



Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2006/2163(DEC)	Procedure completed
2005 discharge: European Training Foundation		
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			
31/10/2006	Non-legislative basic document published	N6-0031/2006	Summary
29/11/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/03/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
02/04/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0113/2007	
24/04/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Debate in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0122/2007	Summary
24/04/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/07/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2006/2163(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/42417

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		N6-0031/2006 OJ C 266 31.10.2006, p. 0040	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		PE384.442	09/02/2007	EP	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE382.561	01/03/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE386.401	08/03/2007	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0113/2007	02/04/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0122/2007	24/04/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)2625/2	31/05/2007	EC	

Final act

[Budget 2008/525](#)
[OJ L 187 15.07.2008, p. 0142](#) Summary

2005 discharge: European Training Foundation

PURPOSE: presentation of the final accounts of the European Training Foundation 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 26.3 million (against 18.5 million in 2004) divided up into EUR 18.5 million funded by a Commission subsidy and EUR 7.45 million funded by other bodies as assigned revenue.

As regards the staffing policy, the Foundation, whose headquarters are based in Turin (Italy) officially set out 104 in the establishment plans. 97 posts are currently occupied with + 22 other posts (auxiliaries, local staff and contract staff) totalling 119 posts assigned to operational, administrative and mixed tasks.

In 2005, staff expenditure amounted to EUR 11.9 million.

The assistance supplied by the Foundation covers a large range of technical fields including: initial vocational training, lifelong learning, continuing (adult) education, human resource development in companies, employment policies, training of unemployed people, poverty alleviation and social inclusion and training to encourage local development.

Support for the Commission: in 2005, 127 new requests for support were received from the Commission. The majority came from the delegations (35 %), followed by AIDCO (21 %), DG EAC (16 %), DG ELARG (9 %) and DG RELEX (7 %). This included 18 analyses of the situation in the ENPI countries. The Commission's rate of satisfaction with the ETF's response was 97 %.

The most frequent applications were those in the field of programming, followed by policies and contributions in the preparation of European Neighbourhood Instruments, the identification of projects and follow-up.

Information and analysis: country sector studies, statistics on education, policy advice to countries.

Innovation and development support projects: as a centre of expertise, the ETF contributes towards the setting up of development projects in order to test innovative approaches allowing partner countries to carry out reforms of their education and vocational training systems.

Technical assistance to DG EAC for the implementation of the Tempus programme: assistance Conventions with CARDS, MEDA and Tacis for the Tempus programme: this assistance covers the whole cycle of the project. It includes the selection, management and follow-up of contracts and information and communication, including general administrative support. IT tools such as online applications and report forms have greatly facilitated the administrative management of the various project cycles.

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

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

2005 discharge: European Training Foundation

The committee adopted the report by Edit HERCZOG (PES, HU) granting discharge to the European Training Foundation 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 on the ETF, the committee called on the Foundation to improve its programming and to present a new budget nomenclature which corresponds better to the Foundation's reality and which could avoid constant transfers. The Foundation was also urged to finish introducing its system of internal control. Lastly, the committee wanted the Foundation to step up its activities in partner countries "where major obstacles stand in the way of democracy".

2005 discharge: European Training Foundation

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Training Foundation for the financial year 2005.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2008/525/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Training Foundation for the financial year 2005.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Director of the European Training Foundation for the implementation of the Foundation'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 Training Foundation

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Edit HERCZOG (PSE, HU), and granted the director of the European Training Foundation discharge for the implementation of the Foundation's budget for the financial year 2005. It then approved the closing of 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 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 the European Training Foundation: Parliament asked the Foundation to ensure its programming better, given that there was a high rate (over 40 %) of carry-overs of commitments for operating activities (Title III), and was particularly concerned as a similar situation prevailed for the implementation of MEDA and Tempus activities. At the same time, Parliament considered the Foundation to be a source of important information and of exchange of experience for the partner countries of the EU and for all EU institutions. However, it criticised the fact that, as in previous years and in infringement of its financial regulation, the Foundation only published a summary of its budget in the Official Journal. It invited the Foundation to present a new budget nomenclature which corresponded better to the Foundation's reality and which could avoid constant transfers, as well as to improve compliance with existing rules for final accounts. It deplored the fact that the Foundation had still not finished introducing its system of internal control and the fact that at the end of 2005 there was no analysis of operational risks and ex post checks. Lastly, the Foundation insisted that the Foundation has to overcome shortcomings in the field of the documentation of staff selection procedures.