



Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2009/2120(DEC)	Procedure completed
2008 discharge: European Training Foundation ETF		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control		01/10/2009
		PPE MATHIEU HOUILLON Véronique	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		S&D STAVRAKAKIS Georgios	
		ALDE GERBRANDY Gerben-Jan	
		Verts/ALE STAES Bart	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		26/11/2009
		PPE GRÄSSLE Ingeborg	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2994	16/02/2010
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Budget	ŠEMETA Algirdas	

Key events			
23/07/2009	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(2009)1089	Summary
07/10/2009	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/03/2010	Vote in committee		Summary
26/03/2010	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0083/2010	
21/04/2010	Debate in Parliament		
05/05/2010	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/05/2010	Decision by Parliament	T7-0112/2010	Summary
05/05/2010	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/09/2010	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	

Procedure reference	2009/2120(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/7/01108

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		SEC(2009)1089	23/07/2009	EC	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		N7-0012/2010 OJ C 304 15.12.2009, p. 0001	08/10/2009	CofA	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		N7-0036/2009 OJ C 269 10.11.2009, p. 0001	10/11/2009	CofA	
Document attached to the procedure		05827/2010	01/02/2010	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		PE430.481	03/02/2010	EP	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE430.894	25/02/2010	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0083/2010	26/03/2010	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0112/2010	05/05/2010	EP	Summary

Final act

[Decision 2010/536](#)
[OJ L 252 25.09.2010, p. 0182](#) Summary

2008 discharge: European Training Foundation ETF

PURPOSE: to present the final accounts of the European Training Foundation (ETF) for the financial year 2008.

CONTENT: this document sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the European Training Foundation's budget for the financial year 2008. It notes that the final budget amounted to EUR 19.2 million (compared to EUR 21.1 million in 2007) funded by a Commission subsidy and EUR 1.2 million funded by other bodies as assigned revenue.

As regards the staffing policy, the Foundation, whose headquarters are based in Turin (Italy) officially set out 96 posts in the establishment plan. 86 posts are currently occupied with 38 other posts (auxiliaries, local agents and contract agents) totalling 124 posts assigned to operational, administrative and mixed tasks.

In 2008, the Foundation's main activities concentrated on the following:

- **Activities:** the assistance provided by the ETF covers a large range of technical fields including: initial vocational training, lifelong learning, continuing (adult) education, human resources development in companies, employment policies, training of the unemployed, poverty alleviation and social inclusion, and training to encourage local development.
- **Support to the Commission:** in 2008, 111 new direct requests for support were received from the Commission. Most came from the delegations (49 %). The Commission's satisfaction rate with the ETF's response was 97 %. The most frequent applications were those in the field of policies and contributions in the preparation of European Neighbourhood Instruments (32 %), followed by formulation (21 %), programming (11 %), the identification of projects (10 %) and follow-up.
- **Operational activities:** are classified in outputs (2008 figures) according to the following categories:
 - ? Policy reviews and analysis: 73 outputs (37 in the context of the IPA, 20 in the context of the ENPI, 8 in the context of the DCI, 8 in the context of the ILP.
 - ? Capacity building actions: 83 outputs (35 for IPA, 32 for ENPI, 16 for DCI).
 - ? Support to programming cycle: 25 outputs (11 for IPA, 9 for ENPI, 5 for DCI).
 - ? Dissemination and networking: 32 outputs (13 for IPA, 9 for ENPI, 7 for DCI, 3 for ILP).
 - ? Effectiveness analysis: 10 outputs (6 for IPA, 1 for ENPI, 2 for DCI, 1 for ILP).
 - ? Total: 223 outputs.

2008 discharge: European Training Foundation ETF

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Véronique MATHIEU (EPP, FR) calling on the European Parliament to grant the Director of the European Training Foundation discharge in respect of the implementation of the Foundation's budget for the financial year 2008.

