



**2023/2164(DEC)**

24.1.2024

# **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 Asylum (before 19.1.2022 the European Asylum Support Office) for the financial year 2022  
(2023/2164(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Tomáš Zdechovský

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. Notes the fact that the Court of Auditors (the ‘Court’) has declared the transactions underlying the annual accounts of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) for the financial year 2022 to be legal and regular in all material respects;
2. Welcomes the fact that two issues, the high number of temporary managers and the lack of update of the policy for the management and prevention of conflict of interest, identified in previous years Court’s observations have been addressed; notes that the observations on procurement procedures reported in previous years, namely the rented premises in Lesbos and in Rome will be closed in 2023;
3. Welcomes the EUAA’s efforts to implement the new mandate in force since January 2022 despite the lack of sufficient number of additional staff; calls the Commission and Member States to allow additional staff and reclassification of certain posts to ensure a proper implementation in particular as regards the Fundamental Rights Officer, the Asylum reserve Pool and the monitoring and operational activities to ensure that the rights of asylum applicants are always safeguarded and in line with applicable rules;
4. Recalls the role of EUAA in providing support for the processing of applications for international protection as well as for the training of caseworkers responsible for processing asylum claims; states the need for EUAA to continue providing support to Member States and third countries in dealing with asylum and migration applications; calls to focus the budget on further staff recruitment if needed to help member states to ensure fair and just examination of the asylum applications for international protection, especially of interpreters and psychologists for applicants that belong to vulnerable groups;
5. Welcomes that almost 4 million persons benefited from temporary protection after the Council mandated the EUAA, along with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), to provide operational support to Member States requesting assistance in coping with the refugee arrivals following the Russian invasion of Ukraine;
6. Recalls the recommendation of Discharge authority in its report for 2020; notes the EUAA’s continues support to Member States in ensuring a protective reception system for unaccompanied minors through the provision of training, operational support, guidance, tools and informational material such as leaflets and videos targeting minors in reception; recalls that in 2022, 42 000 asylum applications were lodged by unaccompanied minors in the EU and in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland (EU+ countries); further appreciates organisation of a thematic meeting in Slovenia with the participation of 13 countries allowing various stakeholders to discuss best practices for reception facilities of unaccompanied minors;
7. Notes with satisfaction that EUAA implemented operational plans in 14 Member States,

thus expanding its operations to six additional EU countries and that EUAA deployed personnel to a non-EU country, Moldova first since its foundation; further appreciates EUAA's strong engagement in the external dimension of Common European Asylum System (CEAS) supporting EU+ countries resettle 2,585 persons through support for 13 selection and 3 pre-departure missions;

8. Notes EUAA's assistance to Western Balkan partner countries through the provision of institutional capacity building, training and on-the-job coaching on core asylum procedures;
9. Notes the Court's observation that the agreements between the EU and the Schengen associated countries (SAC) serving as legal basis for calculating their contributions to EUAA's budget are unclear and allow divergent interpretations, resulting lower contribution by SAC; notes EUAA's response that its approach is in line with the legal provisions; calls the Commission to examine these agreements;
10. Recalls that OLAF is currently conducting an investigations concerning allegations of misconduct and staff-related irregularities in EUAA's senior management; requests that allegations of misconduct are thoroughly checked and investigated; welcomes EUAA's commitment to full cooperation with OLAF; calls on EUAA to ensure the full and sincere cooperation with OLAF throughout all stages of the investigation and to regularly report to the European Parliament about the progress of the state and outcome of the investigation;

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	23.1.2024
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 51 -: 4 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Magdalena Adamowicz, Abir Al-Sahlani, Katarina Barley, Pietro Bartolo, Theresa Bielowski, Patrick Breyer, Jorge Buxadé Villalba, Damien Carême, Patricia Chagnon, Lena Düpont, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Cornelia Ernst, Laura Ferrara, Nicolaus Fest, Maria Grapini, Sylvie Guillaume, Andrzej Halicki, Evin Incir, Sophia in 't Veld, Patryk Jaki, Marina Kaljurand, Assita Kanko, Łukasz Kohut, Moritz Körner, Alice Kuhnke, Jeroen Lenaers, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Erik Marquardt, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Diana Riba i Giner, Isabel Santos, Birgit Sippel, Vincenzo Sofo, Tineke Strik, Jana Toom, Milan Uhrík, Tom Vandendriessche, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Javier Zarzalejos
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Cyrus Engerer, José Gusmão, Beata Kempa, Leopoldo López Gil, Janina Ochojska, Anne-Sophie Pelletier, Bergur Løkke Rasmussen, Róza Thun und Hohenstein, Maria Walsh, Tomáš Zdechovský
<b>Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote</b>	Andrus Ansip, Hildegard Bentele, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Marisa Matias, Caroline Nagtegaal

**ANNEX: ENTITIES OR PERSONS  
FROM WHOM THE RAPPORTEUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT**

The rapporteur has received input from the following entities or persons in the preparation of the opinion:

<b>Entity and/or person</b>
European Union Agency for Asylum (“EUAA”)

The list above is drawn up under the exclusive responsibility of the rapporteur.

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

51	+
ECR	Jorge Buxadé Villalba, Patryk Jaki, Assita Kanko, Beata Kempa, Vincenzo Sofo
NI	Laura Ferrara
PPE	Magdalena Adamowicz, Hildegard Bentele, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Lena Düpont, Andrzej Halicki, Jeroen Lenaers, Leopoldo López Gil, Janina Ochojska, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Maria Walsh, Javier Zarzalejos, Tomáš Zdechovský
Renew	Abir Al-Sahlani, Andrus Ansip, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Sophia in 't Veld, Moritz Körner, Caroline Nagtegaal, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Bergur Løkke Rasmussen, Róza Thun und Hohenstein, Jana Toom
S&D	Katarina Barley, Pietro Bartolo, Theresa Bielowski, Cyrus Engerer, Maria Grapini, Sylvie Guillaume, Evin Incir, Marina Kaljurand, Lukasz Kohut, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Isabel Santos, Birgit Sippel
The Left	Cornelia Ernst, José Gusmão, Marisa Matias, Anne-Sophie Pelletier
Verts/ALE	Patrick Breyer, Damien Carême, Alice Kuhnke, Erik Marquardt, Diana Riba i Giner, Tineke Strik

4	-
ID	Patricia Chagnon, Nicolaus Fest, Tom Vandendriessche
NI	Milan Uhrík

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention