

Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2013/2204(DEC)	Procedure completed
2012 discharge: EU general budget, European Data Protection Supervisor		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control		25/09/2013
		PPE SONIK Boguslaw Shadow rapporteur S&D LIBERADZKI Boguslaw ALDE MULDER Jan Verts/ALE STAES Bart ECR ANDREASEN Marta EFD VANHECKE Frank NI EHRENHAUSER Martin	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		04/11/2013
		PPE MATHIEU HOUILLON Veronique	
European Commission	Commission DG Budget	Commissioner ŠEMETA Algirdas	

Key events			
26/07/2013	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2013)0570	Summary
22/10/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/03/2014	Vote in committee		
21/03/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0228/2014	Summary
02/04/2014	Debate in Parliament		
03/04/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
03/04/2014	Decision by Parliament	T7-0298/2014	Summary
03/04/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		
05/09/2014	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2013/2204(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/7/14036

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2013)0570	26/07/2013	EC	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		N7-0049/2014 OJ C 331 14.11.2013, p. 0001	05/09/2013	CofA	Summary
Committee draft report		PE521.734	27/01/2014	EP	
Document attached to the procedure		05848/2014	17/02/2014	CSL	Summary
Committee opinion	LIBE	PE524.745	24/02/2014	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE529.745	28/02/2014	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0228/2014	21/03/2014	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0298/2014	03/04/2014	EP	Summary

Final act	
Budget 2014/558 OJ L 266 05.09.2014, p. 0142	Summary

2012 discharge: EU general budget, European Data Protection Supervisor

PURPOSE: presentation by the Commission of the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2012, as part of the 2012 discharge procedure.

Analysis of the accounts of the EU Institutions: Section IX European Data Protection Supervisor.

Legal reminder: the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union for the year 2011 have been prepared on the basis of the information presented by the institutions and bodies under Article 129(2) of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union. They were prepared in accordance with Title VII of the Financial Regulation and with the accounting principles, rules and methods set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The objective of the financial statements is to provide information about the financial position, performance and cashflow of a body that is useful to a wide range of users. The objective is to provide information that is useful for decision making, and to demonstrate the accountability of the entity for the resources entrusted to it.

1) Purpose: the document helps to bring insight into the EU budget mechanism and the way in which the budget has been managed and spent in 2012. It recalls that the European Union's operational expenditure covers the various headings of the financial framework and takes different forms, depending on how the money is paid out and managed. In accordance with the Financial Regulation, the Commission implements the general budget using the following methods: direct or indirect centralised management (by means of bodies or agencies of public law or other); decentralised management where the Commission delegates certain tasks for the implementation of the budget to third countries; and, thirdly, shared management where budget implementation tasks are delegated to Member States, in areas such as agricultural expenditure and structural actions.

The document also presents the different financial actors involved in the budget process (accounting officers, internal officers and authorising officers) and recalls their respective roles in the context of the tasks of sound financial management.

Amongst the other legal elements relating to the implementation of the EU budget presented in this document, the paper focuses on the following issues:

- accounting principles applicable to the management of EU spending (business continuity, consistency of accounting methods, comparability of information ...);
- consolidation methods of figures for all major controlled entities (the consolidated financial statements of the EU comprise all

- significant controlled entities institutions, organisations and agencies);
- the recognition of financial assets in the EU (tangible and intangible assets, financial assets and other miscellaneous investments);
- the way in which EU public expenditure is committed and spent, including pre-financing (cash advances intended for the benefit of an EU organ);
- the means of recovery following irregularities detected;
- the modus operandi of the accounting system;
- the audit process followed by the European Parliament's granting of the discharge.

To recap, the final control is the discharge of the budget for a given financial year. The discharge represents the political aspect of the external control of budget implementation and is the decision by which the European Parliament, acting on a Council recommendation, "releases" the Commission from its responsibility for management of a given budget by marking the end of that budget's existence.

The document also details specific expenditure of the institutions, in particular: i) pensions of former Members and officials of institutions; ii) joint sickness insurance scheme and iii) buildings.

Lastly, the document presents a series of tables and detailed technical indicators on (i) the balance sheet; (ii) the economic outturn account; (iii) cashflow tables; (iv) technical annexes concerning the financial statements.

2) Implementation of appropriations under Section IX of the budget for the financial year 2012: the document comprises a series of detailed tables, the most important concerning the implementation of the budget. Concerning the EDPSs expenditure, the table on the financial and budgetary implementation of this institution is presented as follows (information drawn from the [Budget and Financial Management Report for the 2012 financial year](#)):

- available appropriations: EUR 7.624 million;
- commitments: EUR 7.258 million (rate of implementation: 95.21%);
- payments: EUR 6.959 million (rate of implementation 81.28%).

3) Budgetary implementation conclusions: in more general and political terms, the EDPSs budgetary implementation for the financial year 2012 was chiefly marked by the following activities:

- consolidation of administrative cooperation (follow-up of the technical set-up of the EDPS, cooperation with various European Commission and Parliament DGs, extended cooperation agreement for the third time for a period of two years from January 2012);
- conclusion of new cooperation agreements with the Commissions Human Resources and Informatics DGs, as well as with the European Institute of Administration; continuation of other international agreements with the European Parliament and other institutions for the everyday management of the EDPS, with a view to reducing costs;
- impact of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty: expanded tasks in relation to the Stockholm programme and a resulting increase in staff (2 AD in 2012).

2012 discharge: EU general budget, European Data Protection Supervisor

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Bogusław SONIK (EPP, PL) in which it called on the European Parliament to grant discharge to the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) in respect of the implementation of the European Data Protection Supervisor's budget for the financial year 2012.

Members welcomed the fact that on the basis of its audit work, the Court of Auditors concluded that the payments as a whole for the year ended on 31 December 2012 for administrative and other expenditure of the institutions and bodies were free from material error. They observed that no significant weaknesses had been identified in respect of the audited topics related to human resources and procurement for the EDPS.

Budgetary and financial management: Members noted that in 2012, the Supervisor had a total of EUR 7.624 million in commitment appropriations, and that the implementation rate of those appropriations was 89.69%, an increase since 2011). They found this a positive development but called for further efforts to improve the implementation rate and for the changes made to be monitored.

EDPSs framework action: Members also made a series of observations on the daily management of the EDPS and called for:

further improvements regarding the monitoring of allowances and performance levels;

- an assessment of the financial impact of structural changes made recently and the implementation of electronic system of case management;
- continued implementation of the recommendations made by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) of the Commission;
- the inclusion of an exhaustive table of all the human resources at the Supervisor's disposal, broken down by category, grade, sex and nationality in the next annual activity report;
- the strengthening of cooperation with other institutions to develop a unified methodology of presenting the translation costs.

2012 discharge: EU general budget, European Data Protection Supervisor

The European Parliament adopted a decision concerning the discharge to be granted to the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) in respect of the implementation of budget for the financial year 2012.

In its resolution accompanying the decision, adopted by 521 votes to 66, with 8 abstentions, Parliament noted the conclusion of the Court of Auditors that the payments as a whole for the year ended on 31 December 2012 for administrative and other expenditure were free from material error. It also observed that no significant weaknesses had been identified in respect to the audited topics related to the human resources and procurement for the Supervisor.

Budgetary and financial management: Parliament noted that in 2012, the Supervisor had a total of EUR 7.624 million in commitment appropriations, and that the implementation rate of those appropriations was 89.69%, an increase since 2011). It found this a positive

development but called for further efforts to improve the implementation rate and for the changes made to be monitored.

EDPSs framework action: Parliament also made a series of observations on the daily management of the EDPS and called for:

- further improvements regarding the monitoring of allowances and performance levels;
- an assessment of the financial impact of structural changes made recently and the implementation of electronic system of case management;
- continued implementation of the recommendations made by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) of the Commission;
- the inclusion of an exhaustive table of all the human resources at the Supervisor's disposal, broken down by category, grade, sex and
- the strengthening of cooperation with other institutions to develop a unified methodology of presenting the translation costs.

Parliament generally considered that the Supervisor should pay particular attention to sound financial management, namely the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which it has used its appropriations in carrying out its responsibilities.

2012 discharge: EU general budget, European Data Protection Supervisor

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Data Protection Supervisor for the financial year 2012.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2014/558/EU of the European Parliament on discharge in respect of the implementation of the European Unions General Budget, section IX European Data Protection Supervisor, for the financial year 2012.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the European Data Protection Supervisor in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2012.

The decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 3 April 2014 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion of 3 April 2014).

Amongst the main observations made, Parliament invited the Supervisor to continue to monitor the allowances management and improve its performance levels.