



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

A8-0098/2015

30.3.2015

REPORT

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European
Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2013
(2014/2119(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 Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2013 (2014/2119(DEC))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the final annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2013,
- having regard to the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2013, together with the Institute'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 Institute 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 Regulation (EC) No 1922/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on establishing a European Institute for Gender Equality⁵, and in particular Article 15 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. 167.

² OJ C 442, 10.12.2014, p. 167.

³ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

⁴ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 9.

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 Women's Rights and Gender Equality (A8-0098/2015),

1. Grants the Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality discharge in respect of the implementation of the Institute'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 Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality, 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 Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2013
(2014/2119(DEC))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the final annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2013,
- having regard to the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2013, together with the Institute'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 Institute 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 Regulation (EC) No 1922/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on establishing a European Institute for Gender Equality⁵, and in particular Article 15 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. 167.

² OJ C 442, 10.12.2014, p. 167.

³ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

⁴ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 9.

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 Women's Rights and Gender Equality (A8-0098/2015),
1. Notes that the final annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality are as annexed to the Court of Auditors' report;
 2. Approves the closure of the accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2013;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality, 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 Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2013
(2014/2119(DEC))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality 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 Women's Rights and Gender Equality (A8-0098/2015),
- A. whereas, according to its financial statements, the final budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality ("the Institute") for the financial year 2013 was EUR 10 024 535, representing an increase of 29,49 % compared to 2012,
- B. whereas the Court of Auditors, in its report on the annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2013 ("the Court's report"), has stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the Institute'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 two comments made in the Court's 2011 report and marked as "Ongoing" in the Court's 2012 report, corrective actions were taken and one comment is marked in the Court's 2013 report as completed while one is marked as "Ongoing"; notes, furthermore, that for the two comments made in the Court's 2012 report, corrective actions were taken and one comment is marked as "Completed" while one is marked as "Ongoing";
2. Acknowledges from the Institute that information on its activities' impact on Union citizens is available on its website - which has been updated - and has been made more accessible through the use of social media;
3. Notes that in order to improve procurement, planning and monitoring, the Institute has put in place a monitoring tool which follows the expected dates of each step of the annual procurement proceedings;

Budget and financial management

4. Notes that budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2013 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 98,01 % and that the payment appropriations execution rate was 76,93 %;

5. Notes from the Institute that according to its plans to ensure adequate monitoring and reporting of the budget implementation, a procedure for central budget monitoring has been adopted in 2013; calls on the Institute to inform the discharge authority on the results obtained through that procedure;

Commitments and carry-overs

6. Notes from the Court's report that the overall level of committed appropriations in 2013 was 99 %, indicating that commitments were made in a timely manner; welcomes the further reduction of the overall level of carry-overs from EUR 2 500 000 (32 %) in 2012 to EUR 2 200 000 (29 %) in 2013; points out that those carry-overs mainly relate to title III (operational expenditure) with EUR 2 000 000 representing 56 % of the corresponding committed appropriations; acknowledges that those carry-overs mainly concern procurement procedures that were concluded late in 2013 due to reasons mostly beyond the Institute's control, such as a delayed decision by the Presidency of the Council of the Union regarding a subject of study;
7. Notes that according to the Court's report, the level of carry-overs is in line with the budgetary principle of annuality;

Procurement and recruitment procedures

8. Ascertains from the Institute that its recruitment and selection procedure has been updated according to the discharge authority's recommendations and now incorporates written tests as well as their respective weightings, which are finalised before the review of any candidate application;
9. Acknowledges from the Institute that from 2013, its annual work programme (AWP) incorporates a financing decision indicating new procurement details, including the total annual budget reserved for operational procurement as well as the indicative timeframe for launching procurement procedures;
10. Notes from the Institute that a centralised procurement monitoring tool, which covers all procurement procedures and indicates planned and actual dates of the main procedural steps in each procurement procedure, has been developed;

Prevention and management of conflicts of interests and transparency

11. Takes note that the Institute's Management Board adopted the policy on management of conflict of interest after the policy proposal had been reviewed and approved by the European Commission; acknowledges from the Institute that the publication of CVs and declarations of interest of the Management Board members, Executive Director and senior management is included in that policy and accomplished on the Institute's website;

Internal audit

12. Notes from the Institute that in 2013, the Commission's Internal Audit Service (IAS) carried out audit work in accordance with the Institute's strategic audit plan; notes that this work included an audit on human resources management which identified good practices as well as reasonable assurance regarding the human resources management set-up;
13. Notes with concern that in the course of the risk analysis, the IAS identified certain processes of high inherent risk which could not be audited within the audit plan as the controls were assessed as absent or insufficient; welcomes the submission of an action plan aimed at addressing those high risk areas; looks forward to the next in-depth risk assessment which will follow-up on this action plan and calls on the Institute to inform the discharge authority on the results of the risk assessment;
14. Takes note from the Institute that no critical or very important recommendations from the IAS were open as of 31 December 2013;

Other comments

15. Recalls that the Institute' has been established in order to promote gender equality, including gender mainstreaming in all Union policies and the resulting national policies, to fight against discrimination based on sex and to raise Union citizens' awareness of gender equality; recalls that according to the Institute's AWP, its mission is to become the European knowledge centre on gender equality issues;
16. Recalls that the Institute has a fundamental role due to the fact that real and effective equality between women and men should be promoted and granted in all spheres of public and private life;
17. Calls on the Institute to include the joint annual meetings between Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and the Institute in its AWP; calls on the Institute to regularly present the results and findings of its research before the relevant Parliament's committees; notes that the Institute should facilitate access in a more proactive way to gender-related information, focused on the work carried out by its Members, to the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality; considers that this would provide them with important and more effective information tools;
18. Calls for better interaction between legislative and non-legislative priorities of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and the Institute's research; acknowledges the importance of the Institute's role in collecting reliable comparative data disaggregated by sex and fundamental to the development of national and Union policies, especially those on gender based violence; calls on the Institute to work closely with Eurostat and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in order to produce regular surveys on those issues that the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality considers to be the most important, notably violence against women and typical features of female employment;

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19. 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, P7_TA-PROV(2015)0000.

21.1.2015

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2013
(2014/2119(DEC))

Rapporteur: Iratxe García Pérez

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls that the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) ('the Institute') has been established in order to promote gender equality, including gender mainstreaming in all Union policies and the resulting national policies, to fight against discrimination based on sex and to raise Union citizens' awareness of gender equality; recalls that according to the Institute's annual work programme, its mission is to become the European knowledge centre on gender equality issues;
2. Recalls that the Institute has a fundamental role due especially to the fact that real and effective equality between women and men should be promoted and granted in all spheres of public and private life;
3. Notes the Court of Auditors' confirmation that the Institute's annual accounts, in all material respects, fairly present its financial position as of 31 December 2013 and that the Institute's operations and cash flows for the financial year 2013 are in accordance with the provisions of its Financial Regulation;
4. Welcomes the fact that in 2013, the overall level of committed appropriations was 99 %, suggesting that commitments were made in a timely manner;
5. Points out the Court of Auditors' opinion that the transactions underlying the Institute's

annual accounts for the financial year 2013 are, in all material respects, legal and regular;

6. Draws attention with satisfaction to the Court of Auditors' comment about the reduction in the carryover of committed appropriations from 32 % in 2012 to 29 % in 2013; notes the Court of Auditors' comment that these carryovers mainly concern procurement procedures concluded late in the year due to reasons mostly beyond the Institute's control; calls on the Institute to continue its efforts to progressively reduce them and to deliver improved budget efficiency;
7. Notes the measures taken by the Institute following last year's commitments as regards procurement planning and monitoring procedure and the fact that the Institute now has a monitoring tool in place which follows the expected dates of each step of the annual procurement proceedings;
8. Recalls the importance of taking the activities anticipated in the cooperation plan with the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality into consideration in the Institute's annual work programme and to regularly present the results and findings of the research before the relevant committees of Parliament; notes that the Institute should ease the access to gender-related information towards the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in a more proactive way and more focused on the work carried out by this committee, which would allow its members more effective tools of information; calls for better interaction between legislative and non-legislative priorities of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and the Institute's research; supports the importance of the role performed by the Institute in collecting reliable comparative data disaggregated by sex and fundamental to the development of national and Union policies especially on gender based violence; calls on the Institute to work closely with Eurostat and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in order to produce regular surveys on those issues the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality considers to be the most important, notably violence against women and typical features of female employment;
9. Is of the opinion, on the basis of the data available now, that discharge can be granted to the Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality in respect of the implementation of the Institute's budget for the financial year 2013.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

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| Date adopted | 20.1.2015 |
| Result of final vote | +: 28 -: 6 0: 1 |
| Members present for the final vote | Daniela Aiuto, Maria Arena, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Malin Björk, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Viorica Dăncilă, Iratxe García Pérez, Anna Hedh, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Vicky Maeijer, Angelika Mlinar, Krisztina Morvai, Angelika Niebler, Maria Noichl, Marijana Petir, Terry Reintke, Liliana Rodrigues, Jordi Sebastià, Michaela Šojdrová, Ángela Vallina, Beatrix von Storch, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Anna Záborská, Jana Žitňanská |
| Substitutes present for the final vote | Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Biljana Borzan, Linnéa Engström, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Mariya Gabriel, Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz, Kostadinka Kuneva, Marc Tarabella |
| Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote | Rosa D'Amato |

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

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| 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 |