












Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2021/2124(DEC)	Procedure completed
2020 discharge: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)		
Subject 8.70.03.10 2020 discharge		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Budgetary Control	 ZDECHOVSKÝ Tomáš	28/07/2021
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 CHINNICI Caterina	
		 CSEH Katalin	
		 EICKHOUT Bas	
		 KUHS Joachim	
		 CZARNECKI Ryszard	
		 OMARJEE Younous	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	 CANFIN Pascal	29/09/2021
European Commission	Commission DG Budget	Commissioner HAHN Johannes	

Key events			
30/06/2021	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2021)0381	
14/09/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
31/03/2022	Vote in committee		
07/04/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0099/2022	
04/05/2022	Debate in Parliament		
04/05/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0167/2022	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/2124(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/06753

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2021)0381	30/06/2021	EC	
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		N9-0044/2022 OJ C 439 29.10.2021, p. 0003	29/10/2021	CofA	
Committee draft report		PE698.964	14/01/2022	EP	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE699.302	19/01/2022	EP	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		06003/2022	16/02/2022	CSL	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE704.725	02/03/2022	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE729.966	29/03/2022	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0099/2022	07/04/2022	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0167/2022	04/05/2022	EP	Summary

Final act
Budget 2022/1740 OJ L 258 05.10.2022, p. 0241

2020 discharge: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

The European Parliament decided to grant discharge to the Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in respect of the implementation of the Centre's budget for the financial year 2020 and to approve the closure of the accounts for that year.

Noting that the Court of Auditors stated that it had obtained reasonable assurance that the Authority's annual accounts for the financial year 2020 were reliable and that the underlying transactions were legal and regular, Parliament adopted, by 564 votes to 75 with 2 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations which form an integral part of the discharge decision and which complement the general recommendations set out in the [resolution](#) on the performance, financial management and control of EU agencies.

Centre's financial statements

The Centre's final budget for 2020 was EUR 62 490 000, representing an increase of 5.55 % compared to 2019.

Budgetary and financial management

The budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2020 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 96.77 %, representing a decrease of 2.46 % compared to 2019. The payment appropriations execution rate was 75.26 %, also representing a decrease of 6.15 % compared to the previous year.

Other observations

Parliament also made a number of observations concerning performance, staff policy, public procurement, conflicts of interest, internal control and Covid-19.

In particular, it noted that:

- the Covid-19 outbreak in 2020 and the subsequent pandemic have been the most serious public health event that the Centre has had to respond to since it became operational in 2005. Supporting the EUs response to Covid-19 became the Centres principal activity;

- the Centre activated its public health event operations plan on 9 January 2020, which guided the organisation through the emergency situation, and allowed it to redirect the resources needed to tackle the pandemic;
- it also delivered 56 % of the outputs initially planned in its single programming document 2020-2022, and 90 % of the outputs of the Covid-19 work programme approved in May 2020. 35 % of the Centres initially planned outputs were postponed to 2021 or cancelled;
- the Centre found it challenging to manage the timeliness, quality and completeness of information received from Member States regarding the pandemic given that different surveillance and testing strategies are used by the Member States which make comparisons and assessments difficult, and that, more generally, the Unions public health competences are limited, which means that the Centre is to a considerable degree dependent on Member States for its effectiveness. Parliament noted that it took for instance almost a year after the Covid-19 outbreak in Europe before Member States used a common colour code system, and showed commitment to submitting their data to the Centre;
- the Centre is developing an entirely new European surveillance system with the aim of progressively covering Covid-19 and all other diseases and health conditions under the Unions surveillance, thus reducing the reporting burden for Member States;
- on 31 December 2020, the establishment plan was 96.1 % implemented, with 173 temporary agents appointed out of 180 temporary agents authorised under the Union budget (compared to 180 authorised posts in 2019);
- due to the pandemic, the workload in the Centre significantly increased in 2020. The Centre was provided with increased short-term capacity in 2020 and, at the end of 2020, the Centre was also granted a number of long-term staff posts to be filled during the period 2021 to 2024 due to the prolonged sanitary crisis;
- the Centre concluded a total of 130 contracts in 2020, covering 10 framework contracts, 14 direct contracts and 106 specific contracts;
- 22 potential conflicts of interest were identified and investigated in 2020;
- an internal communications policy is to be developed, including communication on the objectives and responsibilities of internal control;
- the Centre increased its outreach significantly in 2020 in connection with the pandemic. Its website had 32 million page views, compared to 9 million between 2011 and 2019 in total.