



Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2008/2267(DEC)	Procedure completed
2007 discharge: European Food Safety Authority EFSA		
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	A6-0172/2009	
21/04/2009	Debate in Parliament		
23/04/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
23/04/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0301/2009	Summary
23/04/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		
26/09/2009	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/2267(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/67283

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		PE416.336	29/01/2009	EP	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE416.686	12/02/2009	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0172/2009	23/03/2009	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0301/2009	23/04/2009	EP	Summary

Final act	
Budget 2009/675 OJ L 255 26.09.2009, p. 0185	Summary

2007 discharge: European Food Safety Authority EFSA

PURPOSE: to present the final accounts of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for the financial year 2007.

CONTENT: this document sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the European Food Safety Authority's budget for the financial year 2007. It notes that the final budget amounted to EUR 52.2 million (compared to EUR 40 million in 2006), representing a 100% Community contribution.

As regards the staffing policy, the Authority, whose head office is based in Parma (Italy), officially set out 300 posts in its establishment plan. 273 are currently occupied with 37 other staff (auxiliary staff, contract staff and seconded national experts) totalling 310 posts assigned to administrative and operational duties.

In 2007, the Authority's main activities can be summarised as follows:

Scientific opinions: EFSA, as Europe's risk assessment body, provides the scientific advice on which risk managers in the European Union can base their decisions to protect consumers in the EU. In this regard, following the 205 requests for scientific opinions made to EFSA in 2007, 203 opinions and 80 reports were adopted and published. An example of the impact of the EFSA's scientific work is the opinion issued in July 2007, concluding that the colouring Red 2G raised safety concerns. This led to the immediate suspension of its use in food;

Communication: the overall objective of EFSA's communication efforts is to provide its target audiences, and ultimately European consumers, with clear, consistent, coherent and timely messages about food-related issues. The communication main tools used and the results obtained in 2007 were: (i) the new website with 1.5 million visits, over 17 500 subscribers to the EFSA's electronic newsletter and 1 500 viewing sessions per event regarding the webstreaming of management Boards meetings; (ii) the EFSA's press office with 7 press conferences organised, 24 press releases and statements, 39 web news stories and 37 news alerts were published; (iii) the celebration of EFSA's Five-year Anniversary and the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome provided EFSA with the opportunity to use new communication platforms resulting in scientific forums, food safety summit and joint events with Member States;

Cooperation: the Advisory Forum connects EFSA with the national food safety authorities in all Member States. The Advisory Forum met quarterly in 2007. As a part of the cooperation strategy, a network of national 'Focal Points' serves as a relay contact between EFSA and national authorities. At the end of 2007, 18 Member States had already signed a national Focal Point agreement with EFSA;

Management of food crises: to make sure that EFSA is prepared to react and support the European Community, in particular the EC, during emergencies or other urgent situations, a crisis exercise programme was started in October 2007 and the first Crisis Exercise was performed in January 2008 (with the Advisory Forum) in order to finalise the crisis manual.

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

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/AboutEfsa/HowWeWork/Funding/efsa_locale-1178620753816_Accounts.htm

2007 discharge: European Food Safety Authority EFSA

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Christofer FJELLNER (EPP-ED, SE) on discharge to be granted to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) calling on the European Parliament to grant the Executive Director of the Authority discharge in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2007.

Noting that EFSA's annual accounts for the financial year 2007 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, MEPs

approve the closure of EFSA'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 fact that EUR 8.6 million were carried over to 2008 and that EUR 4.8 million were cancelled, which indicate serious weaknesses in the Authority's programming and budgeting;
- that the rate of carry-over (17-18 %) decreased by comparison to 2006 (22%); according to the Authority, whereas the actual amount of carry-over increased from EUR 7.9 million in 2006 to EUR 8.6 million in 2007.

In this regard, MEPs call on the Authority to speed up budget implementation and to specify the follow-up measures taken in the Authority's annual activity report for 2008.

MEPs also note i) that the Authority treated a contribution received from the Commission in order to prepare for the accession of Croatia and Turkey as a normal subsidy, although it should have been treated as assigned revenue; ii) the high number of missions.

As regards the follow-up to previous discharge exercises, MEPs congratulate the Authority on having succeeded in filling 273 of the 300 posts provided for in its establishment plan after having had difficulties in recruiting highly-skilled scientific staff in Parma for several years; they request that the Authority aligns its recruitment procedures to the rules as a matter of urgency; they note that, as in previous discharge exercises, the Authority has been criticised by the Court of Auditors for not having complied with procurement rules in several cases and calls on the Authority to pay particular attention to compliance with procurement rules.

Lastly, they note that the Executive Director of the Authority took over the role of coordinator of the agencies network on 1 March 2009.

2007 discharge: European Food Safety Authority EFSA

The European Parliament adopted a decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Food Safety Authority for the financial year 2007. The decision to grant discharge is also an approval of the closure of the accounts of this EU agency.

Furthermore, the Parliament adopted by 406 votes to 12, with 19 abstentions, a resolution with observations which form an integral part of the decision to grant discharge.

The Parliament notes that:

- EUR 8.6 million were carried over to 2008 and EUR 4.8 million were cancelled, which indicate serious weaknesses in the Authority's programming and budgeting;
- the rate of carry-over (17-18%) decreased in comparison to 2006 (22%); according to the Authority, the actual amount of carry-over increased from EUR 7.9 million in 2006 to EUR 8.6 million in 2007.

In this context, the Parliament calls on the Authority to speed up budget implementation and to specify the follow-up measures taken in the Authority's annual activity report for 2008.

Moreover, the Parliament notes that: (i) the Authority treated a contribution received from the Commission in order to prepare for the accession of Croatia and Turkey as a normal subsidy, although it should have been treated as assigned revenue; (ii) number of missions was very high.

As regards the follow-up to previous discharge exercises, the Parliament congratulates the Authority on having succeeded in filling 273 of the 300 posts provided for in its establishment plan after having had difficulties in recruiting highly-skilled scientific staff in Parma for several years. It requests that the Authority align its recruitment procedures to the rules as a matter of urgency.

The Parliament also notes weaknesses in terms of procurement and calls on the Authority to pay particular attention to compliance with procurement rules.

Lastly, noting that the Authority's annual accounts for the financial year 2007 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, the Parliament approves the closure of the Authority's 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 Food Safety Authority EFSA

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Food Safety Authority for the financial year 2007.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2009/675/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Food Safety Authority for the financial year 2007.

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