












Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2021/2126(DEC)	Procedure completed
2020 discharge: European Environment Agency (EEA)		
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	A9-0113/2022	
04/05/2022	Debate in Parliament		
04/05/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0158/2022	Summary
	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/2126(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/9/06749

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		PE698.967	14/01/2022	EP	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE699.219	17/01/2022	EP	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		06003/2022	16/02/2022	CSL	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE704.727	02/03/2022	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0113/2022	07/04/2022	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0158/2022	04/05/2022	EP	Summary

Final act
Budget 2022/1746 OJ L 258 05.10.2022, p. 0259

2020 discharge: European Environment Agency (EEA)

The European Parliament decided to grant discharge to the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA) for the financial year 2020 and to approve the closure of the accounts for that year.

Noting that the Court of Auditors has stated that it has obtained reasonable assurance that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2020 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament adopted, by 549 votes to 76 with 9 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of recommendations which form an integral part of the discharge decision and which complement the general recommendations contained in the [resolution](#) on the performance, financial management and control of EU agencies.

Agencys financial statements

The Agencys final budget for 2020 was EUR 89 649 723, representing an increase of 18.48 % compared to 2019 due to an increase in external assigned revenue. The Agencys budget derives mainly from the Union budget (75.29 %) and the contributions under specific agreement for the Copernicus programme (22.68 %).

Budgetary and financial management

Parliament welcomed the budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2020 which resulted in a budget implementation rate of 99.96 %, representing a slight decrease of 0.04 % compared to 2019. The payment appropriations execution rate was 86.12 %, representing a decrease of 3.71 % compared to the previous year.

Other observations

Parliament also made a series of observations concerning performance, staff, conflicts of interest, internal controls and Covid-19.

In particular, it noted that:

- the Agency has achieved what it had set out to do by exceeding the expectations of its key performance indicators in 2020 despite the risks and challenges the organisation had to manage due to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- concerning its IT network, the Agency had initiated digitalisation initiatives prior to the pandemic in 2020 and that, since March 2020, those

initiatives were accelerated by the lockdown situation. Parliament called on the Agency to continue to monitor the cybersecurity threat landscape and take the appropriate measures;

- the Agency presented the 2020 Air quality in Europe report, documenting the impact of lockdown measures on air quality in European cities, using the unique situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic;

- on 31 December 2020, the establishment plan was 96.92 % filled, with three permanent officials and 123 temporary agents appointed out of 130 posts authorised under the Union budget. However, there is no gender balance in senior management and the Management Board;

- the Agency focuses on converting to electronic administration processes (procurement, finance and human resources), which has delivered efficiency gains and supported it to switch quickly and effectively to a working-from-home environment at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic;

- ongoing efforts have been made to secure transparency to prevent and manage conflicts of interests, and to provide whistleblower protection;

- even though the Agency's staff managed to adapt quickly to the Covid-19 situation and delivered the work programme envisaged for 2020, the internal control framework needs to be improved;

- the Agency should increase its digitalisation in terms of internal operation and management but also in order to speed up the digitalisation of procedures;

- all necessary security measures should be taken to avoid any risk to the online security of the processed information.