AMENDMENT
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Draft opinion
Caterina Chinnici
(PE663.240v02-00)

Report on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Union agencies for the financial year 2019: performance, financial management and control (2020/2194(DEC))
1. Welcomes the fact that the Court of Auditors (the 'Court') has certified the legality and regularity of the annual accounts of all JHA agencies and the revenue underlying these accounts for the year which ended on 31 December 2019;
to them in full transparency and to fulfil their mandates in full compliance with fundamental rights;

Amendment 3
Caterina Chinnici

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

1 a. Recalls the important role of JHA agencies in supporting and advising Member States in the fields of security, justice and fundamental rights; reiterates the need to ensure the provision of adequate financial support for JHA agencies in order to fulfil their mandates in a fully transparent manner and in full compliance with fundamental rights;

Amendment 4
Caterina Chinnici

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes that the Court found that the payments underlying the accounts were legal and regular for all agencies except for EASO, for which a qualified opinion was issued due to irregularities in regard to public procurement procedures and related payments; is disappointed that the legality and regularity of payments only slowly improved in 2019; regrets that, once again, there were irregular payments, representing 14.6 % of the value of all payments made
by EASO in 2019; Acknowledges that the Executive Director is taking action to improve the management of EASO;

by EASO in 2019; acknowledges that the Executive Director is taking action to improve the management of EASO and is demonstrating a strong commitment to addressing as a matter of priority the organisational flaws within EASO; welcomes the improvements made by the new management, as recognised also by the Court; urges EASO to maintain this commitment and to report back to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs on a regular basis;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes that the Court found that the payments underlying the accounts were legal and regular for all agencies except for EASO, for which a qualified opinion was issued due to irregularities in regard to public procurement procedures and related payments; is disappointed that the legality and regularity of payments only slowly improved in 2019; regrets that, once again, there were irregular payments, representing 14.6% of the value of all payments made by EASO in 2019; Acknowledges that the Executive Director is taking action to improve the management of EASO;

Amendment

2. Notes that the Court found that the payments underlying the accounts were legal and regular for all agencies except for EASO, for which a qualified opinion was issued due to irregularities in regard to public procurement procedures and related payments; is disappointed that the legality and regularity of payments only slowly improved in 2019; regrets that, once again, there were irregular payments, representing 14.6% of the value of all payments made by EASO in 2019; welcomes that the Executive Director, who was appointed in June 2019, is taking action to improve the management of EASO and implementing corrective measures, as also highlighted by the Court;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Düpont, Axel Voss,
Tomas Tobé, Andrzej Halicki, Tomáš Zdechovský

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

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Amendment

2. Notes that the Court found that the payments underlying the accounts were legal and regular for all agencies except for EASO, for which a qualified opinion was issued due to irregularities in regard to public procurement procedures and related payments; regrets that, once again, there were irregular payments, representing 14.6% of the value of all payments made by EASO in 2019; notes that corrective actions were implemented by the EASO in 2019 to address the irregularities; acknowledges that the Executive Director is taking action to improve the management of EASO;

Or. en
Executive Director is taking action to improve the management of EASO;

Amendment 8
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Düpent, Axel Voss, Tomas Tobé, Andrzej Halicki

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. Notes the inherent difficulty that the agencies face when required to submit their Single Programming Document while the relevant legal instruments are still under negotiation by the co-legislators, thereby leading to a situation where budget lines are made available before their corresponding legal instruments are adopted; calls on the Commission to improve its communication with the agencies to better streamline the expected timelines for the adoption of legislation and corresponding budget lines; notes the Court’s Recommendation that agencies should be allocated resources in a more flexible manner while stressing the importance of due reporting, transparency and auditing;

Amendment 9
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Düpent, Axel Voss, Tomas Tobé, Andrzej Halicki

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 b. Welcomes the high level of
cooperation in the area of migration that concerns the JHA agencies, particularly at the hotspots; notes with approval the regular meetings conducted amongst CEPOL, EASO, Frontex, EMCDDA, eu-LISA, Eurojust, Europol, FRA, DG HOME and DG JUST of the Commission in the framework of the JHA Agencies’ Network, also aided by the EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT framework; highlights the Court’s observation that JHA Agencies, particularly Europol, Eurojust and Frontex, are fully integrated in the external dimension of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice and are amongst the internationally most active agencies;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Düpont, Axel Voss, Tomas Tobé, Andrzej Halicki, Tomáš Zdechovský

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

3. Notes that the Court did not address ‘emphasis on the matter’ with regard to JHA agencies, with the exception of FRONTEX, for which the Court drew attention to the level of error related to equipment expenditure in the context of grant agreements with cooperating countries; expresses its concern about the serious and repeated allegations of FRONTEX's involvement in pushbacks and violations of fundamental rights;
Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

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Amendment

3. Notes that the Court did not address ‘emphasis on the matter’ with regard to JHA agencies, with the exception of FRONTEX, for which the Court drew attention to the level of error related to equipment expenditure in the context of grant agreements with cooperating countries; expresses its concern about the serious and repeated allegations of FRONTEX's involvement in pushbacks and violations of fundamental rights and about the lack of adequate staff and resources for the Fundamental Rights officer (FRO) and the Fundamental Rights Monitors in order to comply with their duty to monitor the Agency’s compliance with fundamental rights;
countries; expresses its concern about the serious and repeated allegations of FRONTEX’s involvement in pushbacks and violations of fundamental rights;

Amendment 13
Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

4. Notes that public procurement continues to be the main area prone to error in relation to all Union decentralised agencies; calls therefore on the affected JHA agencies, i.e. Europol, CEPOL to improve their public procurement procedures with a view to compliance with applicable rules and as a result, the achievement of the most economically advantageous purchases, while respecting the principles of transparency, proportionality, equal treatment and non-discrimination and eu-LISA to improve the recruitment procedure.

