











Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2023/2177(DEC)	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
2022 discharge: European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC)		
Subject 8.70.03.12 2022 discharge		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Budgetary Control	 WIEZIK Michal	23/05/2023
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 WINZIG Angelika	
		 CREU Corina	
		 THIOLLET François	
		 ADINOLFI Matteo	
		 CZARNECKI Ryszard	
		 OMARJEE Younous	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	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	A9-0095/2024	

10/04/2024	Debate in Parliament		
11/04/2024	Decision by Parliament	T9-0278/2024	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/2177(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/9/13016

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		PE753.492	15/12/2023	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE757.343	31/01/2024	EP	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		06182/2024	12/03/2024	CSL	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0095/2024	12/03/2024	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0278/2024	11/04/2024	EP	Summary

2022 discharge: European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC)

The European Parliament decided to grant discharge to the Executive Director of the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking in respect of the implementation of the Joint Undertaking's budget for the financial year 2022.

Noting that the Court of Auditors finds that the accounts of the Joint Undertaking for the year 2022 present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position at 31 December 2022, the results of its operations, its cash flows, Parliament adopted by 518 votes to 17, with 55 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of observations which form an integral part of the discharge decision.

Parliament welcomed the Joint Undertakings objective and role in developing a supercomputing ecosystem in Europe. It noted, however, that the Court assessed the risk to the legality and regularity of recruitment procedures as medium for the Joint Undertaking, due to the need to recruit a large number of staff quickly. In addition, the risk related to the Joint Undertaking operational contract expenditure was assessed by the Court as medium due to its complex procurement procedures for high-value contracts.

Budgetary and financial management

For 2022, the available payment budget amounted to EUR 629.9 million (EUR 348.2 million in 2021) and the available committed budget amounted to EUR 1 374.5 million (EUR 753.4 million in 2021).

The Court categorises the risk to budget management as medium because the complex and lengthy acquisition process for supercomputers.

Members noted that due to the length of time it takes to procure supercomputers, the low implementation of both 2022 operational - commitment and payment appropriations were at 79% and 24% respectively (2% and 47% in 2021) - and administrative budgets - 45% for administrative commitment appropriations and 37% of its administrative payment appropriations.

Parliament called on the Joint Undertaking to disclose important information regarding members contributions at programme level, relevant for the complete communication of the Joint Undertakings achievements at the year-end.

Members welcomed that, at the end of 2022, the Joint Undertaking fully committed the maximum Union operational contribution of EUR 526 million for signed grant agreements and contracts under the Horizon 2020 and Connecting Europe Facility (CEF 1) programmes. Of this amount, around EUR 266.3 million (or 50.6 %) remains to be paid in the coming years for projects yet to be completed.

At the end of 2022, the participating states signed contractual commitments amounting to EUR 447.3 million for the Joint Undertakings Horizon 2020 and Connecting Europe Facility 1 activities. Members noted, however, that at the end of 2022, the Joint Undertakings private members had only committed and reported EUR 11 million (or 2.6 %) in in-kind contributions for Horizon 2020 projects, a figure considerably below the minimum private members target of EUR 420 million to be achieved by the end of the Horizon 2020 programme.

The significant reduction in private members in-kind contributions to the Joint Undertakings operational activities presents a risk to the overall achievement of its parts of the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

Other comments

The resolution also contains a series of observations on management and control systems, public procurement and personnel.

In particular, it noted that:

- the main reasons for the low implementation rate of the operational payment budget were (i) delays in completing the pre-exascale supercomputers that prevented interim payments related to the Joint Undertakings operating grants; (ii) delays in the procurement for supercomputers that prevented the related pre-financing payments; (iii) the postponement of the Connecting Europe Facility 2 call on Hyperconnectivity to 2023 due to the need of a pre-study; and (iv) delays in beneficiaries cost claims for ongoing research activities;
- by the end of 2022, the Joint Undertaking had only recruited 8 staff and 20 by mid-2023, so had not met its 2022 recruitment target; however, Members welcomed the gender balance of staff;
- the fact that key jobs are not being filled could jeopardise the continuity of the Joint Undertaking's activities;
- the Joint Undertaking should include specific ex-post audits in its internal control system for expenditure co-financed under the Connecting Europe Facility for the purchase of supercomputers;
- the Joint Undertaking has carried out, on an ad hoc basis, risk-based ex-ante controls for risky projects, but had not yet applied a structured risk-based approach to ex-ante controls by the end of 2022;
- the Joint Undertaking should apply a structured risk-based approach to ex-ante controls covering relevant project and beneficiary risks;
- the Joint Undertaking should ensure that all reinforced monitoring actions are accompanied by specific control actions targeting the identified risks, and that they are followed-up at a pre-defined deadline.