



**2021/2153(DEC)**

3.2.2022

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 9**

**Draft report**  
**Ryszard Czarnecki**  
(PE698.996v01-00)

2020 discharge : Fuel Cells and Hydrogen 2 Joint Undertaking  
(2021/2153(DEC))



**Amendment 1**  
**Corina Crețu**

**Proposal for a decision 1**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Proposal for a decision*

1. Grants the Executive Director of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking discharge in respect of the implementation of the Joint Undertaking's budget for the financial year 2020 / ***Postpones its decision on discharge to the Executive Director of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking in respect of the implementation of the Joint Undertaking's budget for the financial year 2020;***

*Amendment*

1. Grants the Executive Director of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking discharge in respect of the implementation of the Joint Undertaking's budget for the financial year 2020;

Or. en

**Amendment 2**  
**Marian-Jean Marinescu**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Motion for a resolution*

4. Notes that at the end of 2020 the Union contributed a total of EUR 498 577 000 from Horizon 2020 and the members from the Industry and Research Groupings contributed a total of EUR 20 630 000 in validated in-kind contributions comprising EUR 11 916 000 in-kind validated contributions in the Joint Undertaking's Horizon 2020 projects; notes from the Court's report that the low level of validated industry members' in-kind contributions for operational activities of EUR 11 916 000, is due to the fact that the FCH2 certifies them later in the Horizon 2020 programme, when the final payment for the projects is made and the certificates of financial statement are due; notes

*Amendment*

4. Notes that at the end of 2020 the Union contributed a total of EUR 498 577 000 from Horizon 2020 and the members from the Industry and Research Groupings contributed a total of EUR 20 630 000 in validated in-kind contributions comprising EUR 11 916 000 in-kind validated contributions in the Joint Undertaking's Horizon 2020 projects; notes from the Court's report that the low level of validated industry members' in-kind contributions for operational activities of EUR 11 916 000, is due to the fact that the FCH2 certifies them later in the Horizon 2020 programme, when the final payment for the projects is made and the certificates of financial statement are due; notes

additionally that the Industry and Research Grouping contributed a total of EUR 1 095 070 000 in kind to additional activities as at the end of 2020, significantly more than the minimum EUR 285 000 000 set in the FCH2 founding regulation for the entire duration of Horizon 2020;

additionally that the Industry and Research Grouping contributed a total of EUR 1 095 070 000 in kind to additional activities as at the end of 2020, significantly more than the minimum EUR 285 000 000 set in the FCH2 founding regulation for the entire duration of Horizon 2020; ***notes that there are different procedures across Joint Undertakings regarding the calculation for the in-kind contributions and calls for their harmonisation;***

Or. en

### **Amendment 3**

**Markus Pieper, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Petri Sarvamaa**

#### **Motion for a resolution**

##### **Paragraph 5**

###### *Motion for a resolution*

5. Notes from the Court's report that the Joint Undertaking's practice of reactivating unused payment appropriations from previous years to the extent of open administrative commitments, results in an accumulation of unused payment appropriations and that, aggravated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this practice resulted in a low budget implementation rate for the FCH2 administrative budget (Title 2) infrastructure and communication expenditure representing around 3 % of the FCH2's total available payment budget, which was 56 % at the end of 2020; notes the FCH2 reply that the administrative budget showed a consistent high implementation rate between 75 % ***and 80 %*** for the previous four years, and that in 2020, however, the situation was different due to the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and that cancellation of planned activities of up to 13 % of Title 2 payment appropriations could not be known to their full extent before the end of the year; ***calls on the FCH2 to report to***

###### *Amendment*

5. Notes from the Court's report that the Joint Undertaking's practice of reactivating unused payment appropriations from previous years to the extent of open administrative commitments, results in an accumulation of unused payment appropriations and that, aggravated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this practice resulted in a low budget implementation rate for the FCH2 administrative budget (Title 2) infrastructure and communication expenditure representing around 3% of the FCH2's total available payment budget, which was 56% at the end of 2020; notes the FCH2 reply that the administrative budget showed a consistent high implementation rate between 75% ***and 80%*** for the previous four years, and that in 2020, however, the situation was different due to the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and that cancellation of planned activities of up to 13% of Title 2 payment appropriations could not be known to their full extent before the end of

*the discharge authority on that regard;*

the year;

Or. en

**Amendment 4**  
**Marian-Jean Marinescu**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Motion for a resolution*

5. Notes from the Court's report that the Joint Undertaking's practice of reactivating unused payment appropriations from previous years to the extent of open administrative commitments, results in an accumulation of unused payment appropriations and that, aggravated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this practice resulted in a low budget implementation rate for the FCH2 administrative budget (Title 2) infrastructure and communication expenditure representing around **3 %** of the FCH2's total available payment budget, which was **56 %** at the end of 2020; notes the FCH2 reply that the administrative budget showed a consistent high implementation rate between **75 % and 80 %** for the previous four years, and that in 2020, however, the situation was different due to the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and that cancellation of planned activities of up to **13 %** of Title 2 payment appropriations could not be known to their full extent before the end of the year; calls on the FCH2 to ***report to the discharge authority on that regard;***

*Amendment*

5. Notes from the Court's report that the Joint Undertaking's practice of reactivating unused payment appropriations from previous years to the extent of open administrative commitments, results in an accumulation of unused payment appropriations and that, aggravated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this practice resulted in a low budget implementation rate for the FCH2 administrative budget (Title 2) infrastructure and communication expenditure representing around **3%** of the FCH2's total available payment budget, which was **56%** at the end of 2020; notes the FCH2 reply that the administrative budget showed a consistent high implementation rate between **75% and 80%** for the previous four years, and that in 2020, however, the situation was different due to the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and that cancellation of planned activities of up to **13%** of Title 2 payment appropriations could not be known to their full extent before the end of the year; calls on the FCH2 to ***develop a plan to limit the reactivation of the unused payment appropriations as a way to prevent low budget implementation rate;***

Or. en

**Amendment 5**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 9**

*Motion for a resolution*

9. Notes that the FCH2 maintained the position of “Service knowledge management” with constant assignments to interim staff for a period of around 2.5 years due to the request of the FCH2 Governing Board to enhance the role of knowledge management and that, according to the Commission’s framework contract for interim services the use of interim staff, however, is limited to office work of a one-off or temporary nature, arising from an exceptional increase in workload and/or the performance of a one-off activity, or to fill a vacant post pending the recruitment of a permanent staff member and that that the FCH2 practice is against this principle and in fact creates a permanent post, in addition to those foreseen in the staff establishment plans; notes the FCH2’s reply that the interim staff was needed to face the turnover for the post of Knowledge Management Officer between the years 2015 to 2020 and **that that** explains partly the need for interim staff to ensure continuity of the service, and that furthermore, the FCH2 could only ensure the consequent increased workload with interim staff, following the special request of its Governing Board; calls on the FCH2 to report to the discharge authority any development in that regard;

*Amendment*

9. Notes that the FCH2 maintained the position of “Service knowledge management” with constant assignments to interim staff for a period of around 2.5 years due to the request of the FCH2 Governing Board to enhance the role of knowledge management and that, according to the Commission’s framework contract for interim services the use of interim staff, however, is limited to office work of a one-off or temporary nature, arising from an exceptional increase in workload and/or the performance of a one-off activity, or to fill a vacant post pending the recruitment of a permanent staff member and that that the FCH2 practice is against this principle and in fact creates a permanent post, in addition to those foreseen in the staff establishment plans; notes the FCH2’s reply that the interim staff was needed to face the turnover for the post of Knowledge Management Officer between the years 2015 to 2020 and **which** explains partly the need for interim staff to ensure continuity of the service, and that furthermore, the FCH2 could only ensure the consequent increased workload with interim staff, following the special request of its Governing Board; ***emphasises however that the use of interim staff should remain a temporary solution otherwise it could negatively affect the FCH2’s overall performance, such as the retention of key competences, unclear accountability channels, and lower staff efficiency***; calls on the FCH2 to report to the discharge authority any development in that regard;

Or. en

**Amendment 6**  
**Corina Crețu**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 10 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**10 a. Notes that at the end of 2020, in the Annual Activity Report FCH2 had 27 members of staff (respectively 24 temporary agents, 3 contract agents) and 2 seconded national experts from 10 Member States and is pleased to note that there is gender balance among staff (56% men and 44% women); welcomes this very good initiative and encourages the FCH2 to continue to maintain this gender balance;**

Or. en

**Amendment 7**  
**Corina Crețu**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 10 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**10 b. Notes with concern the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic for employees, especially taking into account different living situations, lack of access to office space and possible effects of isolation; asks the FCH2 to focus on employee wellbeing, stress management and work and life balance; asks FCH2's management to ensure there are appropriate support structures in place to ensure the psychological well-being of staff;**

Or. en

**Amendment 8**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 19**

*Motion for a resolution*

19. Notes that the Court audited randomly sampled Horizon 2020 payments made in 2020, at the level of the final beneficiaries to corroborate the ex-post audit error rates, as part of the operational payment controls, and that these detailed audits showed an error above **1 %** of the audited costs caused by the application of a wrong exchange rate for the conversion of the declared costs into euro; ***calls on the FCH2 to report to the discharge authority on that regard;***

*Amendment*

19. Notes that the Court audited randomly sampled Horizon 2020 payments made in 2020, at the level of the final beneficiaries to corroborate the ex-post audit error rates, as part of the operational payment controls, and that these detailed audits showed an error above **1%** of the audited costs caused by the application of a wrong exchange rate for the conversion of the declared costs into euro;

Or. en

**Amendment 9**

**Michał Wiezik, Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Alin Mituța**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 19 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***19 a. Emphasises that the Court's finding confirmed persistent systemic errors for declared personnel costs and that in particular, SMEs and new beneficiaries are more error-prone than other beneficiaries. Highlights that these errors are also regularly reported by the ex post audits of the Common Audit Service (CAS) and its contracted auditors; emphasises therefore that streamlining of the Horizon 2020 rules for the declaration of personnel costs and wider use of simplified cost options is a precondition to stabilise error rates to below materiality level. FCH2 is also encouraged to strengthen its internal control systems to address the increased risk regarding SMEs and new beneficiaries;***



