



Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

2015/2194(DEC)

18.2.2016

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European
Asylum Support Office for the financial year 2014
(2015/2194(DEC))

Rapporteur: Monica Macovei

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs 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 agency carried over in 2014 about EUR 1,3 million of budgetary commitments that were not covered by legal commitments; notes that 28,6 % of the Agency's payments were made after the time limits set in the Financial Regulation; notes that 21,2 % of non-differentiated committed appropriations carried over in 2014 were cancelled, which is more than in 2013 (16,5 %); agrees with the Court of Auditors that this indicates weaknesses in the Agency's budget planning and is at odds with the budgetary principle of annuality, whilst acknowledging that in some cases, carry-overs could be due to the multi-annual nature of operations, procurement procedures or projects;
2. Notes the Court of Auditors conclusions that the annual accounts of the European Asylum Support Office present fairly its financial position on 31 December 2014 and that its transactions are legal and regular;
3. Notes the high turnover of staff in 2014, with 14 members of staff leaving the Agency, including 4 in key positions; agrees with the Court that this poses a considerable risk to the achievement of the objectives set in the annual and multi-annual work programme;
4. Takes note of the ongoing issue raised by the Court of Auditors in 2013 related to the fact that the questions for interviews and tests were drafted after the examination of the individual applications, leading to the assumption that they were influenced by these; notes in that regard with concern that the selection committees did not always award scores to all selection criteria in the vacancy notices; urges the Agency to immediately remedy the recruitment procedure;
5. Welcomes the adoption of a policy on the prevention and management of conflict of interest according to the guidelines published by the Commission in December 2013 and urges the Agency to publish this policy along with CVs and declarations of interest and provide the discharge authority with a track record of cases of conflict of interest identified; asks the Agency to adopt clear rules on whistle-blowers and against "revolving doors";
6. Acknowledges the difficulties in managing the current refugee crisis; acknowledges, in addition, that the tasks of the Agency are likely to increase further and its budget and staffing levels will need to increase correspondingly; therefore and requests the Agency to increase the efforts and to improve its budgetary management and to present an action plan to perform optimally in the coming years.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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| Date adopted | 16.2.2016 |
| Result of final vote | +: 52 -: 2 0: 2 |
| Members present for the final vote | Jan Philipp Albrecht, Gerard Batten, Michał Boni, Caterina Chinnici, Ignazio Corrao, Rachida Dati, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Frank Engel, Cornelia Ernst, Tanja Fajon, Laura Ferrara, Monika Flašíková Beová, Lorenzo Fontana, Kinga Gál, Nathalie Griesbeck, Sylvie Guillaume, Jussi Halla-aho, Monika Hohlmeier, Brice Hortefeux, Sophia in 't Veld, Eva Joly, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Timothy Kirkhope, Barbara Kudrycka, Kashetu Kyenge, Marju Lauristin, Monica Macovei, Roberta Metsola, Claude Moraes, József Nagy, Péter Niedermüller, Soraya Post, Judith Sargentini, Birgit Sippel, Branislav Škripek, Helga Stevens, Traian Ungureanu, Bodil Valero, Udo Voigt, Josef Weidenholzer, Cecilia Wikström, Kristina Winberg, Tomáš Zdechovský |
| Substitutes present for the final vote | Marina Albiol Guzmán, Carlos Coelho, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Pál Csáky, Daniel Dalton, Dennis de Jong, Gérard Deprez, Anna Hedh, Petr Ježek, Emil Radev, Christine Revault D'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Barbara Spinelli, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi |