



**2021/2122(DEC)**

3.3.2022

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 32**

**Draft report**  
**Tomáš Zdechovský**  
(PE698.962v01-00)

2020 discharge - European Asylum Support Office  
(2021/2122(DEC))



## **Amendment 1**

**Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Pierre Karleskind, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh**

### **Proposal for a decision 1**

#### **Paragraph 1**

##### *Proposal for a decision*

1. Grants the Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Asylum discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Asylum Support Office for the financial year 2020 / ***Postpones its decision on granting the Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Asylum discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Asylum Support Office for the financial year 2020;***

##### *Amendment*

1. Grants the Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Asylum discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Asylum Support Office for the financial year 2020;

Or. en

## **Amendment 2**

**Ryszard Czarnecki, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Raffaele Fitto, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Elżbieta Rafalska**

### **Proposal for a decision 1**

#### **Paragraph 1**

##### *Proposal for a decision*

1. ***Grants the Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Asylum discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Asylum Support Office for the financial year 2020*** / Postpones its decision on granting the Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Asylum discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Asylum Support Office for the financial year 2020;

##### *Amendment*

1. Postpones its decision on granting the Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Asylum discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Asylum Support Office for the financial year 2020;

Or. en

### Amendment 3

Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Pierre Karleskind, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh

#### Proposal for a decision 2

##### Paragraph 1

###### *Proposal for a decision*

1. Approves the closure of the accounts of the European Asylum Support Office for the financial year 2020 / ***Postpones the closure of the accounts of the European Asylum Support Office for the financial year 2020;***

###### *Amendment*

1. Approves the closure of the accounts of the European Asylum Support Office for the financial year 2020;

Or. en

### Amendment 4

Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Pierre Karleskind, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh, Michal Wiezik

#### Motion for a resolution

##### Paragraph 1

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

1. Notes that, following receipt of a report of the European Anti-Fraud Office at the end of 2018, which was extensively covered in the discharge report for 2018, the Office initiated three disciplinary procedures in 2019, which are currently ongoing; ***notes*** the Office's commitment to inform the discharge authority of the completion of those proceedings;

###### *Amendment*

1. Notes that, following receipt of a report of the European Anti-Fraud Office ***(OLAF)*** at the end of 2018, which was extensively covered in the discharge report for 2018, the Office initiated three disciplinary procedures in 2019, which are currently ongoing; ***appreciates the cooperation of the current management with OLAF and its commitment to addressing the proposed recommendations; welcomes*** the Office's commitment to inform the discharge authority of the completion of those proceedings;

Or. en

### Amendment 5

Bas Eickhout

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

## Motion for a resolution

### Paragraph 2

#### *Motion for a resolution*

2. Notes that budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2020 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 95,14 %, at approximately the same level as 2019 (95,22 %); notes that the payment appropriations execution rate was at 80,91 %, representing a decrease of 8,95 % compared to the previous year (89,86 %);

#### *Amendment*

2. Notes that budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2020 resulted in a budget implementation rate of 95,14 %, at approximately the same level as 2019 (95,22 %); notes ***with concern*** that the payment appropriations execution rate was at 80,91 %, ***which the Court deems as low***, representing a decrease of 8,95 % compared to the previous year (89,86 %); ***notes with concern the Court's conclusion that the carry-overs of committed appropriations for operating expenditure were high, at 33,8 %, and that the cancellation rate of budget appropriations carried over from 2019 to 2020 was also high, at 19 %; notes the Court's conclusion that this contradicts the budgetary principle of annuality; calls upon the Office to follow up on the Court's recommendation to improve its budget planning and implementation cycles, and inform the discharge authority about the progress made;***

Or. en

## Amendment 6

**Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Pierre Karleskind, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh**

## Motion for a resolution

### Paragraph 3

#### *Motion for a resolution*

3. Notes that the Court declared payments made in 2020 of a total amount of EUR 1 177 848 irregular because they were related to procurement errors in procedures carried out in 2016 and 2017 for rented premises in Rome and

