



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2017/2160(DEC)

25.1.2018

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
Centre for Disease Prevention and Control for the financial year 2016
(2017/2160(DEC))

Rapporteur: Adina-Ioana Vîlean

PA_NonLeg

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 the final budget of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (“the Centre”) for the financial year 2016 was EUR 58 247 650, remaining approximately at the same level as in 2015; notes that 97,4 % of the Centre’s budget derives from the Union budget;
2. Notes that the Centre’s mission is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases; stresses that in 2016, the Centre responded to 41 formal requests received from the European Commission, 19 of which were forwarded from Members of the European Parliament; notes that the Centre published a total of 158 reports (170 in 2015), including 38 Rapid Risk Assessments to support Member States and the Commission, and 69 surveillance reports;
3. Welcomes the Centre’s support provided during the sudden outbreak of the Zika virus, noting, though, that there are lessons to be learned from the reaction to that outbreak, as mentioned in the conclusions of a relevant UNESCO workshop¹, as well as the support provided during the large multi-country outbreak of Salmonella; notes that the Centre improved its disease surveillance system, particularly by expanding the online Surveillance Atlas of Infectious Diseases, and promoted access to up-to-date information on European public health issues, through different tools;
4. Congratulates the Centre on receiving the European Health Award 2016 for its European Antibiotic Awareness Day which aims to provide a platform to support national campaigns on the prudent use of antibiotics, and was recognised as an outstanding project to promote health in Europe;
5. Stresses that in 2016, the Centre’s new independence policy was finalised and approved by the Management Board;
6. Notes that a number of activities included in the Centre’s work programme for 2016 were not implemented due to resources constraints;
7. Recalls that Decision No 1082/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council² provides the framework to address, coordinate and manage serious cross-border health threats in cooperation with Member States, the World Health Organisation, the Centre and other international partners, and establishes the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS); acknowledges the fact that the Centre’s experts and the EWRS, which the Centre operates on behalf of the European Commission, are key resources for the

¹ <https://en.unesco.org/news/media-and-humanitarians-crisis-situations-lessons-learned-zika-outbreak>

² Decision No 1082/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 2119/98/EC (OJ L 293, 5.11.2013, p. 1).

response to cross-border health threats at Union level; welcomes the further steps taken by the Centre in 2016 to implement that Decision;

8. Recalls that, as a Union agency, the Centre has a budget which is denominated in euro; however, since its seat is outside the Euro-zone (in Sweden), a lot of its expenses are incurred in Swedish krona (SEK); furthermore, the Centre is exposed to exchange rate fluctuations since not only does it have bank accounts in Swedish krona but also carries out certain transactions in other foreign currencies;
9. Welcomes the fact that the majority of the Centre's jobs (74,4%) are linked to operational work;
10. Takes note of the action plans prepared by the Centre in order to improve procurement procedures and the use of grants, following audits by the Internal Audits Service of the European Commission and the European Court of Auditors ("the Court") respectively;
11. Welcomes that the Court has announced that the transactions underlying the annual accounts of the Centre for the financial year 2016 were legal and regular in all material respects;
12. Recommends, based on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control with respect to the implementation of the Centre's budget for the financial year 2016.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	24.1.2018
Result of final vote	+: 39 -: 6 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Marco Affronte, Ivo Belet, Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Nessa Childers, Birgit Collin-Langen, Seb Dance, Stefan Eck, José Inácio Faria, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Arne Gericke, Julie Girling, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Jytte Guteland, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Karin Kadenbach, Urszula Krupa, Giovanni La Via, Peter Liese, Susanne Melior, Gilles Pargneaux, Piernicola Pedicini, Bolesław G. Piecha, John Procter, Julia Reid, Frédérique Ries, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Claudiu Ciprian Tălcău, Ivica Tolić, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Damiano Zoffoli
Substitutes present for the final vote	Elena Gentile, Martin Häusling, Norbert Lins, Nuno Melo, Ulrike Müller, Christel Schaldemose, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor, Carlos Zorrinho
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Jiří Maštálka

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

39	+
ALDE	Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Ulrike Müller, Frédérique Ries
EFDD	Piernicola Pedicini
GUE/NGL	Stefan Eck, Jiří Maštálka
PPE	Ivo Belet, Birgit Collin-Langen, José Inácio Faria, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Giovanni La Via, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Nuno Melo, Ivica Tolić, Adina-Ioana Vălean
S&D	Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Nessa Childers, Seb Dance, Elena Gentile, Jytte Guteland, Karin Kadenbach, Susanne Melior, Gilles Pargneaux, Christel Schaldemose, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Claudiu Ciprian Tăbănescu, Damiano Zoffoli, Carlos Zorrinho
VERTS/ALE	Marco Affronte, Martin Häusling, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor

6	-
ECR	Arne Gericke, Urszula Krupa, Bolesław G. Piecha, John Procter, Jadwiga Wiśniewska
EFDD	Julia Reid

1	0
ECR	Julie Girling

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention