



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2016/2166(DEC)

1.2.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European
Environment Agency for the financial year 2015
(2016/2166(DEC))

Rapporteur: Giovanni La Via

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that in 2015, the total budget of the European Environment Agency ('the Agency'), was EUR 49 200 000, of which EUR 36 309 240 had been made available through the core funding from the general budget of the European Union;
2. Recalls that, since its creation, the Agency, together with its European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET), has been an information source for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating Union environment and climate policies, as well as sustainable development policies, and also been an information source for the general public;
3. Takes note that the Agency reduced the number of staff in line with the overall principles laid down for Union institutions (a 5% reduction in the period 2013–2018); stresses that the Commission classified the Agency as a 'cruising speed agency', implying the need for an additional 5% reduction;
4. Welcomes the publication of the Agency's fifth yearly State of the Environment Report (SOER 2015);
5. Takes note of the development of the Agency's information systems and data flow management processes to support countries and companies with the reporting and quality improvement of data, particularly with regard to the amended reporting regime under the new Fluorinated gases (F-Gas) Regulation, and with regard to the reporting on large combustion plants (LCPs), which were taken over by the Agency from the Commission in 2015;
6. Encourages the Agency further to raise awareness of the conflict-of-interest policy among its staff, alongside ongoing awareness-raising activities and the inclusion of integrity and transparency as an obligatory item to be discussed during recruitment procedures and performance reviews;
7. Welcomes that the Court of Auditors has announced that the transactions underlying the annual accounts of the Agency for the financial year 2015 were legal and regular in all material respects;
8. Recalls the importance of the on-going "Evaluation of the European Environment Agency and of its EIONET network", due for the end of 2017, in order to better assess the extent to which the Agency has achieved its objectives and implemented the tasks set out in its mandate and in its multi-annual work programme;
9. Recommends that the Agency develop impact indicators, and believes that such impact indicators are essential tools in order to measure the effectiveness of the Agency;
10. Underlines that the Agency should continue promoting dialogue with stakeholders and

citizens and incorporate it as part of the priorities and activities to be implemented;

11. Recommends, based on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency with respect to the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	31.1.2017
Result of final vote	+: 57 -: 11 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Marco Affronte, Margrete Auken, Pilar Ayuso, Zoltán Balczó, Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Alberto Cirio, Mireille D'Ornano, Miriam Dalli, Angélique Delahaye, Mark Demesmaeker, Ian Duncan, Stefan Eck, Bas Eickhout, José Inácio Faria, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Jens Gieseke, Julie Girling, Sylvie Goddyn, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Jytte Guteland, György Hölvényi, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Jean-François Jalkh, Benedek Jávor, Karin Kadenbach, Kateřina Konečná, Urszula Krupa, Giovanni La Via, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Valentinas Mazuronis, Susanne Melior, Miroslav Mikolášik, Gilles Pargneaux, Piernicola Pedicini, Pavel Poc, Julia Reid, Frédérique Ries, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Renate Sommer, Claudiu Cîprian Tănăsescu, Ivica Tolić, Estefanía Torres Martínez, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Damiano Zoffoli
Substitutes present for the final vote	Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Jörn Dohrmann, Herbert Dorfmann, Martin Häusling, Jan Huitema, Peter Jahr, Merja Kyllönen, Gesine Meissner, James Nicholson, Gabriele Preuß, Bart Staes, Tiemo Wölken
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Jiří Maštálka, Clare Moody