



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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

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**2013/2215(DEC)**

27.11.2013

# **DRAFT OPINION**

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

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on Discharge 2012: European Medicines Agency  
(2013/2215(DEC))

Rapporteur: Jutta Haug

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## 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 in its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that in 2012 the European Medicines Agency had resources available of EUR 222.489 000 of which EUR 28.966 000 had been EU budget contributions; is satisfied that 575 of 590 available posts had been occupied and notes that 160 contract agents and seconded national experts were employed by the end of 2012 which are 17 less than in 2011;
2. Welcomes that the Court of Auditors announces the transactions underlying the annual accounts of the European Medicines Agency for the financial year 2012 as legal and regular in all material respect;
3. Recognises the three comments made by the Court of Auditors which focuses on the reliability of the accounts, on the legality and regularity of transactions and on the budget management; recognises the Agency's reply; considers the explanations given by the Agency on the introduction of the SAP accounting system to recognise revenue for all fee application types with more precision as well as the information on the validation of its accounting system for intangible assets as fully sufficient; has to point out that the decision taken by the European Court of Justice on the salary method for 2011 from 19 November 2013 has also consequences for payments with regard to the correction coefficient as well as for the applicable exchange rate from EUR to GBP as the salary adjustment package includes also these two issues; invites the Agency, in close cooperation with the Commission, to find a solution in the interest of the employees and in compliance with the rules; wonders why the Court has not commented on the issue of fees payable to schools in previous years, supports the argumentation of the Agency with regard to the payment of school fees in the absence of a European School; has taken note of the reduced amount carried over to 2013 in comparison with 2010 and 2011; is aware that the carry-over is partly related to the new building project; reminds the Agency however on the annuality principle for the budget;
4. Reiterates the important role of the Agency in protecting and promoting public and animal health by assessing and supervising medicines for human or veterinary use; welcomes the policy on the handling of conflict of interests, last updated and endorsed by the Management Board in March 2012;
5. Recommends, on the basis of the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2012.