








Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2019/2062(DEC)	Procedure completed
2018 discharge: EU general budget, European Ombudsman		
Subject 8.70.03.08 2018 discharge		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control	 ZDECHOVSKÝ Tomáš	04/09/2019
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 GARCÍA MUÑOZ Isabel	
		 CHASTEL Olivier	
		 PEKSA Mikuláš	
		 KUHS Joachim	
		 FITTO Raffaele	
		 FLANAGAN Luke Ming	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	DEVE Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	INTA International Trade	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
TRAN Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		

European Commission	REGI Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	PECH Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	CULT Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	JURI Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	PETI Petitions	The committee decided not to give an opinion.
Commission DG Budget	Commissioner OETTINGER Günther	

Key events

27/06/2019	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2019)0316	
18/09/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/02/2020	Vote in committee		
28/02/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0028/2020	
13/05/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
14/05/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0086/2020	Summary
14/05/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/12/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2019/2062(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/00881

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(2019)0316	27/06/2019	EC
Committee draft report	PE639.833	11/12/2019	EP
Amendments tabled in committee	PE645.095	29/01/2020	EP
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	05760/1/2020	17/02/2020	CSL

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A9-0028/2020	28/02/2020	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T9-0086/2020	14/05/2020	EP	Summary

Final act

Budget 2020/1883
[OJ L 417 11.12.2020, p. 0157](#)

2018 discharge: EU general budget, European Ombudsman

The European Parliament decided by 665 votes to 23, with 3 abstentions, to grant discharge to the European Ombudsman in respect of the implementation of the European Ombudsman's budget for the financial year 2018.

In the resolution accompanying its discharge decision (adopted by 666 votes to 21 against, with 6 abstentions), the European Parliament made a series of observations:

Budgetary and financial management

In its report on the European Ombudsman's annual accounts for the financial year 2018, the Court of Auditors did not identify any significant weaknesses as regards human resources and public procurement issues. It concluded that all payments for the year ended 31 December 2018 for the Ombudsman's administrative expenditure were free from material error and that the supervisory and control systems examined were effective.

The Ombudsman's budget in 2018 amounted to EUR 10 837 545 (compared with EUR 10 905 441 in 2017), a reduction of EUR 67 896 (0.62%).

Parliament welcomed the Ombudsman's overall sound financial management and prudence in the financial year 2018. Of the total appropriations, 95.33 % were committed (compared with 93.91 % in 2017) and 91.33 % were paid (compared with 86.20 % in 2017). It noted the improvements related to the appropriations carried over from 2018 to 2019. However, it highlighted the unused appropriations for several budget lines, such as 'external meetings' and 'publications', recalling the need to take measures to minimise budget over-estimates.

Staff

Taking note of the limited resources of the Ombudsman to deal with an ever increasing workload, Parliament supported the Ombudsmans request to align the establishment plan with the actual needs and workload by identifying functions of a permanent nature which should be carried out by permanent staff. It asked the Ombudsman to report back on potential efficiency gains due to the sole fact of reorganisation and reallocation of tasks.

It welcomed the exemplary gender balance in management positions, with 4 women and 4 men.

The Ombudsman was encouraged to continue to develop a long-term human resources policy framework that takes into account work-life balance, lifelong guidance and career development, gender balance, non-discrimination, teleworking, geographical balance and recruitment of its staff, as well as the integration of persons with disabilities into its workforce.

Cooperation with Parliament

Parliament supported the Ombudsman's intention to cooperate more closely with Parliament to ensure that it is informed of shortcomings, particularly as regards cases of maladministration revealed by inquiries or the institutions' negative responses to recommendations made by the Ombudsman. Members considered that this information, provided in a summarised and structured way, would be extremely useful to Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control.

Performance

Parliament found that the proportion of inquiries closed within six months and 18 months is 57% and 88% respectively and that the proportion of cases in which the decision on admissibility is taken" within one month has increased significantly, from 69% in 2016 to 86% in 2017. In addition, the average time for processing all categories of complaints increased to 79 days in 2018 (compared to 64 days in 2017), while the average time for investigations was reduced to 255 days in 2018 (compared to 266 days in 2017 and 369 days in 2013). The number of complaints lodged under the mandate (880, compared to 751 in 2017) continued to increase significantly in 2018 (+17%) after a 5.5% increase in 2017.

In addition, the average time for dealing with all categories of complaints increased to 79 days in 2018 (compared to 64 days in 2017), while the average time for dealing with inquiries decreased to 255 days in 2018 (compared to 266 days in 2017 and 369 in 2013). The number of complaints within the mandate (880, compared to 751 in 2017) has continued to increase significantly in 2018 (+ 17 %) after an increase of 5.5 % in 2017.

Information for citizens

Parliament stressed the importance of making EU citizens aware of the possibility of having recourse to the Ombudsman in cases of maladministration. It noted the Ombudsman's efforts to increase its visibility through tools such as the new website launched in 2018, and further invited it to use free, open-source and self-hosted social networking platforms having special regard to users data protection. It encouraged the Ombudsman to make progress on a coherent policy for the digitalisation of its services.

In general, Parliament highlighted the work achieved in recent years on issues such as performance-based budgeting, the ethical framework and the many related rules and procedures, enhanced communication activities and the increasing number of measures to improve

transparency. It underlined the importance of collaboration and of sharing of experience among Union institutions and bodies and suggested that an analysis be made of the possibility of formalised networking activities in different domains in order to share best practises and to develop common solutions.