



# Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure	<a href="#">2006/2156(DEC)</a>	Procedure completed
2005 discharge: European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia		
Subject 8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>CONT</b> Budgetary Control		20/04/2006
		PSE <a href="#">HERCZOG Edit</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>LIBE</b> Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		19/12/2006
		PSE <a href="#">DÜHRKOP DÜHRKOP Barbara</a>	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN</a>	<a href="#">2787</a>	27/02/2007
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	<a href="#">Budget</a>	KALLAS Siim	

Key events			
31/10/2006	Non-legislative basic document published	<a href="#">N6-0024/2006</a>	Summary
29/11/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/03/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
02/04/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A6-0118/2007</a>	
24/04/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Debate in Parliament		
24/04/2007	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T6-0115/2007</a>	Summary
24/04/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/07/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2006/2156(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 100
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/6/42404

### Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		<a href="#">N6-0024/2006</a> <a href="#">OJ C 266 31.10.2006, p. 0046</a>	31/10/2006	OS	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		<a href="#">N6-0001/2007</a> <a href="#">OJ C 312 19.12.2006, p. 0001</a>	19/12/2006	CofA	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		<a href="#">05711/2007</a>	07/02/2007	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE384.435</a>	09/02/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE386.404</a>	08/03/2007	EP	
Committee opinion	LIBE	<a href="#">PE384.339</a>	20/03/2007	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A6-0118/2007</a>	02/04/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T6-0115/2007</a>	24/04/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)2625/2	31/05/2007	EC	

### Final act

[Budget 2008/511](#)  
[OJ L 187 15.07.2008, p. 0092](#) Summary

## 2005 discharge: European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia

**PURPOSE:** presentation of the final accounts of the European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia for the financial year 2005.

**CONTENT:** this document published in the Official Journal of the EU sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the 2005 budget, including the revenue and expenditure and the balance sheet for the year concerned.

According to this document, the final budget amounted to EUR 8.279 million (compared to EUR 7.9 million in 2004) including a 100% Community contribution.

As regards the staffing policy, the Centre, whose headquarters are based in Vienna (Austria), officially set out 37 posts in its establishment plan. 35 of these are currently occupied + 4 other staff (auxiliary contract, seconded national experts, local and employment-agency staff) totalling 41 members of staff assigned to administrative, operational and mixed tasks. Staff expenditure amounted roughly to EUR 3.2 million in 2005.

The Monitoring Centre's primary tasks are to provide the Union and the Member States with reliable information on racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in the Union and to cooperate with the Council of Europe in these areas. It aims to study the extent and development of the phenomena of racism and xenophobia and to collect and analyse information, via the European Racism and Xenophobia Information Network (RAXEN).

During 2005, the Monitoring Centre's activities concentrated on the following:

#### Raxen

- 400 contributions through the 25 national focal points;
- 5 meetings.

#### Research reports

- 13 reports;
- 7 meetings;

- 2 annual reports;
- 5 EUMC newsletters;
- 2 editions of 'Equal Voices'.

Cooperation with the Member States and other institutions: number of events organised jointly:

- Member States: 4
- Commission: 14
- European Parliament: 8
- COR: 3
- EESC: 3
- Council of Europe: 10
- OSCE: 3
- UN: 3
- Inter-agency: 3
- NRT: 6
- ERT: 1

The complete version of the final accounts may be found at the following address:

<http://eumc.eu.int>

## 2005 discharge: European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia

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The committee adopted the report by Edit HERCZOG (PES, HU) granting discharge to the European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia for 2005. In its accompanying resolution, it made a number of general points concerning the majority of the EU agencies:

- the ever-growing number of Community Agencies and the activities of some of them do not seem to form part of an overall policy framework, and "the remits of some Agencies do not always reflect the real needs of the Union or the expectations of its citizens?";
- the Commission should therefore define an overall policy framework and should present a cost-benefit study before the setting up of any new Agency, and the Court of Auditors should give its opinion on this study before Parliament takes its decision;
- every 5 years, the Commission should present a study on the added value of every existing Agency; where the evaluation is negative in the case of a particular Agency the latter's mandate should be reformulated or the Agency should be closed;
- the Commission should improve administrative and technical support to the Agencies, given the growing complexity of the Community's administrative rules and technical problems;
- the Agencies should improve their cooperation and benchmarking with actors in the field;
- the Commission should harmonise the format of the annual reporting by the Agencies to develop performance indicators which would allow a comparison of their efficiency.

In its specific remarks concerning the EMCRX the committee called on the Centre to improve its expenditure planning and the way it monitors the implementation of this expenditure. It also noted that no activity-based management had been brought in, despite the Centre's financial regulation making provision for its introduction, on the lines of that applied to the general budget, with a view to improving the monitoring of performance. The Centre was urged to present a work programme "which expresses its contributions in operational and measurable terms". Lastly, the report highlighted shortcomings in the Centre's internal control system and called for strict compliance with the rules for tenders.

## 2005 discharge: European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia

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**PURPOSE:** to grant discharge to the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia for the financial year 2005.

**LEGISLATIVE ACT:** Decision 2008/511/EC of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia for the financial year 2005.

**CONTENT:** with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Director of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia for the implementation of the Centre's budget for the financial year 2005.

This decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 24 April 2007 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion of 24/04/2007).

## 2005 discharge: European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Edit HERCZOG (PSE, HU), and granted the director of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia discharge for the implementation of the Centre's budget for the financial year 2005. It then approved closing the accounts of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia for the financial year 2005.

The Parliamentary resolution is divided into two parts. The first contained general points, and concerned the majority of EU Agencies requiring individual discharge. The second part contained specific points relating to the Centre.

General points: Parliament considers that the ever-growing number of Community Agencies and the activities of certain of them do not seem to form part of an overall policy framework, and that the remits of some Agencies do not always reflect the real needs of the Union. Accordingly, it invites the Commission to define an overall policy framework for the setting up of new Community Agencies and to present a cost-benefit study before the setting up of any new agency, while being careful to avoid any overlap of activities between Agencies or with the remits of other European organisations. Parliament calls on the Court of Auditors to give its opinion on this cost-benefit study before Parliament takes its decision, and it asks the Commission to present every five years a study on the added value of every existing Agency. ; invites all relevant institutions In the case of a negative evaluation of the added value of an Agency, all relevant institutions are asked to take the necessary steps by reformulating the mandate of that Agency or by closing it.

In view of the constantly increasing number of Agencies, Parliament feels that the Directorates-General of the Commission charged with the setting up and monitoring of Agencies must develop a common approach to the Agencies. It also asks the Commission to improve administrative and technical support to the Agencies. Parliament regretted that the negotiations on the draft interinstitutional agreement on the operating framework for the European regulatory agencies have not yet been concluded, and calls on the Commission, in consultation with the Court of Auditors, to do their utmost to ensure that the agreement is brought to a rapid conclusion. Noting that the Commission's budgetary responsibility calls for closer linking of the Agencies to the Commission, Parliament calls on the Commission and the Council to take all necessary steps to give the Commission a blocking minority in the supervisory bodies of the regulatory Agencies by 31 December 2007 and to provide for such a minority from the outset when new Agencies are set up. It invites the Court of Auditors to create an additional chapter in its Annual Report, devoted to all Agencies to be discharged under the Commission's accounts in order to have a much clearer picture of the use of EU funds by Agencies.

Parliament goes on to ask the Commission to come up with a proposal to harmonise the format of the annual reporting by the Agencies and to develop performance indicators which would allow a comparison of their efficiency. The Commission is urged to monitor and direct the management of the Agencies, especially in relation to the proper application of tender procedures, transparency of recruitment procedures, sound financial management and, most importantly, the proper application of the rules concerning the internal control framework.

Specific points concerning the EMCRX:Parliament notes that, although the Centre's rate of commitment for the appropriations for the financial year 2005 was over 90 %, it was found that more than 50 % of the commitments for administrative expenditure were carried over and that in general there was a high rate of cancellation of the appropriations carried over (between 15 % and 25 %, depending on the title). Accordingly, it invited the Centre to improve its expenditure planning and the way it monitors the implementation of this expenditure. It also invites the Centre to present a work programme which expresses its contributions in operational and measurable terms. It notes that the Centre's internal control system suffered from various shortcomings. There were problems on the financial circuits, and the principle of the segregation of duties was not applied strictly, especially between the duties of initiation and verification. In relation to commitments, the Centre should include sound financial management in the list of matters to be covered by ex ante verifications.

Lastly, Parliament asks the Centre to apply the rule whereby members of the selection boards must always be of a grade equivalent to or higher than that of the post to be filled, and to apply the rules for tenders strictly.