

Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2006/2167(DEC)	Procedure completed
2005 discharge: European Centre for Disease prevention and control ECDC		
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
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		14/09/2006
		PSE HAUG Jutta	
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	N6-0035/2006	Summary
29/11/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/03/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
02/04/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0119/2007	
24/04/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Debate in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0126/2007	Summary
24/04/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/07/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2167(DEC)

Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/42425

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		N6-0035/2006 OJ C 266 31.10.2006, p. 0031	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		PE384.446	09/02/2007	EP	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE382.440	28/02/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE386.402	08/03/2007	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0119/2007	02/04/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0126/2007	24/04/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)2625/2	31/05/2007	EC	

Final act

[Budget 2008/533](#)
[OJ L 187 15.07.2008, p. 0170](#) Summary

2005 discharge: European Centre for Disease prevention and control ECDC

PURPOSE: presentation of the final accounts of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control 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.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control was created by Regulation 851/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004. Its main tasks are to collect and disseminate data on the prevention and control of human disease and to provide scientific opinions on this subject. It is also required to coordinate the European networking of bodies operating in this field.

The Centre became autonomous as of the second half of 2005.

According to this document, the final budget amounted to EUR 4.85 million including a Community subsidy of 98%.

As regards the staffing policy, the Centre, (which is temporarily based in Stockholm) officially set out 29 posts in its establishment plan. 22 posts are currently occupied + 20 other posts totalling 42 posts assigned to operational and administrative duties.

Staff expenditure amounted to EUR 2.5 million in 2005.

The activities carried out in 2005 are as follows:

- protocols developed for evaluating networks;
- planning document prepared for future strategy for surveillance activities in Europe;
- scientific panels established for all 6 disease groups listed in Decision 2119/98/EC;
- expert opinions and guidelines prepared on avian influenza;
- responsibility for the EWRS (102 public health events reported and reviewed);
- protocols and guidelines developed for mobilising outbreak assistance teams;
- 2 outbreak assistance missions;
- procedure for coordination of public health threats defined and in place (Commission, Member States, WHO);
- 21 weekly epidemiological reports disseminated through the Eurosurveillance journal.

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

www.ecdc.europa.eu

2005 discharge: European Centre for Disease prevention and control ECDC

The committee adopted the report by Edit HERCZOG (PES, HU) granting discharge to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control 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 ECDPC, the committee noted that the low rate of commitment and substantial rate of carry-over was in part due to problems inherent in the Centre's start-up period. It also noted that no activity-based management had been brought in, despite the Centre's financial regulation making provision for its introduction, on the lines of that applied to the general budget, with a view to improving the monitoring of performance. The committee insisted that requests to the Commission for the payment of subsidies should be justified by a forecast of cash needs and regretted that the Centre had no such system for producing forecasts. Lastly, it called for the strict application of the Centre's staff selection procedures.

2005 discharge: European Centre for Disease prevention and control ECDC

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control for the financial year 2005.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2008/533/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control for the financial year 2005.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Executive Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control for the implementation of the Authority'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 Disease prevention and control ECDC

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Edit HERCZOG (PSE, HU), and granted the executive director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control discharge for the implementation of the Centre's budget for the financial year 2005. It then approved the closing of 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 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 Centre: Parliament noted that the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2005 was marked by a low rate of commitment (84 %) and a substantial rate of carry-overs (35 % overall and almost 90 % for operating expenditure), and that this situation was in part due to problems inherent in the Centre's start-up period. It also noted that the Centre's establishment phase was given a further boost by the global concern over a potential influenza pandemic, and congratulated the Centre on its ability to consolidate its position in the field of surveillance of communicable diseases in a very short time.

Furthermore, Parliament noted that no activity-based management had been brought in, and insisted that requests to the Commission for the payment of subsidies should be justified by a forecast of cash needs. It regretted that the Centre had no such system for producing forecasts. No budgetary commitments were made for the Centre's expenditure in 2005 prior to legal commitments, contrary to requirements, and for the same period, all the Centre's payments were made by the accounting officer without the authorising officer having issued any payment orders. The Centre's accounts were not kept in accordance with the double-entry method during 2005, thus creating the risk of errors, and Parliament insisted that this should be rectified as soon as possible.

Lastly, Parliament insisted on a strict application of staff selection procedures, noting that there were shortcomings in the documentation of the Centre's staff selection procedures (lack of formalisation of decisions on the appointment and composition of selection boards, lack of final report by selection boards on their work).