



# Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2006/2076(DEC)	Procedure completed
2005 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions CofR		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>CONT</b> Budgetary Control		20/04/2006
		PPE-DE <a href="#">CASPARY Daniel</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>AFET</b> Foreign Affairs	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.	
<b>Council of the European Union</b>	Council configuration <a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN</a>	Meeting <a href="#">2787</a>	Date 27/02/2007
<b>European Commission</b>	Commission DG <a href="#">Budget</a>	Commissioner KALLAS Siim	

Key events			
26/07/2006	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(2006)0915	Summary
14/12/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/03/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
30/03/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A6-0106/2007</a>	
24/04/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Debate in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T6-0135/2007</a>	Summary
24/04/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/07/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2076(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/43591

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		<a href="#">SEC(2006)0915</a> <a href="#">OJ C 263 31.10.2006, p. 0001</a>	26/07/2006	EC	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		<a href="#">N6-0039/2006</a> <a href="#">OJ C 263 31.10.2006, p. 0001</a>	31/10/2006	CofA	Summary
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE382.616</a>	10/01/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE386.389</a>	06/03/2007	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A6-0106/2007</a>	30/03/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T6-0135/2007</a>	24/04/2007	EP	Summary

## Final act

[Budget 2008/504](#)

[OJ L 187 15.07.2008, p. 0067](#) Summary

## 2005 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions CofR

**PURPOSE:** presentation of the final annual accounts of the European Community for the financial year 2005 ? Other institutions : Section VII ? Committee of the Regions.

**CONTENT:** this document sets out the amount of expenditure and the financial statement of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) for 2005 and presents an analysis of its financial management. The available appropriations set out in the Committee?s 2005 budget amounted to EUR 59.8 million, with a 96% utilisation rate

**Main axes of 2005 expenditure:** the budget implementation is characterised by the continuation of the consolidation of the Committee?s institutional role within the EU.

In this context, 6 priority policy areas have been defined around which the implementation of the 2005 budget is centred:

1. territorial cohesion and financial perspectives: special attention has been given to the preparation of the 2007-2013 financial perspectives and in particular the structural operations of the new financial framework;
2. the debate on the European Constitution: the CoR, in association with other institutions, has set up forums and debates on the new Constitution;
3. Lisbon Strategy: the CoR has centred its efforts on the social implications of the Lisbon Strategy and in particular in terms of employment. It also concentrated on the Agenda for social policy, the Community action programme on health and future investments in education and training, research, information society and eEurope 2010;
4. review of the sustainable development strategy: the CoR seeks to influence the Community debate which aims to place environment policy at the heart of the European debate;
5. area of freedom, security and justice: the CoR seeks to influence the debate so that future programmes take account of the regional dimension of the AFSJ;
6. application of the subsidiarity principle in regional policy: in the context of the Constitution, the region dimension and impact of the Committee of the Regions should be strengthened.

On an internal level, the Secretary General of the CoR continued to improve internal services. As regards administration, this is marked by the continued reform process which started in 2004.

Other salient issues of the CoR?s budget implementation can be summarised as follows:

**Title I (Staff costs):** this budget item shows the effects of the enlargement process. The institution?s budget was respected however certain issues were highlighted:

- mission costs and travel expenses: an implementation rate of 60% (consequently EUR 125 000 was carried over to 2006). Overall, this amount has increased given the arrival of the new members which necessitates more travel abroad. This item was also used to organise a special Summit in Wroclaw;
- reception costs: showed an implementation rate of 28% ( part of this amount has been carried over to 2006 in order to reconcile reimbursement invoices which arrived later than expected);
- interinstitutional cooperation (notably concerning translation): is behind with a 42% implementation rate. Substantial amounts have been paid to the Translation Centre for earlier work.

It should be noted that the support costs for translation (EUR 500 000 in 2005) were used at a rate of 96.5%. Most of this amount was used for external translations of the new languages.

**Title II (Operational expenditure):** this heading was characterised by;

- building projects in 2005 and the relationship with the Economic and Social Committee;
- the maintenance of Belliard 68 and Belliard 99/101;
- the renovation of the ?Trèves? building;the contract for the last ?enlargement? building was signed on 2 December 2005;
- the prospect of future enlargement (in particular for the Van Maerlant II and another part of the Montoyer building).

