



Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2006/2153(DEC)	Procedure completed
2005 discharge: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control	PSE HERCZOG Edit	20/04/2006
Council of the European Union	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	PPE-DE OOMEN-RUIJTEN Ria	22/11/2006
European Commission	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2787	27/02/2007
	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Budget	KALLAS Siim	

Key events			
31/10/2006	Non-legislative basic document published	N6-0021/2006	Summary
29/11/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/03/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
30/03/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0097/2007	
24/04/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Debate in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0113/2007	Summary
24/04/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/07/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2006/2153(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/42395

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		N6-0021/2006 OJ C 266 31.10.2006, p. 0028-0030	31/10/2006	OS	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		N6-0001/2007 OJ C 312 19.12.2006, p. 0001	19/12/2006	CofA	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		05711/2007	07/02/2007	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		PE384.432	09/02/2007	EP	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE382.563	01/03/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE386.363	08/03/2007	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0097/2007	30/03/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0113/2007	24/04/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)2625/2	31/05/2007	EC	

Final act

[Budget 2008/507](#)
[OJ L 187 15.07.2008, p. 0078](#) Summary

2005 discharge: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

PURPOSE: presentation of the final accounts of the European Centre for the Development for vocational training (ECDVT) for the financial year 2005.

CONTENT: this document published in the Official Journal of the EU sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the 2005 budget, including the revenue and expenditure and the balance sheet for the year concerned.

According to this document, the final budget amounted to EUR 17.1 million (compared to EUR 16.6 million in 2004) including a 96% Community contribution.

As regards the staffing policy, the Centre, which is based in Thessalonica, officially set out 91 posts in the establishment plan. 85 of these positions are currently occupied with + other staff (auxiliary contracts, seconded national experts) totalling 123 assigned to operational, administrative and mixed tasks. Staff expenditure amounted to nearly EUR 9.5 million in 2005.

The Centre's core mandate is to serve the development of vocational training at Community level. In order to achieve this objective, it has the task of compiling and disseminating documentation on vocational training systems.

During 2005, the Centre :

- held 90 conferences and seminars with an average of 24 participants;
- carried out 26 studies and 29 projects (2 of which administrative) plus 20 virtual communities (1 of which administrative);
- participated in Maastricht follow-up, Education and Training 2010 programme, Leonardo da Vinci programme, social partners' joint action framework, Advisory Committee for Vocational Training, Directors- General for Vocational Training, Education and Training 2010 Coordination Group;
- published 60 publications (3 issues of Cedefop info, and 4 issues of the European journal on vocational training;

- circulated 8 582 documents on request, 2 462 subscriptions to the European journal and 7 493 subscriptions to Cedefop info;
- distributed the following electronic publications: 3 160 subscriptions to ETV newsletter; 60 440 registered ETV users; 3 366 490 ETV page views; 7 553 registered members in the virtual communities and 762 participants in the study visits programme.

The complete version of the final accounts may be found at the following address:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/index.asp?section=2&sub=5&tab=2>

2005 discharge: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

The committee adopted the report by Edit HERCZOG (PES, HU) granting discharge to the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training for 2005. In its accompanying resolution, it made a number of general points concerning the majority of the EU agencies:

- the ever-growing number of Community Agencies and the activities of some of them do not seem to form part of an overall policy framework, and "the remits of some Agencies do not always reflect the real needs of the Union or the expectations of its citizens?";
- the Commission should therefore define an overall policy framework and should present a cost-benefit study before the setting up of any new Agency, and the Court of Auditors should give its opinion on this study before Parliament takes its decision;
- every 5 years, the Commission should present a study on the added value of every existing Agency; where the evaluation is negative in the case of a particular Agency the latter?s mandate should be reformulated or the Agency should be closed;
- the Commission should improve administrative and technical support to the Agencies, given the growing complexity of the Community?s administrative rules and technical problems;
- the Agencies should improve their cooperation and benchmarking with actors in the field;
- the Commission should harmonise the format of the annual reporting by the Agencies to develop performance indicators which would allow a comparison of their efficiency.

