

Procedure file

Basic information			
DEC - Discharge procedure	2014/2109(DEC)	Procedure completed	
2013 discharge: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)			
Subject 8.70.03.03 2013 discharge			

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible CONT Budgetary Control	Rapporteur	Appointed
		 CZARNECKI Ryszard	09/10/2014
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 ZDECHOVSKÝ Tomáš	
		 VAUGHAN Derek	
		 ALI Nedzhmi	
		 JÁVOR Benedek	
		 VALLI Marco	
Committee for opinion ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
		 LA VIA Giovanni	05/11/2014
European Commission	Commission DG <u>Budget</u>	Commissioner	
		GEORGIEVA Kristalina	

Key events			
30/07/2014	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2014)0510	Summary
20/10/2014	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/03/2015	Vote in committee		
30/03/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0069/2015	Summary

28/04/2015	Debate in Parliament		
29/04/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
29/04/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0139/2015	Summary
29/04/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/09/2015	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2014/2109(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/8/01635

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2014)0510	30/07/2014	EC	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		N8-0079/2014 OJ C 442 10.12.2014, p. 0123	16/09/2014	CofA	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		05304/2015	30/01/2015	CSL	Summary
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE541.499	03/02/2015	EP	
Committee draft report		PE539.711	05/02/2015	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE539.776	05/03/2015	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0069/2015	30/03/2015	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0139/2015	29/04/2015	EP	Summary

Final act

Budget 2015/1649 OJ L 255 30.09.2015, p. 0212	Summary
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2013 discharge: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

PURPOSE: presentation by the Commission of the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2013, as part of the 2013 discharge procedure.

Analysis of the accounts of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

CONTENT: this Commission document sets out the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2013 as prepared on the basis of the information presented by the institutions, organisations and bodies of the EU, in accordance with Article 129 (2) of the Financial Regulation applicable to the EU's General Budget, including the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

The document contains the figures on which the discharge procedure is based.

Discharge procedure of the EU agencies: the EU Budget finances a wide range of policies and programmes throughout the EU. In accordance with the priorities set by the European Parliament and the Council in the multi-annual financial framework (MFF), the European Commission carries out specific programmes, activities and projects in the field with the technical support of some specialised agencies.

The consolidated annual accounts of the EU provide information on the activities of the institutions, agencies and other bodies of the EU from a budgetary and accrual accounting perspective.

The consolidated reports on the implementation of the general budget of the EU include the budget implementation of all Institutions. Agencies do not have a separate budget inside the EU budget; and they are partially financed by a Commission budget subsidy.

Each agency is subject to its own discharge procedure.

ECDC: in 2013, the tasks and budget of this agency were as follows:

- description of the Centre's tasks: the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, which is located in Stockholm, was set up by [Regulation \(EC\) No 851/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#). Its main tasks are to : (i) collect and disseminate data on the prevention and control of human diseases; (ii) provide scientific opinions on this subject;
- the Centre's budget for the 2013 financial year: the Centres budget for 2013, as presented in the Commission document on the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union, gives the following figures:

§ Commitment appropriations :

- committed : EUR 59 million;
- paid : EUR 54 million;
- carried-over : 0.

§ Payment appropriations :

- committed : EUR 70 million;
- paid : EUR 53 million;
- carried-over : EUR 11 million.

Please refer also to the [final accounts of the ECDC](#).

2013 discharge: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

PURPOSE: presentation of the EU Court of Auditors report on the annual accounts of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) for the year 2013, together with the Centres reply.

CONTENT: in accordance with the tasks conferred on the Court of Auditors by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Court presents to the European Parliament and to the Council, in the context of the discharge procedure, a Statement of Assurance as to the reliability of the annual accounts of each institution, body or agency of the EU, and the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying them, on the basis of an independent external audit.

This audit concerned, amongst others, the annual accounts of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Statement of assurance: pursuant to the provisions of Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Court has audited:

- the annual accounts of the Centre, which comprise the financial statements and the reports on the implementation of the budget for the financial year ended 31 December 2013;
- the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying those accounts.

Opinion on the reliability of the accounts: in the Courts opinion, the Centres annual accounts present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as at 31 December 2013 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the provisions of its Financial Regulation and the accounting rules adopted by the Commissions accounting officer.

Opinion on the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the accounts: in the Courts opinion, the transactions underlying the annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013 are legal and regular in all material respects.

The report also makes a series of observations on the budgetary and financial management of the Agency, accompanied by the latters response. The main observations may be summarised as follows:

The Courts observations:

- legality and regularity: the Court noted that the Centre has improved its management of procurement procedures, for one procedure launched in 2013 there was conflicting information between the contract notice and the tender specifications which may have affected the competitive process and the outcome of the procedure;
- budgetary management: the overall budget execution rate was relatively low (92%). Cancellations of 2013 appropriations appeared in all budget titles as well as committed appropriations carried over mainly concerning multiannual projects and IT items to support operational activities;
- headquarters: the Centre became operational in 1994 and has, to date, worked on the basis of correspondence and exchanges with the host Member State. However, there is no comprehensive headquarters agreement between the Centre and the Member State.

The Centres replies:

- legality and regularity: the ECDC has taken immediate corrective action to communicate the situation to the contractors and cancel the contract. The Centres procurement section was reorganised in March 2014;
- budgetary management: the Centre had reserved funds from the 2013 budget in order to meet its obligations towards staff related to the salary adjustments of 2011, 2012 and 2013. The funds reserved amounted to EUR 3.3 million. As the European Court of Justice ruled in the final quarter of the year, the Centre was unable to use these funds for other purposes. These funds had been earmarked from all budget titles, consequently these cancellations affected all budget titles. The Centre will more closely monitor the operational meeting expenses to avoid unnecessary carry-overs or cancellations.

Lastly, the Court of Auditors report contains a summary of the Centres activities in 2013. This is focused on the following:

Budget: EUR 58.3 million.

Activities:

- health threats identified and monitored using the Threat Tracking Tool (TTT) and weekly threat reports on communicable diseases ;
- provision of support to epidemic intelligence for large mass-gathering events ;
- events of an exceptional nature or of exceptional public importance were also monitored;
- simulation exercise conducted for testing and improving preparedness and response to communicable diseases;
- implementation of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) and the European Public Health Microbiology Training (EUPHEM);
- 112 public health experts from 30 EU-EEA countries participated in the Centres short training modules;
- 945 000 visitors to the Centres web portal;
- 216 scientific publications published;
- Sixth European Antibiotic Awareness Day organised, with the participation of over 40 countries;
- Organisation of the seventh European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) on 57 November 2013 in Stockholm, with 550 participants;
- Weekly publication of the Eurosurveillance scientific journal, with 11 600 online subscribers. In Eurosurveillance was awarded an impact factor for the second year, which was with 5.49 a bit lower than 2012. This places Eurosurveillance at rank 6 among the top 70 journals worldwide in the Infectious Diseases category.

2013 discharge: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Ryszard CZARNECKI (ECR, PL) on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) for the financial year 2013.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament postpone its decision on granting the Director of the Centre discharge in respect of the implementation of the joint undertakings budget for the financial year 2013.

Noting that the Court of Auditors stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the annual accounts of the Centre for the financial year 2013 are reliable, and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Members called on the Parliament to approve the closure of the Centres accounts. They made, however, a number of recommendations that needed to be taken into account when the discharge is granted, in addition to the general recommendations that appear in the [draft resolution on performance, financial management and control of EU agencies](#).

- Centres financial statements: Members noted that the final budget of the Centre for the financial year 2013 was EUR 58 315 000, representing an increase of 0.2 % compared to 2012. The overall contribution of the Union to the Centre's budget for 2013 amounted to EUR 56 727 000.
- Commitments and carry-overs: Members noted that budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2013 resulted in a relatively low budget implementation rate of 92.96 % and that the payment appropriations execution rate was 74.14 %, with cancellations of appropriations appearing in all budget titles. Regarding administrative and operational expenditure, the levels of committed appropriations carried over to 2014 were 26% and 44% respectively. Members also identified weaknesses in respect of the budgetary planning and execution for operational meetings, mainly due to overestimated attendance levels and hotel and flight costs.

Members also made a series of observations on procurement and recruitment procedures, internal controls and internal audit.

With regard to the legality and regularity of transactions, the committee noted that for one procedure launched in 2013, there was conflicting information between the contract notice and the tender specifications which may have affected the competitive process and the outcome of the procedure. It acknowledged the Centre's initiative to strengthen the area of procurement by establishing the Procurement Section and the Legal Services Section.

2013 discharge: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) for the financial year 2013.

NON LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision (EU) 2015/1649 of the European Parliament on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control for the financial year 2013.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control for the implementation of the latters budget for the financial year 2013.

This decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 29 April 2015 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion of 29 April 2015).

Amongst Parliaments main observations, the latter noted with concern the comments from the Court of Auditors on the legality and regularity of transactions and asked the Centre to take action to remedy the shortcomings identified by the Court.

2013 discharge: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

The European Parliament adopted by 560 votes to 113, with 20 abstentions, a decision to grant discharge to the Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) for the financial year 2013.

The vote on the discharge decision approved the closure of the accounts (in accordance with Annex VI, Article 5(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament).

Noting that the Court of Auditors stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the annual accounts of the Centre for the financial

year 2013 are reliable, and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted by 576 votes to 108, with 6 abstentions, a resolution containing a number of recommendations that form an integral part of the discharge decision and as well as the general recommendations that appear in [the resolution on performance, financial management and control of EU agencies](#):

- Centres financial statements: Parliament noted that the final budget of the Centre for the financial year 2013 was EUR 58 315 000, representing an increase of 0.2% compared to 2012. The overall contribution of the Union to the Centre's budget for 2013 amounted to EUR 56 727 000.
- Commitments and carry-overs: Parliament noted that budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2013 resulted in a relatively low budget implementation rate of 92.96% and that the payment appropriations execution rate was 74.14%, with cancellations of appropriations appearing in all budget titles. Regarding administrative and operational expenditure, the levels of committed appropriations carried over to 2014 were 26% and 44% respectively. Parliament also identified weaknesses in respect of the budgetary planning and execution for operational meetings, mainly due to overestimated attendance levels and hotel and flight costs.

Parliament also made a series of observations on procurement and recruitment procedures, internal controls and internal audit.

It also noted that with regard to the legality and regularity of transactions and in particular for one procedure launched in 2013, there was conflicting information between the contract notice and the tender specifications. It acknowledged the Centre's initiative to strengthen the area of procurement by establishing the Procurement Section and the Legal Services Section.