#### *Amendment*

3. Notes that the Court declared payments made in 2020 of a total amount of EUR 1 177 848 irregular because they were related to procurement errors in procedures carried out in 2016 and 2017 for rented premises in Rome and

procurement procedures declared irregular by the Court in previous years (i.e. procurement for rented premises in Lesbos, for interim workers in Italy and for external experts);

procurement procedures declared irregular by the Court in previous years (i.e. procurement for rented premises in Lesbos, for interim workers in Italy and for external experts); ***appreciates the efforts of the current management to terminate these contracts where possible, or otherwise to reduce their future financial impact;***

Or. en

#### **Amendment 7**

**Bas Eickhout**

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

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

##### **Paragraph 3**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

3. Notes that the Court declared payments made in 2020 of a total amount of EUR 1 177 848 irregular because they were related to procurement errors in procedures carried out in 2016 and 2017 for rented premises in Rome and procurement procedures declared irregular by the Court in previous years (i.e. procurement for rented premises in Lesbos, for interim workers in Italy and for external experts);

##### *Amendment*

3. Notes ***with concern*** that the Court declared payments made in 2020 of a total amount of EUR 1 177 848 irregular because they were related to procurement errors in procedures carried out in 2016 and 2017 for rented premises in Rome and procurement procedures declared irregular by the Court in previous years (i.e. procurement for rented premises in Lesbos, for interim workers in Italy and for external experts);

Or. en

#### **Amendment 8**

**Bas Eickhout**

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

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

##### **Paragraph 3 a (new)**

##### *Motion for a resolution*

##### *Amendment*

***3 a. Recalls the Court's conclusion of financial year 2017 that procedures for monitoring travel-related expenditure***

*were weak; welcomes that the Office is carrying out an internal inquiry into the matter; notes, however, that this matter has not yet been resolved; calls on the Office to proceed swiftly with strengthening its procedures for monitoring travel-related expenditure;*

Or. en

**Amendment 9**  
**Caterina Chinnici**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*3 a. Welcomes the fact that the Court's observation regarding the establishment of an effective policy for managing rented premises and related services has been acted upon and completed;*

Or. en

**Amendment 10**  
**Bas Eickhout**  
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 3 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*3 b. Recalls the Court's recommendation for financial year 2018 that the Office should establish effective financial ex-post control; notes with concern that the follow-up is still ongoing; calls on the Office to address this recommendation swiftly;*

Or. en

**Amendment 11**

**Bas Eickhout**

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 3 c (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**3 c. Notes the conclusion of the management board of the Office that the cost-effectiveness and added value of establishing an internal audit capability, in addition to the audit function already provided by the Commission's Internal Audit Service, is negative;**

Or. en

**Amendment 12**

**Bas Eickhout**

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 3 d (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**3 d. Welcomes that an effective policy for managing rented premises and related services was established on 11 June 2021 and will apply in full as of 2022;**

Or. en

**Amendment 13**

**Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Pierre Karleskind, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh, Michal Wieszik**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 5**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

5. Notes that the Office uses certain measures as key performance indicators to

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assess the performance of its activities;  
welcomes the achievement or surpassing of  
targets for a majority of indicators, despite  
the difficulties faced because of the  
COVID-19 pandemic; deplores the fact  
that for a number of indicators no national  
data from Member States were available  
and calls on the Office to address that issue  
through all available channels;

assess the performance of its activities;  
welcomes the achievement or surpassing of  
targets for a majority of indicators, despite  
the difficulties faced because of the  
COVID-19 pandemic; deplores the fact  
that for a number of indicators no national  
data from Member States were available  
and calls on the ***relevant national  
authorities and the*** Office to address that  
issue through all available channels;

Or. en

**Amendment 14**  
**Caterina Chinnici**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***5 a. Notes with satisfaction that the  
Office regularly cooperates with other EU  
agencies and in particular with the justice  
and home affairs (JHA) agencies;  
welcomes the cooperation based on  
bilateral cooperation agreements, such as  
working arrangements between the Office  
and the European Border and Coast  
Guard Agency (the 'Frontex'), the  
European Union Agency for  
Fundamental Rights and the European  
Union Agency for the Operational  
Management of Large-Scale IT Systems  
in the Area of Freedom, Security and  
Justice (the 'eu-LISA'), and cooperation  
plans with Frontex and eu-LISA in order  
to better align common projects and share  
information systematically;***

Or. en

**Amendment 15**  
**Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Pierre Karleskind, Alin Mituța,  
Katalin Cseh**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 6 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**6 a.** *Welcomes the downward trend in the number of interim workers compared to the total number of staff; highlights that one of the reasons underlying the dependency on interim staff was also the delay in the adoption and entry into force of Regulation (EU) 2021/2303 (the 'Regulation') establishing a European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA); welcomes the entry into force of the Regulation, allowing the new agency to employ remunerated experts; underlines that in order to decrease this dependency, the Office carried out an active dialogue with the Commission; regrets that only short term solutions could be identified and that the Office was allowed to employ 58 contractual agents in 2020 only for a period of one year, until the envisaged adoption of the Regulation; notes, however, that due to the delay in the adoption of the Regulation, the Office found itself in a difficult situation, as the agreement did not allow it to extend these contracts until the entry into force of the new legal framework; notes with regret a serious lack of foresight on behalf of the Commission when designing and allocating these posts to the Office; underlines that the situation created had a negative impact on the recruitment capabilities and activities of the Office;*

Or. en

**Amendment 16**  
**Bas Eickhout**  
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 7**

*Motion for a resolution*

7. Welcomes the progressively increasing occupancy rate of the Office, which the Office expects to reach **90 %** at the end of 2021, **and** the reported decrease in the staff turnover rate, from 6,58 % in 2019 to 5,73 % in 2020;

*Amendment*

7. ***Notes with concern that despite the Court's conclusion that progress is made in the attraction of new staff, the execution rate of 78,96 % means that for a fourth consecutive year in a row the Office did not manage to achieve the targets of its establishment plan;*** welcomes the progressively increasing occupancy rate of the Office, which the Office expects to reach **a 90 % execution rate of its establishment plan** at the end of 2021; **and welcomes** the reported decrease in the staff turnover rate, from 6,58 % in 2019 to 5,73 % in 2020;

Or. en

**Amendment 17**

**Bas Eickhout**

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***7 a. Recalls the Court's conclusion from financial year 2017 that contract monitoring for compliance with national rules on interim workers was poor; notes that given the Case C-948/19 pending before the Court of Justice of the European Union (the 'Court of Justice'), the Court will refrain from making any observations on the regularity of the Office's approach; calls on the Office to inform the discharge authority about its next steps on this matter once the Court of Justice has published its decision in the aforementioned case;***

Or. en

**Amendment 18**

**Bas Eickhout**  
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 7 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**7 b.** *Recalls the Court's conclusion from financial year 2018 that the Office's contracts with IT companies were formulated in a way that could imply the assignment of temporary agency workers instead of clearly defined services or products, and that this would contravene the Staff Regulations and the social employment rules of the Union; recalls the Court's recommendation that the Office should draft contracts in a way which prevents any confusion between procurement of IT services and of interim workers, and notes the Court's observation for financial year 2020 that progress on this issue is still ongoing; calls on the Office to address this matter swiftly;*

Or. en

**Amendment 19**  
**Bas Eickhout**  
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 7 c (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**7 c.** *Recalls the Court's conclusion for financial year 2019 that the procedures used for selecting and contracting external experts systematically lacked a solid audit trail, and that subsequent payments on these contracts are irregular; notes with concern the Court's conclusion that the follow up of the recommendation to address this issue is still ongoing; calls on the Office to keep the discharge*

*authority informed about the progress made;*

Or. en

**Amendment 20**  
**Caterina Chinnici**

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

*Motion for a resolution*

9. Notes that the Office has 10 men (83,3 %) and 2 women (16,7 %) in its senior management, that the total staff is composed of 186 men (38,0 %) and 304 women (62,0 %) and that the management board is composed of 21 men (67,7 %) and 10 women (32,3 %);

