



2018/2190(DEC)

14.11.2018

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 Food Safety Authority for the financial year 2017
(2018/2190(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Adina-Ioana Vălean

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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 Food Safety Authority (“the Authority”) for the financial year 2017 was EUR 79 223 730, representing a decrease of 0,3 % compared to 2016; notes that the entire budget of the Authority derives from the Union budget;
2. Notes with satisfaction that the budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2017 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 99,98 %; notes furthermore that in 2017 the payment appropriations execution rate reached 92,31 %, representing an increase of 2,6 percentage points compared to 2016;
3. Welcomes the contribution of the Authority to the safety of the Union food and feed chain, and its considerable efforts in providing Union risk managers with comprehensive, independent and up-to-date scientific advice on questions linked to the food chain, communicating clearly to the public on its outputs and the information on which they are based, and cooperating with interested parties and institutional partners to promote coherence and trust in the Union food safety system;
4. Believes that the Authority should continue paying special attention to public opinion, and commit itself to openness and transparency;
5. Notes that seven temporary agents posts were suppressed in the 2017 establishment plan, and that 311 out of the 323 authorised posts were filled in as of 31 December 2017; highlights in addition that 447 of the 463 available posts, (including officials, temporary agents, contract agents and seconded national experts), were occupied on 31 December 2017 (96,5 %, compared to 95,7 % in 2016);
6. Highlights that the Authority finalised 779 questions through scientific opinions, technical reports and supporting publications; regrets the growing mismatch between increasing tasks and shrinking resources, which resulted in relevant delays in the delivery of some projects;
7. Recalls that in June 2017, the Authority’s Management Board adopted a new policy on independence, and that the Authority committed to publishing, from 2018 on, a yearly report on independence related activities, as an annex to the Authority’s consolidated annual report;
10. Notes the adoption in 2017 of a reviewed policy on protecting the dignity of the person and preventing psychological harassment and sexual harassment; notes that two formal complaints for harassment were received, but that following assessment of the evidence provided it was concluded that there was no beginning of proof, which is required for the opening of an administrative inquiry;
11. Welcomes that the Court of Auditors has stated that it has obtained reasonable

assurances that the Authority's annual accounts for 2017 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular;

12. Recommends, based on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority in respect of the implementation of the Authority's budget for the financial year 2017.