



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Transport and Tourism

2014/2111(DEC)

26.2.2015

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
Railway Agency for the financial year 2013
(2014/2111(DEC))

Rapporteur: Dominique Riquet

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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 accounts of the European Railway Agency ('the Agency') for the 2013 financial year are in order;
2. Notes that the Agency's annual budget for 2013 was EUR 25,8 million in commitment and payment appropriations and that the implementation rates were 97,8 % in commitment and 88,2 % in payment appropriations;
3. Highlights the Agency's role in ensuring the safety and interoperability of European rail system; notes furthermore that a review of the Agency's role (e.g. one-stop-shop for vehicle authorisation and safety certification) and powers is currently under way as part of the Fourth Railway Package; stresses that should it be accorded greater powers, the Agency will need to be given the necessary financial, material and human resources to perform its new and additional tasks comprehensively and efficiently;
4. Considers that if the Agency is to receive new powers as a result of the extension of its tasks as a certifying agency for railway material, part of the funding for the Agency should come from fees and charges levied on the railway industry, which must in all circumstances be appropriate to the level of expenses incurred by the Agency and must not represent a disproportionate cost for the railway industry.
5. Reminds the Agency that the declarations of interests and CVs of the members of the Management Board should be publicly available; notes that a proposal in this regard was discussed at the meeting of the Administrative Board in November 2014 and that the Board will come back to the issue at its next meeting in March 2015 when a decision is expected;
6. Encourages the Agency to make further progress in its recruitment procedures, especially for external experts, in order to guarantee transparency and equal treatment for applicants while ensuring business continuity and preventing the loss of knowledge and experience;
7. Recalls that there is room to improve the accuracy and documentation of information used in the Agency's procurement procedures;
8. Notes that the duration of contracts as initially anticipated (five years, extendable by three years) was modified by a decision of the Agency in order to allow indefinite contracts and that in order to align the practice with the rules, the regulation on the Agency which includes similar provisions should be adopted as soon as possible;
9. Takes note of the Court of Auditors' remarks on the existence of a secondary location in Lille, in addition to the headquarters in Valenciennes, underlines the necessity of carrying out all activities in one location in order to save scarce resources and increase and efficiency;

10. Stresses the need for the Agency to comply with its Internal Control Standard regarding business continuity and to set up IT Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery plans.
11. Proposes that Parliament grant the Executive Director of the European Railway Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2013.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	24.2.2015
Result of final vote	+: 37 -: 6 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Lucy Anderson, Marie-Christine Arnautu, Georges Bach, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Deirdre Clune, Michael Cramer, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Andor Deli, Karima Delli, Isabella De Monte, Ismail Ertug, Jacqueline Foster, Bruno Gollnisch, Tania González Peñas, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Merja Kyllönen, Miltiadis Kyrkos, Bogusław Liberadzki, Peter Lundgren, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Georg Mayer, Gesine Meissner, Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar, Jens Nilsson, Markus Pieper, Gabriele Preuß, Christine Revault D'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Dominique Riquet, Massimiliano Salini, Claudia Schmidt, Claudia Tapardel, Keith Taylor, Pavel Teli ka, István Ujhelyi, Wim van de Camp, Elissavet Vozemberg, Janusz Zemke, Roberts Z le, Kosma Złotowski, El bieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska
Substitutes present for the final vote	Rosa D'Amato, Werner Kuhn, Jörg Leichtfried