

Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	2021/2156(DEC)	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
2020 discharge: Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (Shift2Rail)		
Subject 8.70.03.10 2020 discharge		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Budgetary Control	 CZARNECKI Ryszard	28/07/2021
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 MARINESCU Marian-Jean	
		 CREU Corina	
		 WIEZIK Michal	
		 RIVASI Michèle	
		 KUHS Joachim	
		 OMARJEE Younous	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	 Transport and Tourism		11/10/2021
		 FALCĂ Gheorghe	
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		
28/02/2022	Vote in committee		
28/03/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0069/2022	
04/05/2022	Debate in Parliament		

04/05/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0192/2022	Summary
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Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/2156(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/9/06659

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2021)0381	30/06/2021	EC	
Committee draft report		PE698.999	20/12/2021	EP	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE699.179	13/01/2022	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE703.132	02/02/2022	EP	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		06005/2022	16/02/2022	CSL	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0069/2022	28/03/2022	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0192/2022	04/05/2022	EP	Summary

2020 discharge: Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (Shift2Rail)

The European Parliament decided to grant discharge to the Executive Director of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (now the Europes Rail Joint Undertaking) in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2020 and approve the closure of the Joint Undertaking's accounts.

Noting that the Court of Auditors considered that the annual accounts of the Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2020 present fairly the financial situation of the Joint Undertaking on 31 December 2020, as well as the results of its operations, Parliament adopted, by 557 votes to 47 with 35 abstentions, a resolution containing a series of observations which form an integral part of the discharge decision.

General comments

The maximum EU contribution to the activities of the Joint Undertaking is EUR 450 000 000 (including EFTA contributions), to be paid from Horizon 2020. All members of the Joint Undertaking other than the Union (industry grouping) are to contribute total resources of at least EUR 470 000 000, consisting of at least EUR 350 000 000 to the operational activities of the Joint Undertaking and at least EUR 120 000 000 of in-kind contributions to the Joint Undertakings additional activities.

In 2020, the cooperation in Member States as well as with international parties increased.

Budgetary and financial management

The final budget available in 2020 comprised commitment appropriations of EUR 89 711 000 and payment appropriations of EUR 80 289 000. The utilisation rates for the available commitment and payment appropriations were 94 % and 76 %, respectively. By the end of 2020, the Joint Undertaking implemented 100 % and 80 % respectively of the commitment appropriations and payment appropriations available for Horizon 2020 projects.

Parliament called for a harmonisation of the calculation of in-kind contributions to the Joint Undertaking.

Other comments

The resolution also contains a series of observations on performance, staff and procurement, internal control and internal audits.

In particular, it noted the following:

- at the end of 2020, 72 projects were ongoing (36 calls for members and 36 open calls): 55 projects were distributed on the 5 innovation programmes, 9 projects on the cross cutting activities and 8 projects in Innovation Programme X;
- by the end of 2020, the Shift2Rail Programme reached pivotal milestones in term of implementation as almost all the Joint Undertaking resources are committed for the Shift2Rail Programme activities;
- the total value of the activities performed in 2020 amounts to EUR 119.4 million (of which EUR 110.3 million was delivered by the members other than the Union);

- the current activities of the Joint Undertaking are progressing towards their demonstrations in 2022 and 2023 and this will ensure a proper phasing out and phasing in between two Programmes in the Shift2Rail successor Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking;
- on 31 December 2020, considering the exceptional temporary contract agent recruitment to replace a temporary agent, 24 positions were filled;
- during 2020, fraud awareness and fraud risks were covered through the staff survey, carried out following the adoption of a revised internal control framework, and the risk assessment respectively;
- persistent systemic errors were found in the personnel costs declared by beneficiaries, in particular on the part of SMEs and new beneficiaries. Parliament encouraged the Joint Undertaking to strengthen its internal control systems given that SMEs and new beneficiaries are more error-prone.