Amendment
Paragraph 4

4. Notes that public procurement continues to be the main area prone to error in relation to all Union decentralised agencies; calls therefore on the affected JHA agencies, i.e. Europol, CEPOL to improve their public procurement procedures with a view to ensure full compliance with applicable rules and as a result, to achieve the appropriate balance between the three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental, while respecting the principles of transparency, proportionality, equal treatment and non-discrimination and eu-LISA to improve the recruitment procedure; recalls that public procurement is a milestone for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;

Amendment 14
Olivier Chastel, Abir Al-Sahliani, Sophia in ’t Veld, Moritz Körner, Hilde Vautmans, Michal Šimečka, Fabienne Keller, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Malik Azmani, Ramona Strugariu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4
4. **Notes** that public procurement continues to be the main area prone to error in relation to all Union decentralised agencies; calls therefore on the affected JHA agencies, i.e. Europol, CEPOL to improve their public procurement procedures with a view to compliance with applicable rules and as a result, the achievement of the most economically advantageous purchases, while respecting the principles of transparency, proportionality, equal treatment and non-discrimination and eu-LISA to improve the recruitment procedure.

**Amendment**

4. **Underlines** that public procurement continues to be the main area prone to error in relation to all Union decentralised agencies; calls therefore on the affected JHA agencies, i.e. Europol, CEPOL to improve their public procurement procedures with a view to compliance with applicable rules and as a result, the achievement of the most economically advantageous purchases, while respecting the principles of transparency, proportionality, equal treatment and non-discrimination and eu-LISA to improve the recruitment procedure.

Or. en

**Amendment 15**

Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Düpont, Axel Voss, Tomas Tobé, Andrzej Halicki, Tomáš Zdechovský

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4**

**Draft opinion**

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**Amendment**

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Or. en
Amendment 16
Olivier Chastel, Abir Al-Sahlani, Sophia in ‘t Veld, Moritz Körner, Hilde Vautmans, Michal Šimečka, Fabienne Keller, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Malik Azmani, Ramona Strugariu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

4 a. Stresses the importance to increase the digitalisation of the agencies in terms of internal operation and management but also in order to speed up the digitalisation of procedures; stresses the need for the agencies to continue to be proactive in this regard in order to avoid a digital gap between the agencies at all costs; draws attention, however, to the need to take all the necessary security measures to avoid any risk to the online security of the information processed.

Or. en

Amendment 17
Roberta Metsola, Paulo Rangel, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lena Düpont, Axel Voss, Tomas Tobé, Andrzej Halicki, Tomáš Zdechovský

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

4 a. Takes note that the Court did not audit the 2019 accounts of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('EPPO'), since the EU body was not yet financially autonomous; expects the Court to present an audit of the accounts of the EPPO for the accounting year 2020.

Or. en

Amendment 18
Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4 a. Reminds that the Union agencies are playing an increasingly important part in the Union, but their role in serving Union citizens effectively needs to be evaluated more carefully;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4 a. Urges all JHA agencies to take measures to ensure full compliance with Union transparency rules as well as with fundamental rights and data protection standards;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Caterina Chinnici

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4 a. Underlines the importance to ensure an adequate gender balance in all agencies' governing bodies;

Or. en
Amendment 21
Caterina Chinnici

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

4 b. Welcomes the fact that the Court has declared that in most cases agencies have taken corrective actions to address previous years' audit observations and calls on the JHA agencies to continue their efforts to follow up on the Court's observations;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

4 b. Calls on all JHA agencies to ensure a gender balanced distribution on all levels of staff and report to the discharge authority on implemented measures and progress; invites the Court to systematically inform about it in its future reports;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Olivier Chastel, Abir Al-Sahlani, Sophia in 't Veld, Moritz Körner, Hilde Vautmans, Michal Šimečka, Fabienne Keller, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Malik Azmani, Ramona Strugariu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)
Draft opinion

Amendment

4 b. Calls on the agencies to continue to develop synergies, increase cooperation and exchange of good practices with other European agencies with a view to improving efficiency (human resources, building management, IT services and security).

Or. en

Amendment 24
Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 c. Calls on all JHA agencies to promote and ensure diversity in its recruitment policy; urges all JHA agencies to develop internal policies and practice to ensure inclusiveness and diversity, and prevent any type of discrimination; invites the Court to systematically inform about it in its future reports;

Or. en

Amendment 25
Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 d. Urges all JHA agencies to implement a clear anti-harassment policy to prevent and firmly condemn any such behaviour within the organisation;
Amendment 26
Saskia Bricmont, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 e (new)

Draft opinion

4 e. Calls on all JHA agencies to take into account sustainability in their overall business processes in order to improve the agencies’ environmental performance, and to report to the discharge authority on implemented measures and progress;