



Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2006/2165(DEC)	Procedure completed
2005 discharge: European Aviation Safety Agency		
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
	TRAN Transport and Tourism		21/11/2006
		Vers/ALE CRAMER Michael	
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	N6-0033/2006	Summary
29/11/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/03/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
02/04/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0121/2007	
24/04/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Debate in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0124/2007	Summary
24/04/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/07/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2165(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/42421

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		N6-0033/2006 OJ C 266 31.10.2006, p. 0010	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		PE384.444	09/02/2007	EP	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE382.459	01/03/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE386.405	08/03/2007	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0121/2007	02/04/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0124/2007	24/04/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)2625/2	31/05/2007	EC	

Final act	
Budget 2008/529 OJ L 187 15.07.2008, p. 0156	Summary

2005 discharge: European Aviation Safety Agency

PURPOSE: presentation of the final accounts of the European Aviation Safety Agency 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 36.5 million including EUR 8.6 million of revenue from fees and charges and EUR 18.6 million from Community subsidy.

As regards the staffing policy, the Agency, whose headquarters are now based in Cologne (Germany), set out a total of 200 posts in the establishment plan. 132 of these posts are currently occupied + 21 other posts totalling 153 assigned to operational, administrative and mixed tasks. Staff expenditure in 2005 accounted for EUR 16.192 million.

The Agency, set up in 2002 by Regulation 1592/2002/EC is in its second year of operation in its new headquarters.

Its activities mainly consisted of implementing the missions set out in Regulation 1592/2002/EC, such as:

- 4 opinions concerning amendments to Regulations Nos 1592/2002, 1702/2003 and 2042/2003; 1 opinion concerning the acceptance of navigation database suppliers; 5 opinions on opt-outs requested by EASA Member States; 1 amendment of CS 25 certification specifications; 1 amendment of Acceptable Means of Compliance and Guidance Material for Regulation No 2042/2003; 2 new cooperation agreements with China regarding Eurocopter and Dassault products; extension of the cooperation agreement with the Aeronautical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States; certification decisions including 490 Airworthiness directives; 249 European Technical Specifications; as well as standardisation inspections in several countries.

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

http://www.easa.europa.eu/home/mb_2006_en.html

2005 discharge: European Aviation Safety Agency

The committee adopted the report by Edit HERCZOG (PES, HU) granting discharge to the European Aviation Safety Agency 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 EASA, the committee called on the Agency, in view of the low implementation rates and high cancellation rate for 2005, to improve and step up the monitoring of its planning so as to ensure that resources are not mobilised unnecessarily. It also noted the failure to introduce activity-based management, even though the Agency's financial regulation provides for it, so as to allow better monitoring of performance. Lastly, the Agency was urged to introduce a system for ensuring that the fees it charges its clients for the services it provides are sufficient to cover the cost of those services.

2005 discharge: European Aviation Safety Agency

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Edit HERCZOG (PSE, HU), and granted the executive director of the European Aviation Safety Agency discharge for the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2005. It then approved the closing of the accounts of the Agency 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 EASA: Parliament invited the Agency to improve and step up the monitoring of its planning so as to ensure that resources are not mobilised unnecessarily, noting that the utilisation rate for commitment and payment appropriations was less than 80 % and that this situation was due to the low rate of implementation of commitment and payment appropriations (69 % and 32 % respectively) for operating expenditure. It also noted the failure to introduce activity-based management.

Parliament went on to regret that the Management Board did not adopt minimal internal-control standards by the end of 2005 and that management and internal-control systems and procedures were not always described. Furthermore, at the end of 2005, the Agency still did not have a system for ensuring that the fees which it charges its clients for the services it provides were sufficient to cover the cost of those services. At the same time, Parliament welcomed the Management Board's decision to adopt internal-control standards based on the standards adopted by the Commission and on ISO 9000, but deplored the fact that the principle of open competition was not always observed.

2005 discharge: European Aviation Safety Agency

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Aviation Safety Agency for the financial year 2005.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2008/529/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Aviation Safety Agency for the financial year 2005.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Executive Director of the European Aviation Safety Agency for the implementation of the Agency'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).

