



13.11.2017

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European
Centre for Disease Prevention and Control for the financial year 2016
(2017/2160(DEC))

Rapporteur: Adina-Ioana Vălean

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that the final budget of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (“the Centre”) for the financial year 2016 was EUR 58 247 650, remaining approximately at the same level as in 2015; notes that 97,4 % of the Centre’s budget derives from the Union budget;
2. Notes that the Centre’s mission is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases; stresses that in 2016, the Centre responded to 41 formal requests received from the European Commission, 19 of which were forwarded from Members of the European Parliament; notes that the Centre published a total of 158 reports (170 in 2015), including 38 Rapid Risk Assessments to support Member States and the Commission and 69 surveillance reports;
3. Welcomes the Centre’s support provided during the sudden outbreak of the Zika virus and the large multi-country outbreak of Salmonella; notes that the Centre improved its disease surveillance system, particularly by expanding the online Surveillance Atlas of Infectious Diseases, and promoted access to up-to-date information on European public health issues, through different tools;
4. Congratulates the Centre on receiving the European Health Award 2016 for its European Antibiotic Awareness Day, which aims to provide a platform to support national campaigns on the prudent use of antibiotics, and was recognised as an outstanding project to promote health in Europe;
5. Stresses that in 2016, the Centre’s new independence policy was finalised and approved by the Management Board;
6. Notes that a number of activities included in the Centre’s work programme for 2016 were not implemented due to resources constraints;
7. Recalls that Decision No 1082/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ provides the framework to address, coordinate and manage serious cross-border health threats in cooperation with Member States, the World Health Organisation, the Centre and other international partners, and establishes the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS); acknowledges the fact that Centre’s experts and the EWRS, which the Centre operates on behalf of the European Commission, are key resources for the response to cross-border health threats at Union level; welcomes the further steps taken by the Centre in 2016 to implement that Decision;
8. Recalls that, as a Union agency, the Centre has a budget which is denominated in euro;

¹ Decision No 1082/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 2119/98/EC (OJ L 293, 5.11.2013, p. 1).

however, since its seat is outside the Euro-zone (in Sweden), a lot of its expenses are incurred in Swedish krona (SEK); furthermore, the Centre is exposed to exchange rate fluctuations since not only does it have bank accounts in Swedish krona but also carries out certain transactions in other foreign currencies;

9. Welcomes the fact that the majority of the Centre's jobs (74,4%) are linked to operational work;
10. Takes note of the action plans prepared by the Centre in order to improve procurement procedures and the use of grants, following audits by the Internal Audits Service of the European Commission and the European Court of Auditors ("the Court") respectively;
11. Welcomes that the Court has announced that the transactions underlying the annual accounts of the Centre for the financial year 2016 were legal and regular in all material respects;
12. Recommends, based on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control with respect to the implementation of the Centre's budget for the financial year 2016.