



Procedure file

| Basic information | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| DEC - Discharge procedure | 2006/2154(DEC) | Procedure completed |
| 2005 discharge: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions | | |
| Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges | | |

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

| Key events | | | |
|------------|--|---|---------|
| 30/10/2006 | Non-legislative basic document published | N6-0022/2006 | Summary |
| 29/11/2006 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 26/03/2007 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 30/03/2007 | Committee report tabled for plenary | A6-0098/2007 | |
| 24/04/2007 | Results of vote in Parliament |  | |
| 24/04/2007 | Debate in Parliament |  | |
| 24/04/2007 | Decision by Parliament | T6-0114/2007 | Summary |
| 24/04/2007 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 15/07/2008 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

| Technical information | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Procedure reference | 2006/2154(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 | | N6-0022/2006 OJ C 266 31.10.2006, p. 0037-0039 | 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 | | PE384.433 | 09/02/2007 | EP | |
| Committee opinion | EMPL | PE382.558 | 21/02/2007 | EP | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | | PE386.408 | 08/03/2007 | EP | |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | | A6-0098/2007 | 30/03/2007 | EP | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T6-0114/2007 | 24/04/2007 | EP | Summary |
| Commission response to text adopted in plenary | | SP(2007)2625/2 | 31/05/2007 | EC | |

| Final act | |
|---|---------|
| Budget 2008/509 OJ L 187 15.07.2008, p. 0085 | Summary |

2005 discharge: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

PURPOSE: presentation of the final accounts of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions for the 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 19.3 million (against EUR 18.1 million in 2004) including a 98.8% Community subsidy.

As regards the staffing policy, the Foundation, whose headquarters are based in Dublin (Ireland), officially set out 94 posts in its establishment plan. 82 are currently occupied with 12 other staff (Seconded National Experts and employment agency staff) totalling 94 posts assigned to operational, administrative and mixed duties.

Staff expenditure amounted to EUR 8.9 million in 2005.

The Foundation's main aim is to contribute to the planning and establishment of better living and working conditions in the European Union by increasing and disseminating knowledge which is relevant to this subject. During 2005, the Foundation published the following :

1. Living Conditions: analytical reports on quality of life in Europe; database on age management in companies; reports on labour supply in care services for children and older people; studies on organisation of time over working life.
2. Working Conditions: European Working Conditions Observatory (EWCO: news articles, survey reports and comparative topic reports); EWCO co-hosted EU presidency conference with Luxembourg government, June 2005; annual review of working conditions in the EU, 2004-2005; fieldwork for 4th European Working Conditions Survey (sample of 30 000 workers in 31 countries).
3. Industrial Relations: European Industrial Relations Observatory (EIRO); circulation of reports and articles on EIRonline; ? various reports.
4. European Monitoring Centre on Change (EMCC): two in-depth sector studies; Various case files; sector future series: seven industry sectors have been covered; organisation of and participation in various seminars.
5. Transversal Themes: various general and country reports.
6. Information and communication: the Foundation has organised 71 conferences and taken part in 95 conferences and seminars. Excluding translations, the Foundation has produced 178 publications and circulated 10 newsletters.

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

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/about/publicaccess/categories/finance/2006.htm>

2005 discharge: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

The committee adopted the report by Edit HERCZOG (PES, HU) granting discharge to the the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions 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 EFILWC, the committee called on the Foundation to pay greater attention to carry-over rates with regard to commitments for administrative expenditure and operating activities, which remained high. It also urged the Foundation to present a work programme "which expresses its contribution in operational and measurable terms", and encouraged it to continue efforts to improve its communications to ensure that the public is better informed about the findings of its studies, thereby enhancing the public debate on important issues such as the effects and causes of restructuring measures by companies.

2005 discharge: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions for the financial year 2005.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2008/509/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for implementation of the budget of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions for the financial year 2005.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Director of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions 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 Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Edit HERCZOG (PSE, HU), and granted the executive director of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions discharge for the implementation of the Foundation's budget for the financial year 2005. Parliament then approved closing the accounts of the Foundation 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 the Foundation.

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 concerning the EFILWC: Parliament invites the Foundation to pay better attention to carry-over rates in 2005 in respect to commitments for administrative expenditure (Title II) and operating activities (Title III), which remained high at 37 % and 44 % respectively. It also invites the Commission and the Foundation to continue to clarify the situation of non-cancelled appropriations. At the same time, Parliament asks the Foundation to present a work programme which expresses its contribution in operational and measurable terms, and recalls that the Foundation to be a source of important information for all EU institutions, for political decision-making and for the general public. Parliament states that it is worried that there was in 2005 no comprehensive document analysing the risks arising from the financial and operational aspects of the Foundation's activities, nor a validation of the procedures introduced by the Authorising Officers in order to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the financial information it sent to the Accounting Officer. Lastly, it encourages the Foundation to continue its efforts to improve its methods of communication in order to ensure that the public can be better informed about the findings of its studies and that the public debate on important issues, such as the effects and causes of restructuring measures by companies, is thereby enhanced.