

Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2006/2162(DEC)	Procedure completed
2005 discharge: Eurojust		
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
	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		19/12/2006
		PSE DÜHRKOP DÜHRKOP Barbara	
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			
31/10/2006	Non-legislative basic document published	N6-0030/2006	Summary
29/11/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/03/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
02/04/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0120/2007	
24/04/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Debate in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0121/2007	Summary
24/04/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/07/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2006/2162(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/42415

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		N6-0030/2006 OJ C 266 31.10.2006, p. 0034	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		PE384.441	09/02/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE386.403	08/03/2007	EP	
Committee opinion	LIBE	PE384.341	20/03/2007	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0120/2007	02/04/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0121/2007	24/04/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)2625/2	31/05/2007	EC	

Final act

[Budget 2008/523](#)
[OJ L 187 15.07.2008, p. 0135](#) Summary

2005 discharge: Eurojust

PURPOSE: presentation of the final accounts of Eurojust 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 13 million (compared to EUR 9.3 million in 2004) including a 100% Community subsidy.

As regards the staffing policy, Eurojust officially set out 87 posts in the establishment plan compared to 76 in 2004. 70 of these posts are occupied +15 other staff (seconded national experts, local staff, 13 agency staff) totalling 85 staff carrying out operational, administrative and mixed tasks. Staff expenditure amounted to nearly EUR 5.4 million in 2005.

Eurojust's objective is to improve the coordination of investigations and prosecutions covering the territories of several Member States of the European Union, as well as that of non-member States. In 2005, it held 73 meetings, examined 462 bilateral cases and 124 multilateral cases on the following issues:

- Fraud: 14%;
- Drug-trafficking: 16%;
- Terrorism: 3%;
- Murder: 5%;
- Trafficking in human beings: 4%;
- Money-laundering: 6%;
- Other: 52%.

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

<http://www.eurojust.europa.eu>

2005 discharge: Eurojust

The committee adopted the report by Edit HERCZOG (PES, HU) granting discharge to Eurojust 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, the committee called on Eurojust to further improve the programming of operating expenditure. It underlined that Eurojust still does not have its own financial regulation, and urged the Commission to inform Parliament of its opinion concerning the draft regulation submitted by Eurojust. The committee also wanted to see operating and accounting procedures put on a more formal basis to ensure better internal control.

2005 discharge: Eurojust

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

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 Eurojust: Parliament called on Eurojust to improve even further the programming of operating expenditure, noting that the utilisation rate of appropriations for operating activities (Title III) was only 80 % of the commitment appropriations for the financial year and that a third of commitments had to be carried over. Parliament also noted that the College decided to authorise a non-automatic carryover of appropriations for a total of EUR 285 484 and recalled that such carryovers are permitted only if most of the stages preparatory to the act of commitment have been completed before the end of the financial year, and that this was not the case. It invited Eurojust to improve its inventory procedure, and to inform Parliament about the adoption by its Board of any internal control standard, particularly with regard to procurement and recruitment. Parliament then invited Eurojust to respect public procurement procedures and contract management and to respect the time limits for framework contracts as laid down in the regulatory provisions.

Lastly, the Commission was invited to inform Parliament of its opinion concerning the draft regulation submitted by Eurojust.

2005 discharge: Eurojust

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to EUROJUST for the financial year 2005.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2008/523/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of Eurojust for the financial year 2005.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Director of EUROJUST for the implementation of its 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).