



AMENDMENTS

1 - 20

Draft report
Isabel García Muñoz
(PE638.755v01-00)

Discharge 2017: General budget of the EU - Council and European Council
(2018/2168(DEC))

Amendment 1

Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Cristian Ghinea, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution

Recital A

Motion for a resolution

A. whereas all Union institutions ***ought to*** be transparent and fully accountable to the citizens of the Union for the funds entrusted to them ***as Union institutions***;

Amendment

A. whereas all Union institutions ***must*** be transparent and fully accountable to ***all*** the citizens of the Union for the funds entrusted to them ***to perform their duties***;

Or. fr

Amendment 2

Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Cristian Ghinea, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution

Recital B

Motion for a resolution

B. whereas Parliament is the sole directly elected body among the Union institutions ***and has*** responsibility to grant discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union;

Amendment

B. whereas Parliament is the sole directly elected body among the Union institutions, ***with the*** responsibility to grant discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union;

Or. fr

Amendment 3

Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Cristian Ghinea, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution

Recital C

Motion for a resolution

C. whereas the procedure of giving discharge separately to the individual Union institutions and bodies is a long-standing practice accepted by all the other institutions except the Council, and

Amendment

C. whereas the procedure of giving discharge separately to the individual Union institutions and bodies is a long-standing practice accepted by all the other institutions except the Council, and

whereas this procedure has been developed to guarantee transparency and democratic accountability towards Union citizens;

whereas this procedure has been developed to guarantee transparency and democratic accountability towards Union citizens ***and to pursue the necessary fight against fraud***;

Or. fr

Amendment 4 **Maria Grapini**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 1**

Motion for a resolution

1. Recalls that the Union institutions have administrative autonomy in matters relating to their respective operations; underlines the importance of them acting responsibly in the implementation of their budgets;

Amendment

1. Recalls that the Union institutions have administrative autonomy in matters relating to their respective operations; underlines the importance of them acting responsibly ***and professionally*** in the implementation of their budgets;

Or. ro

Amendment 5 **Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Cristian Ghinea, Gilles Boyer**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 2**

Motion for a resolution

2. Underlines the role of Parliament within the discharge procedure, as governed by the Treaty and the Financial Regulation ***and that, in full acknowledgment of the Council's role as an institution giving recommendations in the discharge procedure, a distinction must be maintained in respect of the different roles of Parliament and the Council*** in order to comply with the institutional framework laid down in the Treaties and in the Financial Regulation;

Amendment

2. Underlines the role of Parliament within the discharge procedure, as governed by the Treaty and the Financial Regulation; ***adds that a distinction between Parliament's and the Council's roles absolutely*** must be maintained in order to comply with the institutional framework laid down in the Treaties and in the Financial Regulation;

Or. fr

Amendment 6
Maria Grapini

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Regrets that the Council again failed to provide answers to the written questions sent by Parliament and that the Secretary-General of the Council did not attend the hearing organised on 27 November 2018 in the context of the annual discharge procedure; further regrets that the Council also did not reply to the observations made by Parliament in its discharge resolution of 26 March 2019;

Amendment

4. Regrets that the Council again failed to provide answers to the written questions sent by Parliament and that the Secretary-General of the Council did not attend the hearing organised on 27 November 2018 in the context of the annual discharge procedure; further regrets that the Council also did not reply to the observations made by Parliament in its discharge resolution of 26 March 2019, ***thereby disregarding the role of the European Parliament;***

Or. ro

Amendment 7
Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Cristian Ghinea, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Regrets that the Council again failed to provide answers to the written questions sent by Parliament and that the Secretary-General of the Council did not attend the hearing organised on 27 November 2018 in the context of the annual discharge procedure; further regrets that the Council also did not reply to the observations made by Parliament in its discharge resolution of 26 March 2019;

Amendment

(Does not affect the English version.)

Or. fr

Amendment 8

Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Cristian Ghinea, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

5. Recalls the difficulties repeatedly encountered in the discharge procedures to date due to the lack of cooperation from the Council ***which is the reason why*** Parliament ***refused*** to grant discharge to the Secretary-General of the Council in relation to the financial years 2009 to 2016 and in March 2019 for the financial year 2017;

Amendment

5. Recalls the difficulties repeatedly encountered in the discharge procedures to date due to the lack of cooperation from the Council ***and which led*** Parliament ***to refuse*** to grant discharge to the Secretary-General of the Council in relation to the financial years 2009 to 2016 and in March 2019 for the financial year 2017;

Or. fr

Amendment 9

Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Cristian Ghinea, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Notes that the Council replied to the proposal of Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control on the Council discharge procedure on 2 May 2018 with an amended proposal, and that Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control sent its reaction to the Council's amended proposal on 16 July 2018; urges the Council to react to the latest proposal swiftly so that the new arrangements for the discharge exercise can be applied as soon as possible; ***stresses that no answer from the Council has been received so far;***

Amendment

6. Notes that the Council replied to the proposal of Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control on the Council discharge procedure on 2 May 2018 with an amended proposal, and that Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control sent its reaction to the Council's amended proposal on 16 July 2018; urges the Council to react to the latest proposal swiftly so that the new arrangements for the discharge exercise can be applied as soon as possible;

Or. fr

Amendment 10

Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Cristian Ghinea, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution

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Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Regrets that the request to separate the budget of the European Council and the Council into one budget for the European Council and one budget for the Council, made by Parliament in previous discharge resolutions, has not been considered; insists on this separation which will contribute to transparency in the financial management of both institutions and improve their accountability;

Amendment

7. Regrets that the request to separate the budget of the European Council and the Council into one budget for the European Council and one budget for the Council, made by Parliament in previous discharge resolutions, has not been considered; insists on this separation which will contribute to **better** transparency in the financial management of both institutions and improve their accountability; **deplores, further, its failure to give sufficient information on real estate policy;**

Or. fr

Amendment 11

Maria Grapini

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Regrets that the request to separate the budget of the European Council and the Council into one budget for the European Council and one budget for the Council, made by Parliament in previous discharge resolutions, has not been considered; insists on this separation which will contribute to transparency in the financial management of both institutions and improve their accountability;

Amendment

7. Regrets that the request to separate the budget of the European Council and the Council into one budget for the European Council and one budget for the Council, made by Parliament in previous discharge resolutions, has not been considered; insists on this separation which will contribute to transparency in the financial management of both institutions and improve their accountability **and expenditure efficiency;**

Or. ro

Amendment 12

Isabel García Muñoz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Regrets that the request to separate the budget of the European Council and the Council into one budget for ***the European Council and one budget for the Council***, made by Parliament in previous discharge resolutions, has not been considered; insists on this separation which will contribute to transparency in the financial management of both institutions and improve their accountability;

Amendment

7. Regrets that the request to separate the budget of the European Council and the Council into one budget for ***each institution***, made by Parliament in previous discharge resolutions, has not been considered; insists on this separation which will contribute to transparency in the financial management of both institutions and improve their accountability;

Or. en

Amendment 13

Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Cristian Ghinea, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

10. Acknowledges improvements in the Council's process of administrative modernisation, for example that internal rules for reporting serious irregularities are published on the Council's website along with a guide to ethics and conduct for members of staff of the Council; calls on the Council to ***raise awareness about these rules and to*** ensure that all members of staff are properly informed of their rights;

Amendment

10. Acknowledges improvements in the Council's process of administrative modernisation, for example that internal rules for reporting serious irregularities are published on the Council's website along with a guide to ethics and conduct for members of staff of the Council; calls on the Council to ensure that all members of staff are properly informed of their rights;

Or. fr

Amendment 14

Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Cristian Ghinea, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

11. Recalls that the Council agreed on the Commission proposal for a mandatory transparency register on 6 December 2017,

Amendment

11. Recalls that the Council agreed on the Commission proposal for a mandatory transparency register on 6 December 2017,

but has still not implemented it; calls on **the Council** to continue discussions on the technical aspects of the package of instruments regarding the Transparency Register, in order to achieve a political agreement between the three institutions as soon as possible;

but has still not implemented it; **strongly deplores the Council's failure to participate in the transparency register scheme; strongly** calls on **the latter** to continue discussions on the technical aspects of the package of instruments regarding the Transparency Register, in order to achieve a political agreement between the three institutions as soon as possible;

Or. fr

Amendment 15 **Maria Grapini**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 11**

Motion for a resolution

11. Recalls that the Council agreed on the Commission proposal for a mandatory transparency register on 6 December 2017, but has still not implemented it; calls on **the Council** to continue discussions on the technical aspects of the package of instruments regarding the Transparency Register, in order to achieve a political agreement between the three institutions as soon as possible;

Amendment

11. Recalls that the Council agreed on the Commission proposal for a mandatory transparency register on 6 December 2017, but has still not implemented it; calls on **the Council** to continue discussions on the technical aspects of the package of instruments regarding the Transparency Register, in order to achieve a political agreement between the three institutions as soon as possible, **given that transparency in the European institutions will increase public confidence in the EU**;

Or. ro

Amendment 16 **Daniel Freund**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 12**

Motion for a resolution

12. Emphasises that Parliament backed the Ombudsman's proposals in a plenary vote related to the Ombudsman's

Amendment

12. Emphasises that Parliament backed the Ombudsman's proposals in a plenary vote related to the Ombudsman's

recommendations to **the** Council to allow the public to follow the **EU** legislative process more easily (transparency of the Council legislative process, OI/2/2017/TE); recalls that **the** Council should systematically record the position of each Member State in preparatory bodies, **and should** develop a dedicated webpage for each legislative proposal and improve the user-friendliness of the public register of documents;

recommendations **and suggestions** to Council to allow the public to follow the legislative process **of the Union** more easily (transparency of the Council legislative process, OI/2/2017/TE); recalls that Council should, **among other things**, systematically record the position of each Member State in **Council** preparatory bodies, **develop clear and publicly available criteria for the designation of documents as ‘LIMITE’, in line with Union law, and** develop a dedicated webpage for each legislative proposal and improve the user-friendliness of the public register of documents;

Or. en

Amendment 17

Olivier Chastel, Cristian Ghinea, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 12

Motion for a resolution

12. Emphasises that Parliament backed the Ombudsman’s proposals in a plenary vote related to the Ombudsman's recommendations to the Council to allow **the public** to follow the EU legislative process more easily (transparency of the Council legislative process, OI/2/2017/TE); recalls that the Council should systematically record the position of each Member State in preparatory bodies, and should develop a dedicated webpage for each legislative proposal and improve the user-friendliness of the public register of documents;

Amendment

12. Emphasises that Parliament backed the Ombudsman’s proposals in a plenary vote related to the Ombudsman's recommendations to the Council to allow **EU citizens** to follow the EU legislative process more easily (transparency of the Council legislative process, OI/2/2017/TE); recalls that the Council should systematically record the position of each Member State in preparatory bodies, and should develop a dedicated webpage for each legislative proposal and improve the user-friendliness of the public register of documents;

Or. fr

Amendment 18

Daniel Freund

Motion for a resolution

PE641.114v01-00

10/12

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Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

13. Reiterates that **the** Council ought to be transparent and fully accountable to Union citizens for the funds entrusted to it as a Union institution;

Amendment

13. Reiterates that Council ought to be transparent and fully accountable to Union citizens for the funds entrusted to it as a Union institution; **recalls the relevant judgments of the European Court of Justice (in particular T-540/15) ^{1a} and the paper from the Dutch COSAC delegation, 'Opening up closed doors: Making the EU more transparent for its citizens', confirming this obligation;**

^{1a} Judgment of the General Court of 22 March 2018, Emilio De Capitani v European Parliament, T-549/15, ECLI:EU:T:2018:167.

Or. en

Amendment 19

Olivier Chastel, Ramona Strugariu, Cristian Ghinea, Gilles Boyer

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 14

Motion for a resolution

14. Insists that an effective budgetary control exercise requires cooperation between Parliament and the Council; considers that satisfactory cooperation between both institutions in the form of an open and formal dialogue procedure would be a positive sign to send to the citizens of the Union;

Amendment

14. Insists that an effective budgetary control exercise requires cooperation between Parliament and the Council **with due respect for their respective roles**; considers that satisfactory cooperation between both institutions in the form of an open and formal dialogue procedure would be a positive sign to send to the citizens of the Union;

Or. fr

Amendment 20

Isabel García Muñoz, Lara Wolters

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14 a. Expresses its concerns about the information reported by the European media regarding the corporate sponsorship of Member States hosting the Union Presidency and echoes the concerns expressed by European citizens and Members of the Parliament; acknowledges that the Member States are expected to finance their own Presidencies and that resorting to corporate sponsorship to cover some of its expenses has become common practice in recent years; is highly concerned about the possible reputational damage and the risk of loss of trust that this practice may incur on the Union, its institutions and especially to Council in the eyes of the European citizenship; suggests that Council adopt guidelines in order to promote the financial transparency and independency of the Presidencies; strongly recommends Council to envisage budgetisation of the Presidencies; will closely monitor the conclusions of the enquiry of the European Ombudsman related to this matter; requests Council to forward this concern to the Member States, in particular to the current trio Presidency;

Or. en