



Plenary sitting

A8-0081/2018

23.3.2018

REPORT

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2016 (2017/2150(DEC))

Committee on Budgetary Control

Rapporteur: Bart Staes

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1. PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DECISION

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2016 (2017/2150(DEC))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the final annual accounts of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2016,
- having regard to the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2016, together with the Centre's reply¹,
- having regard to the statement of assurance² as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2016, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the Council's recommendation of 20 February 2018 on discharge to be given to the Centre in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2016 (05941/2018 – C8-0060/2018),
- having regard to Article 319 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002³, and in particular Article 208 thereof,
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction⁴, and in particular Article 15 thereof,
- having regard to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 of 30 September 2013 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies referred to in Article 208 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵, and in particular Article 108 thereof,
- having regard to Rule 94 of and Annex IV to its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the opinion of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A8-0081/2018),

¹ OJ C 417, 6.12.2017, p. 150.

² OJ C 417, 6.12.2017, p. 150.

³ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

⁴ OJ L 376, 27.12.2006, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 328, 7.12.2013, p. 42.

1. Grants the Director of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction discharge in respect of the implementation of the Centre's budget for the financial year 2016;
2. Sets out its observations in the resolution below;
3. Instructs its President to forward this decision, and the resolution forming an integral part of it, to the Director of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors, and to arrange for their publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (L series).

2. PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DECISION

on the closure of the accounts of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2016 (2017/2150(DEC))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the final annual accounts of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2016,
- having regard to the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2016, together with the Centre's reply¹,
- having regard to the statement of assurance² as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2016, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the Council's recommendation of 20 February 2018 on discharge to be given to the Centre in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2016 (05941/2018 – C8-0060/2018),
- having regard to Article 319 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002³, and in particular Article 208 thereof,
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction⁴, and in particular Article 15 thereof,
- having regard to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 of 30 September 2013 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies referred to in Article 208 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵, and in particular Article 108 thereof,
- having regard to Rule 94 of and Annex IV to its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the opinion of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A8-0081/2018),

¹ OJ C 417, 6.12.2017, p. 150.

² OJ C 417, 6.12.2017, p. 150.

³ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

⁴ OJ L 376, 27.12.2006, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 328, 7.12.2013, p. 42.

1. Approves the closure of the accounts of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2016;
2. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Director of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors, and to arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (L series).

3. MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

with observations forming an integral part of the decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2016 (2017/2150(DEC))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2016,
 - having regard to Rule 94 of and Annex IV to its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the opinion of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A8-0081/2018),
- A. whereas in the context of the discharge procedure, the discharge authority wishes to stress the particular importance of further strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the Union institutions by improving transparency and accountability, and implementing the concept of performance-based budgeting and good governance of human resources;
- B. whereas, according to its statement of revenue and expenditure¹, the final budget of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (“the Centre”) for the financial year 2016 was EUR 15 421 357, representing a decrease of 16,73 % compared to 2015; whereas the budget of the Centre derives mainly from the Union budget;
- C. whereas the Court of Auditors (“the Court”), in its report on the annual accounts of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2016 (“the Court’s report”), has stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the Centre’s annual accounts are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular;

Follow-up of 2015 discharge

1. Notes that, according to the Court’s report, in 2012 the Centre signed a framework contract with a maximum amount for signing specific contracts of EUR 250 000, which was specified in the contract notice; notes with concern that the Centre did not respect this ceiling; notes moreover that by the end of 2015 the total payments made under this contract amounted to EUR 382 181, i.e. exceeded it by 50 %; points out that the payments made above the ceiling indicate that the Centre’s procedure for monitoring framework contracts should be improved; calls on the Centre to report to the discharge authority on the status of the corrective action which is currently marked as “ongoing” and on the future improvements in the monitoring of framework contracts;

Comments on the legality and regularity of transactions

2. Notes that, according to the Court’s report, for two framework contracts, with maximum

¹ OJ C 12, 13.1.2017, p. 6

values of EUR 135 000 and EUR 650 000, one of the Centre's employees acted as authorising officer by delegation when appointing the evaluation committee, taking the award decisions and signing the contracts; notes, however, that the delegation granted by the authorising officer was limited to EUR 130 000 and did not explicitly refer to framework contracts; notes that, according to the Centre's reply, the maximum values of the two framework contracts indicated the total cumulative amount of the specific contracts likely to be concluded for their execution; notes with satisfaction that the Centre will adjust its decision on the delegation of the authorising officer's powers in order to set out more explicitly the acts covered by this delegation;

Budget and financial management

3. Notes that the budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2016 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 99,95 %, representing an increase of 0,12 % compared to 2015, and that the payment appropriations execution rate was 95,64 %, representing a decrease of 1,71 % compared to 2015; notes with satisfaction that the high overall level of committed appropriations indicated that the commitments were made in a timely manner;

Commitments and carry-overs

4. Notes that the level of committed appropriations carried over for 2016 amounts to EUR 671 266 (4,36%);
5. Notes that carry-overs may often be partly or fully justified by the multiannual nature of the agencies' operational programmes, do not necessarily indicate weaknesses in budget planning and implementation and are not always at odds with the budgetary principle of annuality, in particular if they are planned in advance by the Centre and communicated to the Court;

Procurement

6. Notes that the Centre put in place a new procurement plan which was successfully executed in close collaboration with all units; calls on the Centre to report to the discharge authority on the implementation of this plan;
7. Notes that the Centre participated in the Network of Agencies Procurement Officers meeting in order to exchange experiences to further continue with the implementation of measures to rationalise and optimise tendering and other financial processes;

Staff policy

8. Notes that, according to the results of the Centre's staff screening exercise, 69,75 % of its human resources were devoted to operational activities, 20,17 % were allocated to administrative support and coordination, and 10,08 % were assigned to operations considered neutral in 2016;
9. Observes that, according to the establishment plan, 73 posts (out of 79 posts authorised under the Union budget) were occupied on 31 December 2016, compared to 74 in 2015; notes with appreciation that by the number of all posts occupied on 31 December 2016

gender balance has been met since the ratio is 53,47 % female to 46,53 % male;

10. Stresses that the work-life balance should be part of the staff policy of the Centre and that the budget spent on well-being activities amounts to approximately EUR 100 per member of staff, corresponding to one day; observes that the average sick leave is 8,54 days per member of staff;
11. Appreciates that the Centre already adopted a policy on protecting dignity of the person and preventing harassment; invites the Centre to organise training sessions in order to increase the awareness of staff;
12. Notes with satisfaction the fact that the Centre did not receive any complaints, law-suits or reported cases linked to hiring or dismissal of staff in 2016;

Prevention and management of conflicts of interest, transparency and democracy

13. Notes that the declaration of interest of the director of the Centre is published on the Centre's website; calls on the Centre to make more declarations of interest public on its website;
14. Notes that the management board adopted the Centre's anti-fraud policy, which follows the methodology prepared by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) to guide decentralised agencies, and completes the measures already taken by the Centre on this matter, in particular the rules on internal investigations by OLAF, the initiatives for awareness raising on staff ethics, the rules on gifts and hospitality offered by third parties and the guidelines on serious wrongdoing and whistleblowing;
15. Expresses the need to establish an independent disclosure, advice and referral body with sufficient budgetary resources, in order to help whistleblowers use the right channels to disclose their information on possible irregularities affecting the financial interests of the Union, while protecting their confidentiality and offering needed support and advice;

Main achievements

16. Welcomes the three main achievements identified by the Centre in 2016, namely:
 - it adopted its first long-term plan: the EMCDDA Strategy 2025;
 - it put in place appropriate mechanisms to successfully guide the organisation through a transition period, while achieving further progress towards its mission;
 - it launched three flagship publications: the 2016 European Drug Report package, the joint EMCDDA–Europol 2016 EU Drug Markets Report and the 2015 European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs Report;

Internal audit

17. Notes with concern that, according to the Court's report, in its audit report of January 2016, the Commission's Internal Audit Service (IAS) highlighted a strong need to improve the Centre's management of IT projects; notes with concern further that the

IAS concluded in particular that there is no overarching long-term strategic vision for the IT systems supporting the Centre's core operational processes, that its IT project management methodology was only partially adapted to its needs and that the process to manage system requirements is inadequate; notes that the Centre and the IAS agreed on a plan to take corrective action; calls on the Centre to report to the discharge authority on the progress made;

18. Notes that along the lines set up in its 2016-18 Strategic Internal Audit Plan, the IAS carried out, in September 2016, a 'Limited Review on Business Continuity in the EMCDDA'; notes that a related draft report yielded three recommendations rated by the internal auditor as "important", covering issues on business impact analysis, training and awareness-raising actions, and the list of critical records; notes that an action plan aimed at dealing with the three recommendations will be elaborated following receipt of the final report on business continuity in the Centre; calls on the Centre to report to the discharge authority on the implementation of this action plan;
19. Encourages the commitment of the Centre to provide improved access to its data to interested third parties, given that one of its main objectives is the dissemination of data and information on the state of the drugs problem, including data on relevant new trends; expects such a commitment to result in effective corresponding actions being taken.

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20. Refers, for other observations of a cross-cutting nature accompanying its decision on discharge, to its resolution of ...2018¹ on the performance, financial management and control of the agencies.

¹ Texts adopted of that date, P8_TA-PROV(2018)0000.

7.2.2018

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2016
(2017/2150(DEC))

Rapporteur: Kostas Chrysogonos

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the Court of Auditors' ("the Court") conclusions that the annual accounts of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction ("the Centre") present fairly its financial position on 31 December 2016 and that its transactions are legal and regular;
2. Welcomes the high budget execution rate of the Centre, with commitment and payment appropriation reaching respectively 99,95 % and 95,64 % and consumption of carry-over credits reaching 94%; notes however that the budget of the Centre decreased by 17% in 2016 compared to 2015;
3. Regrets the Court's finding that one of the Centre's employees, appointed as acting Authorising Officer to evaluation committees, took award decisions and signed contracts for two framework contracts despite the fact that this function was not explicitly authorised by the delegation of powers granted by the Authorising Officer; welcomes the commitment of the Centre to adjust the content of its delegation of powers accordingly and to put in place effective control measures to prevent such occurrences;
4. Notes with concern that the Internal Audit Service concluded that there is no overarching long-term strategic vision for the IT systems supporting the Centre's core operational processes, that its IT project management methodology was only partially adapted to its needs, and that the process to manage system requirements is inadequate;

encourages the commitment of the Centre to develop an action plan to remedy the aforementioned weaknesses;

