



**2019/2057(DEC)**

31.10.2019

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018, Section II – European Council and Council  
(2019/2057(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Pascal Durand

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas, under the terms of Article 319 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the European Parliament, has the sole responsibility to grant discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union and whereas the Council's budget is a section of the Union budget;
- B. whereas, under the terms of Article 319(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Commission must submit to the European Parliament, at the latter's request, any necessary information concerning the execution of expenditure and the operation of financial control systems;
  - 1. Underlines the need for a memorandum of understanding between the European Parliament, Council and the Commission on the provision of the information necessary for Parliament to take an informed decision on discharge; considers that the negotiations with the Council to this end should be resumed and extended to the Commission, so as to ensure that Parliament is provided with the necessary information on how the Council is implementing its budget, either directly or via the Commission;
  - 2. Welcomes the statements by Vice-President-designate Věra Jourová and Commissioner-designate Johannes Hahn, in their hearings before the Parliament, that they are willing to engage in this matter so as to help achieve more transparency on the implementation of Council's budget; points to the Court of Justice's case-law on the right of taxpayers and public opinion to be kept informed of the use of public revenues;
  - 3. Is of the opinion that Parliament should address its decisions on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget to the Commission alone, while continuing the practice of adopting accompanying resolutions with observations addressed to each of the Union's institutions and bodies, so as to ensure that no section of the EU budget is implemented without proper scrutiny;
  - 4. Takes the view that, while the current situation could be improved through better cooperation between Union institutions inside the Treaties framework, a revision of the Treaties could ultimately be required 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.