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

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**2017/2159(DEC)**

25.1.2018

## **OPINION**

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

on the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Food Safety Authority for the financial year 2016  
(2017/2159(DEC))

Rapporteur: Adina-Ioana Vîlean

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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 the budget of the European Food Safety Authority ('the Authority') amounted to EUR 79,4 million, which represents a slight reduction compared to 2015 (-0,2 %); notes that the level of execution of budgetary commitments in the Authority amounts to 100 % (in comparison to 99,8 % in 2015) and execution of payment appropriations reached 89,7 % (in comparison to 90,1 % in 2015);
2. Notes with concern that the Union regulatory agencies responsible for the risk assessment of regulated products, in particular the Authority and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), do not have sufficient resources to effectively fulfil these responsibilities; the Authority and ECHA should therefore be granted sufficient resources in order to carry out their specific responsibilities;
3. Welcomes the contribution of the Authority to the safety of the Union food and feed chain, and its considerable efforts in providing Union risk managers with comprehensive, independent and up-to-date scientific advice on questions linked to the food chain, communicating clearly to the public on its outputs and the information on which they are based, and cooperating with interested parties and institutional partners to promote coherence and trust in the Union food safety system;
4. Welcomes the improvement of the statutory staff occupancy rate compared to 2015 (+0,6 %), reaching 95,3 %, which allowed a partial compensation of the human resources challenge;
5. Notes that in 2016, 74 % of staff was dedicated to operational activities, and that this figure, although slightly below the target for that year (75 %), represented an improvement compared to 2015;
6. Highlights that the Authority produced 481 scientific outputs, technical reports and other publications, and closed 382 scientific questions; notes that the proportion of outputs and questions adopted within deadline was below the target for 2016, and that the timeliness of scientific advice still needs to be improved;
7. Notes that the Authority adopted in 2016 the strategy called 'EFSA Strategy 2020: trusted science for safe food', based on five strategic objectives: prioritise public and stakeholder engagement in the process of scientific assessment, widen the Authority's evidence base and optimise access to its data, build the Union's scientific assessment capacity and knowledge community, prepare for future risk assessment challenges and create an environment and culture that reflects the Authority's values;
8. Notes that the adoption of the Authority's revised independence policy, initially scheduled for 2016, was rescheduled to mid-2017;
9. Believes that the Authority should continue paying special attention to public opinion, and commit itself to openness and transparency; welcomes, in this respect, that in 2016,

the Authority's scientific data warehouse provided access to more of the evidence that underpins its scientific assessments, as several data collections were published, on pesticides, contaminants, chemical hazards, food composition, molecular typing and botanicals; the Authority's journal migrated to an international scientific publisher, in order to increase publishing quality and outreach; the Authority's authorship guidelines for scientific outputs were reviewed to increase transparency and openness; the Authority launched 'Knowledge Junction', an open repository for the exchange of evidence and supporting materials used in food and feed safety risk assessments; encourages the Authority to further progress on this path;

10. Calls on the Commission to launch a policy debate with relevant stakeholders in order to review Union legislation related to risk assessment for food, chemicals and related products and the effectiveness of such legislation;
11. Stresses that in 2016 the Authority reviewed its stakeholder consultative platform, which was disbanded to make place for a new stakeholder engagement approach, and by the end of 2016 over 80 organisations had expressed an interest in joining this new framework;
12. Welcomes the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the Authority for the financial year 2016; welcomes particularly the unqualified assurance provided on both the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying those accounts; welcomes also the commitment by the Authority to implement the action plan recommended by the Court of Auditors to 'introduce an organisation-wide IT risk management framework and risk register and to separate the information security function from the IT Unit';
13. Notes that the Authority only granted partial access to the information requested by Members of the European Parliament in 2016 relating to studies it had used to reach its conclusions on the carcinogenicity of the active substance glyphosate.; notes that the Members of the European Parliament concerned have therefore taken the case to the European Court of Justice;
14. Recommends, on the basis of the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority with respect to the implementation of the Authority's budget for the financial year 2016.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	24.1.2018
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 39 -: 7 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Marco Affronte, Pilar Ayuso, Ivo Belet, Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Birgit Collin-Langen, Seb Dance, Stefan Eck, José Inácio Faria, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, 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 Tănăsescu, Ivica Tolić, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Damiano Zoffoli
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Elena Gentile, Martin Häusling, Norbert Lins, Nuno Melo, Ulrike Müller, Christel Schaldemose, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor, Carlos Zorrinho
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Jiří Maštálka

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

39	+
ALDE	Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Ulrike Müller, Frédérique Ries
GUE/NGL	Stefan Eck, Jiří Maštálka
PPE	Pilar Ayuso, 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, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Seb Dance, Elena Gentile, Jytte Guteland, Karin Kadenbach, Susanne Melior, Gilles Pargneaux, Christel Schaldemose, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Claudiu Ciprian Tăbărescu, Damiano Zoffoli, Carlos Zorrinho
VERTS/ALE	Marco Affronte, Martin Häusling, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor

7	-
ECR	Arne Gericke, Urszula Krupa, Bolesław G. Piecha, John Procter, Jadwiga Wiśniewska
EFDD	Piernicola Pedicini, Julia Reid

1	0
ECR	Julie Girling

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention