



2017/2157(DEC)

20.2.2018

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 (EMSA) for the financial year 2016
(2017/2157(DEC))

Rapporteur: Gesine Meissner

PA_NonLeg

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 2016 financial year are legal and regular in all material respects;
2. Notes that the Agency's annual budget for 2016, excluding internal and external assigned revenues, was EUR 55,17 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 56,07 million in payment appropriations, and that the implementation rates were 98,07 % and 97,80 % respectively; welcomes the fact that the Agency reached 97,65 % of payment execution rate also taking into account the automatic carry-overs of payment appropriations; notes that EUR 36,45 million in appropriations, mostly related to operational expenditure in the field of maritime anti-pollution measures, were carried forward to 2016, of which 54 % were consumed and 43 % were left as an open amount to be consumed in the following years, with 2 % de-committed;
3. Welcomes the direct actions taken in line with the Fraud prevention and detection strategy, such as the adoption of the Whistleblower policy, which provides staff with information regarding whistleblowing and ensures the utmost confidentiality and protection to staff who report serious wrongdoings or concerns, as well as the provision of training courses on ethics and integrity for newcomers and refresher courses for existing staff;
4. Welcomes the fact that the Agency has developed its own follow-up tool in relation to the recommendations issued by the Internal Audit Service and the European Court of Auditors and that all audit recommendations and observations issued by 31 December 2016 have been implemented;
5. Welcomes the fact that the Agency took measures to prepare for its enhanced mandate in line with the Regulation (EU) 2016/1625 of 14 September 2016 amending Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002, which adds inter-agency cooperation on coastguard functions to the Agency's mandate; draws attention to the fact that in 2016 the Parliament initiated the European Coast Guard Pilot Project, which focuses on creating operational and technical synergies between different national authorities carrying out coastguard functions and the Agency, European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA);
6. Reiterates that the Agency's tasks can be performed more efficiently at the European level than at national level, which is the case with its contribution to maritime safety and the prevention of pollution from ships as well as from offshore installations for gas and oil exploitation in Europe; welcomes the fact that the Agency is looking for synergies of actions with other Union agencies in order to gain in effectiveness and efficiency and to reduce costs; welcomes and encourages in this framework the Agency's collaboration with other Union Agencies in support of EU Migration Agenda, such as the provision, by the Agency, of an increasing number of services to FRONTEX in accordance with the

renewed and updated three-year Service Level Agreement concluded in 2016; also notes that the Agency has completed the procurement of services of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for maritime surveillance; encourages the Agency to cooperate with other Union Agencies in addressing the refugee crisis, including in the performance of critically important activities outside its original mandate, such as by contributing know-how, operational support and staff to help to tackle the refugee crisis;

7. Notes the results of the third benchmarking exercise on the Agency's posts, with 21,80 % of the jobs dedicated to administrative support and coordination, 70,93 % to operational tasks and 7,26 % to neutral tasks; notes that five posts earmarked in the 2015 establishment plan were cut in 2016 as part of the first 5 % staff cut implemented in line with the Commission Communication on the programming of resources for decentralised agencies, bringing the number of statutory posts down from 207 to 202, and that the Agency implemented its 2016 Working Programme with only 198 posts, since 4 posts were frozen due to the cuts foreseen in 2017; notes that the total number of staff remained the same at 246; welcomes the fact that the increase of 14 statutory posts connected with cooperation in respect of coastguard tasks is foreseen in 2017;
8. 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 2016.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	20.2.2018
Result of final vote	+: 40 -: 2 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Daniela Aiuto, Lucy Anderson, Marie-Christine Arnautu, Georges Bach, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Deirdre Clune, Michael Cramer, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Andor Deli, Isabella De Monte, Ismail Ertug, Jacqueline Foster, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Miltiadis Kyrkos, Bogusław Liberadzki, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Gesine Meissner, Renaud Muselier, Markus Pieper, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Gabriele Preuß, Christine Revault d'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Dominique Riquet, Massimiliano Salini, Claudia Schmidt, Jill Seymour, Keith Taylor, Pavel Telička, István Ujhelyi, Wim van de Camp, Marie-Pierre Vieu, Janusz Zemke, Roberts Zile, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska
Substitutes present for the final vote	Jakop Dalunde, Michael Detjen, Markus Ferber, Maria Grapini, Rolandas Paksas, Evžen Tošenovský, Henna Virkkunen
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Olle Ludvigsson

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

40	+
ALDE	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Gesine Meissner, Dominique Riquet, Pavel Teli ka
ECR	Jacqueline Foster, Tomasz Piotr Por ba, Evžen Tošenovský, Roberts Z le
EFDD	Daniela Aiuto, Rolandas Paksas
GUE/NGL	Marie-Pierre Vieu
PPE	Georges Bach, Deirdre Clune, Andor Deli, Markus Ferber, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, El bieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Renaud Muselier, Markus Pieper, Massimiliano Salini, Claudia Schmidt, Henna Virkkunen, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Wim van de Camp
S&D	Lucy Anderson, Isabella De Monte, Michael Detjen, Ismail Ertug, Maria Grapini, Miltiadis Kyrkos, Bogusław Liberadzki, Olle Ludvigsson, Gabriele Preuß, Christine Revault d'Allonnes Bonnefoy, István Ujhelyi, Janusz Zemke
Verts/ALE	Michael Cramer, Jakop Dalunde, Keith Taylor

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EFDD	Jill Seymour
ENF	Marie-Christine Arnautu

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Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention