



2019/2069(DEC)

21.1.2020

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 Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the financial year 2018 (2019/2069(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Roberta Metsola

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. Highlights the important role of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (the 'Centre') in providing policy-makers and practitioners with analyses and information concerning drugs and drug addiction as well as emerging trends with a view to effectively countering illicit drug use and trafficking and recalls that drug trafficking has been identified as a main source of profit and a channel of recruitment for organised crime and terrorism; recalls the fact that the Centre's mandate was expanded in 2018, inter alia, to include new responsibilities and formal partnerships with other Union agencies, such as Europol;
2. Welcomes the fact that the Court of Auditors (the 'Court') has declared the transactions underlying the annual accounts of the Centre for the financial year 2018 to be legal and regular in all material respects and that its financial position on 31 December 2018 is fairly represented; notes that, despite the Centre's expanded mandate, its final budget in 2018 remained stable at EUR 16 million and its staff was decreased from 111 to 103;
3. Acknowledges the Centre's efforts to adopt a more agile work culture, including a greater orientation towards project management; notes that the Centre has used four interim workers provided by a temporary work agency to compensate for the reduction of its statutory staff; deplores the fact that the relevant framework contract did not explicitly require the full respect of Union law and relevant national law and that the temporary workers were paid significantly less than the statutory staff; takes note that in its reply, the Centre states that the applicable Union and Portuguese law have been respected and that the lower salary was due to a lower level of responsibilities; welcomes the Centre's intention to nevertheless reassess its policy for the use of temporary workers to rationalise further the latter in line with its operating needs and the relevant legal framework; urges the Centre to employ as many permanent staff as possible;
4. Notes that the Court has identified a horizontal trend across agencies in the use of external staff hired in IT consultancy roles; calls for the dependency on external recruitment in this important area to be addressed;
5. Notes that, in the case of five low-value procurement procedures below EUR 60 000, only one candidate submitted a tender; acknowledges the challenges in attracting tenderers for low-value contracts but urges the Centre to undertake greater efforts to ensure competitive procurement procedures irrespective of their value with a view to guaranteeing the best price-quality ratio procurements without prejudice to the principles of proportionality and equal treatment of all potential tenderers;
6. Deplores the fact that Norway's financial contribution to the Centre no longer reflects the minimum contribution formula agreed in 2006; urges the Commission and Norway to swiftly clarify and confirm the method used to calculate Norway's minimum

contribution with a view to applying it as soon as possible;

7. Welcomes the fact that all observations of the Court have been acted upon and completed;
8. Considers that the adoption of the Centre's 2019-2021 programming document, which is fully grounded in the EMCDDA Strategy 2025¹, represents an important step in the strategic and operational planning framework of the Centre.

¹ EMCDDA, "EMCDDA Strategy 2025", Lisbon, March 2017; http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/work-programmes-and-strategies/strategy-2025_en.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	13.1.2020
Result of final vote	+: 53 -: 3 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Konstantinos Arvanitis, Malik Azmani, Pietro Bartolo, Nicolas Bay, Vladimír Bilčík, Vasile Blaga, Saskia Bricmont, Damien Carême, Caterina Chinnici, Tudor Ciuhodaru, Clare Daly, Lena Düpont, Cornelia Ernst, Sylvie Guillaume, Balázs Hidvéghi, Evin Incir, Sophia in 't Veld, Patryk Jaki, Fabienne Keller, Moritz Körner, Alice Kuhnke, Jeroen Lenaers, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Roberta Metsola, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Kostas Papadakis, Nicola Procaccini, Emil Radev, Paulo Rangel, Terry Reintke, Ralf Seekatz, Michal Šimečka, Birgit Sippel, Sylwia Spurek, Tineke Strik, Ramona Strugariu, Tom Vandendriessche, Bettina Vollath, Ann Widdecombe, Elena Yoncheva, Javier Zarzalejos
Substitutes present for the final vote	Damian Boeselager, Patrick Breyer, Delara Burkhardt, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Monika Hohlmeier, Beata Kempa, Ondřej Kovařík, Kris Peeters, Robert Roos, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Loránt Vincze, Petar Vitanov, Axel Voss, Maria Walsh
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Lukas Mandl

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

53	+
PPE	Vladimír Bilčík, Vasile Blaga, Lena Düpont, Balázs Hidvéghi, Monika Hohlmeier, Jeroen Lenaers, Lukas Mandl, Roberta Metsola, Kris Peeters, Emil Radev, Paulo Rangel, Ralf Seekatz, Loránt Vincze, Axel Voss, Maria Walsh, Javier Zarzalejos
S&D	Pietro Bartolo, Delara Burkhardt, Caterina Chinnici, Tudor Ciuhodaru, Sylvie Guillaume, Evin Incir, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Birgit Sippel, Sylwia Spurek, Petar Vitanov, Bettina Vollath, Elena Yoncheva
RENEW	Malik Azmani, Sophia in 't Veld, Fabienne Keller, Moritz Körner, Ondřej Kovařík, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Michal Šimečka, Ramona Strugariu
VERTS/ALE	Damian Boeselager, Patrick Breyer, Saskia Bricmont, Damien Carême, Alice Kuhnke, Terry Reintke, Tineke Strik
ECR	Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Patryk Jaki, Beata Kempa, Nicola Procaccini, Robert Roos
GUE/NGL	Konstantinos Arvanitis, Clare Daly, Cornelia Ernst, Miguel Urbán Crespo

3	-
ID	Nicolas Bay, Tom Vandendriessche
NI	Ann Widdecombe

1	0
NI	Kostas Papadakis

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention