



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2014/2108(DEC)

03.02.2015

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 Food Safety Authority for the financial year 2013
(2014/2108(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 78 840 704 has been made available to the European Food Safety Authority ("the Authority") through the general budget of the Union; stresses that this amount represents 0,052 % of the overall Union budget;
2. Calls on the Authority 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. Takes note that 328 posts out of 351 had been filled by the end of 2013; acknowledges a decrease in the occupation rate compared to 2012;
4. Is especially aware of the public interest in the decision-making process within the Authority, which is done within its legal role and responsibilities; notes that the Authority is dedicating 74 % of its human resources to scientific activities, evaluation and data collection and that this represent a slight increase compared to the situation in 2012; encourages the Authority to make further progress in this direction;
5. Takes note of the two comments made by the Court of Auditors which focus on the internal control system and on the need to include sufficient details on planned procurements and grants in the Authority's annual work programmes in order to allow more effective monitoring of procurements and grants; strongly urges the Authority to take corrective measures accordingly;
6. Welcomes the Authority's efforts to implement corrective actions following the previous comments by the Court of Auditors, in particular the implementation, as of 2012, of the Authority's comprehensive self-assessment of its internal control system, a process which is still on-going;
7. Encourages the Authority to continue to pay special attention to the public opinion and to commit itself to guaranteeing even greater openness and transparency; welcomes, in this respect, the implementing rules for its Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes as adopted by the Authority's Management Board in December 2011; welcomes in this context the set of internal mechanisms and improved presentation and accessibility of information and documents on the Authority's homepage; invites the Authority to further strengthen its policy on the management and prevention of conflicts of interests in order to safeguard independence and transparency in all work areas of the Authority covering both external and interim staff;
8. Welcomes that the Court of Auditors considers the transactions underlying the annual accounts of the Authority 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 Food Safety Authority in respect of the implementation of the Authority's budget for the financial year 2013.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	29.1.2015
Result of final vote	+: 62 -: 1 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, Sylvie Goddyn, Matthias Groote, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, 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 Demesmaecker, 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