

Follow-up report of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in relation to the 2017 Agency Discharge

Reference

European Parliament decision of 26 March 2019 on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) for the financial year 2017: performance, financial management and control (2018/2188(DEC)).

Follow up

Procurement

17. Notes with concern from the Court's report that the Agency did not systematically check prices and uplifts charged with the suppliers' quotes and invoices issued to the framework contractor for the acquisition of software licenses [...]; call on the Agency to report to the discharge authority on any development on this issue;

The entire tendering procedure for the FWC in question -which is no longer in force- was managed by the European Commission (DG DIGIT) and the Agency was not involved in the tendering procedure (e.g. choice of procedure, contract type and implementation mechanism). The implementation mechanism for this FWC did not include a fixed price list but instead DG DIGIT decided to opt for a system of applying price uplifts. The Agency suggested the contracting authority to avoid similar contracts in the future. In the meantime, the Agency has introduced appropriate control mechanisms in the Agency contracts that improve checks on prices and uplifts.

Internal Controls

21. Notes that the IAS audited the Agency's Human Resources management and control systems, concluding that they are adequate and able to support the Agency in achieving its strategic objectives; notes that the IAS issued three recommendations categorised as "Important" and two as "Desirable" [...]; calls on the Agency to report to the discharge authority on the evolution of the measures taken;

The timely implementation of action plans stemming from various audits remains an important element of the Agency's Internal Control System. The Agency can inform the discharge authority that all actions to address the recommendations of the IAS were timely implemented and are "closed" by the IAS:

As regards internal communication the Agency has implemented a number of actions to enhance internal HR-communication. Measures include the modernisation of the HR Intranet pages, the organisation of info-sessions targeting several HR-related topics and the quarterly publication of an internal HR-newsletter.

The mapping and allocation of human resources per activity is now included in the Implementation of the Work Programme evaluation.

The Model decision on Learning and Development was adopted by the Administrative Board in February 2018. Consequently, EMSA implemented a learning and development policy aligned with the objectives of the Agency.

On the basis of an updated Job Families / Competencies Framework, EMSA job descriptions are being updated to better reflect the skills and competencies needed to perform a given job.

Finally, the Staff Committee (SC) has been invited to develop an annual work programme and to inform all staff (at least once a year) on its planned activities and activity report. The SC annual work programme was communicated to all staff.

Other Comments

23. Notes the Agency's preliminary efforts to ensure a cost-effective and environment-friendly working place; points out, however, that the Agency does not have any additional measures in place to reduce or offset CO² emissions;

The Agency is very much aware of the importance to create and sustain an environment-friendly working place and -in general- to improve the Agency's environmental performance. To this end, the Agency had initiated the implementation of the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) which should lead to EMAS registration.