



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

2014/2139(DEC)

8.12.2014

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Union Agencies for the financial year 2013: performance, financial management and control
(2014/2139(DEC))

Rapporteur: Sylvie Guillaume

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

Union bodies, offices and agencies in the area of freedom, security and justice

1. Acknowledges the high number of agencies which have been set up in the area of freedom, security and justice but reiterates the importance of the missions which they carry out and their direct impact on citizens' everyday lives; Stresses that all the new agencies have been set up in response to a specific need; Is convinced that all the agencies in this policy area fulfil a distinct and necessary role providing European added value;
2. Urges all the agencies to do their utmost to manage their budgets responsibly and asks in particular that they improve their budgetary planning, which should not overestimate needs and should respect the principle of annuality; Calls on the agencies to strive for the highest possible degree of transparency; Congratulates the agencies which have already made efforts to rationalise their operations and optimise the use of their budgets;
3. Deplores the fact that some Member States have not completed headquarters agreements; Expresses concern that this may have serious implications for the staff of the agencies and calls on the Member States to complete the agreements before the start of the next budget discharge procedure;
4. Is of the opinion that the trend to focus reporting more on effectiveness and results achieved is a positive one; Asks that the reporting system be further strengthened in this respect to enhance the democratic accountability of the agencies;
5. Considers, in overall terms, that improvements need to be made with regard to recruitment procedures, with a focus on their transparency, among other things;
6. Hopes that, as a minimum, the annual reports of the agencies' activities will be published not just in English but in all the official languages of the EU, or at least in French and German initially;
7. Notes that some agencies in the area of freedom, security and justice are operational ones and that the implementation of their budget also depends on external factors;
8. Invites the Court of Auditors to further focus on auditing the sound financial management of the agencies, namely the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the agencies have used their appropriations in carrying out their responsibilities.