



2015/2159(DEC)

4.3.2016

AMENDMENTS

1 - 28

Draft report
Anders Primdahl Vistisen
(PE571.516v01-00)

Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Economic and Social
Committee
(2015/2159(DEC))

Amendment 1
Marco Valli, Marco Zanni

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Economic and Social Committee for the financial year 2014 /
Postpones its decision on granting the Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Economic and Social Committee for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Economic and Social Committee for the financial year 2014;

Or. it

Amendment 2
Ryszard Czarnecki

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Economic and Social Committee for the financial year 2014 /
Postpones its decision on granting the Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Economic and Social Committee for the financial year 2014;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Economic and Social Committee for the financial year 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 3

Tomáš Zdechovský, Patricija Šulin

Proposal for a decision 1

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. Grants the Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Economic and Social Committee for the financial year 2014 / ***Postpones its decision on granting the Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Economic and Social Committee for the financial year 2014;***

Amendment

1. Grants the Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Economic and Social Committee for the financial year 2014;

Or. en

Amendment 4

Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution

Citation 2 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

-having regard to the decision of the European Ombudsman of 18 November 2015 closing the inquiry into complaint 1770/2013/JF against the European Economic and Social Committee,

Or. es

Amendment 5

Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

2. **Points out** that in its 2014 annual report, the Court of Auditors made observations to the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) for weaknesses in four cases out of the 15 procurement procedures examined;

Amendment

2. **Notes with concern** that in its 2014 annual report, the Court of Auditors made observations to the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) for weaknesses in four cases out of the 15 procurement procedures examined;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. **Notes that these weaknesses were found in EESC directorates other than the logistics directorate, which normally deals with procurement procedures, and that the EESC** has set up a support service for public procurement to assist those directorates; **expects this** service to be fully operational in 2016;

Amendment

3. **Welcomes the fact that the EESC, in response to the observations made by the Court of Auditors,** has set up a **specific** support service for public procurement to assist those directorates **other than the logistics directorate, which already has such a** service; **expects it** to be fully operational in 2016;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. Notes **with satisfaction** that the cooperation agreement between the EESC, the Committee of the Regions and Parliament (the "agreement") was signed

Amendment

8. Notes that the cooperation agreement between the EESC, the Committee of the Regions and Parliament (the "agreement") was signed on 5 February 2014 with the

on 5 February 2014 with the objective of developing political *and administrative* cooperation;

objective of developing political cooperation; *takes note that an Annex on administrative cooperation was also approved;*

Or. es

Amendment 8
Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. Notes with satisfaction that *the* cooperation agreement between the EESC, *the Committee of the Regions and Parliament (the "agreement")* was signed on 5 February 2014 with the objective of developing political and administrative cooperation;

Amendment

8. Notes with satisfaction that *a* cooperation agreement between the EESC *and Parliament, with two annexes on administrative cooperation and budgetary impact in common with a parallel agreement between Parliament and the Committee of the Regions*, was signed on 5 February 2014 with the objective of developing political and administrative cooperation;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

10. Finds that there is still room for improvement within the agreement, particularly *on* the political *side*; believes that the three institutions are capable of developing further synergies that will enhance productivity in areas of cooperation; asks to continue to be informed of the agreement follow-up;

Amendment

10. Finds that there is still room for improvement within the agreement, particularly *in* the political *sphere*; believes that the three institutions are capable of developing further synergies that will enhance productivity *at all levels* in areas of cooperation *and calls for specific detailed provisions to be laid down concerning the functioning of the services*

shared by the three institutions; asks for EESC Members to be polled on their satisfaction with the services provided for them by the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS); asks to continue to be informed of the agreement follow-up;

Or. es

Amendment 10
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

11. Asks for *a joint assessment* of the budgetary *savings* resulting from the cooperation *to be included in the mid-term review of the* agreement;

Amendment

11. Asks for *the mid-term review* of the *agreement to include likewise a detailed breakdown per institution of the savings and/or increased* budgetary *expenditure* resulting from the cooperation agreement;

Or. es

Amendment 11
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

11a. Takes note that in 2014 the EESC had a positive balance of EUR 1 560 000 under the agreement; notes with concern that 36 officials from the EESC and 24 officials from the Committee of the Regions, all from the translation services and for the most part very near to retirement age, were transferred under said agreement, whereby the EESC and the Committee of the Regions will make significant savings in staff chapters (salaries and pensions) while

Amendment

Parliament's will increase considerably both in the short term (salaries) and in the long term (pensions);

Or. es

Amendment 12
Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

13. Notes the slight improvement in 2014 in the number of *women* holding management posts (**61,4 % – 38,6 %**); regrets however the still existing gap which has no correspondence in the other categories;

Amendment

13. Notes the slight improvement in 2014 in the number of *one of the genders* holding management posts (**40 %; 39 % in 2013**); regrets however the still existing gap which has no correspondence in the other categories;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Igor Šoltes

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

13. Notes the slight improvement in 2014 in the number of women holding management posts (61,4 % – 38,6 %); regrets however the still existing gap *which has no correspondence in the other categories*;

Amendment

13. Notes the slight improvement in 2014 in the number of women holding management posts (61,4 % – 38,6 %); regrets however the still existing gap *while more than 63 % of the staff is composed by women; stresses therefore that only 28 % of Directors are women; calls on the EESC to correct this imbalanced situation*;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

13. Notes the slight improvement in 2014 in the number of women holding management posts (61,4 % – 38,6 %); regrets however the still existing **gap** which has no correspondence in the other categories;

Amendment

13. Notes the slight improvement in 2014 in the number of women holding management posts (61,4 % – 38,6 %); regrets however the still existing **imbalance** which has no correspondence in the other categories; **stresses the importance of establishing medium-term goals by which the necessary balance may be attained, and urges the continuance of active work towards this goal;**

Or. es

Amendment 15
Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14

Motion for a resolution

14. Takes note of the EESC assurance that the internal whistle-blowing rules will enter into force in early 2016; considers that it has taken too much time to implement those rules; **calls on** the EESC to enforce them without further delay;

Amendment

14. Takes note of the EESC assurance that the internal whistle-blowing rules will enter into force in early 2016; considers that it has taken too much time to implement those rules; **urges** the EESC to enforce them without further delay;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14

Motion for a resolution

14. Takes note *of* the EESC *assurance* that the internal whistle-blowing rules *will* enter into force in early 2016; considers that it has taken too much time to implement those rules; calls on the EESC to enforce them without further delay;

Amendment

14. Takes note *that* the EESC *had given assurances* that the internal whistle-blowing rules *would* enter into force in early 2016; *welcomes the close collaboration of the EESC and the Committee of the Regions in drawing up these rules since they have some services and staff in common; welcomes too the fact that the rules are being enforced retroactively*; considers *however* that it has taken too much time to implement those rules; calls on the EESC to *approve and* enforce them without further delay;

Or. es

Amendment 17
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment 18
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14 b (new)

Amendment

14a. Welcomes the launch by the EESC of a specific course on 'Ethics and Integrity' in order to improve knowledge and awareness of staff members' rights and obligations; considers however that this course should not be mandatory just for new members of staff but for all staff at the EESC;

Or. es

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14b. Regrets that the EESC has not yet implemented all the measures requested by Parliament in point 24 of its above-mentioned discharge resolution for 2013; considers that in specifically not forwarding information to Parliament's Bureau, Members of the EESC and its own staff on the two court rulings that found against the EESC, and covering itself by including the information in other publications of a general nature, the EESC did not act as it should have; hopes that omissions of this kind will be resolved through development of the new rules on whistle-blowers and consequently may in this specific case be rectified retroactively;

Or. es

Amendment 19
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14c. Hopes too that with the enforcement of the new rules on whistle-blowers, the EESC will immediately and in an efficient manner take the measures necessary to ensure recognition, respect and consideration of whistle-blowers in cases acknowledged as such by the General Court and which occurred prior to adoption of the rules; calls too for the necessary measures to be taken to end once and for all the attacks being made against them through various EESC publications;

Or. es

Amendment 20
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14d. Deplores the fact that the former Secretary-General of the EESC did not ask the institution to declare his teaching activities compatible with his invalidity status prior to taking up said teaching activities, and only did so once the EESC had acted on its own initiative in starting the process; is also concerned at what granting invalidity status – and subsequently compatibility – to an employee – the institution’s former Secretary-General – on grounds of an illness which prevented him from continuing to work for the institution but did not prevent him from continuing to collaborate with other institutions or teach at universities – has cost the EESC in terms of money and prestige;

Or. es

Amendment 21
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14e. Deplores the fact that in the aforementioned decision closing inquiry 1770/2013/JF against the EESC, the Ombudsman states that the EESC only accepted part of the proposal made to remedy maladministration by the EESC; deplores the fact that the EESC has not acknowledged maladministration nor any error in its decision to reassign the complainant; deplores the fact that the

EESC has not agreed to acknowledge these errors in principle although in practice it has accepted some of the Ombudsman's recommendations to grant the complainant compensation for injustices done;

Or. es

Amendment 22
Petri Sarvamaa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

15a. Regrets the increase of staff mission costs from EUR 338 366 in 2013 to EUR 387 481 in 2014 (14,5 % increase);

Or. en

Amendment 23
Karin Kadenbach

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

15a. Encourages the EESC to strengthen its information and communication policy as well as its presence in the social media;

Or. en

Amendment 24
Tomáš Zdechovský, Patricija Šulin

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

15a. Takes into account that the number of meetings using the videoconferencing tool has doubled in comparison to the previous year; takes note from the EESC that the videoconferencing tool has been used in the meetings where no interpretation is needed; encourages the EESC to use the language training effectively in order to ensure that less interpretation is needed and thus the work of the institution is more efficient;

Or. en

Amendment 25

Tomáš Zdechovský, Patricija Šulin

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 15 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

15b. Notes with concern that total reimbursement of travelling expenses and allowances paid to the EESC beneficiaries amounted to EUR 17 375 864; urges the institution to develop a systematic strategy to reduce these expenses substantially;

Or. en

Amendment 26

Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

17. Notes the 1 % reduction in outsourced translation compared with last year; expects this trend to ***continue in the near***

17. Finds the 1 % reduction in outsourced translation compared with last year ***surprising***; expects this trend to ***change as***

future;

a consequence of the agreement which foresees more outsourcing of translation after the transfer of translation staff to Parliament;

Or. en

Amendment 27
Inés Ayala Sender

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 22

Motion for a resolution

22. Notes the EESC's effort to raise its profile through an effective information and communication policy;

Amendment

22. Notes the EESC's effort to raise its profile through an effective information and communication policy; *agrees with it focusing on boosting institutional cooperation in order to improve communication and visibility as well as on enhancing the presence of members of the institutions at national level, and encourages the EESC to continue working along these lines;*

Or. es

Amendment 28
Barbara Kappel

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 22

Motion for a resolution

22. Notes the EESC's effort to raise its profile through an effective information and communication policy;

Amendment

22. Notes the EESC's effort to raise its profile through an effective information and communication policy; *will welcome, in that connection, any further efforts on the EESC's part to improve the flow of information and, hence, transparency;*

Or. de