Noting that the Foundation's annual accounts for the financial year 2008 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, MEPs approve the closure of its accounts. However, they make a number of recommendations that need to be taken into account when the discharge is granted, in addition to the general recommendations that appear in the draft resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies (see [2010/2007\(INI\)](#)):

- performance: noting that the impact of its activities on its direct beneficiaries was in general considered positive, Members note nevertheless that the impact on government institutions cannot easily be proved because of the difficulty of establishing a direct link between the results of the Foundation's projects and the institutions' activities. They congratulate the Foundation which, in supporting the Commission in 2008, obtained a 97% satisfaction rate from the Commission and call on it to present, in the future, a comparison of operations carried out during the year for which discharge is to be granted and in the previous financial year so as to enable the discharge authority to assess its performance more effectively from one year to the next;
- cooperation with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop): Members call, in view of the fact that some areas of interest are shared, for close cooperation and synergies between the Foundation and Cedefop and call for information to be provided regularly in the activity reports by the Directors of both agencies;
- human resources: Members are concerned about the findings of the Court of Auditors as regards the lack of transparency in recruitment procedures and the intervention of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), which has opened an inquiry (OF/2009/0370). They call on the Foundation to set an example by implementing fair, transparent and comprehensive recruitment procedures in the future. They urge the Foundation to report on the allocation of its human resources. They also note the Court of Auditors' observation that there are various weaknesses in the recruitment procedures. Members note, nevertheless, that the Foundation now says it has undertaken a thorough review of its recruitment procedures in response to the Court of Auditors' findings and in the light of an internal audit carried out by the IAS in 2008. They call on the Foundation, therefore, to inform the discharge authority of action taken and the subsequent results. They also note the Foundation's reply admitting the validity of the Court of Auditors' opinion concerning the expatriation allowance denied to certain members of staff because of an incorrect interpretation of the rules. It congratulates the Foundation for promising to review the cases concerned and then make the appropriate changes;
- internal audit: Members call for the rigorous implementation of recommendations made by the Internal Audit Service (IAS).

2008 discharge: European Training Foundation ETF

The European Parliament adopted by 549 votes to 33, with 55 abstentions, a decision on discharge to be granted to the Director of the European Training Foundation in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2008.

Furthermore, Parliament adopted a resolution with observations which are an integral part of the decision to grant discharge.

The main points are as follows:

- performance: noting that the impact of its activities on its direct beneficiaries was in general considered positive, Parliament notes, nevertheless, that the impact on government institutions cannot easily be proved because of the difficulty of establishing a direct link between the results of the Foundation's projects and the institutions' activities. It congratulates the Foundation which, in supporting the Commission in 2008, obtained a 97% satisfaction rate from the Commission and calls on it to present, in the future, a comparison of operations carried out during the year for which discharge is to be granted and in the previous financial year so as to enable the discharge authority to assess its performance more effectively from one year to the next;
- cooperation with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop): Parliament calls, in view of the fact that some areas of interest are shared, for close cooperation and synergies between the Foundation and Cedefop and for information to be provided regularly in the activity reports by the Directors of both agencies;
- human resources: Parliament is concerned about the findings of the Court of Auditors as regards the lack of transparency in recruitment procedures and the intervention of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), which has opened an inquiry (OF/2009/0370). It calls on the Foundation to set an example by implementing fair, transparent and comprehensive recruitment procedures in the future. It urges the Foundation to report on the allocation of its human resources. It also notes the Court of Auditors' observation that there are various weaknesses in the recruitment procedures. Parliament notes, nevertheless, that the Foundation now says it has undertaken a thorough review of its recruitment procedures in response to the Court of Auditors' findings and in the light of an internal audit carried out by the IAS in 2008. It calls on the Foundation, therefore, to inform the discharge authority of action taken and the subsequent results. It also notes the Foundation's reply admitting the validity of the Court of Auditors' opinion concerning the expatriation allowance denied to certain members of staff because of an incorrect interpretation of the rules. It congratulates the Foundation for promising to review the cases concerned and then make the appropriate changes;
- internal audit: Parliament calls for the rigorous implementation of recommendations made by the Internal Audit Service (IAS).

Noting that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2008 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament approves the closure of the Centre's accounts. However, it makes a number of recommendations that need to be taken into account when the discharge is granted, in addition to the general recommendations that appear in the draft resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies (see [2010/2007\(INI\)](#) adopted in parallel).

2008 discharge: European Training Foundation ETF

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Training Foundation for the financial year 2008.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2010/536/EU of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Training Foundation for the financial year 2008.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Director of the European Training Foundation for the implementation of the Foundation's budget for the financial year 2008.

This decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 5 May 2010 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion of 5 May 2010).

A parallel Decision, adopted on the same day, approves the closure of the accounts of this EU agency.