



2019/2077(DEC)

22.1.2020

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 2018
(2019/2077(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Maria Grapini

PA_NonLeg

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 Union Aviation Safety Agency (before 11 September 2018: European Aviation Safety Agency) ('the Agency') for the 2018 financial year are legal and regular in all material respects;
2. Notes that the Agency's annual budget for 2018 was EUR 197,9 million, of which EUR 36,9 million came from EU subsidy, EUR 103,0 million from fees and charges and EUR 2,0 million from third countries contributions, 1,1 million of other revenues and EUR 54,9 million from fees and charges accumulated surplus; is pleased that budget implementation rate remained very high at 98 %, significantly above the 95 % threshold set by the Commission; notes that the rate of cancellations of carry-over remains low at 1,8 %, below the 5 % limit set by the Commission; welcomes the fact that achievement of budget implementation and cancellation of amounts carried over targets means that no penalties will be applied to the 2020 EU subsidy;
3. Highlights the Agency's vital role in ensuring the highest possible level of aviation safety and environmental protection in a fast growing aviation market; stresses that 2018 was a landmark year for the Agency, with the entry into force of the new Regulation on 11 September 2018¹; recognises that the increased responsibilities and workload of the Agency were not accompanied by a proportionate increase in resources, which created significant challenges to fulfil its tasks and objectives in 2018, and lead to postponement or deprioritisation of certain activities; reiterates that the Agency should be provided with adequate financial resources and staff, which registered a reduction to 767 staff employed on 31 December 2018 (compared with 771 staff in 2017), in order to perform the important tasks entrusted to it;
4. Recalls the Agency's contribution to developing smart standards on noise and CO₂ emissions and its responsibility for the environmental certification of aeronautical products, parts and appliances; believes that with further resources the Agency can play a leading role in developing and implementing measures to improve the sustainability of aviation;
5. Welcomes the significant efforts made by the Agency to create a single European drone area;
6. Is concerned that aviation is an attractive target for cyber attacks and that software errors may have serious consequences; calls on the Agency, together with the European Centre for Cybersecurity in Aviation (ECCSA), to further increase the digital resilience of

¹ 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).

European aviation;

7. Is concerned that the forthcoming incorporation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) will cause concern about safety among the public; calls on the Agency to take greater account of general safety concerns and the concerns of the authorities regarding prosecution of offenders;
8. Calls on the Agency to ensure that Europe acquires, as quickly as is feasible without jeopardising safety, rules on the commercial sale of drones that are uniform and easy to comply with; is concerned that the Agency does not have sufficient financial and human resources for the new remit;
9. Notes that the Agency ended the year with an overall deficit of 2 million EUR (a surplus of 0,7 million EUR related to subsidy activities and a deficit of 2,7 million EUR related to fees and charges activities); notes that the fees and charges deficit is deducted from the accumulated surplus, reducing it from 54,9 million EUR to 52,2 million EUR; observes that concerning activities related to fees and charges, the income rose by 1,8 million EUR compared to 2017, however staff costs increased by 3,7 million EUR, administrative costs by 0,9 million EUR and operational costs by 2,6 million EUR; notes that for subsidy-related activities an increase of subsidy by 2 million EUR was enough to cover the rise in administrative costs by 0,1 million EUR and operational expenditures by 1,4 million EUR;
10. Commends steps taken to increase the efficiency of the Agency, such as the launch of the Lean Efficiency Agility Programme (LEAP) and other efficiency initiatives, which resulted in a total reduction in workload equivalent to 16 employees working full-time and enabled the Agency to redeploy posts and to cope with the increased workload and the revised quality needs of legacy activities; also welcomes the increasing digitalisation, automation and simplification of financial processes, leading to 86 % of financial transactions being processed paperless;
11. Is pleased that the Agency has implemented the recommendation of the Court of Auditors to ensure the independence of the accounting officer, who now functionally reports to the Agency's Management Board and administratively the Agency's Executive Director;
12. Welcomes steps taken by the Agency to achieve gender balance, such as encouragement of female applications during selection procedures, offering favourable working conditions and flexible arrangements linked to maternity; welcomes the formation of a gender balance advocacy group to raise awareness of gender balance issues; reiterates its call on the Member States and the Commission to take into account gender balance when nominating members of the Board;
13. Welcomes the adoption of the Guidelines on Whistleblowing by the Management Board of the Agency and calls on the Agency to ensure their implementation; notes that the Internal Audit Services performed a review of ethics in 2018, covering areas of the Code of Conduct, ethics and fraud, with draft audit report expected in the beginning of 2019; reiterates, in this context, the need to have in place safeguards against conflicts of interest;
14. Highlights that the Agency certifies aircraft based on the demonstration that its design complies with all relevant airworthiness requirements and all features are safe; points out that an audit should be carried out to assess why the Agency deemed the Boeing 737

MAX compliant with those requirements;

15. 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 2018.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	21.1.2020
Result of final vote	+: 42 -: 5 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Scott Ainslie, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, David Bull, Marco Campomenosi, Ciarán Cuffe, Johan Danielsson, Andor Deli, Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg, Ismail Ertug, Gheorghe Falcă, Giuseppe Ferrandino, Søren Gade, Isabel García Muñoz, Jens Gieseke, Kateřina Konečná, Elena Kountoura, Julie Lechanteux, Bogusław Liberadzki, Peter Lundgren, Benoît Lutgen, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Tilly Metz, Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar, June Alison Mummery, Caroline Nagtegaal, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Philippe Olivier, Dominique Riquet, Vera Tax, Barbara Thaler, Petar Vitanov, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Lucia Vuolo, Roberts Zīle, Kosma Złotowski
Substitutes present for the final vote	Clotilde Armand, Leila Chaibi, Angel Dzhambazki, Markus Ferber, Maria Grapini, Pierre Karleskind, Andrey Novakov, Catherine Rowett, Henna Virkkunen
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Tiziana Beghin, Elena Lizzi, Juozas Olekas, Tsvetelina Penkova

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

42	+
ECR	Angel Dzhambazki, Peter Lundgren, Roberts Zīle, Kosma Złotowski
GUE/NGL	Leila Chaibi, Kateřina Konečná, Elena Kountoura
NI	Tiziana Beghin
PPE	Andor Deli, Gheorghe Falcă, Markus Ferber, Jens Gieseke, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Benoît Lutgen, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar, Andrey Novakov, Barbara Thaler, Henna Virkkunen, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi
RENEW	Clotilde Armand, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Søren Gade, Pierre Karleskind, Caroline Nagtegaal, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Dominique Riquet
S&D	Johan Danielsson, Ismail Ertug, Giuseppe Ferrandino, Isabel García Muñoz, Maria Grapini, Bogusław Liberadzki, Juozas Olekas, Tsvetelina Penkova, Vera Tax, Petar Vitanov
VERTS/ALE	Scott Ainslie, Ciarán Cuffe, Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg, Tilly Metz, Catherine Rowett

5	-
ID	Marco Campomenosi, Elena Lizzi, Lucia Vuolo
NI	David Bull, June Alison Mummery

2	0
ID	Julie Lechanteux, Philippe Olivier

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention