

Amendment 1**Daniel Freund, Mikuláš Peksa**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Report**A9-0044/2022****Daniel Freund**

Discharge 2020: EU general budget - European Parliament

2021/2107(DEC)

Motion for a resolution**Paragraph 11***Motion for a resolution**Amendment*

11. Notes the response given by Parliament in the adversarial procedure which accepted the Court's recommendation; notes that in 2019 Parliament launched a project to automate the registration of attendance with biometric technology in the central attendance register and *in the parliamentary chambers, and that such technology aimed to eliminate mistakes and ensure* that only Members entitled to the daily subsistence allowance actually receive it; regrets that *due to the COVID-19 pandemic the project has had some delays; notes that Parliament's administration, as mandated by the Bureau, signed a contract for that project at the end of 2020, and also that Parliament's data controller is currently assessing* the European Data Protection Supervisor's *recommendations which were received* at the end of March 2021;

11. Notes the response given by Parliament in the adversarial procedure which accepted the Court's recommendation; notes that in 2019 Parliament launched a project to automate the registration of attendance with biometric technology in the central attendance register and *signed a contract for this project at the end of 2020; stresses that the large-scale processing of biometric data should be avoided; asks the Bureau to develop an alternative solution that does not involve the processing of biometric data and ensures* that only Members entitled to the daily subsistence allowance actually receive it; regrets that *this project was pursued despite the European Data Protection Supervisor's adverse opinion at the end of March 2021 and reiterated in its Annual Report 2021, where it was stated that Parliament should consider less intrusive alternatives with regard to data protection;*

Or. en

Amendment 2**Daniel Freund**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Report**Daniel Freund**Discharge 2020: EU general budget - European Parliament
2021/2107(DEC)**A9-0044/2022****Motion for a resolution****Paragraph 15***Motion for a resolution*

15. Notes that the 2020 follow-up process resulted in the closure of 61 of the 108 open actions; notes that ***in addition to these validated actions, there was a total of 47 open actions from audit reports, including those not yet due for implementation, and that*** 15 of those actions address significant risk; regrets that some of the actions mentioned above were recommended several years ago but remain unimplemented; expects the different directorates-general to ensure that the overdue actions are closed without any further delay and that the agreed actions will be implemented in accordance with the due dates set in the internal auditor's annual report; calls on the Secretary-General to report back to the discharge authority on the closure of the remaining actions in the course of his hearings in Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control in September and November 2022;

Amendment

15. Notes that the 2020 follow-up process resulted in the closure of 61 of the 108 open actions ***analysed and for which the agreed due dates for implementation had expired***; notes that ***among the remaining*** 47 open actions from audit reports ***concerned***, 15 of those actions address significant risk; regrets that some of the actions mentioned above were recommended several years ago but remain unimplemented; expects the different directorates-general to ensure that the overdue actions are closed without any further delay and that the agreed actions will be implemented in accordance with the due dates set in the internal auditor's annual report; calls on the Secretary-General to report back to the discharge authority on the closure of the remaining actions in the course of his hearings in Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control in September and November 2022;

Or. en

27.4.2022

A9-0044/3

Amendment 3

Daniel Freund

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Report

A9-0044/2022

Daniel Freund

Discharge 2020: EU general budget - European Parliament
2021/2107(DEC)

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 55 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

55 a. Recalls that according to Rule 176(2) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, once a penalty that was imposed by the President upon a Member becomes final, it shall be published prominently on Parliament's website and shall remain there for the rest of the term, in line with the legal principles of sound conduct of investigation, presumption of innocence, and protection of personal rights; calls for a reflection on whether penalties are currently published prominently enough;

Or. en

Amendment 4**Daniel Freund**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Report**Daniel Freund**Discharge 2020: EU general budget - European Parliament
2021/2107(DEC)**A9-0044/2022****Motion for a resolution****Paragraph 63***Motion for a resolution*

63. Takes note of the fact that there were again no cases of whistleblowing recorded by Parliament in 2020; recalls that the most recent cases of whistleblowing date back to 2016 and that each of the three APAs concerned were subsequently dismissed; recalls that, among others, APAs are in a vulnerable position due to their special employment situation; calls on Parliament to fully adapt its own internal rules contained in the Staff Regulations to Directive (EU) 2019/1937⁵, including by setting up secure channels for reporting; further notes that whistleblowers deserve proper protection, similar to that of victims of harassment; requests Parliament to raise awareness, where possible, among parliamentary staff of their whistleblower protections;

Amendment

63. Takes note of the fact that there were again no cases of whistleblowing recorded by Parliament in 2020; recalls that the most recent cases of whistleblowing date back to 2016 and that each of the three APAs concerned were subsequently dismissed; recalls that, among others, APAs are in a vulnerable position due to their special employment situation; calls on Parliament to fully adapt its own internal rules contained in the Staff Regulations to Directive (EU) 2019/1937⁵, including by setting up secure channels for reporting; further notes that whistleblowers deserve proper protection, similar to that of victims of harassment, ***and that this should also include the establishment of an advisory committee to deal with the protection of whistleblowers; regrets that there is little awareness among staff of the existence of a contact point for whistleblowers in the Secretary General's cabinet and is of the opinion that this contact point cannot replace a fully-fledged advisory committee; calls on the Bureau to require training for contact points receiving whistleblower disclosures and to adopt clear and legally certain standards regarding which cases require protection to be granted to the whistleblower, including for APAs, and to publish those standards***; requests Parliament to raise awareness, where possible, among parliamentary staff of

their whistleblower protections;

⁵ Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law (OJ L 305, 26.11.2019, p. 17).

⁵ Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law (OJ L 305, 26.11.2019, p. 17).

Or. en

27.4.2022

A9-0044/5

Amendment 5

Daniel Freund

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Report

Daniel Freund

Discharge 2020: EU general budget - European Parliament
2021/2107(DEC)

A9-0044/2022

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 64 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

64 a. Recalls that pursuant to Rule 11(4) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, Parliament already provides Members with the possibility of publishing a voluntary audit or confirmation of their general expenditure allowance expenses; notes that five voluntary declarations on the use of the general expenditure allowance were submitted during the calendar year 2020; calls on Parliament's services to send an annual reminder to Members in relation to this possibility; calls on the Bureau to regularly inform the discharge authority of the number of Members who have followed these recommendations;

Or. en

Amendment 6**Daniel Freund**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Report**A9-0044/2022****Daniel Freund**Discharge 2020: EU general budget - European Parliament
2021/2107(DEC)**Motion for a resolution****Paragraph 65 a (new)***Motion for a resolution**Amendment*

65 a. Expresses its regret over the fact that the Bureau has not fully implemented the will of the Plenary expressed on several occasions to reform the General Expenditure Allowance (GEA), thereby preventing Union taxpayers' money, which amounts to 40 million Euro per year, from being spent in a more transparent and accountable manner; repeats its call for a reform of the GEA that would establish sample checks by Parliament's services on 5% of Members' GEA expenditure, and that would oblige Members to keep all receipts pertaining to the GEA, to annually publish an overview of expenditure by category as well as an independent auditor's opinion on Parliament's website, and to return the unspent share of the GEA at the end of the mandate; notes that the requested sample checks would pertain to checking 36 randomly selected Members per year and, based on a calculation by DG FINS, would require a maximum of 4 to 6 FTE posts;

Or. en