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*Committee on Transport and Tourism*

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**2015/2174(DEC)**

17.2.2016

# OPINION

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European  
Maritime Safety Agency for the financial year 2014  
(2015/2174(DEC))

Rapporteur: Inés Ayala Sender

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Transport and Tourism calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the finding of the Court of Auditors that the transactions underlying the accounts of the European Maritime Safety Agency ('the Agency') for the 2014 financial year are in order;
2. Notes that the Agency's annual budget for 2014, taking into account carry-overs, was EUR 52,4 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 52,07 million in payment appropriations, and that the implementation rates were 94,78 % and 95,52 % respectively;
3. Regrets, mostly in the context of the new EMSA legal framework, that the commitment execution in 2014 is below the 95% target of the Commission, resulting in the penalty applied by the Commission on the Draft Budget 2016; calls on the Agency to state the reasons for the failure to meet the 95% target; urges the Agency to improve the budget execution and reduce this level to the ceilings established by Commission;
4. Highlights the Agency's contribution to maritime safety, the prevention of ship pollution in Europe, and the assistance provided to Member States and the Commission under international and Union law; deplores that, while extending competences to a new set of core tasks and introducing new ancillary tasks to be executed by the Agency following the entry into force of its amended basic regulation in February 2013 (Regulation (EU) No 100/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002 establishing a European Maritime Safety Agency), staff reduction and budgetary cuts became applicable in 2014; welcomes and encourages Agency collaboration with other European Agencies regarding the refugees crisis and reaffirms that the Agency has to be given the financial, material and human resources it needs to perform its tasks effectively, including when dealing with critically important activities outside its mandate, i.e. contribution with know-how, operational support and staff of the Agency to the refugees crisis;
5. Notes the results of the first benchmarking exercise on the Agency's posts, with 20,3 % of the jobs dedicated to administrative support and coordination, 70,8 % to operational tasks and 6,6 % to control and financial tasks;
6. Welcomes the fact that the Agency is developing medium-term objectives and action plans to improve its performance towards the achievement of the strategic goals set in the 5-year strategy adopted by the Administrative Board in 2013; regrets, in this context that the multi-annual financial framework of the EU for the period 2014-2020, in clear contrast with the new legal remit for EMSA set out in Regulation (EU) No 100/2013, may impose an adaptation of the strategy of the Agency due to financial constraints;
7. Highlights that the Agency's know-how and in-house capabilities provide the opportunity to expand its action and service provision to a more global scale, thereby contributing to increasing the reach of Union regulatory frameworks and safety and environmental standards;

8. Deplores the continuing failure to complete the corrective action required in the light of the comment of Court of Auditors in 2012 on accounting procedures and information relating to internally generated intangible assets; calls on the Agency to explain the reasons for this failure and take all appropriate steps to ensure the utmost transparency;
9. Welcomes the publication on the Agency's website of short CVs of the Executive Director and senior management; regrets, however, that the declarations of interest of the members of the Administrative Board, the Executive Director and the senior management as well as the CVs of the members of the Administrative Board have not been made public as it has been requested by the Parliament and recommended by the Court of Auditors;
10. Welcomes the fact that according to the stakeholder survey launched by EMSA in 2014, the Agency is perceived as highly professional and equipped with high technical expertise to deliver its mission; notes with concern that transparency comes out as a weak point in this survey and invites the Agency to work towards reverting this perception by stakeholders;
11. Appreciates the fact that the Court of Auditors did not make any comments on the Agency's financial management in 2014; welcomes the fact that the Agency has completed a physical inventory of administrative equipment and invites the Agency to accelerate its work on improving accounting procedures and information in respect of costs for internally created intangible assets;
12. Proposes that Parliament grants the Executive Director of the European Maritime Safety Agency discharge in respect of 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>	16.2.2016
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 39 -: 6 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Daniela Aiuto, Lucy Anderson, Marie-Christine Arnautu, Inés Ayala Sender, Georges Bach, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Deirdre Clune, Michael Cramer, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Andor Deli, Karima Delli, Isabella De Monte, Ismail Ertug, Jacqueline Foster, Bruno Gollnisch, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Stelios Kouloglou, Merja Kyllönen, Bogusław Liberadzki, Peter Lundgren, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Georg Mayer, Gesine Meissner, Jens Nilsson, Markus Pieper, Salvatore Domenico Pogliese, Tomasz Piotr Porba, Gabriele Preuß, Christine Revault D'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Dominique Riquet, Massimiliano Salini, Claudia Schmidt, Jill Seymour, Keith Taylor, Pavel Telička, István Ujhelyi, Peter van Dalen, Wim van de Camp, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Janusz Zemke, Kosma Złotowski, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Daniel Dalton, Karoline Graswander-Hainz, Olga Sehnalová
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Gabriel Mato