



2019/2085(DEC)

3.12.2019

OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) for the financial year 2018
(2019/2085(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Nicolás González Casares

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Fisheries calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Takes note of the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the European Fisheries Control Agency ('the Agency') for the financial year 2018, the Agency's 2018 annual activity report and the Administrative Board's analysis and assessment of that report;
2. Expresses its satisfaction with the Court of Auditors' declaration that the transactions underlying the Agency's annual accounts for the financial year 2018 are legal and regular; stresses the absence of any open observations from the Court of Auditors;
3. Highlights that, in spite of the substantially increased budget since 2017 due to its new tasks supporting - in cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) - coast guard functions at national and Union level, the Agency achieved a successful implementation of its budget in 2018, with a 99,7% rate for commitments and 87,6% for payments, in line with previous exercises; encourages the Agency to continue its efforts to ensure the optimum use of the appropriations allocated;
4. Points out that, in 2018, the Agency handled a 23% increase in payments transactions due to the increase in activity, without using additional resources;
5. Notes with satisfaction that the Agency implemented 98% of the activities included in its Annual Work Programme, compared with 93% in 2017; highlights that the Agency coordinated 26 922 inspections in 2018, a 28,46% increase;
6. Takes note that 83% of the operations implemented by Agency chartered means were multipurpose operations, namely in the Mediterranean and the Baltic Sea; considers that this fact reflects the synergies and good cooperation among the Agency, the EMSA and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) in accordance with the Tripartite Working Arrangement;
7. Considers that the role of the Agency in promoting the creation of Frontex should in no way undermine the Agency's core activity as the Union body responsible for organising operational coordination of fisheries control activities and providing assistance in that area to the Member States and the Commission, as this could lead to the weakening of fisheries surveillance and an increase in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; therefore stresses the need to provide the Agency with adequate financial and human resources commensurate with its growing tasks;
8. Remarks that the Agency promoted a policy of equal treatment aimed at improving the gender balance among its staff; notes that after the adoption of implementing rules on anti-harassment by the Administrative Board in 2017, the Agency launched and successfully finalised a call for confidential counsellors, organising awareness sessions for staff for prevention of harassment in 2018; notes that, on 31 December 2018, the overall percentage of female staff members was 44%; regrets that the percentage of

female staff of grade AD8 or higher was only 15%, seven percentage points below the level achieved in 2017; calls on the Agency to strengthen its gender balance policy;

9. Highlights that the Agency adopted, in June 2018, a Decision on the publication of information on meetings with organisations or self-employed individuals and that, following the agreement between Parliament and the Commission on the transparency register, the Agency will publish the relevant Executive Director and staff meetings with lobbyists on the Agency's website;
10. Remarks that, following preparatory work in 2017, the Agency implemented in 2018 an Information Security Management System based on the international standard ISO 27001 aimed at protecting the Agency from technology-based risks and preserving the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information;
11. Highlights the active role and added value provided by the Agency in the improved regional fisheries governance in western Africa (PESCAO) project to develop capacities to combat IUU fishing activities and to improve the management of fisheries resources in West Africa; highlights the three operations carried out in 2018, involving Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde and Mauritania;
12. Acknowledges the quality and importance of the tasks carried out by the Agency and welcomes its consistency and the very good results achieved since it was set up;
13. Stresses the importance of the Agency's role in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and the achievement of its objectives, in particular with regard to the landing obligation, as Member States are facing difficulties in complying with this obligation;
14. Proposes to grant the Executive Director of the Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2018.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	3.12.2019
Result of final vote	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">+:</div> <div>20</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">-:</div> <div>2</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">0:</div> <div>3</div> </div>
Members present for the final vote	Clara Aguilera, Christian Allard, Pietro Bartolo, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Rosanna Conte, Richard Corbett, Rosa D'Amato, Chris Davies, João Ferreira, Søren Gade, Francisco Guerreiro, Niclas Herbst, Pierre Karleskind, Predrag Fred Matic, Francisco José Millán Mon, Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar, Grace O'Sullivan, Manuel Pizarro, Ruža Tomašić, Peter van Dalen
Substitutes present for the final vote	Carmen Avram, Nicolás González Casares, Ska Keller, June Alison Mummery, Maxette Pirbakas, Caroline Roose, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Maria Walsh
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Jeroen Lenaers

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

20	+
ECR	Ruža Tomašić
NI	Rosa D'Amato
PPE	Niclas Herbst, Jeroen Lenaers, Francisco José Millán Mon, Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar, Maria Walsh, Theodoros Zagorakis
RENEW	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Chris Davies, Pierre Karleskind
S&D	Clara Aguilera, Pietro Bartolo, Richard Corbett, Nicolás González Casares, Predrag Fred Matić, Manuel Pizarro
VERTS/ALE	Christian Allard, Francisco Guerreiro, Grace O'Sullivan

2	-
GUE/NGL	João Ferreira
NI	June Alison Mummery

3	0
ECR	Bert-Jan Ruissen
ID	Rosanna Conte
PPE	Peter van Dalen

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

