AMENDMENTS
1 - 29

Draft opinion
Antonio Tajani
(PE699.205v01-00)

2020 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Council and Council (2021/2108(DEC))
Amendment 1  
Domènec Ruiz Devesa  

Draft opinion  
Recital B a (new)  

Draft opinion  

Amendment  

B a.  Whereas the applicable provisions of the Financial Regulation and Parliament's Rules of Procedure establish the power to grant discharge in order to maintain transparency and to ensure democratic accountability towards Union taxpayers;

Or. en

Amendment 2  
Domènec Ruiz Devesa  

Draft opinion  
Recital B b (new)  

Draft opinion  

Amendment  

B b.  Whereas over the course of almost twenty years Parliament has implemented the well-established and respected practice of granting discharge to all Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies;

Or. en

Amendment 3  
Fabio Massimo Castaldo  

Draft opinion  
Recital C a (new)  

Draft opinion  

Amendment  

Ca.  whereas the Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on
sound financial management concluded in December 2020 between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council provides for rules on cooperation between the institutions on the budget, in line with the principles of budget discipline and sound financial management; whereas the aforesaid agreement is binding on the institutions that signed it and entails budget cooperation and transparency obligations;

Amendment 4
Pascal Durand

Draft opinion
Recital C a (new)

C a. Whereas the European Council and the Council, as Union institutions, should be democratically accountable towards the citizens of the Union, in so far as they are beneficiaries of the general budget of the Union;

Amendment 5
Damian Boeselager

Draft opinion
Recital C a (new)

C a. Whereas democratic scrutiny of the spending of public funds is vital if citizens are to have confidence in the functioning of the institutions;
Amendment 6  
Fabio Massimo Castaldo  

Draft opinion  
Recital C b (new)  

Cb. whereas the 2018 recommendations of the European Ombudsman in case OI/2/2017/TE found that the Council's practices in regard to transparency in the legislative process constituted maladministration; whereas the Council did not comply with these recommendations which would have enabled citizens to follow the EU’s legislative process;  

Or. it

Amendment 7  
Damian Boeselager  

Draft opinion  
Recital C b (new)  

Cb. Whereas the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union confirms the right of taxpayers and of the public to be kept informed about the use of public revenues;  

Or. en

Amendment 8  
Damian Boeselager  

Draft opinion  
Recital C c (new)  

Draft opinion  

C c. Whereas, pursuant to Article 15(1)
of the Treaty on the European Union, the
European Council is not to exercise
legislative functions;

Amendment 9
Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

1. Regrets the Council’s continuing refusal to engage in loyal cooperation in the framework of the discharge procedure, which prevents Parliament making an informed decision, and its lack of respect for Parliament’s role as guarantor of the democratic accountability of the Union budget;

Amendment

1. Calls for full respect of Parliament’s prerogatives and regrets the Council’s continuing refusal to engage in loyal cooperation in the framework of the discharge procedure, which prevents Parliament making an informed decision, and its lack of respect for Parliament’s role as guarantor of the democratic accountability of the Union budget;

Amendment 10
Pascal Durand

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

1. Regrets the Council’s continuing refusal to engage in loyal cooperation in the framework of the discharge procedure, which prevents Parliament making an informed decision, and its lack of respect for Parliament’s role as guarantor of the democratic accountability of the Union budget;

Amendment

1. Regrets the Council’s continuing refusal to engage in loyal cooperation in the framework of the discharge procedure for more than a decade, which prevents Parliament making an informed decision, and its lack of respect for Parliament’s role as guarantor of the democratic accountability of the Union budget;
Amendment 11
Pascal Durand

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

1 a. Recalls the role of Parliament and of other institutions in the discharge procedure, as provided for by TFEU, in particular Article 319 thereof, and by the Financial Regulation, in particular Articles 260 to 263 thereof; underlines that Parliament's role is reinforced by a well-established and respected practice;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Calls on the Council to resume negotiations on memorandum of understanding on the cooperation during the budget discharge procedure; reiterates that, if those negotiations do not succeed, they should be extended to the Commission to ensure that Parliament is provided with necessary information on how the Council is implementing its budget, either directly or via the Commission;

Or. en

Amendment

2. Calls on the Council to implement the recommendations adopted by the European Parliament on the budget discharge procedure and to resume negotiations on the memorandum of understanding on the interinstitutional cooperation on that matter; reiterates that, if those negotiations do not succeed, they should be extended to the Commission to ensure that Parliament is provided with necessary information on how the Council is implementing its budget, either directly or via the Commission; notes that the Commission agrees that the practice of giving discharge to each institution for their administrative expenditure should be pursued in the future;
Amendment 13
Damian Boeselager

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

2. Calls on the Council to resume negotiations on memorandum of understanding on the cooperation during the budget discharge procedure; reiterates that, if those negotiations do not succeed, they should be extended to the Commission to ensure that Parliament is provided with necessary information on how the Council is implementing its budget, either directly or via the Commission;

Amendment

2. Calls on the Council to resume negotiations on the memorandum of understanding on the cooperation during the budget discharge procedure; reiterates that, if those negotiations do not succeed, they should be extended to the Commission to ensure that Parliament is provided with necessary information on how the Council is implementing its budget, either directly or via the Commission; considers that the Conference on the Future of Europe provides an opportunity to come forward with proposals to improve the transparency and readability of the Council’s budget for citizens;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

2a. Calls on the Council to comply fully with the obligations deriving from the Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management in order to guarantee democratic scrutiny by Parliament and strengthen the democratic legitimacy of the work of the Council and transparency;

Amendment

2a. Calls on the Council to comply fully with the obligations deriving from the Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management in order to guarantee democratic scrutiny by Parliament and strengthen the democratic legitimacy of the work of the Council and transparency;
Amendment 15
Pascal Durand
Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

2 a.  Reiterates that the budget of the European Council and of the Council should be divided into two separate budgets to increase transparency, and to improve expenditure efficiency and accountability;

Amendment 16
Fabio Massimo Castaldo
Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

2b.  Recalls to mind the European Ombudsman's inquiry (OI/2/2017) and recommendations on the transparency of the Council's legislative work; considers complying with the Ombudsman's recommendations to be an important step that would enable citizens to be involved in the legislative process of the European Union and better understand it, and that this would enable the Council to comply with Parliament's requests made during discharge; calls therefore for the Council to improve legislative transparency by making a greater number of documents, including those on interinstitutional negotiations, available;
Amendment 17
Damian Boeselager

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

3. Considers that the Conference on the Future of Europe provides an opportunity to discuss proposals to enhance transparency and democratic accountability with regard to the protection of the Union’s financial interests;

Amendment

3. Considers that the Conference on the Future of Europe provides an opportunity to discuss proposals to enhance transparency and democratic accountability with regard to the protection of the Union’s financial interests and the Union’s accountability vis-à-vis citizens;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Jacek Saryusz-Wolski

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

3. Considers that the Conference on the Future of Europe provides an opportunity to discuss proposals to enhance transparency and democratic accountability with regard to the protection of the Union’s financial interests;

Amendment

3. Considers that the Conference on the Future of Europe provides an opportunity to discuss proposals to enhance transparency and democratic accountability with regard to the protection of the Union’s financial interests within the boundaries that are clearly and strictly determined by the Treaties;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

3. Considers that the Conference on the Future of Europe provides an opportunity to discuss proposals to enhance transparency and democratic accountability with regard to the protection of the Union’s financial interests;
3. Considers that the Conference on the Future of Europe provides an opportunity to discuss proposals to enhance transparency and democratic accountability with regard to the protection of the Union’s financial interests;

3. Considers that the Conference on the Future of Europe gives citizens and civil society organisations the opportunity to express their views and to discuss proposals to enhance transparency and democratic accountability with regard to the protection of the Union’s financial interests;

Amendment 20
Damian Boeselager

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Believes that increased transparency and a proactive approach to sharing information on the part of the Council would be conducive to a better-informed discharge procedure from the outset;

Amendment 21
Damian Boeselager

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Reiterates its full endorsement of the European Ombudsman’s recommendation in Case OI/2/2017/TE on the transparency of the Council legislative process, following its strategic inquiry; urges the Council to take all necessary measures to implement that recommendation without undue delay;
Amendment 22
Jacek Saryusz-Wolski

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Underlines that while the current situation could be improved through better interinstitutional cooperation within the Treaties framework, the revision of the Treaties could be considered in order to render the discharge procedure more clear, in the sense that the Parliament is tasked with the explicit competence to grant discharge to all institutions and bodies individually.

Amendment

4. Underlines that the current situation could be improved through better interinstitutional cooperation within the framework of the Treaties.

Or. en

Amendment 23
Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Underlines that while the current situation could be improved through better interinstitutional cooperation within the Treaties framework, the revision of the Treaties could be considered in order to render the discharge procedure more clear, in the sense that the Parliament is tasked with the explicit competence to grant discharge to all institutions and bodies individually.

Amendment

4. Underlines that while the current situation could be improved through better interinstitutional cooperation within the framework of the Treaties, a revision of the Treaties could be considered in order to render the discharge procedure more clear and transparent, in the sense that the Parliament is tasked with the explicit competence to grant discharge to all institutions and bodies individually.

Or. en

Amendment 24
Damian Boeselager
Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

4. Underlines that while the current situation could be improved through better interinstitutional cooperation within the Treaties framework, the revision of the Treaties could be considered in order to render the discharge procedure more clear, in the sense that the Parliament is tasked with the explicit competence to grant discharge to all institutions and bodies individually.

Or. en

Amendment 25
Damian Boeselager

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

4 a. Regrets that the budget of the European Council and of the Council has not been divided into two separate budgets, as recommended by Parliament in its recent discharge resolutions, in order to improve transparency and accountability of each institution.

Or. en

Amendment 26
Damian Boeselager

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

4 b. Regrets the lack of information on
the implementation of the Council’s gender action plan and of the measures taken to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities at the Council as a workplace; calls on the Council to provide information on the proportion of staff with disabilities, geographical and gender distribution, and measures taken in order to ensure equal opportunities, geographical balance and gender equality at the Council;

Amendment 27
Damian Boeselager

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 c. Regrets the use of corporate sponsorship to cover some of the expenses incurred by Member States to finance their Council Presidency; is highly concerned by the possible reputational damage that this practice might cause to the Council and to the Union; urges for the adoption of clear guidelines aimed at preventing situations of conflicts of interest and for the definition of transparent and binding rules on sponsorship;

Amendment 28
Damian Boeselager

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 d. Regrets that reporting by the
Council on measures taken to improve legislative transparency remains less than satisfactory and reiterates its call on the Council to step up its transparency efforts by, inter alia, publishing Council working documents in a machine-readable format, by recording and publishing Member States’ positions and making available more trilogue documents;

Or. en

Amendment 29
Damian Boeselager

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 e (new)

4 e. Considers that the lack of cooperation from the European Council and from the Council with the discharge authority sends a negative signal to citizens of the Union;

Or. en