

Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2008/2257(DEC)	Procedure completed
2007 discharge: European Union Fundamental Rights Agency FRA		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control		26/03/2008
		PPE-DE FJELLNER Christofer	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		20/02/2008
		PSE DÜHRKOP DÜHRKOP Barbara	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2922	10/02/2009
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Budget	KALLAS Siim	

Key events			
23/07/2008	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(2008)2359	Summary
20/11/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/03/2009	Vote in committee		Summary
23/03/2009	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0176/2009	
21/04/2009	Debate in Parliament		
23/04/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
23/04/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0304/2009	Summary
23/04/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		
26/09/2009	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2008/2257(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/67264

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		SEC(2008)2359	23/07/2008	EC	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		N6-0004/2009 OJ C 311 05.12.2008, p. 0001	05/12/2008	CofA	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		05588/2009	23/01/2009	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		PE416.348	29/01/2009	EP	
Committee opinion	LIBE	PE416.412	02/02/2009	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE421.104	25/02/2009	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0176/2009	23/03/2009	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0304/2009	23/04/2009	EP	Summary

Final act

[Budget 2009/681](#)
[OJ L 255 26.09.2009, p. 0198](#) Summary

2007 discharge: European Union Fundamental Rights Agency FRA

PURPOSE: to present the final accounts of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (formerly the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia) for the financial year 2007.

CONTENT: this document sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the 2007 budget, including the revenue and expenditure and the balance sheet for the year concerned. To recall, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), which succeeded to the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) and extended its competencies, was established through Council Regulation (EC) No 168/2007. FRA carries out its tasks independently and cooperates with national and international bodies and organisations, in particular with the Council of Europe.

According to this document, the final budget amounted to EUR 14.2 million (compared to EUR 9.3 million in 2006) representing a 98% Community contribution.

As regards staffing policy, the Centre, whose head office is based in Vienna (Austria), officially set out 46 posts in its establishment plan. 34 of these are currently occupied and there are 11 other members of staff (contract agents, seconded national experts and employment agency staff), totalling 57 members of staff assigned to administrative, operational and mixed tasks. Staff expenditure amounted roughly to EUR 3.903 million in 2007.

During 2007, the Agency's activities concentrated on the following:

RAXEN network:

- Number of contributions by the 25 national focal points: 245;
- Number of contributions in the context of the PHARE Croatia/Turkey project: 6;
- Number of meetings: 1

Research reports:

- Number of reports: 4;
- Number of meetings: 6;
- Annual Reports: 2

Non-research materials:

- Various FRA publications: 15

Cooperation with Member States and other institutions:

- Member States: 7;
- European Commission: 8;
- European Parliament: 6;
- Committee of the Regions: 1;
- European Economic and Social Committee: 3;
- Council of Europe: 4;
- OSCE: 5;
- Inter-Agency: 2;
- United Nations: 2;
- Other meetings and round tables: 23.

The complete version of the final accounts may be found at the following address: <http://www.fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php>

2007 discharge: European Union Fundamental Rights Agency FRA

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report drawn up by Christofer FJELLNER (EPP-ED, SE) on discharge to be granted to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), calling on the European Parliament to grant the Executive Director of the Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2007.

Noting that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2007 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, MEPs approve the closure of the Agency's accounts.

However, they make a number of recommendations as part of the decision on discharge. In addition to the general recommendations appearing in the draft resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies (see [2008/2207\(INI\)](#)), MEPs make the following observations:

- the Agency should strive for synergies and avoid overlaps with other institutions active in the field of human rights, in particular the Council of Europe;
- the European Court of Auditor's (ECA) observations that, despite the transition from the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) to the Agency and the considerable increase in the budget (EUR 14.2 million as compared to EUR 9.3 million allocated to EUMC in the previous year), almost all appropriations were committed (EUR 13.9 million) in 2007 (which MEPs welcome).

MEPs note, however, that OLAF has opened an investigation concerning the Agency. In this context, they request to be informed of the results of the investigation and possible follow-up measures as soon as possible.

In terms of weaknesses in budget implementation due to the transition from EUMC to FRA, MEPs note the ECA's finding that EUR 7.5 million had to be carried over due to the extension of the Agency's mandate in 2007, which triggered a delay in the adoption of the new work programme. They encourage the Agency to minimise cancellations of appropriations carried over and to report on progress made in its report on budgetary and financial management 2008.

In terms of weaknesses in procurement procedures, MEPs note the ECA's finding that there were weaknesses in the financial evaluation methods for the Agency's calls for tender. In this context, MEPs welcome the fact that the Agency will introduce a new evaluation method in order to obtain best value for money.

Lastly, on the issue of follow-up to previous discharge exercises, MEPs recall that, for the three previous financial years (2004-06), the ECA issued a qualified statement of assurance for the EUMC due to weaknesses in procurement procedures. They therefore call on the Agency to pay particular attention to the legality of its procurement procedures for the following financial years.

2007 discharge: European Union Fundamental Rights Agency FRA

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights for the financial year 2007.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2009/681/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights for the financial year 2007.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2007.

This decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 23 April 2009 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion of 23/04/2009). The decision to grant discharge is also an approval of the closure of the accounts of this EU agency.

2007 discharge: European Union Fundamental Rights Agency FRA

The European Parliament adopted a decision concerning the discharge to be granted to the Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2007. The decision to grant discharge is also an approval of the closure of the accounts of this EU agency.

In parallel, the European Parliament adopted by 399 votes to 18, with 8 abstentions, a resolution with observations which are an integral part of the decision to grant discharge.

Parliament recalls that the Agency should strive for synergies and avoid overlaps with other institutions active in the field of human rights, in

particular the Council of Europe.

Parliament notes that OLAF has opened an investigation concerning the Agency. In this context, it requests to be informed of the results of the investigation and possible follow-up measures as soon as possible.

In terms of weaknesses in budget implementation due to the transition from a Monitoring Centre to an Agency, Parliament notes the Court's findings that EUR 7.5 million had to be carried over due to the extension of the Agency's mandate in 2007, which triggered a delay in the adoption of the new work programme. It encourages the Agency to minimise cancellations of appropriations carried over and to report on progress made in its report on budgetary and financial management 2008.

In terms of weaknesses in procurement procedures, Parliament notes the Court's finding that there were weaknesses in the financial evaluation methods for the Agency's calls for tender. In this context, it welcomes the fact that the Agency will introduce a new evaluation method in order to obtain best value for money.

On the issue of follow-up to previous discharge exercises, Parliament recalls that, for the three previous financial years (2004-06), the ECA issued a qualified statement of assurance for the EUMC due to weaknesses in procurement procedures. It therefore calls on the Agency to pay particular attention to the legality of its procurement procedures for the following financial years.

Lastly, noting that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2007 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, the Parliament approves the closure of its accounts and refers, for other observations accompanying its decision on discharge, to its resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies - see [2008/2207\(INI\)](#) - adopted in parallel.