



2017/2158(DEC)

20.2.2018

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 (EASA) for the financial year 2016
(2017/2158(DEC))

Rapporteur: Jakob Dalunde

PA_NonLeg

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 2016 financial year are legal and regular in all material respects;
2. Notes that the Agency's annual budget for 2016 was EUR 193,4 million, of which EUR 36,4 million came from EU subsidies, EUR 95,9 million from fees and charges and EUR 2,1 million from third countries contributions; is pleased that the Agency achieved the highest budget execution rate ever - 99 %; notes that from the budgetary perspective the agency ended 2016 with a loss of EUR 9,3 million, of which EUR 1,6 million are related to activities covered from the EU subsidy and EUR 7,7 million - to activities covered from fees and charges; further notes that the Agency has deducted the deficit of EUR 7,7 million from the accumulated surplus, bringing it down from EUR 59,9 million to EUR 52,3 million, and is awaiting instructions from the Commission regarding the EUR 1,6 million subsidy-related loss;
3. Notes that, of the EUR 6,8 million carried over to 2016, 96 % was paid, which is above the Commission target of 95 %; the amount carried over from 2016 to 2017 was EUR 81,5 million, made up of EUR 9,2 million automatic carry over and EUR 72,3 million related to certification activities treated as assigned revenue;
4. Notes that 18 ex-post control exercises were performed during 2016, covering the areas of yearly ex-post on school allowances, mission reimbursements to external experts, completed procurement procedures and mission expenditure reimbursements; welcomes the fact that overall all transactions verified were legal and regular;
5. Reiterates the need to ensure the independence of Agency's staff and external experts; in this context welcomes the ongoing efforts to ensure proper prevention and management of conflicts of interest, taking into account remarks by the Parliament; notes that the Agency provided relevant training to its staff, maintains a Conflict of Interest Register and continues the review of its "Policy on impartiality and independence: prevention and mitigation of Conflict of Interest" in order to further improve the internal process for the completion, review and update of Declarations of Interest for the Agency's staff members; welcomes the fact that more than 80% of EASA staff were trained on anti-fraud matters by the end of 2016, and encourages the Agency to aim for training 100% of EASA staff; also notes that the Agency produced a Code of Conduct including a policy on Conflict of Interest and a declaration of interest for the external experts supporting the work of the Agency, and that this Code of Conduct has helped improve the quality of the Agency's work and ensure better management of its duties;
6. Notes the results of the third benchmarking exercise on the Agency's posts, which showed that 12,5 % of the jobs were dedicated to administrative support and

coordination, 81,0 % to operational tasks and 6,4 % to neutral (finance/control and linguistics) tasks; is pleased 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), has been included in the 2016 Annual Report, which shows that that 60,4 % of posts, including 50,1 % of operational posts, are funded from fees and charges and 33,8 % of posts are funded from the Union subsidy; notes that for the second consecutive year the Agency has achieved full occupancy of all posts according to the establishment plan; notes a discrepancy in this establishment plan between the different AD and AST posts authorised under the EU budget and the posts actually filled, and calls upon the Agency to address that imbalance;

7. Reiterates 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 and adequate staffing with qualified personnel in order to fulfil additional tasks;
8. Hopes to see an acceleration of the entry into force of the European regulation on drones; highlights the Agency's vital role in ensuring the highest possible level of aviation safety throughout Europe; stresses that, in the context of fast-developing civil aviation services, exemplified by the increasingly widespread use of 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 without compromising its independence and impartiality;
9. Welcomes the political agreement on the revision of the common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Union Aviation Safety Agency², as agreed in November 2017 by the Parliament, the Council and Commission; urges the Commission and Member States to provide necessary resources for the new and reinforced competences concerning, among others, risks to civil aviation arising from conflict zones, environmental related topics and the certification and registration of unmanned aircraft;
10. Welcomes the active role of the Agency in the call for proposals under the Horizon 2020 programme; urges the Agency to remain active in the field of research and development;
11. Supports the establishment of a working group to look into the potential risks and impact of Brexit; recommends the Agency to work closely together with the other European Institutions regarding this matter; proposes that the Agency presents the outcomes of this working group to the European Parliament in due time;

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).

² Regulation COM(2015) 613: Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Union Aviation Safety Agency, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

12. Notes that EASA's headquarters agreement was finally signed between the Agency and the German Government in December 2016; welcomes the move to the new, purpose-designed premises during 2016; notes that in order to cover the EUR 12,4 million refurbishment and removal cost of relocation to the new building, the Agency spent EUR 9,4 million during the period of 2014-2016 (4,4 million in 2016) from the accumulated surplus and EUR 3 million from the EU subsidy;
13. 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 2016.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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| Date adopted | 20.2.2018 |
| Result of final vote | +: 40 -: 1 0: 1 |
| Members present for the final vote | Daniela Aiuto, Lucy Anderson, Marie-Christine Arnautu, Georges Bach, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Deirdre Clune, Michael Cramer, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Andor Deli, Isabella De Monte, Ismail Ertug, Jacqueline Foster, Maria Grapini, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Miltiadis Kyrkos, Bogusław Liberadzki, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Renaud Muselier, Markus Pieper, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Gabriele Preuß, Christine Revault d'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Dominique Riquet, Massimiliano Salini, Claudia Schmidt, Jill Seymour, Keith Taylor, Pavel Telička, István Ujhelyi, Wim van de Camp, Marie-Pierre Vieu, Janusz Zemke, Roberts Ziļe, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska |
| Substitutes present for the final vote | Jakop Dalunde, Michael Detjen, Markus Ferber, Rolandas Paksas, Jozo Radoš, Evžen Tošenovský, Henna Virkkunen |
| Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote | Olle Ludvigsson |

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

| 40 | + |
|-----------|---|
| ALDE | Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Jozo Radoš, Dominique Riquet, Pavel Telička |
| ECR | Jacqueline Foster, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Evžen Tošenovský, Roberts Zīle |
| EFDD | Daniela Aiuto, Rolandas Paksas |
| GUE/NGL | Marie-Pierre Vieu |
| PPE | Georges Bach, Deirdre Clune, Andor Deli, Markus Ferber, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Renaud Muselier, Markus Pieper, Massimiliano Salini, Claudia Schmidt, Henna Virkkunen, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Wim van de Camp, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska |
| S&D | Lucy Anderson, Isabella De Monte, Michael Detjen, Ismail Ertug, Maria Grapini, Miltiadis Kyrkos, Bogusław Liberadzki, Olle Ludvigsson, Gabriele Preuß, Christine Revault d'Allonnes Bonnefoy, István Ujhelyi, Janusz Zemke |
| Verts/ALE | Michael Cramer, Jakop Dalunde, Keith Taylor |

| 1 | - |
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| EFDD | Jill Seymour |

| 1 | 0 |
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| ENF | Marie-Christine Arnautu |

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention