









Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2023/2175(DEC)	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
2022 discharge: Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (Clean H2 JU)		
Subject 8.70.03.12 2022 discharge		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control		23/05/2023
		 WIEZIK Michal	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 WINZIG Angelika	
		 CREU Corina	
		 THIOLLET François	
		 ADINOLFI Matteo	
		 CZARNECKI Ryszard	
		 OMARJEE Younous	
European Commission	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	Commission DG Budget	Commissioner HAHN Johannes	

Key events			
28/06/2023	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2023)0391	
12/09/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/02/2024	Vote in committee		
12/03/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0089/2024	

10/04/2024	Debate in Parliament		
11/04/2024	Decision by Parliament	T9-0275/2024	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2023/2175(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
Committee dossier	CONT/9/13011

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2023)0391	28/06/2023	EC	
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		N9-0085/2023 OJ C 000 16.11.2023, p. 0000	14/11/2023	CofA	
Committee draft report		PE753.490	15/12/2023	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE757.341	31/01/2024	EP	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		06182/2024	12/03/2024	CSL	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0089/2024	12/03/2024	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0275/2024	11/04/2024	EP	Summary

2022 discharge: Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (Clean H2 JU)

The European Parliament decided to grant discharge to the Executive Director ad interim of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2022 and approve the closure of Joint Undertakings accounts.

Noting that the Court of Auditors considered that the annual accounts of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2022 present fairly the financial situation of the Joint Undertaking on 31 December 2022, as well as the results of its operations, Parliament adopted, by 552 votes to 26 with 12 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of observations which form an integral part of the discharge decision.

Budgetary and financial management

The available budget for 2022 in commitment appropriations was EUR 314.3 million (compared to EUR 15.8 million in 2021), of which EUR 305.8 million for operational activities and EUR 8 million for administrative expenditure and in payment appropriations was EUR 118.3 million (compared to EUR 56.2 million in 2021), of which EUR 109.7 million for operational activities and EUR 8.1 million for administrative expenditure.

At the end of 2022, the Clean H2 Joint Undertaking had committed EUR 425.8 million (or 95 %) of the maximum EU operational contribution of EUR 450 million for signed grant agreements under the Seventh Research Framework Programme; notes that of this committed amount, around EUR 3 million (or 0.7 %) remained to be paid in 2023 for the closure of the last ongoing Seventh Research Framework Programme project.

In addition, at the end of 2022, private members declared in-kind contributions at the level of the minimum target of EUR 450 million, which had been fully validated by the Clean H2 Joint Undertaking.

Regarding the Clean H2 Joint Undertakings achievements for the Horizon 2020 programme, in terms of signed grant agreements and contracts, at the end of 2022, the Clean H2 Joint Undertaking had fully committed the maximum Union operational contribution EUR 646 million for signed grant agreements and contracts under that programme. Of this committed amount, around EUR 88.5 million (or 13.7 %) remains to be paid in the coming years for projects and contracts yet to be completed.

The implementation of the 2022 budget operational payment for Horizon 2020 activities decreased (81 % for 2022 compared to 88 % for 2021) as beneficiaries faced rising costs and delivery problems in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis and of the war of aggression against Ukraine and that, as a consequence, the duration of most Horizon 2020 projects had to be prolonged and final payments postponed to 2023.

The Clean H2 Joint Undertaking launched the first call for proposals on Hydrogen under Horizon Europe, with a total value of EUR 300 million.

Other observations

The resolution also contains a series of observations on the management and controls systems, procurement and staff.

In particular, it noted the following:

- the management of tenders and contracts has included interinstitutional procurement procedures launched by the Commission or other EU bodies and the resulting multiannual framework contracts;
- the Clean H2 Joint Undertaking has made intensive use of eTendering, eNotices and eSubmission modules and has started the process of integrating the public procurement management tool (PPMT) which will be in operation in 2023;
- the Joint Undertaking team of statutory staff consists of 29 positions (27 temporary agents and two contract agents); notes, in addition, that staff resources include two Seconded National Experts;
- for the Clean H2 Joint Undertakings Horizon 2020 expenditure (clearings and final payments), the Joint Undertaking reported a representative error rate of 2.9 % and a residual error rate of 0.9 %;
- the Court found and quantified a serious error resulting from personnel costs because the beneficiary claimed hours worked during leave periods and included ineligible additional remuneration costs in the costs declared and for another case;
- at the end of 2022, the Clean H2 Joint Undertaking had developed and implemented a complete risk-based approach to ex-ante controls in line with the Commissions Common Audit Service of the guidance, considering the Clean H2 Joint Undertaking specific risk circumstances; notes that, to this end, the Clean H2 Joint Undertaking managed to identify the most relevant risk criteria and designed, based on them, a risk-based monitoring approach;
- by the end of 2022, the Joint Undertaking had developed and implemented a comprehensive risk-based approach to ex-ante controls taking into account the risk circumstances specific to the Joint Undertaking; the Joint Undertaking has identified large beneficiaries where the risk related to ex-ante controls was high;
- the Joint Undertaking developed a risk-based ex-post audit approach with the aim of reducing its error rate through a more targeted sample to detect beneficiaries most at risk of error. The Court concluded that Joint Undertakings with a well-designed risk-based ex-post audit approach have a lower residual error rate than the average Joint Undertaking without such an approach, due to the systematic identification and audit of the beneficiaries most at risk.