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

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**2015/2168(DEC)**

22.1.2016

# 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  
Environment Agency for the financial year 2014  
(2015/2168(DEC))

Rapporteur: Giovanni La Via

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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 in 2014 an amount of EUR 52 500 000 was available to the European Environment Agency ('the Agency'), of which EUR 36 437 517 (69,4 %) had been made available through the general budget of the European Union; also notes that this amount represents 0,025 % of the overall Union budget;
2. Takes note that 130 posts out of 135 had been filled by the end of 2014, and that 74 contract agents and seconded national experts were employed by the Agency; notes that the occupation rate has slightly increased compared to 2013, and that the proportion of contract agents and seconded national experts has decreased compared to 2013; notes that the Agency is dedicating 72 % of its human resources to operational activities and encourages the Agency to further progress on this path;
3. Acknowledges the comment on ex-ante and ex-post controls made again by the Court of Auditors this year, in particular as to weaknesses noted, again this year, in respect of the grant transactions audited; recalls that, in particular, the system of ex-ante controls has been the subject of discussion between the Court of Auditors and the Agency since 2012; encourages the Agency to further strengthen efforts as regards control measures;
4. Notes that, in 2014, the Agency launched a call to procure services to provide IT and Geographic Information Systems consultancy services for the implementation of the Reference Data Access component, and for supporting the Agency in other Copernicus-related activities, to the value of EUR 1,7 million; takes note of the Court of Auditors' comment that an important aspect of the tender referred to as 'known shortcomings' was not defined anywhere in the technical specifications and that clearer tender specifications would have contributed to a more effective and competitive procurement procedure, and calls the Agency to draft clear tender specifications in the future;
5. Welcomes that the Court of Auditors has announced that the transactions underlying the annual accounts of the Agency for the financial year 2014 were legal and regular in all material respects;
6. Asks the responsible body of the Agency to implement the anti-fraud strategy as soon as possible;
7. Recommends, based on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency with respect to the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2014.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	21.1.2016
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 55 -: 10 0: 3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Marco Affronte, Pilar Ayuso, Zoltán Balczó, Catherine Bearder, Ivo Belet, Simona Bonafè, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Birgit Collin-Langen, Mireille D'Ornano, Miriam Dalli, Seb Dance, Angélique Delahaye, Jörn Dohrmann, Ian Duncan, Stefan Eck, Bas Eickhout, Eleonora Evi, José Inácio Faria, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Jens Gieseke, Julie Girling, Sylvie Goddyn, Matthias Groote, Françoise Grossetête, Jytte Guteland, György Hölvényi, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Jean-François Jalkh, Benedek Jávor, Karin Kadenbach, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Valentinas Mazuronis, Susanne Melior, Miroslav Mikolášik, Piernicola Pedicini, Bolesław G. Piecha, Marcus Pretzell, Frédérique Ries, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Davor Škrlec, Renate Sommer, Tibor Szanyi, Claudiu Ciprian Tăbărescu, Estefanía Torres Martínez, Nils Torvalds, Glenis Willmott, Damiano Zoffoli
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Paul Brannen, Herbert Dorfmann, Christofer Fjellner, Luke Ming Flanagan, Elena Gentile, Martin Häusling, Karol Karski, Andrey Kovatchev, Merja Kyllönen, Marijana Petir, Christel Schaldemose, Jasenko Selimovic, Bart Staes, Mihai Stănescu, Tom Vandenkendelaere, Carlos Zorrinho
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Daniel Dalton