



2022/2120(DEC)

2.3.2023

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) for the financial year 2021
(2022/2120(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Saskia Bricmont

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the fact that the Court of Auditors (the ‘Court’) has declared the transactions underlying the annual accounts of the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) for the financial year 2021 to be legal and regular in all material respects; notes that, according to its statement of revenue and expenditure, its budget in 2021 increased to EUR 53.3 million, representing an increase of 27.81% compared to 2020, while its staff increased from 242 to 254 (+4.95%); notes that casework increased by 15%; welcomes that Eurojust implemented 99.97% of its final budget, excluding external assigned revenue, and cancelled only 2.6% of the EUR 6.2 million carried-over from 2020;
2. Notes that Eurojust is among the 22 EU agencies for which the Court reported contracts affected by public procurement shortcomings; recalls the Court findings that in 2018 Eurojust signed a framework contract with a single company for the leasing of vehicles, and notes that since the vehicle-leasing market is subject to frequent fluctuations in price Eurojust should have reopened the procurement procedure when a vehicle was required; notes that the audit report for the 2020 financial year considered that a procurement procedure for leasing of vehicles was irregular and that all subsequent payments made based on this framework contract were irregular; notes that with regard to the Court’s ongoing observation from 2020 on the legality and regularity of transactions, the status of corrective action is reportedly ongoing and remedies have been already foreseen; underlines that such situations may cause reputational damage to Eurojust; calls on Eurojust to report to the discharge authority about the progress of the corrective actions undertaken;
3. Appreciates Eurojust’s extensive activities in supporting and coordinating the work of national judicial authorities in investigating and prosecuting serious cross-border crimes; welcomes that in 2021 the agency offered, for the first time, support to over 10 000 cross-border criminal investigations, provided 1 928 rapid responses to judicial cooperation requests and participated in over 1 400 large-scale operations and guaranteed legal, financial and/or operational support to 254 joint investigation teams;
4. Notes the continued cooperation between Eurojust with other JHA Agencies; welcomes the working arrangement with European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO) signed in February 2021 and the close cooperation with the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF), European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) and that Eurojust continued to cooperate with the European Judicial Network (EJN), bringing the number of cases referred to the EJN to 44 in 2021;
5. Support the further strengthening of Eurojust cooperation with the [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#) (FRA) in particular with regard to detention conditions problems, access to lawyers, and victims’ rights;

6. Notes that in 2021 EDPS' first data protection audit of Eurojust's data protection activities took place, and that the EDPS found that, overall, Eurojust's compliance with the data protection framework was satisfactory, with no critical issues;

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	1.3.2023
Result of final vote	+: 59 -: 0 0: 5
Members present for the final vote	Magdalena Adamowicz, Abir Al-Sahlani, Malik Azmani, Katarina Barley, Pietro Bartolo, Vladimír Bilčík, Vasile Blaga, Ioan-Rareș Bogdan, Karolin Braunsberger-Reinhold, Patrick Breyer, Saskia Bricmont, Patricia Chagnon, Caterina Chinnici, Clare Daly, Lena Düpont, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Maria Grapini, Sylvie Guillaume, Andrzej Halicki, Evin Incir, Sophia in 't Veld, Patryk Jaki, Marina Kaljurand, Assita Kanko, Fabienne Keller, Łukasz Kohut, Moritz Körner, Alice Kuhnke, Jeroen Lenaers, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Erik Marquardt, Nuno Melo, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Karlo Ressler, Diana Riba i Giner, Birgit Sippel, Sara Skyttedal, Vincenzo Sofo, Tineke Strik, Ramona Strugariu, Annalisa Tardino, Tomas Tobé, Yana Toom, Milan Uhrík, Tom Vandendriessche, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Javier Zarzalejos
Substitutes present for the final vote	Susanna Ceccardi, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Loucas Furlas, Beata Kempa, Philippe Olivier, Dragoș Tudorache, Petar Vitanov, Tomáš Zdechovský
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Gheorghe Falcă, Jean-François Jalkh, Petra Kammerevert, Marisa Matias, Martina Michels, Ljudmila Novak, Stanislav Polčák, Mick Wallace, Bernhard Zimniok

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

59	+
ECR	Patryk Jaki, Assita Kanko, Beata Kempa, Vincenzo Sofo, Jadwiga Wiśniewska
ID	Susanna Ceccardi, Annalisa Tardino, Tom Vandendriessche
PPE	Magdalena Adamowicz, Vladimír Bilčík, Vasile Blaga, Ioan-Rareș Bogdan, Karolin Braunsberger-Reinhold, Lena Düpont, Gheorghe Falcă, Loucas Fourlas, Andrzej Halicki, Jeroen Lenaers, Nuno Melo, Ljudmila Novak, Stanislav Polčák, Karlo Ressler, Sara Skytvedal, Tomas Tobé, Javier Zarzalejos, Tomáš Zdechovský
Renew	Abir Al-Sahlani, Malik Azmani, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Sophia in 't Veld, Fabienne Keller, Moritz Körner, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Ramona Strugariu, Yana Toom, Dragoș Tudorache
S&D	Katarina Barley, Pietro Bartolo, Caterina Chinnici, Maria Grapini, Sylvie Guillaume, Evin Incir, Marina Kaljurand, Petra Kammerevert, Łukasz Kohut, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Birgit Sippel, Petar Vitanov
The Left	Clare Daly, Marisa Matias, Martina Michels, Mick Wallace
Verts/ALE	Patrick Breyer, Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Alice Kuhnke, Erik Marquardt, Diana Riba i Giner, Tineke Strik

0	-

5	0
ID	Patricia Chagnon, Jean-François Jalkh, Philippe Olivier, Bernhard Zimniok
NI	Milan Uhrík

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention