



**2015/2179(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  
Railway Agency for the financial year 2014  
(2015/2179(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 accounts of the European Railway Agency ('the Agency') for the 2014 financial year are in order;
2. Notes that the Agency's annual budget for 2014 was EUR 25,7 million in commitment and payment appropriations and that the average implementation rates were 97,34% in commitment (including carry-overs) and 96,87% in payment appropriations;
3. Criticises the increase of the carry-overs for Titles II (24,53%) and III (37,93%) compared with the previous year, in particular with the level of committed appropriations carried over for the operational Title III at EUR 2,2 million, due to delayed operational and IT projects; calls the Agency to improve budget planning and execution and reduce this level to the indicative ceilings established by the Court of Auditors (20% for Title II and 30% for Title III); in accordance with the budgetary principle of annuality in the framework of the MFF; calls the Commission to address the specific common problems that Agencies face as regards carry-overs;
4. Takes note of the Court's comment on the procedure of awarding a specific framework contract on European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS) which resulted in financial offers close to the maximum contract value; calls the Agency to appropriately use these types of competition procedures in order to seek competition on the price while ensuring the quality of the projects chosen;
5. Welcomes the corrective actions undertaken to improve accuracy and documentation of information used in the Agency's procurement procedures, and to comply with its Internal Control Standards (ICS) regarding business continuity; notes that while the overall internal control system is effective, compliance with ICS should be further improved; encourages the Agency to continue identifying areas and apply measures to improve effectiveness of its Integrated Management System; welcomes in this sense the recruitment of an internal control coordinator during 2014 to support the development of an integrated management system and the implementation of the internal control standards;
6. Notes the results of the first benchmarking exercise on the Agency's posts, with 20,9% of the jobs dedicated to administrative support and coordination, 67,6% to operational tasks and 11,7% to control and financial tasks;
7. Highlights the Agency's role in ensuring the safety and interoperability of European rail system; welcomes the Agency's role in the follow-up of the development, testing and implementation of ERTMS as well as in evaluating the specific ERTMS projects; notes furthermore that a review of the Agency's role (e.g. one-stop-shop for vehicle authorisation and safety certification) and powers forms part of the Fourth Railway Package; stresses that as it receives greater responsibilities, the Agency will need to be given the necessary financial, material and human resources to perform its new and

additional tasks effectively and efficiently; notes with concern the contradiction between the recently approved legislation extending the Agency's mission and the budgetary cuts related to the Agency to be implemented within the scope of the multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020;

8. Encourages the Agency in collaborating with Member States in order to increase the number and quality of railway projects, especially ERTMS projects, proposed under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) transport programme; recalls the European Parliament's position in budgetary procedure for recovering of total amounts relocated from the CEF to the European Fund for Strategic Investments;
9. Notes the high number of outputs (240) and key performance indicators (41) in the Agency's work programme 2014 and annual report; supports the view that a reporting system based on the Agency's impact on the railway sector would enhance transparency and visibility on mission delivery by the Agency;
10. Welcomes the decision of the Management Board to adopt a Conflict of Interests Policy and the publication on the Agency's website of declaration of interests and CVs of the Member of the Management Board; regrets however, that declarations are missing for several Members of the Board and urges the Agency to make them public without delay;
11. Acknowledges that the Agency has reviewed its recruitment procedures and guidance to address issues identified during audits; regrets that action to resolve such issues has not been taken more swiftly, and has put in place, as a temporary measure, additional controls to remain in place until there is sufficient evidence that procedures are carried out satisfactorily;
12. Acknowledges that the selection and engagement procedures carried out in 2014 led to 96% of the Establishment Plan being completed; welcomes the reduction of the previous high turnover in the operational staff and expects that the adoption of the new European Railway Agency Regulation will allow the Agency to have appropriate balance of short- and long-term staff, in particular in operational units, in order to ensure business continuity;
13. Proposes that Parliament grants the Executive Director of the European Railway 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>	+: 37 -: 9 0: 0
<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