In its specific remarks concerning the ECDVT, the committee called on the centre to "fine-tune its programming" and improve the monitoring exercise throughout the year. It also demanded the full application of the principle of the segregation of the duties of the authorising officer and accounting officer. The report expressed concern at the "very high rate of irregularities" with regard to contracts and called on the Centre to remedy the weaknesses in its organisation and tender procedures. Lastly, it encouraged the Centre to continue efforts to improve its communications to ensure that the public is better informed about its activities.

2005 discharge: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training for the financial year 2005.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2008/507/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training for the financial year 2005.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Director of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training for the implementation of the Centre's 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: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Edit HERCZOG (PSE, HU), and granted the director of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training discharge for the implementation of the Centre's budget for the financial year 2005. Parliament then approved closing the accounts of the Centre for the financial year 2005.

The Parliamentary resolution is divided into two parts. The first contained general points, and concerned the majority of EU Agencies requiring individual discharge. The second part contained specific points relating to CEDEFOP.

General points: Parliament considers that the ever-growing number of Community Agencies and the activities of certain of them do not seem to form part of an overall policy framework, and that the remits of some Agencies do not always reflect the real needs of the Union. Accordingly, it invites the Commission to define an overall policy framework for the setting up of new Community Agencies and to present a cost-benefit study before the setting up of any new agency, while being careful to avoid any overlap of activities between Agencies or with the remits of other European organisations. Parliament calls on the Court of Auditors to give its opinion on this cost-benefit study before Parliament takes its decision, and it asks the Commission to present every five years a study on the added value of every existing Agency. ; invites all relevant institutions In the case of a negative evaluation of the added value of an Agency, all relevant institutions are asked to take the necessary steps by reformulating the mandate of that Agency or by closing it.

In view of the constantly increasing number of Agencies, Parliament feels that the Directorates-General of the Commission charged with the setting up and monitoring of Agencies must develop a common approach to the Agencies. It also asks the Commission to improve administrative and technical support to the Agencies. Parliament regretted that the negotiations on the draft interinstitutional agreement on the operating framework for the European regulatory agencies have not yet been concluded, and calls on the Commission, in consultation with the Court of Auditors, to do their utmost to ensure that the agreement is brought to a rapid conclusion. Noting that the Commission's budgetary responsibility calls for closer linking of the Agencies to the Commission, Parliament calls on the Commission and the Council to take all necessary steps to give the Commission a blocking minority in the supervisory bodies of the regulatory Agencies by 31 December 2007 and to

provide for such a minority from the outset when new Agencies are set up. It invites the Court of Auditors to create an additional chapter in its Annual Report, devoted to all Agencies to be discharged under the Commission's accounts in order to have a much clearer picture of the use of EU funds by Agencies.

Parliament goes on to ask the Commission to come up with a proposal to harmonise the format of the annual reporting by the Agencies and to develop performance indicators which would allow a comparison of their efficiency. The Commission is urged to monitor and direct the management of the Agencies, especially in relation to the proper application of tender procedures, transparency of recruitment procedures, sound financial management and, most importantly, the proper application of the rules concerning the internal control framework.

Specific points on CEDEFOP: Parliament invites the Centre to avoid a similar situation as for the financial year 2005 where it had an utilisation rate of 90 % of commitment appropriations and approximately 85 % of payment appropriations. It asks the Centre to fine-tune its programming and improve the monitoring exercise throughout the year. The Centre should also remedy the shortcomings in the accounting software (FIBUS) used by it, and maintain the full application of the principle of the segregation of the duties of authorising officer and accounting officer.

Parliament wants the Centre urgently to carry out a risk analysis, to define the nature and frequency of ex post checks, and to describe the management procedures and internal control systems. It also invites the Centre to formulate the exact mandate of the committee to deal with staff complaints, which should in no case act beyond its powers. Furthermore, Parliament insists that the Centre should apply standard recruitment procedures and is worried about the very high rate of irregularities found by the Court of Auditors in the contracts where out of six, all but one were affected by irregularities.

Lastly, Parliament encourages the Centre to continue its efforts to improve further its communications in order to ensure that the public is better informed about its activities.