



2023/2168(DEC)

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AMENDMENTS

1 - 8

Draft report

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(PE753.539v01-00)

2022 discharge: European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation
(Eurojust)

((2023/2168(DEC))

Amendment 1

Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Michal Wiezik, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Notes the observation from the Court's report that the Agency did not comply with the time limits for payments stipulated in the Financial Regulation for 1 222 out of the total of 2 308 payments (52,9 %); reminds and underlines that in 720 of all cases (31,5 %), payments were late by more than 30 days; notes that the Agency attributes this shortcoming, that in the Court's view exposes the Agency to financial and reputational risk and goes against the principle of economy, to the implementation of SUMMA; notes the Agency's reply that SUMMA has been in a pilot phase and there were delays and technical difficulties in processing the transactions which impacted the staff training and created some challenges on the budgetary management; notes lastly that despite the increased amount of late payments, the Agency did not pay any late interest;

Amendment

4. Notes ***with concern*** the observation from the Court's report that the Agency did not comply with the time limits for payments stipulated in the Financial Regulation for 1 222 out of the total of 2 308 payments (52,9 %); reminds and underlines that in 720 of all cases (31,5 %), payments were late by more than 30 days; notes that the Agency attributes this shortcoming, that in the Court's view exposes the Agency to financial and reputational risk and goes against the principle of economy, to the implementation of SUMMA; notes the Agency's reply that SUMMA has been in a pilot phase and there were delays and technical difficulties in processing the transactions which impacted the staff training and created some challenges on the budgetary management; notes lastly that despite the increased amount of late payments, the Agency did not pay any late interest; ***calls on the Agency to fully address this observation, tackling technical difficulties in processing transactions and report to the discharge authority on the progress achieved;***

Or. en

Amendment 2

Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Michal Wiezik, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Notes that the number of cases referred to the Agency by the Member States continued to grow, with a total of 11 544 cases handled in 2022 (of which 5 227 were newly opened), which represents a 14 % increase compared to 2021; commends in this context the contribution of the Agency in providing legal advice, analysis and operations assistance resulting in 941 operational deliverables in support to 528 cases, including with regard to complex cases that led to the arrest of smugglers of people (including migrants), as well as the cracking down on or actions against criminal networks in areas such as money laundering, sexual exploitation, online investment fraud or drug-trafficking; notes moreover that, in 2022, the Agency supported 265 Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) (of which 78 JITs newly established), organised 528 CMs and 22 Coordination Centres (CCs), facilitated the execution of 1 262 European Arrest Warrants (of which 504 new cases) and enabled the use of 5 415 European Investigation Orders (around half of which newly opened); notes that the Agency maintains cooperative relations with OLAF, with a view to enhancing the fight against crimes affecting the financial interests of the EU;

Amendment

6. Notes that the number of cases referred to the Agency by the Member States continued to grow, with a total of 11 544 cases handled in 2022 (of which 5 227 were newly opened), which represents a 14 % increase compared to 2021; commends in this context the contribution of the Agency in providing legal advice, analysis and operations assistance resulting in 941 operational deliverables in support to 528 cases, including with regard to complex cases that led to the arrest of smugglers of people (including migrants), as well as the cracking down on or actions against criminal networks in areas such as money laundering, sexual exploitation, online investment fraud or drug-trafficking; notes **with satisfaction** moreover that, in 2022, the Agency supported 265 Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) (of which 78 JITs newly established), organised 528 CMs and 22 Coordination Centres (CCs), facilitated the execution of 1 262 European Arrest Warrants (of which 504 new cases) and enabled the use of 5 415 European Investigation Orders (around half of which newly opened); notes that the Agency maintains cooperative relations with OLAF, with a view to enhancing the fight against crimes affecting the financial interests of the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 3 **Sándor Rónai, Hannes Heide**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 8**

Motion for a resolution

8. Welcomes that in 2022 the Agency enhanced its operational and strategic cooperation with various stakeholders, such as the European justice and home

Amendment

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affairs agencies (JHA), the Union's institutions, OLAF, EPPO, as well as judicial practitioner networks, third countries and international organisations; notes in particular the Agency's cooperation with the Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA) on a joint report on Artificial Intelligence (AI) supporting cross-border cooperation in criminal justice, with the Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) on 16 courses covering judicial cooperation and with the Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) on the SIRIUS project and the Europol's 'hit/no-hit' system; highlights the Agency's contribution to the Commission's initiatives in the area of justice digitalisation (SIS II, CMS, ECRIS-TCN, among other); notes that the Agency has been relying on an ever-growing network of Contact Points with the competent authorities in third countries, whereas in 2022, the Agency's total number of Contact Points grew to include Australia, Bahrain and Morocco; commends the expansion of the Agency's cooperation on criminal matters at international level, in particular through the EuroMed Justice Programme with the South Partner Countries and an EU-funded project focusing on cross-border cooperation in criminal justice in the Western Balkans;

affairs agencies (JHA), the Union's institutions, OLAF, EPPO, as well as judicial practitioner networks, third countries and international organisations; notes in particular the Agency's cooperation with the Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA) on a joint report on Artificial Intelligence (AI) supporting cross-border cooperation in criminal justice, with the Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) on 16 courses covering judicial cooperation and with the Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) on the SIRIUS project and the Europol's 'hit/no-hit' system, *with national authorities from 20 Member States, Europol, OLAF and EPPO on Operation SENTINAL targeting fraud against COVID-19 recovery funds*; highlights the Agency's contribution to the Commission's initiatives in the area of justice digitalisation (SIS II, CMS, ECRIS-TCN, among other); notes that the Agency has been relying on an ever-growing network of Contact Points with the competent authorities in third countries, whereas in 2022, the Agency's total number of Contact Points grew to include Australia, Bahrain and Morocco; commends the expansion of the Agency's cooperation on criminal matters at international level, in particular through the EuroMed Justice Programme with the South Partner Countries and an EU-funded project focusing on cross-border cooperation in criminal justice in the Western Balkans;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Sándor Rónai, Hannes Heide

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

13. Notes the gender representation within the Agency for 2022, with 6 men (60 %) and 4 women (40 %) in senior and middle management, 16 men (64 %) and 9 women (36 %) in the Agency's management board, and with 85 men (33 %) and 175 women (67 %) for the overall staff; calls on the Agency to further encourage female candidates to apply for management positions, as well as applications from male candidates in external selections for the remainder of staff positions; acknowledges that the Agency is not responsible for the composition of its management board (hereinafter 'the College') as the National Members of the College are appointed directly by the respective Member States;

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13. Notes the gender representation within the Agency for 2022, with 6 men (60 %) and 4 women (40 %) in senior and middle management, 16 men (64 %) and 9 women (36 %) in the Agency's management board, and with 85 men (33 %) and 175 women (67 %) for the overall staff; calls on the Agency ***to ensure better gender balance at all levels of staff and*** to further encourage female candidates to apply for management positions, as well as applications from male candidates in external selections for the remainder of staff positions; acknowledges that the Agency is not responsible for the composition of its management board (hereinafter 'the College') as the National Members of the College are appointed directly by the respective Member States; ***asks the Commission and the Member States to take into account the importance of ensuring gender balance when nominating their members to the College;***

Or. en

Amendment 5

Sándor Rónai, Hannes Heide

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 16 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

16 a. Notes with satisfaction that as of 31 December 2022, the Agency has employed staff from 26 Member States; notes that the most represented nationalities among the Agency's staff were the Netherlands, Italy, Spain and Romania; recalls the importance of geographical balance and encourages the Agency to continue to take the necessary measures to have a balanced and fair geographical representation;

Amendment 6**Sándor Rónai, Hannes Heide****Motion for a resolution****Paragraph 16***Motion for a resolution*

16. Notes that, as of April 2022, all staff returned to the Agency's premises; notes in this context that the Agency put in place transitional measures regarding work in the office and teleworking and organised workshops to help staff to mentally adapt to the return to the office after continually teleworking for two years; notes also that the results of the Agency's 2023 Staff Survey indicate that the welfare measures taken by the Agency in 2022 effectively alleviated the impact that extended teleworking had on staff; notes, in particular, that 96 % of respondents were positive about being able to coordinate with team members despite working from different locations;

Amendment

16. ***Notes that the Agency's staff were primarily teleworking until March 2022;*** notes that, as of April 2022, all staff returned to the Agency's premises; notes in this context that the Agency put in place transitional measures regarding work in the office and teleworking and organised workshops to help staff to mentally adapt to the return to the office after continually teleworking for two years; notes also that the results of the Agency's 2023 Staff Survey indicate that the welfare measures taken by the Agency in 2022 effectively alleviated the impact that extended teleworking had on staff; notes, in particular, that 96 % of respondents were positive about being able to coordinate with team members despite working from different locations;

Amendment 7**Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Michal Wiezik, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh****Motion for a resolution****Paragraph 17***Motion for a resolution*

17. Recalls the observation from the Court's report for 2020 that a framework contract for vehicle leasing with a single economic operator was not appropriate for the nature of the services required and the

Amendment

17. Recalls the observation from the Court's report for 2020 that a framework contract for vehicle leasing with a single economic operator was not appropriate for the nature of the services required and the

contract awarded as the outcome of the procedure, as well as all the related payments, were irregular; notes from the Court's report that in 2022 the Agency irregularly paid EUR 59 281 under this contract and the observation is still open; **recommends** the Agency to examine the possibility of putting an end to that framework contract and launching a new procedure with reopening of competition as considered appropriate by the Court in the case of vehicles leasing;

contract awarded as the outcome of the procedure, as well as all the related payments, were irregular; notes from the Court's report that in 2022 the Agency irregularly paid EUR 59 281 under this contract and the observation is still open; **calls on** the Agency to examine the possibility of putting an end to that framework contract and launching a new procedure with reopening of competition as considered appropriate by the Court in the case of vehicles leasing;

Or. en

Amendment 8

Ramona Strugariu, Olivier Chastel, Michal Wiezik, Jozef Mihál, Alin Mituța, Katalin Cseh

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 23

Motion for a resolution

23. Notes with concern the significant increase in the number and value of non-compliance events in 2022 (43 events of value EUR 294 000) compared with 2021 (33 events of value EUR 18 000), whereas such events were mainly linked to issues such as an invoice being higher than the legal commitment, the budgetary commitment taking place after the legal commitment was assigned or the absence of a purchase order or specific contract; notes the Agency explaining that that increase is linked to the difficulties encountered in budgetary and financial management in 2022, due to the introduction of SUMMA; **hopes that** the Agency **will** explore models so that these kind of **increase will** no longer occur in the future;

Amendment

23. Notes with concern the significant increase in the number and value of non-compliance events in 2022 (43 events of value EUR 294 000) compared with 2021 (33 events of value EUR 18 000), whereas such events were mainly linked to issues such as an invoice being higher than the legal commitment, the budgetary commitment taking place after the legal commitment was assigned or the absence of a purchase order or specific contract; notes the Agency explaining that that increase is linked to the difficulties encountered in budgetary and financial management in 2022, due to the introduction of SUMMA; **calls on** the Agency **to address these observations and** explore models so that these kind of **situations** no longer occur in the future;

Or. en