

Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2008/2273(DEC)	Procedure completed
2007 discharge: European GNSS Supervisory Authority GSA		
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
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	JURI Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2922	10/02/2009
European Commission	Commission DG Budget	Commissioner 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
20/03/2009	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0164/2009	
21/04/2009	Debate in Parliament		
23/04/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
23/04/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0296/2009	Summary
23/04/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		
26/09/2009	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2008/2273(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/67295

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		PE416.330	29/01/2009	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE421.107	23/02/2009	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0164/2009	20/03/2009	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0296/2009	23/04/2009	EP	Summary

Final act

[Budget 2009/665](#)
[OJ L 255 26.09.2009, p. 0162](#) Summary

2007 discharge: European GNSS Supervisory Authority GSA

PURPOSE: to present the final accounts of the European GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) Supervisory Authority for the financial year 2007.

CONTENT: this document sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the Authority's budget for the financial year 2007, which can be summarised as follows:

- (1) Final budget: EUR 210 million, including a 4% Community subsidy.
- (2) Staff: the Authority, which is based in Brussels (Belgium), officially set out 46 posts in its establishment plan. 39 of those posts are currently occupied + 10 other posts (contract agents, seconded national experts and interim staff).
- (3) Activities in 2007: the Authority concentrated on the following activities:

Galileo system:

- support to the Commission regarding the alternatives for Galileo after termination of the Concession negotiations and regarding preparation of the Full-Operational-Capability deployment phase;
- restart of the formal Mission Requirements Document Change Control Board;
- launch of Galileo Performance Monitoring and Analysis Facility;
- contribution to task forces and work groups for frequencies;
- certification requirements and certification plan for the Committee on Galileo Certification;
- draft standards for Galileo in aviation and maritime sectors.

European Geostationary Navigation Overlay System (EGNOS):

- structuring of the EGNOS operational phase through agreement of a baseline for the EGNOS framework agreement between the Authority, the Commission, the ESA and the Egnos Operator and Infrastructure Group;
- assistance to the Commission for the EGNOS master-plan;
- update of the EGNOS System Safety Case (issuance of the EGNOS certification plan and new versions of the Design Safety Case and Operations Safety Case);
- modification to EGNOS Mission Requirements Document;
- monitoring of the EGNOS operations qualification;
- production of a statement of work for the contract with the future EGNOS service provider.

Systems security:

- establishment of the System Safety and Security Committee and participation in the Galileo Security Board;
- technical management of the System specific Security Requirements Statement for Galileo;
- production, validation and application of security documents for EGNOS;
- definition of the Galileo Security Monitoring Centre.

Market development:

- definition of market development tools;
- support to EGNOS market entry.

Research and development:

- management of 61 projects under the 6th framework program for research transferred by the Galileo Joint Undertaking;
- preparation and launch of the 1st call for GNSS R&D under the 7th framework programme for research;
- implementation of a web-based knowledge management and dissemination tool.

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

2007 discharge: European GNSS Supervisory Authority GSA

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report drawn up by Christofer FJELLNER (EPP-ED, SE) on discharge to be granted to the European GNSS Supervisory Authority, 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 the European Court of Auditors (ECA) was not in a position to form an opinion with regard to the reliability of the Authority's annual accounts for 2007, pointing out that the entire architecture of the Galileo project was being revised in 2007 and that the Authority's accounts were prepared in a fragile legal environment, MEPs approve the closure of the accounts of the European GNSS Supervisory Authority.

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:

- **Incomplete statement of assurance:** MEPs regret that the ECA was not in a position to form an opinion with regard to the reliability of the Authority's annual accounts for 2007. Noting the ECA's explanation that it carried out its audit when the Galileo project and the role of the Authority were under revision and the new legal framework still incomplete, MEPs note that, in the meantime, [Regulation \(EC\) No 683/2008](#) entered into force, under which the Commission is the manager of the Galileo and EGNOS programmes and the Community the owner of all tangible and intangible assets created or developed under the programmes. They also note that the Authority will establish its annual accounts for 2008 under the new legal framework;
- **Budget implementation:** MEPs regret the low consumption level of commitment and payment appropriations for operational activities of the Authority, the absence of a clear link between the Authority's work programme and the budget, transfers neither justified nor documented, repeated late booking of recovery orders and an inconsistent presentation of budget implementation. They therefore call on the Authority to report on the action taken following the ECA's observations with regard to budget implementation, and on the results achieved, in its report on budgetary and financial management for 2008;
- **Uncertainties with regard to Galileo and EGNOS project assets:** MEPs observe the ECA's criticism, with regard to Galileo project assets, that the Authority was unable to provide sufficient information in its accounts, as well as with regard to EGNOS project assets. Noting the Authority's replies regarding its assets, MEPs consider that, under Regulation (EC) No 683/2008, the Community is the owner of the Galileo and EGNOS project assets. They regret however that process of transferring these assets from the Authority to the Commission only started in December 2008. They therefore call on the Authority to do its utmost in order to clarify the situation with regard to Galileo and EGNOS project assets in its annual accounts for 2008;
- **The Authority's role in the winding-up of the Galileo Joint Undertaking (GJU):** MEPs recall that the Authority took over all activities and assets from the Galileo Joint Undertaking (GJU) with effect from 1 January 2007. They are therefore concerned by the ECA's critical remarks as to how certain assets were transferred from the GJU to the Authority and recorded in the Authority's accounts. According to MEPs, the winding-up of the GJU, including the role played by the Authority, must be thoroughly examined by the discharge authority, on the basis of the ECA's audit results. MEPs therefore call on the Court to put particular emphasis on the takeover of the GJU's activities and assets by the Authority and to publish its audit results in a special report before the 2009 summer break.

2007 discharge: European GNSS Supervisory Authority GSA

The European Parliament adopted a decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European GNSS Supervisory Authority for the financial year 2007.

Noting that the European Court of Auditors (ECA) was not in a position to form an opinion with regard to the reliability of the Authority's annual accounts for 2007, pointing out that the entire architecture of the Galileo project was being revised in 2007 and that the Authority's accounts were prepared in a fragile legal environment, MEPs approve the closure of the accounts of the European GNSS Supervisory Authority.

Moreover, the Parliament adopted by 423 votes to 8, with 23 abstentions, a resolution with observations which form an integral part of the decision to grant discharge. These observations can be summarised as follows:

- **Incomplete statement of assurance:** the Parliament regrets that the ECA was not in a position to form an opinion with regard to the reliability of the Authority's annual accounts for 2007. Noting the ECA's explanation that it carried out its audit when the Galileo project and the role of the Authority were under revision and the new legal framework still incomplete, the Parliament notes that, in the meantime, Regulation (EC) No 683/2008 entered into force, under which the Commission is the manager of the Galileo and EGNOS programmes and the Community the owner of all tangible and intangible assets created or developed under the programmes. It also notes that the Authority will establish its annual accounts for 2008 under the new legal framework;

- Budget implementation: the Parliament regrets the low consumption level of commitment and payment appropriations for operational activities of the Authority, the absence of a clear link between the Authority's work programme and the budget, transfers neither justified nor documented, repeated late booking of recovery orders and an inconsistent presentation of budget implementation. It therefore calls on the Authority to report on the action taken following the ECA's observations with regard to budget implementation, and on the results achieved, in its report on budgetary and financial management for 2008;
- Uncertainties with regard to Galileo and EGNOS project assets: the Parliament considers that, under Regulation (EC) No 683/2008, the Community is the owner of the Galileo and EGNOS project assets. It regrets however that the process of transferring these assets from the Authority to the Commission only started in December 2008. It therefore calls on the Authority to do its utmost in order to clarify the situation with regard to Galileo and EGNOS project assets in its annual accounts for 2008;
- The Authority's role in the winding-up of the Galileo Joint Undertaking (GJU): the Parliament is concerned by the ECA's critical remarks as to how certain assets were transferred from the GJU to the Authority and recorded in the Authority's accounts. According to the Parliament, the winding-up of the GJU, including the role played by the Authority, must be thoroughly examined by the discharge authority, on the basis of the ECA's audit results. It therefore calls on the Court to put particular emphasis on the takeover of the GJU's activities and assets by the Authority and to publish its audit results in a special report before the 2009 summer break.

In addition to these recommendations, the Parliament refers to the recommendations that appear in its resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies - see [2008/2207\(INI\)](#) - adopted in parallel.

2007 discharge: European GNSS Supervisory Authority GSA

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European GNSS Supervisory Authority Aviation Safety Agency for the financial year 2007.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2009/665/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European GNSS Supervisory Authority for the financial year 2007.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Executive Director of the European GNSS Supervisory Authority 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.