DRAFT 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 2018 (2019/2070(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Pascal Canfin
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 2018, the total budget of the European Environment Agency (the ‘Agency’), was EUR 65 800 177 (-6.8 % compared to 2017), of which EUR 37 724 481 (+4 % compared to 2017) was made available through the general budget of the European Union;

2. Notes with satisfaction that the Agency’s budget monitoring efforts resulted in a 99.96 % budget implementation rate of the available core-budget appropriations (Union subsidy and contributions from other member countries);

3. Recalls that the Agency provides sound and independent information on the environment; commends the quality of the output of the Agency in 2018, such as its reports on air quality in Europe, on mercury in Europe’s environment and on the circular economy; underlines that it is still difficult to obtain clear and reliable information on some sectors of the Union's economy, which prevents the Agency from undertaking a fully comprehensive analysis of the state of the Union's environment;

4. Recalls that the Agency started in 2018 its work on Energy Union Governance and streamlining of environmental reporting;

5. Regrets that some activities could not be fully delivered in 2018 due to a number of circumstances, including limited IT and staff resources; notes with concern that the Management Board stressed that the Agency’s capacity to further respond adequately to policy developments will depend on an increase in allocated core resources or the further prioritisation and/or discontinuation of current core tasks;

6. Takes note of the conclusions of the evaluation of the Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet) carried out by the Commission;

7. Notes that the outcome of the internal review of the functioning of the Board and Bureau carried out in 2018 will be implemented in 2019; calls on the Agency to report to the discharge authority on the measures taken in this regard;

8. Welcomes the fact that the Court has stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the Agency’s annual accounts for 2018 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular;

9. Recommends, based on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency in respect of the implementation of the Agency’s budget for the financial year 2018;