



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2014/2099(DEC)

3.2.2015

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 Environment Agency for the financial year 2013
(2014/2099(DEC))

Rapporteur: Giovanni La Via

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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 in its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that in 2013 an amount of EUR 41 740 292 was available to the European Environment Agency ("the Agency") of which EUR 36 309 240 (87%) have been made available through the general budget of the Union; stresses that this amount represents 0.024% of the overall Union budget;
2. Calls on the Agency to make clear in its future internal and external communication that it receives funds made available from the Union budget (Union subsidy) instead of a Commission or Community subsidy;
3. Welcomes the fact that the Agency is committed to reviewing its staffing and organisational structure on a continuous basis in order to ensure that the Agency carries out its work and addresses its challenges as effectively as possible; welcomes, in this respect, the fact that in 2013, two AD posts were added to the establishment table to cover new tasks related to two important topics: climate change mitigation and quality air reporting;
4. Takes note that 132 posts out of 138 had been filled by the end of 2013 and that 78 contract agents and seconded national experts were employed by the Agency; notes that the occupation rate has slightly decreased compared to 2012 and that the proportion of contract staff and seconded national experts has decreased compared to 2012; notes that the Agency is dedicating 71 % of its human resources to operational tasks and that this represent a slight increase compared to the situation in 2012; encourages the Agency to make further progress in this direction;
5. Takes note of the comment on internal controls made by the Court of Auditors; is at the same time aware of the Agency's reply; welcomes the fact that the Agency has intensified its checks on the eligibility and accuracy of staff costs claimed under the grant programmes but underlines the Court of Auditors' assessment that more should be done in this regard; takes note that the Court of Auditors has highlighted that on-the-spot verifications of costs at beneficiary level are rare and takes the view that they should therefore be carried out more often;
6. Welcomes the fact that the Agency has a comprehensive policy on the management and prevention of conflict of interest in place and encourages the Agency to continue working along the lines of this policy in order to safeguard independence and transparency of decision making and all activities carried out by the Agency including the selection of the Members of the Scientific Committee;
7. Has carefully taken note that the Agency has made and will continue to make efforts as regards intensified verification measures; welcomes the fact that the Agency is issuing written guidelines to the beneficiaries in order to ensure greater understanding as regards eligibility of costs and supporting documentation needs;

8. Welcomes the fact that the Court of Auditors considers the transactions underlying the annual accounts of the European Environment Agency for the financial year 2013 as legal and regular in all material respects;
9. Recommends, on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2013.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	29.1.2015
Result of final vote	+: 53 -: 8 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Marco Affronte, Margrete Auken, Pilar Ayuso, Zoltán Balczó, Catherine Bearder, Ivo Belet, Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Nessa Childers, Alberto Cirio, Birgit Collin-Langen, Mireille D'Ornano, Miriam Dalli, Seb Dance, Angélique Delahaye, Jørn Dohrmann, Stefan Eck, Bas Eickhout, José Inácio Faria, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Enrico Gasbarra, Jens Gieseke, Julie Girling, Matthias Groote, Françoise Grossetête, Jytte Guteland, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Benedek Jávor, Josu Juaristi Abaunz, Karin Kadenbach, Kate ina Kone ná, Giovanni La Via, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Valentinas Mazuronis, Susanne Melior, Massimo Paolucci, Gilles Pargneaux, Piernicola Pedicini, Bolesław G. Piecha, Pavel Poc, Marcus Pretzell, Frédérique Ries, Davor Škrlec, Renate Sommer, Tibor Szanyi, Nils Torvalds, Glenis Willmott, Jadwiga Wi niewska
Substitutes present for the final vote	Nicola Caputo, Mark Demesmaeker, Herbert Dorfmann, Jan Huitema, Peter Jahr, Merja Kyllönen, Nuno Melo, Marijana Petir, Julia Reid, Bart Staes, Kay Swinburne
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Damian Dr ghici