



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
Centre for Disease Prevention and Control for the financial year 2015
(2016/2175(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 the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (“the Centre”) is almost exclusively financed from the Union budget; notes also that the EFTA countries contributed 2,97% of the Centre’s 2015 budget; acknowledges that in 2015, the Centre had an outturn of EUR 5 079 604 on a total budget of EUR 58 451 950 cashed from the Commission;
2. Notes that, with regard to the Centre’s commitment and payment credits, in 2015 the majority of fresh credits were committed and paid; acknowledges that the level of execution amounts to 95,0 % and that the amount of unused appropriations amounted to EUR 3,477 million; stresses that the majority of this under-execution corresponds to the unused assigned revenue (the Centre’s outturn of 2014), which was reused in 2016;
3. Stresses that the Ebola epidemic provided a test case for the Union’s preparedness arrangements and legal framework and that the Health Security Committee met regularly to discuss appropriate measures based on rapid risk assessments and guidance from the Centre;
4. Recalls that the Decision No 1082/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ provides the framework to address, coordinate and manage serious cross-border health threats in cooperation with Member States, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Centre and other international partners;
5. Acknowledges that the Early Warning and Response System, which was established under Decision No 1082/2013/EU to notify alerts and report measures taken to fight the serious cross-border health threats, has been constantly monitored; in 2015, there were 88 notifications, which resulted in 280 messages and information exchanges, and 37 different events were addressed, for example, the Ebola epidemic, the influx of refugees, the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), poliomyelitis, the shortage of medical countermeasures, the Zika virus, and the explosion of a chemical factory in China; stresses that all events were followed up in close cooperation with the Centre and Member States;
6. Notes that with regard to its procurement procedures, the Centre has put specific focus on ensuring consistency in all tender documents; emphasises that the Centre’s revised procedure on procurement, contracts and grants is providing an additional quality control mechanism; calls on the Centre in particular to carry out careful checks on conflicts of interest in relation to tenders, procurement, recruitment and contracts in order to strengthen transparency;
7. Asks the Centre to apply strictly the measures pertaining to discretion and exclusion in public procurement, with proper background checks being carried out in every instance, and to apply the exclusion criteria so as to debar companies in the event of any conflict of

¹ Decision No 1082/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 2119/98/EC (OJ L 293, 5.11.2013, p. 1).

interest, this being essential to protect the financial interests of the Union;

8. Underlines that the Centre should continue promoting dialogue with stakeholders and citizens and incorporate it as part of the priorities and activities to be implemented;
9. Recommends the Centre to develop impact indicators; believes that such impact indicators are essential tools in order to measure the effectiveness of the Centre;
10. Recalls that, as a Union agency, the Centre has a budget which is denominated in euro; however, since it is located in Sweden, and therefore in a non-Eurozone country, a lot of its expenses are incurred in Swedish krona (SEK); furthermore, the Centre is exposed to exchange rate fluctuations since not only does it have bank accounts in Swedish krona but also carries out certain transactions in other foreign currencies;
11. Takes note that as from 1 May 2015, following a decision of the Management Board of the Centre, the Acting Director has replaced the Centre's Director until a new Director takes office;
12. Recommends, based on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control with respect to the implementation of the Centre'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 -: 10 0: 0
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, 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 Ciprian Tănăsescu, Ivica Tolić, Estefanía Torres Martínez, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Damiano Zoffoli
Substitutes present for the final vote	Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Jørn 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, Clare Moody