



2020/2142(DEC)

10.2.2021

AMENDMENTS

1 - 57

Draft report
Pascal Durand
(PE655.987v01-00)

2019 discharge: General budget of the EU - Council and European Council
(2020/2142(DEC))

Amendment 1

Ryszard Czarnecki, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Raffaele Fitto, Joachim Stanislaw Brudziński, Elżbieta Rafalska

Proposal for a decision 1

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Secretary-General of the Council discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Council and of the Council for the financial year 2019*** / Postpones its decision on granting the Secretary-General of the Council discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Council and of the Council for the financial year 2019;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Secretary-General of the Council discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Council and of the Council for the financial year 2019;

Or. en

Amendment 2

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a decision 1

Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Secretary-General of the Council discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Council and of the Council for the financial year 2019*** / Postpones its decision on granting the Secretary-General of the Council discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Council and of the Council for the financial year 2019;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Secretary-General of the Council discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Council and of the Council for the financial year 2019;

Or. en

Amendment 3

Sabrina Pignedoli

Proposal for a decision 1
Paragraph 1

Proposal for a decision

1. ***Grants the Secretary-General of the Council discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Council and of the Council for the financial year 2019*** / Postpones its decision on granting the Secretary-General of the Council discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Council and of the Council for the financial year 2019;

Amendment

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Secretary-General of the Council discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Council and of the Council for the financial year 2019;

Or. it

Amendment 4
Isabel García Muñoz, Lara Wolters

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. ***Notes*** that the Court of Auditors (the ‘Court’), in its annual report for 2019, observed that no significant weaknesses had been identified in respect of the audited topics relating to human resources and procurement for the European Council and Council (the ‘Council’);

Amendment

1. ***Welcomes*** that the Court of Auditors (the ‘Court’), in its annual report for 2019, observed that no significant weaknesses had been identified in respect of the audited topics relating to human resources and procurement for the European Council and Council (the ‘Council’);

Or. en

Amendment 5
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2 a. Regrets, as an overall remark, that chapter 9 'Administration' of the Annual Report of the Court has a rather limited scope and conclusions, even if Heading 5 'Administration' of the Multiannual Financial Framework is considered low risk; requests that the audit work for that chapter be more focused on issues of high relevance or even critical importance for the Council;

Or. en

**Amendment 6
Luke Ming Flanagan**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2 b (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2 b. Reminds the longstanding request to separate the budget of the European Council and the Council into one budget for each of the two institutions for transparency reasons and to improve accountability for both institutions;

Or. en

**Amendment 7
Tomáš Zdechovský, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3. Observes that the Council's budget is mostly administrative with a large amount being used for expenditure concerning persons, buildings, furniture, equipment and miscellaneous running costs; ***calls on*** the Council, as it has done

3. Observes that the Council's budget is mostly administrative with a large amount being used for expenditure concerning persons, buildings, furniture, equipment and miscellaneous running costs; ***regrets that the request to separate***

in previous discharge resolutions, to separate the budget of the European Council and the Council into one budget for each institution for reasons of transparency and to improve accountability and expenditure efficiency for both institutions;

the budget of the European Council and the Council into one budget for each institution that has been made by Parliament in previous discharge resolutions has not been considered and urges the Council, as it has done in previous discharge resolutions, to separate the budget of the European Council and the Council into one budget for each institution for reasons of transparency and to improve accountability and expenditure efficiency for both institutions;

Or. en

Amendment 8

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Observes that the Council's budget is mostly administrative with a large **amount** being used for expenditure concerning persons, buildings, furniture, equipment and miscellaneous running costs; calls on the Council, as it has done in previous discharge resolutions, to separate the budget of the European Council and the Council into one budget for each institution for reasons of transparency and to improve accountability and expenditure efficiency for both institutions;

Amendment

3. Observes that the Council's budget is mostly administrative with a large **part of it** being used for expenditure concerning persons, buildings, furniture, equipment and miscellaneous running costs; calls on the Council, as it has **repeatedly** done in previous discharge resolutions, to separate the budget of the European Council and the Council into one budget for each institution for reasons of transparency and to improve accountability and expenditure efficiency for both institutions;

Or. en

Amendment 9

Tomáš Zdechovský, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Recognises a slight reduction in the carry-over rate, amounting to 9,8 %, from 2019 to 2020 (as compared to a carry-over of 10,7 % from 2018 to 2019 and 11,5 % from 2017 to 2018); reminds the Council **of the need** to strengthen its efforts to avoid budget over-estimates;

Amendment

6. Recognises a slight reduction in the carry-over rate, amounting to 9,8 %, from 2019 to 2020 (as compared to a carry-over of 10,7 % from 2018 to 2019 and 11,5 % from 2017 to 2018); reminds the Council, **however, that carry-overs are exceptions to the principle of annuality and calls on the Council** to strengthen its efforts to avoid budget over-estimates;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Recognises a slight reduction in the carry-over rate, amounting to 9,8 %, from 2019 to 2020 (as compared to a carry-over of 10,7 % from 2018 to 2019 and 11,5 % from 2017 to 2018); reminds the Council of the need to strengthen its efforts to avoid budget over-estimates;

Amendment

6. Recognises a slight reduction in the carry-over rate, amounting to 9,8 %, from 2019 to 2020 (as compared to a carry-over of 10,7 % from 2018 to 2019 and 11,5 % from 2017 to 2018); reminds the Council of the need to strengthen its efforts to avoid budget over-estimates, **reminding that carry-overs are exceptions to the principle of annuality and should reflect actual needs**;

Or. en

Amendment 11
Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Congratulates the Council on the successful commitment and payment rate

Amendment

7. Congratulates the Council on the successful commitment and payment rate

of 100 % for the budget line ‘Delegations’ travel expenses’; notes also the 100 % commitment rate for ‘Computer systems’ and ‘Information’; *notes*, however *that* these *have a* carry-over rate to 2020 of 35,4 % and 32,9 %, respectively;

of 100 % for the budget line ‘Delegations’ travel expenses’; notes also the 100 % commitment rate for ‘Computer systems’ and ‘Information’; *points*, however *to* these *budget lines'* carry-over rate to 2020 of 35,4 % and 32,9 %, respectively;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Isabel García Muñoz, Lara Wolters

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10 a. Reminds the Council that conducting impact assessments is one of the key factors set out in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making, together with the promise of the Council to carry out impact assessments in relation to its substantial amendments to the Commission’s proposals; regrets that the Council has so far not carried out any impact assessment on one of its amendments;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11. *Notes* in the context of modernisation the creation of a flatter management structure, by removing layers of hierarchy, with the aim of improving communication, making decision-making

11. *Welcomes* in the context of modernisation the creation of a flatter management structure, by removing layers of hierarchy, with the aim of improving communication, making decision-making

easier and empowering staff by allowing greater ownership of files; notes the introduction of a well-tested HR IT tool (SYSPER) and other IT tools used for managing the mission lifecycle;

easier and empowering staff by allowing greater ownership of files; notes the introduction of a well-tested HR IT tool (SYSPER) and other IT tools used for managing the mission lifecycle;

Or. en

Amendment 14

Tomáš Zdechovský, José Manuel Fernandes, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

11. Notes in the context of modernisation the creation of a flatter management structure, by removing layers of hierarchy, with the aim of improving communication, making decision-making easier and empowering staff by allowing greater ownership of files; notes the introduction of a well-tested HR IT tool (SYSPER) and other IT tools used for managing the mission lifecycle;

Amendment

11. Notes, in the context of modernisation, the creation of a flatter management structure, by removing layers of hierarchy, with the aim of improving communication, making decision-making easier and empowering staff by allowing greater ownership of files; notes the introduction of a well-tested HR IT tool (SYSPER) and other IT tools used for managing the mission lifecycle; ***appreciates these steps and invites the Council to continue such efforts;***

Or. en

Amendment 15

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 12

Motion for a resolution

12. Acknowledges that an internal control framework is in place to provide reasonable assurance of achievement of the objectives; ***notes*** that in relation to the year 2019 no mention of misuse of funds nor

Amendment

12. Acknowledges that an internal control framework is in place to provide reasonable assurance of achievement of the objectives; ***welcomes the fact*** that in relation to the year 2019 no mention of

irregularities has been made in the control by the internal auditor, the Court of Auditors or in the opinions of the audit committee; notes also that all departments applied risk management by keeping risk registers with identified risks, assessment thereof and selected risk treatment; notes that no critical risk levels were reported in 2019 and that no significant risks materialised; welcomes that 93 % of the issued recommendations during the years 2016 - 2018 have been or are in the process of being implemented;

misuse of funds nor irregularities has been made in the control by the internal auditor, the Court of Auditors or in the opinions of the audit committee; notes also that all departments applied risk management by keeping risk registers with identified risks, assessment thereof and selected risk treatment; notes that no critical risk levels were reported in 2019 and that no significant risks materialised; welcomes that 93 % of the issued recommendations during the years 2016 - 2018 have been or are in the process of being implemented;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Ádám Kósa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

17 a. Welcomes the positive action programme of the General Secretariat of the Council for trainees with disability, which facilitates 4-6 paid traineeships a year to Union citizens with a recognised disability, as well as the reasonable accommodation policy of the Council which enables people with disabilities to perform a job on an equal basis with others;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Ádám Kósa

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

18. Calls on the Council to report on its

18. Calls on the Council to report on its

gender action plan, the related procedures put in place and the actions taken to achieve a balance between women and men on all hierarchical levels; calls further on the Council to be provided with information on the geographical balance among its staff;

gender action plan *and measures taken to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities at the Council as a workplace*, the related procedures put in place and the actions taken to achieve a balance between women and men on all hierarchical levels; calls further on the Council to be provided with information on the geographical balance *as well as the proportion of persons with disabilities* among its staff;

Or. en

Amendment 18

Tomáš Zdechovský, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 18

Motion for a resolution

18. Calls on the Council to report on its gender action plan, the related procedures put in place and the actions taken to achieve a balance between women and men on all hierarchical levels; calls further on the Council to be provided with information on the geographical balance among its staff;

Amendment

18. Calls on the Council to report on its gender action plan, the related procedures put in place and the actions taken to achieve a balance between women and men on all hierarchical levels; calls further on the Council to be provided with information on the geographical balance among its staff *and the measures taken in order to ensure such balance*;

Or. en

Amendment 19

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 18 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

18 a. recalls Parliament's resolution of 17 December 2020 on the need for a dedicated Council configuration on gender equality, requesting ministers and

secretaries of state in charge of gender equality to have a dedicated institutional forum to ensure stronger integration of gender equality into Union strategies and policy processes, a coordination of all related policies, as well as the harmonisation of the protection of women's rights and gender equality in the Union via an intersectional approach; underlines that this specific configuration would represent a key element in unblocking the negotiations on the main files related to gender equality;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Alin Mituța, Ramona Strugariu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

18 a. Calls on the Council to tackle gender and geographical imbalances in order to establish a proper representation of nationals from all Member States, including at management level;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

19. Regrets not having **achieved** more information about any improvements to the Council's ethical culture and standards such as a dedicated website link presenting specific training on public ethics, a code of

19. Regrets not having **received** more information about any improvements to the Council's ethical culture and standards such as a dedicated website link presenting specific training on public ethics, a code of

conduct that is applicable to all staff setting out the expectations regarding integrity and ethical values, internal guidance on frequently-asked questions on ethical matters or procedures on ***whistleblowing that will ensure that information flows when normal channels are ineffective***;

conduct that is applicable to all staff setting out the expectations regarding integrity and ethical values, internal guidance on frequently-asked questions on ethical matters or procedures on ***whistleblowers' protection***;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Isabel García Muñoz, Lara Wolters

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

19 a. Is aware of the key role of the Council in nominations and appointments procedures for the Union institutions and bodies, in particular the European Council, the Commission, the Court and the consultative Committees (the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committees); strongly recommends a review of these prerogatives in the view of ethical principles adopted by the Union, such as integrity and dignity; recalls the Court's statement that ethical conduct 'contributes to sounder financial management and increased public trust, which is indispensable if public policies are to succeed' and, in particular, that 'any unethical behaviour by staff and Members of the EU institutions attracts high levels of public interest and reduces trust in the EU'; considers it thus necessary to avoid the appointment as Members of Union institutions and bodies candidates who represent a reputational risk for the entire Union, such as candidates with unethical behaviour confirmed by OLAF or with legal proceedings underway against them;

Or. en

Amendment 23

Tomáš Zdechovský, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 20

Motion for a resolution

20. Is concerned not to find any chapter on an ethical framework on the official website of the Council consisting of rules to prevent, identify and avoid potential conflict of interests; calls on the Council to align with other Union institutions in this respect such as with the European Court of Justice's website which has a dedicated section on transparency;

Amendment

20. Is concerned not to find any chapter on an ethical framework on the official website of the Council consisting of rules to prevent, identify and avoid potential conflict of interests; calls on the Council to align with other Union institutions in this respect such as with the European Court of Justice's website which has a dedicated section on transparency; ***calls on the Council to present a plan to introduce such measures with clearly set deadlines;***

Or. en

Amendment 24

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 20 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

20 a. Shares the Court's concern about the absence of a common Union ethical framework governing the work of Member States' representatives in the Council; emphasises the importance for the Council, including the Member States' representatives working in the Council, to join a future interinstitutional agreement setting up the Independent Ethics Body (IEB) in view of the Court's and the European Ombudsman's repeated requests to enhance the ethics and transparency of the Council; recalls the Council's obligation to deal with high-level conflicts of interest, revolving doors

and lobbying transparency rules;

Or. en

Amendment 25

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 21

Motion for a resolution

21. ***Calls again*** on the Council to bring the code of conduct for the President of the European Council in line with those of Parliament and the Commission in order to have rules in place to approve activities related to Union legislation after the President of the European Council leaves the Council;

Amendment

21. ***Strongly reiterates its call*** on the Council to bring the code of conduct for the President of the European Council in line with those of Parliament and the Commission in order to have rules in place to approve activities related to Union legislation after the President of the European Council leaves the Council;

Or. en

Amendment 26

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 22 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

22 a. Reiterates its deep concern over the conflict of interests of a number of Member State representatives involved in policy and budget decision-making processes; repeats Parliament's strong call on the Council to ensure that Member State representatives who are subject to benefit directly from Union subsidies through the businesses they own do not participate in the related policy or budgetary discussions and votes; requests the Council to provide Parliament with information on the necessary measures

put in place to avoid any conflict of interests;

Or. en

Amendment 27
Isabel García Muñoz, Lara Wolters

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 23 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

23 a. Reiterates its concerns about the alarming information reported by the media regarding the construction of the new Europa building; calls on the Council to thoroughly research the main contractor and the whole chain of subcontractors (up to 12 according to the media), as well as the working conditions of the workers employed, and to provide Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control with all its findings;

Or. en

Amendment 28
Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 23 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

23 a. Welcomes the efforts done by the Council to reduce its environmental footprint across its buildings, which are registered under the European eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) since 2016; welcomes the publishing of a detailed environmental statement in October 2020 based on 2019 data;

Or. en

Amendment 29
Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 24 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

24 a. Encourages the Council to use open-source technology in order to prevent vendor lock-in, retain control over its own technical systems, provide stronger safeguards for the privacy and data protection of the users, as well as increase security and transparency for the public;

Or. en

Amendment 30
Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 24 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

24 b. Encourages the Council to follow the EDPS recommendations to renegotiate the Inter-Institutional Licensing Agreement and implementation contract, signed between the EU institutions and Microsoft in 2018, with the objective of achieving digital sovereignty, avoiding vendor lock-in and lack of control and ensuring the protection of personal data;

Or. en

Amendment 31
Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 25

Motion for a resolution

25. **Welcomes** the fact that the draft guidance for best practise for the presidency on the issue of sponsorship were sent on 29 June 2020 by the General Secretariat of the Council to the delegations, following to the Council's approval of the recommendation of the European Ombudsman (the Ombudsman) on guidance for Member States related to sponsorship and the regular reminders of the Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control;

Amendment

25. **Notes** the fact that the draft guidance for best practise for the presidency on the issue of sponsorship were sent on 29 June 2020 by the General Secretariat of the Council to the delegations, following to the Council's approval of the recommendation of the European Ombudsman (the Ombudsman) on guidance for Member States related to sponsorship and the regular reminders of the Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control; **reiterates that any actual or perceived conflict of interests jeopardises the reputation of the Council and the Union as a whole;**

Or. en

Amendment 32
Isabel García Muñoz, Lara Wolters

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 26

Motion for a resolution

26. **Encourages** the Council **to advise** the presidencies **properly in establishing clear and transparent rules on sponsorship; urges** the Council **to make progress with respect to the guidelines without delay and** reflect on the currently non-binding character of the guidance;

Amendment

26. **Notes that the Member States are expected to finance their own presidencies and regrets that they resort to corporate sponsorship to cover some of their expenses; is highly concerned about the possible reputational damage that this practice might cause to the Council and the Union; urges Council presidencies to avoid resorting to corporate sponsorship to cover expenses; asks the Council, in that regard, to envisage the budgetisation of the presidencies; calls on** the Council to reflect on the currently non-binding character of the guidance;

Amendment 33

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 26

Motion for a resolution

26. Encourages the Council to advise the presidencies properly in establishing clear and transparent rules on sponsorship; urges the Council to make progress with respect to the guidelines without delay and reflect on the currently non-binding character of the guidance;

Amendment

26. Encourages the Council to advise the presidencies properly in establishing clear and transparent rules on sponsorship, ***paying strong attention to the possible conflict of interests in cases when corporate sector has explicit interests in the decisions passed by the Council***; urges the Council to make progress with respect to the guidelines without delay and reflect on the currently non-binding character of the guidance; ***reiterates again its deep concerns about the corporate sponsorship of Member States hosting the Union presidency; is highly concerned by the possible reputational damage and the risk of loss of that this practice might cause the Union, its institutions and especially the Council in the eyes of the Union citizens***;

Amendment 34

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 28

Motion for a resolution

28. Recalls that Parliament in its resolution of 17 January 2019 on the Ombudsman's strategic inquiry OI/2/2017 on the transparency of legislative

Amendment

28. Recalls that Parliament in its resolution of 17 January 2019 on the Ombudsman's strategic inquiry OI/2/2017 on the transparency of legislative

discussions in the preparatory bodies of the Council of the EU overwhelmingly supported the Ombudsman's proposals on legislative transparency and *encourages* the Council *to continue its efforts to improve* legislative transparency, particularly by recording and publishing member state positions and making available more trilogue documents;

discussions in the preparatory bodies of the Council of the EU overwhelmingly supported the Ombudsman's proposals on legislative transparency and *demands that* the Council *further improves* legislative transparency, particularly by recording and publishing member state positions and making available more trilogue documents; *urges the Council to step up its transparency efforts by, inter alia, publishing Council working documents in a machine-readable format;*

Or. en

Amendment 35

Tomáš Zdechovský, José Manuel Fernandes, Monika Hohlmeier, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 28

Motion for a resolution

28. Recalls that Parliament in its resolution of 17 January 2019 on the Ombudsman's strategic inquiry OI/2/2017 on the transparency of legislative discussions in the preparatory bodies of the Council of the EU overwhelmingly supported the Ombudsman's proposals on legislative transparency and encourages the Council to continue its efforts to improve legislative transparency, particularly by recording and publishing member state positions and making available more trilogue documents;

Amendment

28. Recalls that Parliament in its resolution of 17 January 2019 on the Ombudsman's strategic inquiry OI/2/2017 on the transparency of legislative discussions in the preparatory bodies of the Council of the EU overwhelmingly supported the Ombudsman's proposals on legislative transparency and encourages the Council to continue its efforts to improve legislative transparency, particularly by recording and publishing member state positions and making available more trilogue documents; *invites the Council to report on other measures taken in order to improve legislative transparency;*

Or. en

Amendment 36

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 29

Motion for a resolution

29. Draws attention to a complaint-based inquiry in which the Ombudsman asked the General Secretariat of the Council to keep a full record of any meetings held between lobbyists and the President of the European Council or members of his cabinet; *echoes* the Ombudsman's statement that members of the President's cabinet should only meet with, or attend events organised by, interest representatives that are registered in the transparency register;

Amendment

29. Draws attention to a complaint-based inquiry in which the Ombudsman asked the General Secretariat of the Council to keep a full record of any meetings held between lobbyists and the President of the European Council or members of his cabinet; ***strongly supports*** the Ombudsman's statement that members of the President's cabinet should only meet with, or attend events organised by, interest representatives that are registered in the transparency register;

Or. en

Amendment 37

Tomáš Zdechovský, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 29

Motion for a resolution

29. Draws attention to a complaint-based inquiry in which the Ombudsman asked the General Secretariat of the Council to keep a full record of any meetings held between lobbyists and the President of the European Council or members of his cabinet; echoes the Ombudsman's statement that members of the President's cabinet should only meet with, or attend events organised by, interest representatives that are registered in the transparency register;

Amendment

29. Draws attention to a complaint-based inquiry in which the Ombudsman asked the General Secretariat of the Council to keep a full record of any meetings held between lobbyists and the President of the European Council or members of his cabinet; echoes the Ombudsman's statement that members of the President's cabinet should only meet with, or attend events organised by, interest representatives that are registered in the transparency register; ***is concerned that this statement goes unnoticed and calls for a reply to the Ombudsman;***

Or. en

Amendment 38

Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 30

Motion for a resolution

30. Is pleased that the three institutions (Parliament, Council and Commission) reiterated their common ambition to reach an agreement on a tri-institutional transparency register to boost the transparency of interactions with interest representatives; congratulates the Council on the positive steps and further achievements under the German Presidency, expressed in the fifth inter-institutional negotiation meeting of 6 October 2020, and encourages all actors involved to agree on the reforms, so that the registry will become mandatory by including the Council;

Amendment

30. Is pleased that the three institutions (Parliament, Council and Commission) reiterated their common ambition to reach an agreement on a tri-institutional transparency register to boost the transparency of interactions with interest representatives; congratulates the Council on the positive steps and further achievements under the German Presidency, expressed in the fifth inter-institutional negotiation meeting of 6 October 2020, and encourages all actors involved to agree on the reforms, so that the registry will become mandatory by including the Council; ***urges the Council to expand the scope of the agreement in making it mandatory for lobbyists to register in order to meet with the ambassador of the current or forthcoming presidency as well as their deputies in the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (Coreper), the Council's secretary-general and directors-general;***

Or. en

Amendment 39
Mikuláš Peksa
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 31

Motion for a resolution

31. Notes however that seven complaints were lodged with the Ombudsman and that one strategic inquiry took place, all concerning transparency; ***observes*** that out of the seven complaints,

Amendment

31. Notes however that seven complaints were lodged with the Ombudsman and that one strategic inquiry took place, all concerning transparency; ***notes*** that out of the seven complaints, the

the Ombudsman *considered* in two cases ***that there was no maladministration and in two further complaints*** that there had been maladministration; notes that one case was closed while the remaining two complaints are still pending; notes that in the inquiry, which concerned the transparency of the bodies involved in preparing Eurogroup meetings, the Ombudsman found that the Council had taken steps to further improve its transparency policy and decided to close this strategic inquiry;

Ombudsman in two cases *considered* that there had been *cases of* maladministration; notes that one case was closed, ***two were considered not to entail maladministration*** while the remaining two complaints are still pending; notes that in the inquiry, which concerned the transparency of the bodies involved in preparing Eurogroup meetings, the Ombudsman found that the Council had taken steps to further improve its transparency policy and decided to close this strategic inquiry;

Or. en

Amendment 40

Ádám Kósa

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

33. Welcomes the fact that the improvements resulted in a better web user experience including for persons with disabilities, which has risen from 47 % at the end of 2018 to 67 % in December 2019; notes that the remaining audit recommendations, which are primarily related to user experience and content creation standards, will be implemented in 2020;

Amendment

33. Welcomes the fact that the improvements resulted in a better web user experience including for persons with disabilities, which has risen from 47 % at the end of 2018 to 67 % in December 2019; notes that the remaining audit recommendations, which are primarily related to user experience and content creation standards, will be implemented in 2020; ***asks the Council to further report to the discharge authority on the results and achievements of the audit recommendations particularly regarding access of persons with disabilities;***

Or. en

Amendment 41

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 34 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

34 a. *Notes that the Council makes use of the following proprietary social media channels: LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter; encourages the Council to establish a presence on free and open-source social media networks, such as Mastodon, to achieve further transparency and broader outreach;*

Or. en

Amendment 42

Monika Hohlmeier, Marian-Jean Marinescu, José Manuel Fernandes, Jeroen Lenaers, Angelika Winzig, Niclas Herbst, Lefteris Christoforou

**Motion for a resolution
Subheading 8 a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Council's role in appointing the European prosecutors to the EPPO

Or. en

Amendment 43

Monika Hohlmeier, Marian-Jean Marinescu, José Manuel Fernandes, Jeroen Lenaers, Angelika Winzig, Niclas Herbst, Markus Pieper, Lefteris Christoforou

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 34 a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

34 a. *Recalls that in 2019 and 2020 national pre-selection committees nominated candidates for evaluation and the European selection panel deliberated about the qualifications of the 22 European prosecutors to be appointed to the EPPO in 2020; recalls that according to Council implementing decision*

2018/1696, the European selection panel evaluates the candidates and provides Council with a ranking which Council shall take into consideration;

Or. en

Amendment 44

Monika Hohlmeier, Marian-Jean Marinescu, José Manuel Fernandes, Jeroen Lenaers, Angelika Winzig, Niclas Herbst, Markus Pieper, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Subheading 8 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Recalls that Council implementing decision 14830/19 of 22 July 2020 on appointing the European prosecutors of the European Public Prosecutor's Office states that regarding the 'candidates nominated by Belgium, Bulgaria and Portugal, the Council did not follow the non-binding order of preference of the selection panel, on the basis of a different assessment of the merits of those candidates which was carried out in the relevant preparatory bodies of the Council';

Or. en

Amendment 45

Monika Hohlmeier, Marian-Jean Marinescu, José Manuel Fernandes, Jeroen Lenaers, Angelika Winzig, Niclas Herbst, Markus Pieper, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 34 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

34 b. Recalls that on 27 July 2020, Austria, Estonia, Luxembourg and the Netherlands published a statement that 'a competition between rankings of national selection panels and the ranking of the

European selection panel must be avoided, at the risk of eroding the European component of the appointment procedure';

Or. en

Amendment 46

Monika Hohlmeier, Marian-Jean Marinescu, José Manuel Fernandes, Jeroen Lenaers, Angelika Winzig, Niclas Herbst, Markus Pieper, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 34 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

34 c. Regrets that Council did not properly reply to several parliamentary written questions between July and September 2020 asking Council to explain why it decided not to follow there commendations by the European selection panel and asking for elaborations on the assessment for arriving at the decision not to follow the recommendations of the European selection panel;

Or. en

Amendment 47

Monika Hohlmeier, Marian-Jean Marinescu, José Manuel Fernandes, Jeroen Lenaers, Angelika Winzig, Niclas Herbst, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 34 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

34 d. Is very concerned about media revelations that the Portuguese government provided Council with wrongful information about the title and experience of the candidate ranked second by the European selection panel leading to his appointment as Portuguese European prosecutor;

Amendment 48

Monika Hohlmeier, Marian-Jean Marinescu, José Manuel Fernandes, Jeroen Lenaers, Angelika Winzig, Niclas Herbst, Markus Pieper, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 34 e (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

34 e. Recalls that the European prosecutors must be independent and any suspicion of an intervention by a national government in favour of a candidate against the recommendation of the European selection panel would have a severe negative impact on the reputation, integrity and independence of the EPPO as an institution;

Or. en

Amendment 49

Ryszard Czarnecki, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Raffaele Fitto, Joachim Stanislaw Brudziński, Elżbieta Rafalska

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 35

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

35. Emphasises Parliament's prerogative to grant discharge pursuant to Article 319 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union, in line with current interpretation and practice, namely to grant discharge in order to maintain transparency and ensure democratic accountability towards Union taxpayers;

