



Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2008/2259(DEC)	Procedure completed
2007 discharge: European Environment Agency EEA		
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
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		29/01/2008
		PPE-DE OLAJOS Péter	
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	A6-0171/2009	
21/04/2009	Debate in Parliament		
23/04/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
23/04/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0300/2009	Summary
23/04/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		
26/09/2009	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/2259(DEC)

Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/67268

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		PE416.346	29/01/2009	EP	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE416.684	12/02/2009	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0171/2009	23/03/2009	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0300/2009	23/04/2009	EP	Summary

Final act

[Budget 2009/673](#)
[OJ L 255 26.09.2009, p. 0180](#) Summary

2007 discharge: European Environment Agency EEA

PURPOSE: to present the final accounts of the European Environment Agency (EEA) for the financial year 2007.

CONTENT: this document sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the European Environment Agency's budget for the financial year 2007. It notes that the final budget amounts to EUR 35.1 million in 2007 (compared to EUR 37.1 million in 2006), representing a 82% Community subsidy.

As regards the staffing policy, the Agency, whose head office is in Copenhagen (Denmark), officially set out 116 posts in its establishment plan. 111 of these posts are currently occupied with 55 other posts (contract agents and seconded national experts) assigned to operational, administrative and mixed tasks.

In 2007, the Agency's main activities concentrated on the following:

- launch of the report on 'Europe's environment: the fourth assessment?' at Pan-European Environment Ministers Conference;
- launch of Environmental Technology Atlas;
- launch of Water Information System for Europe (WISE);
- launch of 'Our Arctic Challenge?' film;
- publication of reports on, inter alia, climate change costs, greenhouse gas emission trends and projections, air quality, air emissions, sustainable consumption and production, biodiversity indicators and waste management;
- launch of new Topic Centres on Water, Land use and spatial information, and air and climate change;
- participation in conferences on 'Beyond GDP?' and Tax reform.

The complete version of the final accounts may be found at the following address: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/documents/>

2007 discharge: European Environment Agency EEA

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report drawn up by Christofer FJELLNER (EPP-ED, SE) on discharge to be granted to the Community European Environment Agency, 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 continue its efforts to further develop its communication methods in order to attract more media coverage for its findings and thus feed public debate on important environmental issues, such as climate change, biodiversity and the management of natural resources;
- the Agency should provide support for policy-making by further developing its work in the field of environmental impact assessment.

In relation to recruitment procedures, MEPs regret the fact that the European Court of Auditors (ECA) identified problems of transparency and discrimination. Noting the Agency's responses on this issue, MEPs the Agency's promise to modify its approach to recruitment.

On the issue of procurement procedures, MEPs regret the direct award of certain services. MEPs consider the Agency's reply to be unsatisfactory and call on it to ensure full compliance with procurement rules.

In relation to the management of grant agreements with European Topic Centres (which, according to the ECA, were not sufficiently monitored), MEPs are satisfied with the Agency's reply but note that the grant agreements between the Agency and the European Topic Centres provide for a flat rate of 20% of direct expenditure for their indirect expenditure (overheads), whereas the implementing rules of the Financial Regulation limit this rate to 7%. MEPs therefore welcome the Agency's commitment to sort out this situation in 2009/2010.

Lastly, in relation to follow-up to previous discharge exercises, MEPs recall their request that the Agency, before 1 January 2010 and every five years thereafter, commission an independent external evaluation of its achievements on the basis of its founding regulation and the work programme decided upon by the Management Board. Moreover, they call on the Agency to inform the discharge authority of the results of the external evaluation. At the same time, MEPs regret that, according to the data provided in the Agency's annual report, the situation with regard to balance in, and diversity of, staff did not improve significantly in 2007, as one third of staff are still of a single nationality. They therefore call on the Agency to step up its efforts to improve the balance in, and diversity of, staff.

2007 discharge: European Environment Agency EEA

The European Parliament adopted a decision concerning the discharge to be granted to the Director of the European Environment Agency in respect of the implementation of the Agency's 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 407 votes to 7, with 17 abstentions, a resolution with observations which are an integral part of the decision to grant discharge.

Parliament considers that the Agency should:

- continue its efforts to further develop its communication methods in order to attract more media coverage for its findings and thus feed public debate on important environmental issues, such as climate change, biodiversity and the management of natural resources;
- provide support for policy-making by further developing its work in the field of environmental impact assessment.

As regards recruitment procedures, Parliament regrets the fact that the European Court of Auditors (ECA) identified problems of transparency and discrimination. Noting the Agency's responses on this issue, Parliament welcomes the Agency's promise to modify its approach to recruitment.

On the issue of procurement procedures, Parliament regrets the direct award of certain services. MEPs consider the Agency's reply to be unsatisfactory and call on it to ensure full compliance with procurement rules.

In relation to the management of grant agreements with European Topic Centres (which, according to the ECA, were not sufficiently monitored), Parliament is satisfied with the Agency's reply but notes that the grant agreements between the Agency and the European Topic Centres provide for a flat rate of 20% of direct expenditure for their indirect expenditure (overheads), whereas the implementing rules of the Financial Regulation limit this rate to 7%. Parliament therefore welcomes the Agency's commitment to sort out this situation in 2009/2010.

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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.

2007 discharge: European Environment Agency EEA

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Environment Agency for the financial year 2007.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2009/673/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Environment Agency for the financial year 2007.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency for 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.

