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REPORT

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2013
(2014/2115(DEC))

Committee on Budgetary Control

Rapporteur: Ryszard Czarnecki

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1. PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DECISION

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2013 (2014/2115(DEC))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the final annual accounts of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2013,
- having regard to the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2013, together with the Agency's replies¹,
- having regard to the statement of assurance² as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2013, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the Council's recommendation of 17 February 2015 on discharge to be given to the Agency in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2013 (05304/2015 – C8-0054/2015),
- having regard to Article 319 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities³,
- having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002⁴, and in particular Article 208 thereof,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 768/2005 of 26 April 2005 establishing a Community Fisheries Control Agency and amending Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy⁵, and in particular Article 36 thereof,

1 OJ C 442, 10.12.2014, p. 152.

2 OJ C 442, 10.12.2014, p. 152.

3 OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

4 OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

5 OJ L 128, 21.5.2005, p. 1.

- having regard to Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2343/2002 of 19 November 2002 on the framework Financial Regulation for the bodies referred to in Article 185 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities¹,
 - having regard to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 of 30 September 2013 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies referred to in Article 208 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council², and in particular Article 108 thereof,
 - having regard to Rule 94 of and Annex V to its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the opinion of the Committee on Fisheries (A8-0100/2015),
1. Grants the Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2013;
 2. Sets out its observations in the resolution below;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this decision, and the resolution forming an integral part of it, to the Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors, and to arrange for their publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (L series).

1 OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 72.

2 OJ L 328, 7.12.2013, p. 42.

2. PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DECISION

on the closure of the accounts of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2013 (2014/2115(DEC))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the final annual accounts of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2013,
- having regard to the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2013, together with the Agency's replies¹,
- having regard to the statement of assurance² as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2013, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the Council's recommendation of 17 February 2015 on discharge to be given to the Agency in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2013 (05304/2015 – C8-0054/2015),
- having regard to Article 319 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities³,
- having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002⁴, and in particular Article 208 thereof,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 768/2005 of 26 April 2005 establishing a Community Fisheries Control Agency and amending Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy⁵, and in particular Article 36 thereof,
- having regard to Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2343/2002 of 19 November 2002 on the framework Financial Regulation for the bodies referred to in Article 185 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial

1 OJ C 442, 10.12.2014, p. 152.

2 OJ C 442, 10.12.2014, p. 152.

3 OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

4 OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

5 OJ L 128, 21.5.2005, p. 1.

Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities¹,

- having regard to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 of 30 September 2013 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies referred to in Article 208 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council², and in particular Article 108 thereof,
 - having regard to Rule 94 of and Annex V to its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the opinion of the Committee on Fisheries (A8-0100/2015),
1. Notes that the final annual accounts of the European Fisheries Control Agency are as annexed to the Court of Auditors' report;
 2. Approves the closure of the accounts of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2013;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors, and to arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (L series).

1 OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 72.

2 OJ L 328, 7.12.2013, p. 42.

3. MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

**with observations forming an integral part of the decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2013
(2014/2115(DEC))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2013,
 - having regard to Rule 94 of and Annex V to its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the opinion of the Committee on Fisheries (A8-0100/2015),
- A. whereas, according to its financial statements, the final budget of the European Fisheries Control Agency (“the Agency”) for the financial year 2013 was EUR 9 216 900; whereas the entire budget of the Agency derives from the Union budget,
- B. whereas the Court of Auditors, in its report on the annual accounts of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2013 (“the Court’s report”), has stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the Agency's annual accounts are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular,

Follow-up of 2012 discharge

1. Notes from the Court’s report that regarding one comment made in the Court’s 2011 report and marked as “Ongoing” in the Court’s 2012 report, corrective actions were taken and the comment is now marked in the Court’s 2013 report as “Completed”; notes furthermore that for the two comments made in the Court’s 2012 report, corrective actions were taken and one comment is now marked as “Completed” and the other as “Not Applicable”;
2. Acknowledges from the Agency that it has put in place a carry forward forecast procedure with the aim of reducing the level of carry-overs; calls on the Agency to continue to look for ways to reduce the level of carry-overs and to avoid any unplanned carry-overs;
3. Acknowledges from the Agency that information on the impact of its activities on Union citizens is provided on its website, mainly through the yearly publication of strategic documents such as its annual activity report or the results of controls and inspection campaigns; notes that the Agency is currently developing a new website in order to increase visibility and transparency;
4. Acknowledges from the Agency that it continuously assesses new possibilities to develop synergies with other agencies such as the service level agreement for sharing the internal audit capability, coordination of training courses and *ex post* controls with

other agencies located in Spain and Portugal; notes furthermore that the Agency is currently assisting the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) with an extra connection to “S-TESTA” and is looking to have its external website hosted on EMSA’s secondary IT site; takes note of the collaboration between the Agency and EMSA on the joint project of the anti-piracy monitoring service (MARSURV-1);

Budget and financial management

5. Notes that budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2013 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 98,64 % and that the payment appropriations execution rate was 83,85 %; acknowledges from the Court’s report that the high overall level of committed appropriations indicates that commitments are being made in a timely manner;

Commitments and carry-overs

6. Notes with concern that the level of committed appropriations carried over to 2014 was high at 38 % for Title II (administrative expenditure) and 43 % for Title III (operating expenditure); notes from the Agency’s reply that Title II carry-overs were in part due to amount and timing of possible payments for retroactive salary adjustments for 2011 and 2013, which was clarified in November 2013; acknowledges from the Court’s report that Title III carry-overs resulted mainly from the large number of IT projects that were either launched or ongoing during 2013;

Procurement and recruitment procedures

7. Acknowledges from the Agency that its Administrative Board adopted the “Multiannual Staff Policy Plan 2015-2017” in March 2014, in line with the Commission’s guidelines; observes that as of 31 December 2013, the Agency had 68 authorised posts in its establishment plan, consisting of temporary agents, contractual agents and seconded national experts, of which 65 posts were filled;

Prevention and management of conflicts of interests and transparency

8. Acknowledges from the Agency that its comprehensive policy on the prevention and management of conflicts of interests was adopted by its Administrative Board in October 2014 and is publicly available on its website; calls on the Agency to inform the discharge authority about the concrete outcome of the new adopted policy and to provide a track record of cases by the end of June 2015;
9. Observes that that policy imposes the obligation to publish only the declarations of interests of the members of the Administrative Board, the Executive Director and the Heads of Unit but not their CVs, whose publication is made on a voluntary basis; notes from the Agency that that obligation does not apply to the members of its Advisory Board, whose independence should also be ensured; calls on the Agency to revise that policy and publish the CVs of the Executive Director, Heads of Units and members of the Administrative Board on a mandatory basis; calls on the Agency to publish also the CVs and declarations of interests of members of the Advisory Board in order to contribute to bigger transparency;

Internal audit

10. Notes that the Commission's Internal Audit Service (IAS) carried out an audit with the objective to assess the adequacy of design and effective application of the internal control system (ICS) with regard to the Strategic Planning of Joint Deployments as implemented by the Agency; acknowledges that the IAS found the ICS in place as providing reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of the business objectives for the Strategic Planning of Joint Deployments;
11. Acknowledges that the IAS followed up the implementation of its earlier recommendations to the Agency through a desk review and that it found no critical or very important recommendations open as of 31 December 2013;

Other comments

12. Acknowledges the quality and importance of the tasks carried out by the Agency and welcomes its effectiveness, its consistency and the excellent results achieved since it was set up;
13. Emphasises the importance of the Agency's role in the implementation of the common fisheries policy and in achieving the objectives thereof, particularly in light of the landing obligation and demands in terms of the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries activities;
14. Calls on the Agency to ensure that control activities are suitably coordinated and structured in all Member States;

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15. Refers, for other observations of a cross-cutting nature accompanying its decision on discharge, to its resolution of ... 20151 on the performance, financial management and control of the agencies.

1 Texts adopted of that date, P8_TA-PROV(2015)0000.

25.2.2015

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2013
(2014/2115(DEC))

Rapporteur: Alain Cadec

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Fisheries calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Acknowledges the quality and importance of the tasks carried out by the European Fisheries Control Agency ('the Agency'); welcomes its effectiveness, its consistency and the excellent results achieved since it was set up;
2. Emphasises the importance of the Agency's role in the implementation of the common fisheries policy (CFP) and in achieving the objectives thereof, particularly in light of the landing obligation and demands in terms of the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries activities;
3. Points to the need for the Agency to ensure that control activities are suitably coordinated and structured in all Member States;
4. Points out that the policy objectives of the reformed CFP mean that control plays a crucial role and that it is therefore necessary to enhance the financial and human resources available to the Agency in the coming years; calls for an assurance as to the amounts to be included in forthcoming budgets so that they can meet the existing needs and the declared ambitions; calls on the Agency and the Member States, with the help and support of the Commission, to ensure that control is properly coordinated and that appropriations, including those under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, are used optimally;
5. Takes note of the annual report of the Court of Auditors on the Agency for the financial year 2013 and of the Agency's annual activity report;
6. Expresses its satisfaction with the Court of Auditors' declaration that the transactions

underlying the annual accounts for the financial year 2013 are legal and regular;

7. Stresses the excellent implementation rate of C1 commitment appropriations (99 %) and C1 payment appropriations (84 %), both being an improvement over the previous year; encourages the Agency to continue its efforts to ensure the optimum use of the appropriations allocated;
8. Notes the level of planned carry-overs of appropriations for 2013; notes the specific and entirely normal nature of these carry-overs; welcomes the level of utilisation of appropriations carried over, with an implementation rate of 90 %;
9. Notes that the voted appropriations for all Agency operations are not under-used and that their levels correspond to existing needs; stresses that they could be increased in future years;
10. Notes that the Agency's efforts to improve its procedures are having an effect;
11. Proposes to grant the Executive Director of the 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	+: 18 -: 3 0: 3
Members present for the final vote	Marco Affronte, Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Renata Briano, Alain Cadec, Richard Corbett, Diane Dodds, Linnéa Engström, João Ferreira, Raymond Finch, Ian Hudghton, Carlos Iturgaiz, Werner Kuhn, António Marinho e Pinto, Gabriel Mato, Norica Nicolai, Liadh Ní Riada, Ulrike Rodust, Remo Sernagiotto, Ricardo Serrão Santos, Isabelle Thomas, Ruža Tomašić, Jarosław Wałęsa
Substitutes present for the final vote	Ole Christensen, Sylvie Goddyn

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	23.3.2015
Result of final vote	+: 21 -: 5 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Inés Ayala Sender, Ryszard Czarnecki, Dennis de Jong, Tamás Deutsch, Martina Dlabajová, Ingeborg Gräßle, Bernd Kölmel, Bogusław Liberadzki, Verónica Lope Fontagné, Monica Macovei, Georgi Pirinski, Petri Sarvamaa, Claudia Schmidt, Bart Staes, Michael Theurer, Marco Valli, Derek Vaughan, Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Joachim Zeller
Substitutes present for the final vote	Caterina Chinnici, Iris Hoffmann, Monika Hohlmeier, Benedek Jávor, Andrey Novakov, Julia Pitera, Miroslav Poche
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Laura Ferrara