35. Emphasises Parliament's prerogative to grant discharge pursuant to Article 319 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union ***and the applicable provisions of the Financial Regulation and Parliament's Rules of Procedure*** in line with current interpretation and practice, namely to grant discharge in order to maintain transparency and ensure democratic accountability towards Union taxpayers;

Or. en

Amendment 50

Ryszard Czarnecki, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Raffaele Fitto, Joachim Stanislaw Brudziński, Elżbieta Rafalska

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 35 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

35 a. Notes that over the course of almost twenty years Parliament has developed the practice of granting discharge to all Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies;

Or. en

Amendment 51

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 38

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

38. Stresses that the current situation makes it impossible for Parliament to take an informed decision on granting discharge, which has a lasting negative effect for both institutions and discredits the procedure for political scrutiny of budget management;

38. Stresses that the current situation, **where Parliament can only check the reports of the Court and of the European Ombudsman as well as the information on the Council's web page but does not receive written or oral answers from the Council during the annual discharge procedure**, makes it impossible for Parliament to take an informed decision on granting discharge, which has a lasting negative effect for both institutions and discredits the procedure for political scrutiny of budget management;

Or. en

Amendment 52

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 39

Motion for a resolution

39. Underlines the need to **start** negotiations with the Council with a view to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement to overcome finally this situation of deadlock;

Amendment

39. Underlines the need to **re-start** negotiations with the Council with a view to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement to overcome finally this situation of deadlock;

Or. en

Amendment 53

Ryszard Czarnecki, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Raffaele Fitto, Joachim Stanislaw Brudziński, Elżbieta Rafalska

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 41

Motion for a resolution

41. Emphasises that Parliament does not accept that the two institutions have an equivalent and reciprocal role in the discharge procedure;

Amendment

41. ***Notes that the different roles of the respective institutions in the discharge procedures should be distinguished;*** emphasises that Parliament does not accept that the two institutions have an equivalent and reciprocal role in the discharge procedure;

Or. en

Amendment 54

Luke Ming Flanagan

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 41 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

41 a. In respect of the Council specific role as an institution giving recommendations on the discharge procedure, reiterates its requests to the

***Council to give discharge
recommendations with respect to the other
Union institutions;***

Or. en

Amendment 55

Tomáš Zdechovský, José Manuel Fernandes, Ádám Kósa, Lefteris Christoforou

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 42

Motion for a resolution

42. Advises that the positive trend of this process has been interrupted by the COVID-19-epidemic; ***recalls***, however, that in autumn 2020 all attempts from Parliament's side to meet for a first preliminary exchange with the Council failed;

Amendment

42. Advises that the positive trend of this process has been interrupted by the COVID-19-epidemic; ***notes with concern***, however, that in autumn 2020 all attempts from Parliament's side to meet for a first preliminary exchange with the Council failed;

Or. en

Amendment 56

Mikuláš Peksa

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 42

Motion for a resolution

42. ***Advises*** that the positive trend of this process has been interrupted by the COVID-19-epidemic; recalls, however, that in autumn 2020 all attempts from Parliament's side to meet for a first preliminary exchange with the Council failed;

Amendment

42. ***Recognises*** that the positive trend of this process has been interrupted by the COVID-19-epidemic; recalls, however, that in autumn 2020 all attempts from Parliament's side to meet for a first preliminary exchange with the Council failed;

Or. en

Amendment 57

Isabel García Muñoz, Lara Wolters

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 44

Motion for a resolution

44. Recalls the statements by Vice-President Věra Jourová and Commissioner Johannes Hahn in their hearings before Parliament in 2019 that they are willing to engage in this matter so as to help achieve more transparency on the implementation of the Council's budget; considers that the negotiations could be extended to include 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.***

Amendment

44. Recalls the statements by Vice-President Věra Jourová and Commissioner Johannes Hahn in their hearings before Parliament in 2019 that they are willing to engage in this matter so as to help achieve more transparency on the implementation of the Council's budget; considers that the negotiations could be extended to include the Commission so as to ensure that Parliament is provided with the necessary information on how the Council is implementing its budget.

Or. en