*Amendment*

9. Notes ***with concern*** that the Office has 10 men (83,3 %) and 2 women (16,7 %) in its senior management, that the total staff is composed of 186 men (38,0 %) and 304 women (62,0 %) and that the management board is composed of 21 men (67,7 %) and 10 women (32,3 %); ***asks the Office to ensure gender balance at the senior management and staff level in the future; asks the Commission and the Member States to take into account the importance of ensuring gender balance when nominating their members to the Office's management board;***

Or. en

**Amendment 21**  
**Bas Eickhout**  
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

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

*Motion for a resolution*

9. Notes ***that the Office has*** 10 men (83,3 %) and 2 women (16,7 %) in its senior management, that the total staff is composed of 186 men (38,0 %) and 304 women (62,0 %) ***and that the management board is composed of 21 men (67,7 %) and 10 women (32,3 %);***

*Amendment*

9. Notes ***with concern the Office's gender balance in its management board and senior management, with 21 men (67,7 %) and 10 women (32,3 %) in the management board, and 10 men (83,3 %) and 2 women (16,7 %) in its senior management; notes*** that the total staff is

composed of 186 men (38,0 %) and 304 women (62,0 %);

Or. en

**Amendment 22**

**Bas Eickhout**

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 10 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***10 a. Recalls the irregularity of the Office's procurement procedures in the previous financial years, and the effects these had on the legality and regularity of transactions in financial year 2020; notes the Court's observations that the Office's follow up of the Court's conclusion about the procurement procedures for rented premises in Lesbos are still ongoing; notes that the Office's response to the Court's conclusion for financial year 2018 that the procurement for interim workers in Italy was irregular is still ongoing; calls on the Office to keep the discharge authority informed about its planned next steps on these matters;***

Or. en

**Amendment 23**

**Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Pierre Karleskind, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh, Michal Wiezik**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 11 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***11 a. Notes that a revised conflict of interest policy is in the final stage of inter-service consultation before its submission to the management board; calls on the***

**Amendment 24**

**Bas Eickhout**

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 12**

*Motion for a resolution*

12. Welcomes the revision of the control strategies for the main control activities in place by the Office, which followed a risk-based approach and took into consideration the cost-effectiveness of controls; welcomes the general improving situation as regards internal control, including procurement, in the Office, which can be deduced from the Court's report; notes, in that regard, the observation of the Court that the 2018 Governance Action Plan was discontinued in 2020 and integrated into the quarterly monitoring report to the management board and the internal control self-assessment, but that some actions are still deemed relevant by the Court, and calls on the Office to continue the implementation of those actions, noting, in particular, the number of interim workers replacing staff members, the level of vacant management posts and the update of the conflict of interest policy;

*Amendment*

12. Welcomes the revision of the control strategies for the main control activities in place by the Office, which followed a risk-based approach and took into consideration the cost-effectiveness of controls; welcomes the general improving situation as regards internal control, including procurement, in the Office, which can be deduced from the Court's report; notes, in that regard, the observation of the Court that the 2018 Governance Action Plan was discontinued in 2020 and integrated into the quarterly monitoring report to the management board and the internal control self-assessment, but that some actions are still deemed relevant by the Court, and ***need to be addressed thoroughly, and*** calls on the Office to continue the implementation of those actions, noting, in particular, the number of interim workers replacing staff members, the level of vacant management posts and the update of the conflict of interest policy, ***and keep the discharge authority informed about the progress made;***

**Amendment 25**

**Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Pierre Karleskind, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh**

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 13 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***13 a. Welcomes the fact that the implementation of the internal control framework was further reinforced in 2020, by adding an ex-post controls' function, thus addressing observations made in previous years by the discharge authority;***

Or. en

**Amendment 26**  
**Bas Eickhout**  
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 14**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

14. Notes the creation of a COVID-19 response team in the Office by decision of the executive director on 11 March 2020 and the coordinated response in the Office to the COVID-19 pandemic; further notes the observation of the Court that the Office had not finalised and adopted its business continuity plan and that the Office's size and complexity of operations and recent events such as the COVID-19 pandemic underline the importance of such a formalised, up-to-date plan; notes that the Office adopted its business continuity plan on 31 March 2021;

14. Notes the creation of a COVID-19 response team in the Office by decision of the executive director on 11 March 2020 and the coordinated response in the Office to the COVID-19 pandemic; further notes ***with concern*** the observation of the Court that the Office had not finalised and adopted its business continuity plan and that the Office's size and complexity of operations and recent events such as the COVID-19 pandemic underline the importance of such a formalised, up-to-date plan; notes that the Office adopted its business continuity plan on 31 March 2021;

Or. en

**Amendment 27**  
**Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Pierre Karleskind, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh**



**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 14 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**14 a. Welcomes the Office's support to Member States to address the COVID-19 challenges, such as the impact of the pandemic on specific aspects of the asylum process and resettlement, with videoconference meetings of its thematic networks; welcomes the recommendations issued on remote solutions for registration and asylum interviews; notes with appreciation the Office's pro-active roll-out plan for vaccinating asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection;**

Or. en

**Amendment 28**

**Bas Eickhout**

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Motion for a resolution**  
**Paragraph 15**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

15. **Notes** that the Office reports that some of the measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have had a positive impact on the environmental performance of the Office, in particular a reduction in electricity consumption, a reduction of the Office's contribution to global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from travel due to the cancellation of missions and travel for participants attending meetings of the Office and training sessions, and the end of the requirement for candidates participating in staff selection procedures and sitting for written assessments to be physically present, relying instead on remotely managed alternatives (videoconferencing and monitored online assessment);

15. **Welcomes** that the Office reports that some of the measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have had a positive impact on the environmental performance of the Office, in particular a reduction in electricity consumption, a reduction of the Office's contribution to global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from travel due to the cancellation of missions and travel for participants attending meetings of the Office and training sessions, and the end of the requirement for candidates participating in staff selection procedures and sitting for written assessments to be physically present, relying instead on remotely managed alternatives (videoconferencing and monitored online assessment);

**Amendment 29**

**Bas Eickhout**

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 16**

*Motion for a resolution*

16. *Notes* that the Office has been looking into maintaining environmental measures and complementing them with longer-lasting initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint and address the areas of green building and sustainable mobility with regard to staff-related travel, greener commuting to and from work and travel related to meetings and training activities;

*Amendment*

16. *Welcomes* that the Office has been looking into maintaining environmental measures and complementing them with longer-lasting initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint and address the areas of green building and sustainable mobility with regard to staff-related travel, greener commuting to and from work and travel related to meetings and training activities; *encourages the Office to share its lessons learned with other members of the EU Agencies Network;*

Or. en

**Amendment 30**

**Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Pierre Karleskind, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 16 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

*16 a. Notes with satisfaction the establishment in 2020 of the Office's Legal Affairs and Data Protection Sector (the 'LDPS') within the Executive Office; highlights that the LDPS contributes to ensuring a sound legal environment for the functioning of the Office, handling litigation and pre-litigation procedures and representing the Office in court proceedings;*

**Amendment 31**

**Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Pierre Karleskind, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 16 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***16 b. Highlights that in 2020 the Office continued to face difficulties in fulfilling certain tasks as a result of its outdated mandate, especially in terms of the legal framework and mechanisms for deployment of asylum support teams providing the support required by the Member States; welcomes the agreement reached by the co-legislators and the entry into force of a new legal framework governing the activities of the Office and its transformation into a fully-fledged European Union Agency for Asylum;***

Or. en

**Amendment 32**

**Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Gilles Boyer, Pierre Karleskind, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh**

**Motion for a resolution**

**Paragraph 16 c (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***16 c. Recalls the important role that the Office fulfils in the asylum policy framework of the Union, assisting requesting Member States with valuable expertise and resources on the matter; welcomes the signature of a new operational support plan with Spain in 2020, bringing the total number of countries assisted by the Office to eight;***

