final budget amounts to EUR 12.6 million of which 99.7% is a Community contribution.

As regards the staffing policy, the Authority, whose temporary headquarters are in Brussels but are due to be transferred to Parma (Italy), has allocated 49 posts in its establishment plan. 27 posts are occupied with +36 other staff (auxiliary contracts, seconded national experts, local and temporary staff) making a total of 63 staff assigned to administrative and operational duties.

In 2003, the Authority concentrated on the following activities :

- setting up its Scientific Committee and all the Scientific Panels in June 2003. It issued 23 public opinions during the remainder of the year;
- in October the Authority held a conference in Ostende (Belgium) with its interested parties, the purpose of which was to determine how to carry out its mandate in the future;
- the Advisory Forum met six times with a view to setting up the network linking the national authorities. This led to increased exchanges of information with the Authority and between the national departments concerned.

## 2003 discharge: European Food Safety Authority

Having examined the revenue and expenditure account for the financial year 2003 and the balance sheet of revenue and expenditure at 31 December 2003 of the European Food Safety Authority and the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the Authority, the Council recommends that the European Parliament give a discharge to the Executive Director of the Authority in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2003.

To recall, EUR 0.2 million (50%) of the EUR 0.4 million in appropriations carried over from the financial year 2002 to the financial year 2003, have been used. EUR 4.2 million in appropriations have been carried forward from the financial year 2003 to the financial year 2004 and EUR 2.9 million have been cancelled.

Observations in the Court of Auditors' report in relation to the financial year 2003 call for certain comments by the Council, which are annexed to this Recommendation.

The Council welcomes the fact that the Court of Auditors has been able to obtain reasonable assurance that the Authority's annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2003 are reliable and that the underlying transactions, taken as a whole, are legal and regular. However, some observations need to be made. The Council invites the Authority to follow the Court's remarks regarding the need that the

accounting officer validates the system laid down by the authorising officer in accordance with the

Authority's financial regulation. The Agency should also improve the checks on salary payments made to its employees and strengthen its computer system to deal with the increase of the Agency's activities.

## 2003 discharge: European Food Safety Authority

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

The committee adopted the report by Inés AYALA SENDER (PES, ES) and Carl SCHLYTER (Greens/EFA, SE) giving discharge to the Director of the European Food Safety Authority for the 2003 financial year.

In its accompanying comments, the committee made a number of general points addressed to the Commission, the Agencies and the Court of Auditors (ECA):

- before the Commission defines the framework conditions for the use of regulatory agencies, an interinstitutional agreement should spell out common guidelines;
- the Commission should carry out a cross-cutting analysis, on a standard three-year cycle, of the coherence of agency activity with EU policy in general. It should also assess "the broader European added value" of the Agencies' work in their respective fields. Before any decision is taken to propose the creation of a new agency, the need for such an agency should be carefully evaluated, bearing in mind existing structures and the principles of subsidiarity, budgetary austerity and simplification of procedures;
- the Agencies were urged to comply fully with the budgetary principles set out in the Financial Regulation, further strengthen their internal management and control procedures and pay "special attention" to procedures for the award and management of contracts. They should also step up cooperation with each other, avoid duplication of work and develop a comprehensive strategy for making the results of their work available to the general public;
- the ECA and the Agencies were urged to strengthen their cooperation and establish a methodology "that prepares the ground for a positive budget discharge from the start of the process".

## 2003 discharge: European Food Safety Authority

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OBJECTIVE: granting of discharge for implementing the EU's general budget for 2003 - European Food Safety Authority

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2005/549/EC of the European Parliament concerning the discharge for implementing the general budget of the EU for the 2003 financial year ? European Food Safety Authority.

CONTENT: With this Decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Director of the European Food Safety Authority 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).

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General points addressed to the Commission and the Agencies: Parliament notes the Commission's position with regard to delegating responsibility for the execution of tasks to bodies, including agencies, other than the Commission's core administration and it takes the view that this does not answer Parliament's call for in-depth consideration at inter-institutional level of the structure of existing agencies. It therefore invites the Commission to provide clarification on this point and on the future overall inter-institutional agreement related to the new arrangements to be set up within or in parallel with the Financial Perspective and invites the Commission to organise and perform in the medium term, e.g. on a standard three-year cycle, a cross-cutting analysis of the evaluations carried out on individual Agencies in order to:

- reach conclusions with regard to the coherence of Agency activity with EU policies in general and as regards the synergies existing or to be developed between the agencies and Commission departments and the avoidance of overlapping between them;

- make an assessment of the broader European added value of the Agencies' outputs in their respective area of activity and of the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency model in implementing or contributing to EU policies;

- determine and enhance the impact of the Agencies' actions in terms of the proximity, accessibility and visibility of the EU to its citizens.

In addition, Parliament calls on the Commission, in parallel with this exercise, to present by the end of 2005 at the latest, proposals for changes to be made in the existing Agencies' Constituent Acts with a view, inter alia, to optimising its relationship with the Agencies.

General points addressed to the Agencies: Parliament expects to receive from now on, from each of the Agencies, the report summarising information on the audits carried out by the Internal Auditor. It invites the Agencies to make further efforts to apply correctly the staff regulations and rules applicable to other civil servants with regard to their staff (recruitment procedures and relevant decisions taken, personal files, calculation of remuneration and other entitlements, promotions policy, percentage of vacant posts, quotas for respecting gender equality, etc.). Moreover, the Parliament expects the Agencies, in response to the relevant observations of the ECA, to comply fully with the budgetary principles as set out in the Financial Regulation, in particular those of unity and budgetary accuracy.

Parliament invites the Agencies to develop a comprehensive strategy of communication addressing the need to make available, in the appropriate form, the results of their work to the general public beyond the presentation of such results to the Institutions, Member States' competent services, specialists, partners or specific beneficiaries.

General points addressed to the ECA and the Agencies: Parliament welcomes the ECA's initiative to add a table to its specific reports on the Agencies presenting summary information on the competences, governance, resources available and products/output of the particular agency.