



Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2009/2126(DEC)	Procedure completed
2008 discharge: European Railway Agency ERA		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control	PPE MATHIEU HOUILLON Véronique Shadow rapporteur S&D STAVRAKAKIS Georgios ALDE GERBRANDY Gerben-Jan Verts/ALE STAES Bart	01/10/2009
Council of the European Union	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	TRAN Transport and Tourism	ALDE JENSEN Anne E.	12/11/2009
European Commission	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	A7-0084/2010	
21/04/2010	Debate in Parliament		
05/05/2010	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/05/2010	Decision by Parliament	T7-0111/2010	Summary

05/05/2010	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/09/2010	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2009/2126(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/7/01118

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		PE430.463	04/02/2010	EP	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE429.666	23/02/2010	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0084/2010	26/03/2010	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0111/2010	05/05/2010	EP	Summary

Final act

[Decision 2010/534](#)
[OJ L 252 25.09.2010, p. 0178](#) Summary

2008 discharge: European Railway Agency ERA

PURPOSE: presentation of the final accounts of the European Railway Agency (ERA) for the financial year 2008.

CONTENT: this document sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the Agency's budget for 2008. It indicates that the Agency's final budget amounted to EUR 18 million (compared to EUR 16.6 million for 2007).

As regards the staffing policy, the Agency (which is located in two cities: its administrative seat is in Valenciennes whereas its meetings have to be held in Lille) officially set out 116 posts in its establishment plan. 106 posts are currently occupied + 7 other posts totalling 113 posts assigned to operational and administrative duties.

The activities carried out in 2008 are as follows:

Address recommendations to the Commission

- Recommendation on common safety methods to be used in the framework of common safety targets,
- Recommendation on the revision of Annex I to Directive 2004/49/EC,
- The first biennial report on the safety performance of the railways of the European Union,
- Recommendation on a common format for train drivers licences and registers,
- Recommendation on harmonised requirements for Part B Safety Certificates,
- Recommendation on the conventional rail technical specifications for interoperability (TSI) infrastructure,
- Recommendation on the conventional rail TSI energy,
- Recommendation on the certification of maintenance workshops,
- Recommendation on the system requirement specification for baseline 3 of the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS) specification.

Give opinions on

- Draft TSI on locomotives and passenger rolling stock,
- First draft of the recommendation on Section 1 of Annex VII of Directive 2008/57/EC (cross acceptance checklist),
- Setting-up of the register of documents on interoperability.

Publications and reports

- Intermediate report on the TSI telematic applications for passengers,
- Feasibility study on the interoperability of the 1 520 mm rail system,
- Evaluation of the notification of the lists of national technical rules,
- Draft report on the way national safety rules are published and made available,
- Draft report on impact assessment and recommendations concerning the requirement for derailment detection proposed by the Committee on dangerous goods.

Events: biennial safety conference.

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

2008 discharge: European Railway Agency ERA

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Véronique MATHIEU (EPP, FR) on discharge to be granted to the European Railway 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 2008.

Noting that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2008 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 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: Members call on the Agency to set out 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 from one year to the next more effectively. They also invite it to consider making a Gantt diagram part of the programming for each of its operational activities, with a view to indicating the amount of time spent by each staff member on a project and encouraging an approach geared towards achieving results;
- location: Members note that the Agency still carries out its operations in two locations (Lille and Valenciennes), exposing it to additional costs;
- carryover of appropriations: noting that more than EUR 4.1 million were carried forward to 2009, Members emphasise that this state of affairs reveals that the Agency had difficulties in the programming and the budgeting of its activities;
- internal audit: Members call on the Agency to implement the recommendations made by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) in particular in regard to bank signatures, segregation of duties, sensitive posts and maintenance of delegation powers.

2008 discharge: European Railway Agency ERA

The European Parliament adopted by 559 votes to 30, with 54 abstentions, a decision on discharge to be granted to the Executive Director of the European Railway Agency 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: Parliament calls on the Agency to set out 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 from one year to the next more effectively. It also invites it to consider making a Gantt diagram part of the programming for each of its operational activities, with a view to indicating the amount of time spent by each staff member on a project and encouraging an approach geared towards achieving results;
- location: Parliament notes that the Agency still carries out its operations in two locations (Lille and Valenciennes), exposing it to additional costs;
- carryover of appropriations: noting that more than EUR 4.1 million were carried forward to 2009, Parliament emphasises that this state of affairs reveals that the Agency had difficulties in the programming and the budgeting of its activities;
- internal audit: Parliament calls on the Agency to implement the recommendations made by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) in particular in regard to bank signatures, segregation of duties, sensitive posts and maintenance of delegation powers.

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 Agency'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 Railway Agency ERA

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Railway Agency for the financial year 2008.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2010/534/EU of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European

Railway Agency for the financial year 2008.

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