



2022/2123(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 Fundamental Rights for the financial year 2021
(2022/2123(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 Fundamental Rights (FRA) for the financial year 2021 to be legal and regular in all material respects; highlights that the budget for 2021 was 33 million EUR, but in reality this means 23 920 698 EUR budget as the Court report counts in the total payment appropriations available during the financial year; takes note and reiterates its concern that the FRA continues to suffer from financial and staff resources constraints;
2. Welcomes that FRA was able to fulfil its objectives and to deliver on the activities foreseen in its Annual Work Programme despite the continuous shortage on human and financial resources and the challenges caused by the pandemic; notes that the number of publications was 516 compared to the set target of 486, that the number of meetings and events organised/co-organised was 421 compared to the set target of 260, and that the number of communication materials was 1809 compared to the set target of 250;
3. Regrets that FRA's establishment plan has not been increased since 2017 and that the budget increase mainly reflected the indexation with the inflation rate, not being commensurate with the increased number of requests FRA has received within this period and despite the entry into force of the new amended Founding Regulation; further recognises that the increase in workload and requests, particularly after the entry into force of the new mandate which introduced new activities in the areas of justice and police cooperation, was not accompanied with additional resources;
4. Highlights that without adequate financial and staff resources, FRA will not be able to carry out all the tasks assigned to it and fully implement its new mandate; reminds that this can affect the quality of work that FRA provides which has proved to be extremely valuable for EU policy;
5. Notes that FRA had carried over €7 million (27 %) of 2021 commitment appropriations to 2022; reiterates its regrets that the levels of carry-overs of committed appropriations for operating expenditure remained high and contradict the budgetary principle of annuality; acknowledges the answer from FRA emphasizing that these carry-overs mainly reflect the nature of FRA's core activities that include the financing of studies and other activities that span several months and eventually beyond year-end; welcomes the concrete actions that FRA has established to improve its budget planning and its implementation cycles; welcomes the high level of outturn rate, which is above 99.5% and consequently, the low level of cancelled appropriations which contribute to sound budget management and respect of the budgetary principles; calls on FRA to report to the discharge authority about the progress registered in this matter;
6. Welcomes the cooperation with other EU agencies, bodies and civil society in order to ensure there is compliance with fundamental rights; notes that FRA contributed to a total of around 60 activities in the JHA area, including 24 in the area of migration,

asylum and border management, and 16 in the area of internal security and serious and organised crime; stresses the support provided by FRA to projects related to AI and biometrics, led by Europol and Frontex, and considers that FRA's recommendations should be taken into account;

7. Notes the signature of a working arrangements with Europol and CEPOL, the continued engagement with Frontex, including with FRA's Director taking part in Frontex Management Board meetings, the important role played by the FRA in the training and operationalisation of the fundamental rights monitors within Frontex, and the strengthening of the existing cooperation with Eurojust by agreeing on a list of concrete actions in 12 common areas of interest such as the European Arrest Warrant, detention-related topics, victims' rights and AI;

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	1.3.2023
Result of final vote	+: 50 -: 7 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, Nuno Melo, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Karlo Ressler, Diana Riba i Giner, Birgit Sippel, Sara Skytvedal, 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 Fourlas, 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

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

50	+
PPE	Magdalena Adamowicz, Vladimír Bilčík, Vasile Blaga, Ioan-Rareş Bogdan, Karolin Braunsberger-Reinhold, Lena Düpont, Gheorghe Falcă, Loucas Fourlas, Andrzej Halicki, Jeroen Lenaers, Nuno Melo, Ljudmila Novak, Stanislav Polčák, Karlo Ressler, Sara Skyttedal, 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, Dragoş 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, Diana Riba i Giner, Tineke Strik

7	-
ID	Susanna Ceccardi, Patricia Chagnon, Jean-François Jalkh, Philippe Olivier, Annalisa Tardino, Tom Vandendriessche
NI	Milan Uhrík

5	0
ECR	Patryk Jaki, Assita Kanko, Beata Kempa, Vincenzo Sofo, Jadwiga Wiśniewska

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention