



Procedure file

Basic information		
DEC - Discharge procedure		Procedure completed
2009/2131(DEC)		
2008 discharge: European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)		
Subject		
8.70.03.07 Previous discharges		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control		01/10/2009
		PPE MATHIEU HOUILLON Véronique	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		S&D STAVRAKAKIS Georgios	
		ALDE GERBRANDY Gerben-Jan	
		Verts/ALE STAES Bart	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		06/10/2009
		S&D HAUG Jutta	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2994	16/02/2010
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Budget	ŠEMETA Algirdas	

Key events			
23/07/2009	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(2009)1089	Summary
07/10/2009	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/03/2010	Vote in committee		Summary
26/03/2010	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0089/2010	
21/04/2010	Debate in Parliament		
05/05/2010	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/05/2010	Decision by Parliament	T7-0104/2010	Summary

05/05/2010	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/09/2010	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2009/2131(DEC)
Procedure type	DEC - Discharge procedure
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/7/01122

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		SEC(2009)1089	23/07/2009	EC	Summary
Court of Auditors: opinion, report		N7-0012/2010 OJ C 304 15.12.2009, p. 0001	08/10/2009	CofA	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		N7-0036/2009 OJ C 269 10.11.2009, p. 0001	10/11/2009	CofA	
Document attached to the procedure		05827/2010	01/02/2010	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		PE430.458	02/02/2010	EP	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE431.041	23/02/2010	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE439.366	03/03/2010	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0089/2010	26/03/2010	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0104/2010	05/05/2010	EP	Summary

Final act

[Decision 2010/520](#)
[OJ L 252 25.09.2010, p. 0146](#) Summary

2008 discharge: European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

PURPOSE: to present the final accounts of the European Chemicals Agency for the financial year 2008.

CONTENT: this document sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the European Chemicals Agency's budget for the financial year 2008. It notes that the final budget amounts to EUR 66.4 million in 2008 and which represents a EUR 62.6 million Community contribution and a EUR 3.8 million fee income.

As regards the staffing policy, the Agency, whose head office is in Helsinki (Finland), employed 220 staff members. 210 are currently occupied and + 34 other staff (contract agents, seconded national experts and Interims) totalling 244 assigned to operational, administrative and support tasks.

In 2008, the Agency concentrated on the following activities:

- Preparations and capacity building as a new Agency in fields of registration, evaluation, authorisations and restrictions, classification and labelling and committees
- Development of REACH-IT system and other IT systems
- Administrative and management systems build up

In addition, on an operational level:

- Number of pre-registered substances: 150 000
- 65 000 companies signed up

- Number of dossiers registered: 1 460
- Number of questions answered by helpdesk: 12 325
- Number of new guidance documents issued: 6
- Number of guidance updates issued: 10
- Candidate list: 15 substances included.

The complete version of the final accounts may be found at the following address: http://echa.europa.eu/publications/annual_accounts_en.asp

2008 discharge: European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Véronique MATHIEU (EPP, FR) on discharge to be granted to the European Chemicals Agency, calling on the European Parliament to grant the Executive Director of the Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2008.

Noting that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2008 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, MEPs approve the closure of its accounts. However, they make a number of recommendations that need to be taken into account when the discharge is granted, in addition to the general recommendations that appear in the draft resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies (see [2010/2007\(INI\)](#)):

- Performance: recognising the role played by the Agency and the quality of the implementation of its multiannual work programme, Members underline that the Agency would benefit from developing feedback procedures and from developing a stronger customer focus. It also stresses, in particular, that the smooth and quite rapid establishment of the Agency is mainly due to the effective support provided by its parent directorate-general, exchanges of experience with other similar agencies and the provision of strong support by the host country.
- Budgetary and financial management: the report notes that the Court of Auditors highlights delays in the operational activities caused by difficulties in implementing the IT system and a lack of qualified staff. A large amount of commitment appropriations for operational activities were carried over and even cancelled. It calls, therefore, on the Agency to take steps to improve the planning and monitoring of its resources. The report concludes from the annual closure of accounts and the amount of interest payments that the Agency maintains enormously high cash reserves over long periods. Members note that as of 31 December 2008 the Agency's cash reserves amounted to EUR 18 747 210,75. They call on the Commission to examine ways of ensuring that the principle of needs-based cash management is implemented to the full and that the Agency's cash reserves are kept as low as possible on a long-term basis.
- Human resources: Members recall the need for careful implementation of the recruitment procedure. They are aware that the large-scale rotation in key positions in the Agency entails a business continuity risk and they ask the Agency therefore to put in place well-defined handover procedures in order to ensure a smooth transition of functions and a consistent handover of relevant activities, files or procedures.
- Internal audit: lastly, Members call on the Agency to implement the recommendations set out by the Internal Audit Service.

2008 discharge: European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

PURPOSE: to grant discharge to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) for the financial year 2008.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 2010/520/EU of the European Parliament on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Chemicals Agency for the financial year 2008.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament grants discharge to the Executive Director of the European Chemicals Agency for the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2008.

This decision is in line with the European Parliament's resolution adopted on 5 May 2010 and comprises a series of observations that form an integral part of the discharge decision (please refer to the summary of the opinion of 05/05/2010).

A parallel decision, adopted on the same day, approves the closure of this Agency's accounts.

2008 discharge: European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

The European Parliament adopted by 549 votes to 32, with 57 abstentions, a decision on discharge to be granted to the Executive Director of the Community Fisheries Control Agency in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2008.

Furthermore, Parliament adopted a resolution with observations which are an integral part of the decision to grant discharge.

The main points are as follows:

- performance: Parliament underlines the importance of drawing up a multiannual work programme so that the Agency can make effective organisational arrangements to implement its strategy and achieve its goals. It also calls on the Agency to consider making a Gantt diagram part of the programming for each of its operational activities, with a view to indicating in concise form the amount of time spent by each staff member on a project and encouraging an approach geared towards achieving results;
- budgetary and financial management: Parliament draws attention to the need for the Agency to remedy the shortcomings in the programming of its activities so that in future the procedures for drafting the budget are sufficiently rigorous and obviate any need to increase and/or decrease the appropriations against its budget headings. It also welcomes the fact that the Agency has undertaken to improve its budgetary planning and monitoring and, consequently, to reduce the number of budgetary modifications required;
- internal audit: Parliament acknowledges that the Internal Audit Service (IAS) has identified 15 recommendations for the Agency, nine

of which have been rated as 'very important' and call for the development a set of indicators covering all activities of the Agency and its internal organisation;

- human resources: Parliament notes that, in 2008, the rate of recruitment was so much faster than originally planned that the volume of appropriations required to pay salaries was underestimated by more than 35% (roughly EUR 1 300 000). It, therefore, calls on the Agency to improve the monitoring of the implementation of its budget.

Noting that the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2008 are reliable, and the underlying transactions are legal and regular, Parliament approves the closure of the Agency's accounts. However, it makes a number of recommendations that need to be taken into account when the discharge is granted, in addition to the general recommendations that appear in the draft resolution on financial management and control of EU agencies (see [2010/2007\(INI\)](#) adopted in parallel).