



**2018/2169(DEC)**

12.10.2018

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Legal Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2017, Section IV – Court of Justice (2018/2169(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Pavel Svoboda

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Legal Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgetary control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Appreciates that the budget implementation for the financial year 2017 represents a very high rate of use of final appropriation (98,69 %), higher than the 2016 rate (98,23 %);
2. Stresses that the budget of the CJEU is purely administrative, with approximately 75 % spent on persons working with the institution and the remainder on buildings, furniture, information technology and miscellaneous operating expenditure;
3. Notes that in its 2017 Annual Report the Court of Auditors made no observation concerning the CJEU, as has been the case since 2010;
4. Takes note that, in its special report No. 14/2017 on the Examination of performance in the management of cases at the CJEU, published in September 2017, the Court of Auditors recognises the significant organizational and procedural actions taken by the Court to enhance efficient case handling;
5. Notes that the Court of Auditors has also proposed avenues for further improvements, notably the implementation of an integrated case management system;
6. Points out that a more flexible allocation of existing référendaires could have a positive impact on overall effectivity of the Court;
7. Notes that the 2017 statistics for the two courts which make up the CJEU confirm the trend seen in recent years as regards the average duration of proceedings, which remains satisfactory both for the General Court, where the increased efficiency efforts have allowed a further reduction of the duration (average reduction of 2,4 months compared with 2016 and of 10,6 months compared with 2013), and for the Court of Justice, which has been able to keep the average duration of proceedings regarding requests for a preliminary ruling below 16 months (15,7 months in 2017), with only a very slight increase from 2016 (0,7 months) explained by some particularly complex legislation submitted to it for interpretation;
8. Welcomes the fact that overall the two courts making up the CJEU closed 1594 cases in 2017, confirming a general trend of a strong increase in the judicial activity in the timeframe 2010-2017 and stresses the importance of this hopefully continuing trend in the future.
9. Welcomes the constant growth of the accesses to ‘e-Curia’ application (numbers of access accounts: 4354 in 2017, compared to 3599 in 2016), and the fact that, since 2016, all the Member States use “e-Curia”, showing that the public's awareness of the existence and the advantages of this application has been efficiently raised; agrees nevertheless with considerations expressed by the Court of Auditors that a possible implementing of a fully integrated IT system could increase the effectivity of case management;

10. Applauds the creation of the “Judicial Network of the European Union” including the constitutional and supreme Courts of the Member States, the coordination of which is carried out by the Court of Justice.