



**2018/2189(DEC)**

23.1.2019

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European  
Aviation Safety Agency for the financial year 2017  
(2018/2189(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Innocenzo Leontini

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Transport and Tourism 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 finding of the Court of Auditors that the accounts of the European Aviation Safety Agency ('the Agency') for the 2017 financial year are legal and regular in all material respects;
2. Notes that the Agency's annual budget for 2017 was EUR 191,6 million, of which EUR 37,8 million came from EU subsidies, EUR 103,5 million from fees and charges and EUR 2,1 million from third countries contributions; is pleased that the Agency was very close to full implementation of its budget with 99 % execution rate, well above the Commission target of 95%; welcomes the Agency's balanced situation as regards Fees and charges, as well as the increase of these amounts compared to 2016; notes that the Agency ended the year 2017 with a surplus of EUR 2.7 million, bringing the accumulated surplus to EUR 54,9 million; notes also that the target of 5% for the cancellations of carry-over has been met in 2017 (3,7%);
3. Encourages the Agency to ensure the independence of the accounting officer by making him directly responsible to the Agency's Director (administrative) and Management Board (functional) as underlined by the Court of Auditors;
4. Regrets that weaknesses have been identified in public procurement, mostly relating to services, that put value for money at risk; recommends to address the risk by opting more often to re-opening of competition instead of cascading framework contracts; notes that although the Agency's Financial Regulation requires that procurements must be approved by the Management Board either in the Agency's annual work programme or by an ad hoc financing decision, one IT framework contract for a maximum amount of 15 million euros has been procured and signed although the financing decision covered an amount of 5 million euros only; invites the Agency to strictly respect its procedure and to set in place an additional control mechanism to ensure compliance to public procurement procedures; notes that by the end of 2017 the Agency had introduced e-tendering and e-submission for certain procedures, but not e-invoicing; notes also that for e-invoicing, the business specifications have been finalised in 2017; encourages the Agency to set in place the IT solutions for e-invoicing;
5. Notes that the annual assessment of EASA management standards, based on the latest version of ISO standards and the new Internal Control Framework has concluded that the Agency's management system is compliant with the management standards thanks to a robust monitoring system established at both management and process levels;
6. Is pleased that the Agency, following a recommendation from the Parliament, in 2017 extended the scope of the Declaration of Interest exercise to all Agency's staff (not only the managers and sensitive functions), including long term consultants, interims and trainees; welcomes the fact that the Declaration of Interest assessment process has been simplified and now is possible in electronic form; welcomes the introduction of a

specific “Code of Conduct for external experts supporting EASA”, which establishes the principles governing the transparency, impartiality, independence and commitment to confidentiality of the external experts; reiterates the need to ensure the independence of Agency’s staff and external experts and to ensure that there is no conflict of interests; notes that in order to ensure transparency, publicity and to allow potential candidates to identify vacancies, the vacancy notices should be published not only on the EASA website and in social media, but also on the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) website;

7. Notes the results of the fourth benchmarking exercise on the Agency’s posts, which showed a transfer of posts from the administration categories to the operational categories (+ 0,5%);
8. Notes that the revised basic Regulation of the Agency<sup>1</sup> did not enter into force in 2017 as originally anticipated, which resulted in the removal of the additional planned human and financial resources of EUR 1,1 million originally included in the EU subsidy to cover new tasks under the Commission's proposal from the subsidy in the 2nd Amending Budget; notes that 5 posts in the original establishment plan for 2017 were linked to the entry into force of that Regulation and that the recruitment for them was postponed; recalls that the new EASA Basic Regulation granting new responsibilities to the Agency has entered into force in September 2018 and reiterates the importance of allocating additional funding to the Agency to ensure the successful uptake of these new responsibilities and adequate staffing with qualified personnel in order to fulfil new tasks;
9. Notes that on 11 September 2018 Regulation (EU) No 2018/1139 entered into force including a new section for drones and a new mandate for EASA that redefines the Agency’s competences; notes also that that Regulation empowers the Agency to propose to the Commission the technical expertise to regulate drones of all sizes, including the small ones;
10. Notes that in 2017 the Agency experienced a significant increase in the management of earmarked projects which altogether, amount for EUR 11,3 million (EUR 7,3 million in 2016); welcomes that these projects are aimed at improving the regulatory and oversight capabilities of national and regional aviation authorities throughout the world as well as contributing to research projects to enhance global aviation safety and to promote EU standards;
11. Urges the Commission and Member States to provide necessary resources for the new and reinforced competences concerning, among others, risks to civil aviation arising from conflict zones, environmental related topics and the certification and registration of unmanned aircraft;
12. Welcomes the active role of the Agency in the call for proposals under the Horizon

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Union Aviation Safety Agency, and amending Regulations (EC) No 2111/2005, (EC) No 1008/2008, (EU) No 996/2010, (EU) No 376/2014 and Directives 2014/30/EU and 2014/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 552/2004 and (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EEC) No 3922/91 (OJ L 212, 22.8.2018, p. 1).

2020 programme; urges the Agency to remain active in the field of research and development;

13. Notes that the Agency performed its yearly risk assessment exercise in line with the methodology developed for EU organisations; notes that further to the identification of potential risks, no prominent risks materialized in 2017;
14. Proposes that Parliament grants the Executive Director of the Agency discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2017.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	22.1.2019
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+:               39 -:                0 0:                2
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Daniela Aiuto, Lucy Anderson, Georges Bach, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Deirdre Clune, Michael Cramer, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Andor Deli, Isabella De Monte, Ismail Ertug, Jacqueline Foster, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Innocenzo Leontini, Bogusław Liberadzki, Peter Lundgren, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Georg Mayer, Gesine Meissner, Gabriele Preuß, Christine Revault d'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Dominique Riquet, Massimiliano Salini, Claudia Țapardel, Keith Taylor, Pavel Telička, Marita Ulvskog, Wim van de Camp, Marie-Pierre Vieu, Janusz Zemke, Roberts Zīle, Kosma Złotowski
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Jakop Dalunde, Markus Ferber, Maria Grapini, Karoline Graswander-Hainz, Peter Kouroumbashev, João Pimenta Lopes
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Christelle Lechevalier, Francisco José Millán Mon, Julie Ward

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

39	+
ALDE	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Gesine Meissner, Dominique Riquet, Pavel Telička
ECR	Jacqueline Foster, Innocenzo Leontini, Peter Lundgren, Roberts Zīle, Kosma Złotowski
EFDD	Daniela Aiuto
ENF	Georg Mayer
GUE/NGL	Marie-Pierre Vieu
PPE	Georges Bach, Wim van de Camp, Deirdre Clune, Andor Deli, Markus Ferber, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Francisco José Millán Mon, Massimiliano Salini
S&D	Lucy Anderson, Isabella De Monte, Ismail Ertug, Maria Grapini, Karoline Graswander-Hainz, Peter Kouroumbashev, Bogusław Liberadzki, Gabriele Preuß, Christine Revault d'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Claudia Țapardel, Marita Ulvskog, Julie Ward, Janusz Zemke
VERTS/ALE	Michael Cramer, Jakop Dalunde, Keith Taylor

0	-

2	0
ENF	Christelle Lechevalier
GUE/NGL	João Pimenta Lopes

**Key to symbols:**

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention