



2016/2173(DEC)

28.2.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European
Aviation Safety Agency for the financial year 2015
(2016/2173(DEC))

Rapporteur: Claudia Schmidt

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Transport and Tourism calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the finding of the Court of Auditors that the accounts of the European Aviation Safety Agency ('the Agency') for the 2015 financial year are in order;
2. Notes that the Agency's annual budget for 2015 was EUR 185,4 million, of which EUR 36,4 million came from EU subsidies, EUR 91,9 million from fees and charges and EUR 2,2 million from third countries contributions; further notes that the amounts actually received by the Agency, including the assigned revenues committed in the previous years, amounted to EUR 207,2 million;
3. Notes that the amounts carried over in 2015 (from 2015 to 2016) were EUR 6,8 million, i.e. 6,6% of commitments;
4. Notes that 18 ex-post control exercises were performed during 2015 covering the areas of mission reimbursement, procurement procedures, certification service providers and corporate service transactions; welcomes the fact that all transactions verified were legal and regular;
5. Welcomes the proper prevention and management of conflicts of interest and expects that the Parliament, the Council and the public will be informed annually of the results of those measures, and of any follow-up to them;
6. Welcomes the Agency's efforts throughout 2015 to improve the level of planning and monitoring, in particular with regard to budget implementation rate, framework contract management and to provide timely feedback as concerns risks and delays to the top management;
7. Highlights the Agency's vital role in ensuring the highest possible level of aviation safety throughout Europe; stresses that a common European assessment and alerting system is needed in Europe, in particular in the context of flights over conflict zones; stresses that, in the context of a fast-developing civil aviation sector, exemplified by the ever more widespread use of pilotless aircraft ('drones'), the Agency should be given the necessary financial, material and human resources to successfully perform its regulatory and executive tasks in the fields of safety and environmental protection, but always without compromising its independence and impartiality;
8. Welcomes the adoption by the Management Board of the Multi-Annual Programming document 2016-2020 (MAP) including the Agency's strategy, multi-annual objectives and annual actions;
9. Notes the results of the second benchmarking exercise on the Agency's posts, which showed that 13.8% of the jobs were dedicated to administrative support and coordination, 79.5% to operational tasks and 6.7% to control and financial tasks; further notes a transfer (+0.8 percentage points) of posts from Administration categories to Operational ones;

considers that a breakdown of staff by category and sector, as well as by source of funding for their activities (fees and charges versus Union subsidies), should also be included in the next Annual Report in order to offer a more detailed picture of the required resources; notes that for the first time the Agency has reached full occupancy of all posts according to the established plan;

10. Points out that the revision of Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ envisages broadening the scope of competence of the Agency and that, accordingly, the role played by new technologies, such as remotely piloted aircraft systems, must be taken fully into consideration when new competences are assigned; stresses the importance of allocating adequate funding to the Agency to ensure the successful uptake of these new responsibilities, as well as adequate staffing in order to fulfil additional tasks; stresses that the Agency posts (including the related pensions) which are fully financed from industry, and therefore have no impact on the Union budget, should not be subject to any compulsory staff reduction;
11. Deplores the fact that, despite the Agency's efforts, it has not yet been possible, 16 years after the Agency was set up, to conclude the Agency's headquarters agreement; recalls that according to the Common Approach on EU decentralised agencies agreed between the Parliament, the Council, and the Commission, 'all agencies should have headquarters agreements, which should be concluded before the agency starts its operational phase'; notes, in this regard, that another agency, the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority, signed a headquarters agreement with the German Government in 2011; deeply regrets the lack of headquarters agreement and urges the host country to conclude an agreement with the Agency as quickly as possible with a view to clarifying the relationship between national judicial authorities and the Agency, thereby enabling the Agency to perform its legal tasks without hindrance; welcomes the Commission's proposal to amend the Act establishing the Agency, which includes a provision to securing the headquarters agreement;
12. Proposes that Parliament grants the Executive Director of the Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2015.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Aviation Safety Agency, and repealing Council Directive 91/670/EEC, Regulation (EC) No 1592/2002 and Directive 2004/36/EC (OJ L 79, 19.3.2008, p. 1).

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	28.2.2017
Result of final vote	+: 42 -: 2 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Daniela Aiuto, Lucy Anderson, Marie-Christine Arnautu, Georges Bach, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Andor Deli, Karima Delli, Isabella De Monte, Ismail Ertug, Jacqueline Foster, Bruno Gollnisch, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Merja Kyllönen, Miltiadis Kyrkos, Bogusław Liberadzki, Peter Lundgren, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Georg Mayer, Gesine Meissner, Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar, Jens Nilsson, Markus Pieper, Salvatore Domenico Pogliese, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Gabriele Preuß, Christine Revault D'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Dominique Riquet, Massimiliano Salini, Claudia Schmidt, Jill Seymour, Claudia Țapardel, Keith Taylor, Pavel Telička, István Ujhelyi, Wim van de Camp, Janusz Zemke, Roberts Zīle, Kosma Złotowski, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska
Substitutes present for the final vote	Jakop Dalunde, Mark Demesmaeker, Markus Ferber, Karoline Graswander-Hainz, Kateřina Konečná, Franck Proust