



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

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*Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety*

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**2014/2108(DEC)**

14.11.2014

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on Discharge 2013: European Food Safety Authority  
(2014/2108(DEC))

Rapporteur: Giovanni La Via

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that in 2013 an amount of EUR 78840704 has been made available to the European Food Safety Authority ("the Authority") through the general budget of the European Union; stresses that this amount represents 0.052% of the overall EU budget;
2. Calls on the Authority to make clear in its future internal and external communication that it receives funds made available from the EU budget (EU subsidy) instead of Commission or Community subsidy;
3. Takes note that 328 posts out of 351 had been filled by the end of 2013; acknowledges a decrease in the occupation rate compared to 2012;
4. Is especially aware of the public interest in the decision-making process within the Authority, which is done within its legal role and responsibilities; notes that the Authority is dedicating 74% of its human resources to scientific activities, evaluation and data collection and that this represent a slight increase compared to the situation in 2012; encourages the Authority to further progress on this path;
5. Takes note of the two comments made by the Court of Auditors which focus on the internal control system and on the need to include sufficient details on planned procurements and grants in the Authority's annual work programmes in order to allow more effective monitoring of procurements and grants;
6. Welcomes the Authority's efforts to implement corrective actions following the previous comments by the Court of Auditors, in particular the implementation, as of 2012, of the Authority's comprehensive self-assessment of its internal control system, a process which is still on-going;
7. Encourages the Authority to continue paying special attention to the public opinion and to commit itself as much as possible to an openness and transparency; welcomes, in this respect, the implementing rules for its Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes as adopted by the Authority's Management Board in December 2011; welcomes in this context the improved presentation and accessibility of information and documents on the Authority's homepage;
8. Welcomes that the Court of Auditors considers the transactions underlying the annual accounts of the Authority for the financial year 2013 as legal and regular in all material respects;
9. Recommends, on the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority in respect of the implementation of the Authority's budget for the financial year 2013.