As regards building acquisition, 2005 has shown less significant investment in this area.

For further details concerning the Committee?s expenditure in 2005, please refer to the annexed detailed analysis of expenditure.

## 2005 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions CofR

The committee adopted the report by Daniel CASPARY (EPP-ED, DE) granting discharge to the Committee of the Regions for 2005. In its accompanying resolution, the committee referred to the cases of weighted salary transfers which had been investigated. It supported the Secretary-General of the CoR in his intention to set up an administrative inquiry and disciplinary proceedings where necessary, and called for "a strict prosecution of all cases where fraudulent behaviour can be proved".

In other points, the report noted that the administrative cooperation between the CoR and the European Economic and Social Committee

should be beneficial to both and financially advantageous for European taxpayers, and called on the two institutions to find a suitable way to continue such cooperation. Lastly, in view of the substantial divergences between the findings of the reports of the joint services and the CoR's two external experts, the committee urged the CoR and the EESC to conduct a joint analysis - if necessary with the help of the Court of Auditors - of the precise costs, benefits and savings generated by cooperation.

## 2005 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions CofR

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**PURPOSE:** to grant discharge to the Committee of the Regions for the 2005 financial year.

**LEGISLATIVE ACT:** Decision 2008/504/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for implementation of the European Union general budget for the financial year 2005 (Section VII - Committee of the Regions).

**CONTENT:** with the present decision, the European Parliament grants the Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2005.

This decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 24 April 2007 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion of 24/04/2007).

## 2005 discharge: EC general budget, Committee of the Regions CofR

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted Daniel CASPARY (EPP-ED, D) by 604 votes for, 64 against and 2 abstentions, and granted the Committee of the Regions' Secretary-General discharge for the implementation of the Committee of the Regions budget for the financial year 2005. In doing so, it made a series of observations on the discharge in its accompanying resolution.

Parliament began by noting that in 2005 the Committee of the Regions (CoR) had available commitment appropriations amounting to total of EUR 69 570 456,32 with a utilisation rate of 96,65%. Following the introduction of accrual accounting with effect from 1 January 2005 the CoR's financial statements disclose a positive economic out-turn for the year (EUR 4 050 062,65) and identical amounts of assets and liabilities (EUR 118 221 197,95).

Parliament went on to note that the CoR's administration had requested certain beneficiaries of weighted salary transfers to present additional evidence, and in 2005 the administration did not recover any overpayments. However, the internal audit on salaries transfer requested by the Secretary-General was completed in February 2006, and the administration is now proceeding with the recovery of overpayments which concern a limited number of officials. Furthermore, Parliament noted that as soon as he heard of this problem, the CoR's Secretary-General immediately asked the then Internal Auditor to continue his work on weighted salary transfers. He adopted a restrictive interpretation of the relevant rules of the recently amended Staff Regulations and ordered the recovery of any amounts considered to have been unduly paid. Some of the officials that have been obliged to repay dispute the CoR Secretary-General's reading of the relevant rules and have referred the matter to the Court of Justice. Parliament supported the Secretary-General in his intention to set up an administrative inquiry and expected him to start disciplinary proceedings on the basis of the OLAF report regarding staff concerned. There must be a strict prosecution of all cases where fraudulent behaviour could be proved.

On the matter of administrative cooperation, Parliament felt that such cooperation between the CoR and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) should be beneficial to both and financially advantageous for EU taxpayers. It insisted that any new structures put in place for administrative cooperation between the two committees should result in financial and organisational benefits, and demanded that both committees find a suitable way to continue the administrative cooperation. Having regard to the substantial divergences between the findings of the reports of the joint services and the CoR's two external experts, Parliament invited the two institutions to conduct a joint analysis based on appropriate benchmarks ? if necessary with the help of the ECA ? of the precise costs, benefits and savings generated by cooperation and to submit the results of their examination to the competent committee by 31 October 2007.

Lastly, it noted with concern that it had not been possible to fill all vacant posts from the reserve lists drawn up after EPSO competitions and asked the CoR to analyse the reasons for the shortage of qualified candidates and to inform the competent committee.