



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2016/2182(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
Chemicals Agency for the financial year 2015
(2016/2182(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. Recalls that European Chemicals Agency ('the Agency') is a consolidated entity, in accordance with Article 185 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ ('the Financial Regulation'), and that it is the driving force among regulatory authorities in implementing the Union's chemicals legislation for the benefit of human health and the environment as well as for innovation and competitiveness; notes that the Agency helps companies to comply with the legislation, advances the safe use of chemicals in cooperation with international organisations and stakeholders, provides information on chemicals and addresses chemicals of concern;
2. Notes that in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council² ('REACH Regulation'), the Agency is financed through fees paid by industry and by an Union's balancing subsidy as referred to in Article 208 of the Financial Regulation; welcomes that in 2015 and contrary to the original assumption, the Agency was fully financed through higher than expected fee income and the reserve from the income of previous years for its REACH/classification, labelling and packaging (CLP) operations;
3. Takes note that the Agency developed a new integrated regulatory strategy which brings all REACH and CLP processes together to reach the aims of relevant regulations, as well as the 2020 goals of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development;
4. Welcomes the improvement of the way in which information on chemicals is presented on the Agency's website which helps companies and consumers to make more use of it;
5. With regard to biocidal products notes that, as referred to in Article 208 of the Financial Regulation, in 2015 the Agency collected fee income totalling EUR 5 423 667 (in comparison to EUR 1 265 774 in 2014), while the Union subsidy amounted to EUR 5 789 000 (in comparison to EUR 5 064 194 in 2014) and that additionally, the received EFTA contributions, including from Switzerland, totalled in 2015 EUR 307 791;
6. Notes that, in 2015, the recruitment target of the Agency was achieved with 98% of posts filled at the end of that year for REACH/CLP and Prior Informed Consent (PIC); notes also that the unexpected high workload in the area of biocides posed a challenge due to limited staffing resources as the percentage of posts filled for biocides was 83%; highlights that since the Agency's workload has not decreased during 2015, sufficient human and financial resources should be allocated;

¹ 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 1605/2002 (OJ L 298 26.10.2012, p. 1).

² Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

7. Notes that the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ (Biocides Regulation) resulted in unexpectedly high activity in 2015, demonstrating that companies are becoming familiar with the changes and the opportunities offered by new Union authorisation process; at the same time notes with concern that the Agency has faced challenges managing the workload due to the frozen staff level on biocides;
8. Acknowledges that with regard to Regulation (EU) No 649/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council² (PIC Regulation) and as referred to in Article 208 of the Financial Regulation, in 2015, DG Environment paid EUR 1,22 million in subsidies to the Agency for actions related to certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade;
9. Recognises that the Agency's declarations of interest are transparent, and calls on it to constantly review its internal procedures and to further improve its policies to guarantee independence and transparency in all its fields of activity as regards both outside staff and temporary staff;
10. Notes that the discussion platform between the Agency and non-governmental organisations is a useful forum for discussing the main issues of interest to civil society;
11. Notes that approximately 8 200 registration dossiers (mainly updates) and 250 product and process orientated research and development notifications were received in 2015 and that the total number of submissions decreased by 10% compared to 2014;
12. Welcomes the progress made in developing the authorisation process under the REACH Regulation and notes the Agency's conclusions that further improvements can still be made; welcomes in this regard the proactive approach of the Agency in seeking a dialogue with the European Parliament to address issues raised in the resolution of the European Parliament of 25 November 2015 on the draft Commission Implementing Decision XXX granting an authorisation for uses of bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council³;
13. Recommends the Agency to develop impact indicators; believes that such impact indicators are essential tools in order to measure the effectiveness of the Agency;
14. Recommends, based on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Director of the European Chemicals Agency with respect to the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products (OJ L 167, 27.6.2012, p. 1).

² Regulation (EU) No 649/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals (OJ L 201, 27.7.2012, p. 60).

³ Texts adopted, 25.11.2015, P8_TA(2015)0409.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	31.1.2017
Result of final vote	+: 62 -: 4 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, 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 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