5. Welcomes the development and adoption of the EMCDDA Strategy 2025, which is the first long-term plan of the Centre;
6. Recalls that the Courts' conclusions of 2015 highlighted the fact that the Centre did not respect the ceiling of a framework contract which was signed in 2012 with a maximum amount for signing specific contracts of EUR 250 000, and notes that by the end of 2015 the total payments made under this contract amounted to EUR 382 181; underlines that this issue was flagged as "ongoing" by the Court still in 2016; calls on the Centre to improve the procedure for monitoring framework contracts in compliance with such ceilings;
7. Encourages the commitment of the Centre to provide improved access to its data to interested third parties, given that one of its main objectives is the dissemination of data and information on the state of the drugs problem, including data on relevant new trends; expects such a commitment to result in effective corresponding actions being taken.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	1.2.2018
Result of final vote	+: 45 -: 5 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Asim Ademov, Heinz K. Becker, Malin Björk, Michał Boni, Caterina Chinnici, Frank Engel, Cornelia Ernst, Raymond Finch, Lorenzo Fontana, Kinga Gál, Ana Gomes, Nathalie Griesbeck, Sylvie Guillaume, Monika Hohlmeier, Brice Hortefeux, Filiz Hyusmenova, Sophia in 't Veld, Dietmar Köster, Barbara Kudrycka, Cécile Kashetu Kyenge, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Roberta Metsola, Claude Moraes, Péter Niedermüller, Ivari Padar, Soraya Post, Judith Sargentini, Birgit Sippel, Branislav Škripek, Csaba Sógor, Sergei Stanishev, Helga Stevens, Traian Ungureanu, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Udo Voigt, Josef Weidenholzer, Kristina Winberg, Tomáš Zdechovský, Auke Zijlstra
Substitutes present for the final vote	Kostas Chrysogonos, Carlos Coelho, Maria Grapini, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Marek Jurek, Andrejs Mamikins, Angelika Mlinar, Jaromír Štětina
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Georges Bach, Jonathan Bullock, Julia Reda, Francis Zammit Dimech

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

45	+
ALDE	Nathalie Griesbeck, Filiz Hyusmenova, Sophia in 't Veld, Angelika Mlinar
ECR	Marek Jurek, Branislav Škripek, Helga Stevens
GUE/NGL	Malin Björk, Kostas Chrysogonos, Cornelia Ernst, Marie-Christine Vergiat
PPE	Asim Ademov, Georges Bach, Heinz K. Becker, Michał Boni, Carlos Coelho, Frank Engel, Kinga Gál, Monika Hohlmeier, Brice Hortefeux, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Barbara Kudrycka, Roberta Metsola, Csaba Sógor, Jaromír Štětina, Traian Ungureanu, Francis Zammit Dimech, Tomáš Zdechovský
S&D	Caterina Chinnici, Ana Gomes, Maria Grapini, Sylvie Guillaume, Dietmar Köster, Cécile Kashetu Kyenge, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Andrejs Mamikins, Claude Moraes, Péter Niedermüller, Ivari Padar, Soraya Post, Birgit Sippel, Sergei Stanishev, Josef Weidenholzer
VERTS/ALE	Julia Reda, Judith Sargentini

5	-
EFDD	Jonathan Bullock, Raymond Finch
ENF	Lorenzo Fontana, Auke Zijlstra
NI	Udo Voigt

1	0
EFDD	Kristina Winberg

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Date adopted	20.3.2018
Result of final vote	+: 20 -: 4 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Nedzhmi Ali, Inés Ayala Sender, Zigmantas Balčytis, Dennis de Jong, Tamás Deutsch, Martina Dlabajová, Raffaele Fitto, Ingeborg Gräßle, Cătălin Sorin Ivan, Jean-François Jalkh, Arndt Kohn, Notis Marias, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Petri Sarvamaa, Claudia Schmidt, Bart Staes, Indrek Tarand, Marco Valli, Derek Vaughan, Tomáš Zdechovský, Joachim Zeller
Substitutes present for the final vote	Karin Kadenbach, Julia Pitera, Miroslav Poche

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

20	+
ALDE	Nedzhmi Ali, Martina Dlabajová
GUE/NGL	Dennis de Jong
PPE	Tamás Deutsch, Ingeborg Gräble, Julia Pitera, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Petri Sarvamaa, Claudia Schmidt, Tomáš Zdechovský, Joachim Zeller
S&D	Inés Ayala Sender, Zigmantas Balčytis, Cătălin Sorin Ivan, Karin Kadenbach, Arndt Kohn, Miroslav Poche, Derek Vaughan
VERTS/ALE	Bart Staes, Indrek Tarand

4	-
ECR	Raffaele Fitto, Notis Marias
EFDD	Marco Valli
ENF	Jean-François Jalkh

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention