

Note from the Budget Committee to Coreper on the discharge to be given to the Commission for the 2004 financial year (23 February 2006)

Caption: As part of the discharge procedure, the Council must send a Recommendation to the European Parliament so that it 'frees' the Commission in respect of the implementation of the European Union budget. In this note, the Budget Committee informs the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) that it has been able to secure an agreement on the draft Council Recommendation.

Source: Council of the European Union. Note from the Budget Committee to the Permanent Representatives Committee/Council on the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2004, 5971/06 FIN 44 PE-L 8. Brussels: 23.02.2006. 3 p.

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/fr/06/st05/st05971.fr06.pdf>.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/note_from_the_budget_committee_to_coreper_on_the_discharge_to_be_given_to_the_commission_for_the_2004_financial_year_23_february_2006-en-bd807112-80ae-4368-a695-d8ff675fdf56.html

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Note from the Budget Committee to the Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2004

1. At its meetings in January and February 2006, with representatives of the Commission and of the Court of Auditors in attendance, the Budget Committee examined the Court of Auditors' annual report concerning the financial year 2004¹.

2. That annual report includes specific assessments for each major area of Community activity in the context of the Statement of Assurance (DAS). For the year 2004, the Court gives a favourable assessment in respect of revenue, commitments and administrative expenditure and pre-accession strategy.

The Court also makes observations concerning the progress made in implementing the recommendations given in previous special and annual reports.

3. In accordance with the conclusions of the ECOFIN Council meeting on 8 May 2000², the committees and working parties responsible for monitoring the areas covered by the Court of Auditors' special reports have been able at this stage to examine all of the reports published in the Official Journals mentioned by the Court in its annual report, in accordance with the procedure established by the Permanent Representatives Committee. The Council's conclusions concerning the special reports as a result of those proceedings are set out in Addendum 2.

4. The Budget Committee also considered the action taken by the Commission in response to the Council Recommendation for the 2003 discharge, by way of follow-up, on which the Council is asked to adopt some conclusions as an "A" item³.

5. In accordance with Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No. 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁴, and in particular Article 185(2) thereof, the Council is required to draw up Recommendations to the European Parliament on a discharge to be given to the bodies set up by the European Communities. The draft Recommendations are being submitted for adoption by the Council as an "A" item⁵.

6. The Budget Committee has reached agreement on the annexed draft Council Recommendation on the discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 2004.

7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is asked to advise the Council to:

- adopt the Council Recommendation on the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 2004, as set out in Addendum 1;

- approve the general comments accompanying the Recommendation, as contained in the ANNEX to Addendum 1;

- instruct the President of the Council to have the above Council Recommendation and the accompanying comments forwarded to the European Parliament, together with the Council conclusions concerning the special reports, as set out in Addendum 2.

¹ OJ C 301 , 30.11.2005, p. 1.

² 7515/00 FIN 127 + COR 1.

³ 6454/06 FIN 59.

⁴ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1, with Corrigendum in OJ L 25, 30.1.2003, p. 43.

⁵ 5972/06 FIN 45 PE-L 9 + ADD1.