



**2015/2187(DEC)**

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# DRAFT REPORT

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European  
Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2014  
(2015/2187(DEC))

Committee on Budgetary Control

Rapporteur: Derek Vaughan

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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 2014 (2015/2187(DEC))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the final annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2014,
- having regard to the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2014, together with the Institute's replies<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the statement of assurance<sup>2</sup> 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 2014, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the Council's recommendation of xx February 2016 on discharge to be given to the Institute in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2014 (xxxxxx/2016 – C8-xxxx/2016),
- having regard to Article 319 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- 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 1605/2002<sup>3</sup>, 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 Equality<sup>4</sup>, 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 Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities<sup>5</sup>,
- 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 Council<sup>6</sup>, and in particular Article 108 thereof,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 409, 9.12.2015, p. 168.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 409, 9.12.2015, p. 168.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 9.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 72.

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 328, 7.12.2013, p. 42.

- 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 (A8-0000/2016),
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 2014;
  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).

## 2. PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DECISION

**on the closure of the accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2014  
(2015/2187(DEC))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the final annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2014,
- having regard to the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2014, together with the Institute's replies<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the statement of assurance<sup>2</sup> 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 2014, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the Council's recommendation of xx February 2016 on discharge to be given to the Institute in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2014 (xxxxxx/2016 – C8-xxxx/2016),
- having regard to Article 319 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- 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 1605/2002<sup>3</sup>, 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 Equality<sup>4</sup>, 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 Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities<sup>5</sup>,
- 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 Council<sup>6</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 409, 9.12.2015, p. 168.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 409, 9.12.2015, p. 168.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 9.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 72.

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 328, 7.12.2013, p. 42.

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 (A8-0000/2016),
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 2014;
  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).

### **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 2014  
(2015/2187(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 2014,
  - 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 (A8-0000/2016),
- A. whereas, according to its financial statements, the final budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality (“the Institute”) for the financial year 2014 was EUR 7 340 081, representing a decrease of 3,08 % compared to 2013;
- B. whereas the Court of Auditors (“the Court”), in its report on the annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2014 (“the Court’s report”), stated that it has obtained reasonable assurances that the Institute’s annual accounts for the financial year 2014 are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular;

#### ***Budget and financial management***

1. Notes that budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2014 resulted in a high budget implementation rate of 99,04 % indicating that commitments were made in a timely manner; notes that the payment appropriations execution rate was 71,91 %, representing an increase of 1,75 % compared to the previous year;

#### ***Commitments and carry-overs***

2. Welcomes the further reduction of the overall level of committed appropriations carried over from EUR 2 500 000 (32 %) in 2012 and EUR 2 200 000 (29 %) in 2013 to EUR 1 900 000 (27 %) in 2014; notes from the Court's report that the level of carry-overs was at EUR 1 800 000 (54 %) for Title III (operational expenditure); acknowledges that the main reasons for these carry-overs were delayed procurements of surveys and studies as well as ongoing studies which were expected to be finalised as planned in 2015;
3. Observes that an amount of EUR 2 167 128 was carried forward from the financial year 2013; notes with satisfaction that only 1,76 % of the 2013 carry-overs were cancelled;

#### ***Procurement and recruitment procedures***

4. Notes that the Institute’s public procurement contracts were tendered on the broadest possible basis, while for negotiated procedures on low-value contracts the number of invited candidates was set to ensure a balance between publicity and proportionality; notes

furthermore that 47 operational procurement procedures were completed for the amount of EUR 3 217 653, while the remainder of 2014 operations budget was spent on translations, daily subsistence allowances paid to experts, staff missions and occasional purchase against invoices;

5. Notes from the Court's report that at year-end, the Institute had 29 posts in its establishment plan, all of which were occupied; ascertains that in anticipation of the staff reduction and evolving work priorities, the Institute reduced its number of posts by one in comparison to the previous year, while the reduction of two other temporary posts is foreseen for the 2016-2017 period; observes that these reductions will bring the total reduction of its establishment plan to 10 %;

#### ***Internal audit***

6. Acknowledges that the Institute submitted to the Commission's Internal Audit Service (IAS) in December 2014 an action plan addressing high risk areas identified during the course of the IAS' risk analysis made in 2013; acknowledges that at year-end, all processes were duly implemented within the set timeline;
7. Notes that in March 2014 the IAS carried out an Annual Internal Audit Report at the Institute for the financial year 2013; notes with satisfaction that no recommendations marked as "Critical" or "Very important" were issued by the IAS; takes note that following the full risk assessment exercise, the IAS prepared a Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2015-2017, which was endorsed by the Institute's Management Board; ascertains that the IAS, in its report from April 2015, confirmed that no open recommendations were rated as "Critical" and that one open recommendation was rated as "Very important";

#### ***Internal controls***

8. Ascertains that the Institute, within the framework of the implementation of its Internal Control Standards, concentrated on adopting the quality management framework, the implementation of an ex-ante control system, strengthening the anti-fraud and anti-harassment environment as well as on the development of its Business Continuity Plan; notes that some measures were effectively implemented by 2014 while others were scheduled to continue during 2015;

#### ***Other comments***

9. Notes that the Institute regularly consults the Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality on defined topics, through direct contacts with its members or via liaisons; notes furthermore that the Institute takes part in the Commission (Eurostat) working groups to explore synergies, but also to provide advice on technical issues, the gender perspective of data collection and harmonisation; takes note that the Institute works closely with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND); observes that this is reflected in the Gender Equality Index and in the Institute's Beijing reports for the Presidency of the Council;
10. Notes with satisfaction that the Institute is looking for synergies by pooling certain tasks and introducing shared services with other agencies; notes in particular the introduction of



a service level agreement with the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex) in the area of ex-post controls;

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11. Refers, for other observations of a cross-cutting nature accompanying its decision on discharge, to its resolution of [xx xxxx 2016]<sup>1</sup> [on the performance, financial management and control of the agencies].).

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted of that date, P[8\_TA(-PROV)(2016)0000].