










Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2019/2081(DEC)	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
2018 discharge: European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)		
Subject 8.70.03.08 2018 discharge		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Budgetary Control	 CZARNECKI Ryszard	07/10/2019
	Committee for opinion	Shadow rapporteur	
European Commission	Budget	 WOLTERS Lara	
		 CHASTEL Olivier	
		 KUHS Joachim	
		 EICKHOUT Bas	
		 OMARJEE Younous	
		 GRAPINI Maria	
		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Transport and Tourism		07/10/2019
		Commissioner	
		OETTINGER Günther	

Key events			
27/06/2019	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2019)0316	
18/09/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		
19/02/2020	Vote in committee, 1st reading/single reading		
03/03/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A9-0061/2020	
13/05/2020	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T9-0078/2020	Summary
13/05/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2019/2081(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Modified legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
Committee dossier	CONT/9/00837

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2019)0316	27/06/2019	EC	
Committee draft report		PE639.858	05/12/2019	EP	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE642.920	22/01/2020	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE645.002	31/01/2020	EP	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		05761/2020	06/02/2020	CSL	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0061/2020	03/03/2020	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0078/2020	13/05/2020	EP	Summary

2019/2081(DEC) - 13/05/2020 Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to grant discharge to the Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) in regard to the implementation of the agency's budget for the 2018 financial year and to approve the closure of the accounts for the financial year in question.

Noting that the Court of Auditors has stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2018 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted by 602 votes to 87 with 4 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations, which form an integral part of the decision on discharge and which add to the general recommendations set out in the [resolution](#) on performance, financial management and control of EU agencies:

Agencys financial statements

The final budget of the European Union Agency for Railways for the financial year 2018 was EUR 28 793 243, representing a decrease of 6.31 % compared to 2017.

Budget and financial management

The budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2018 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 99.98 %, representing a slight decrease of 0.02 % compared to 2017. The payment appropriations execution rate was 88.96 %, representing an increase of 1.66 % compared to 2017.

Parliament noted, following the Agency's enlarged mandate, in 2019 the Agency will start to collect fees and charges for certification tasks, taking into account the specific needs of medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It called on the Agency to report to the discharge authority on the implementation of this new system and to take into account the specific needs of SMEs during the certification process, in particular by reducing their administrative and financial burdens.

Other observations

Members also made a series of observations regarding performance, procurement, staff policy and internal controls.

In particular, they noted that:

- the objective set by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of establishing a single European railway market has not been achieved. They called on the Agency to focus its efforts and publications on this area and to draw up a set of measures designed to ensure that in future, rail transport can be incorporated into modern logistics chains;
- the next five years will be crucial for the future of the rail sector and that the Agency must be provided with the funding and staff it needs in order to meet the coming challenges;
- the Agency shall take up, in June 2019, its role as the EU authority responsible for issuing authorisations for placing railway vehicles on the market, single safety certificates for railway undertakings and ERTMS trackside approvals;
- as regards both infrastructure and rolling stock, far too little progress has been made in introducing the equipment required for the ERTMS in

Europe;

- on 31 December 2018, the establishment plan was 89.19 % executed, with 132 temporary agents appointed out of 148 temporary agents authorised under the Union budget;
- the Agency has adopted a policy on protecting the dignity of persons and preventing harassment, confidential counsellors are promoted and staff is encouraged to address their issues to them;
- on 15 April 2019, the Agency signed the headquarter agreement with the French authorities. It acknowledged that the decision for the double seat is a Council decision that the Agency must apply.