

European Parliament Decision on the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the 1973 financial year (14 December 1976)

Caption: The Treaty of Luxembourg of 22 April 1970 confers on the European Parliament the power to give — jointly with the Council — discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Communities. This decision shows Parliament's application exercise of its prerogative. On 14 December 1976, the European Parliament gives discharge in respect of the 1972, 1973 and 1974 financial years.

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Decision of the European Parliament of 14 December 1976 on the giving of a discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the European Communities' budget for the financial year 1973 and on the report of the Audit Board

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

— having regard to the revenue and expenditure accounts and statements of the assets and liabilities of the Communities for the accountancy procedures in respect of the 1973 budget and the accounts of the Euratom Supply Agency (Doc. 120/75),

— having regard to the report of the Audit Board on the accounts for the financial year 1973 and the answers of the institutions to the report (Doc. 120/75),

— having regard to the Council Decision of 1 June 1976 on the giving of a discharge to the Commission (Doc. 169/76),

— having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 460/76),

1. Notes with the Council that the expenditure of the Communities in the financial year 1973 was 4 641 014 061,60 units of account (u.a.) ;

2. Notes that the receipts were broken down as follows:

(a) own resources : 2 496 557 331,49 u.a.

(b) financial contributions : 2 087 329 476,14 u.a.

(c) miscellaneous revenue : 57 127 253,97 u.a.

Total: 4 641 014 061,60 u.a.

1973 discharge

3. Notes that, as far as the export of 200 000 metric tons of butter to the Soviet Union is concerned, the Commission should have consulted the budgetary authority before entering into such a large and costly transaction for which, moreover, no provision was made at the beginning of the financial year ;

4. Rejects the Commission's argument that, as only a small proportion of the EAGGF Guarantee Section appropriations had been used by April 1973, adequate funds were available to cover this transaction ; considers this argument to be inconsistent with the principle of the budget as a forecasting instrument ;

5. Decides, however, to give a discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the 1973 budgets, given that the Commission has undertaken to consult the budgetary authority in future before taking any decision which is of special political importance or which, owing to its volume, exceeds the scope of normal administrative procedures and has budgetary consequences for which no provision has been made at the beginning of the financial year ;

6. Refers to the resolution on the comments accompanying the Decisions giving discharge and asks the Commission to report on the measures taken following these comments in accordance with Article 92 of the Financial Regulation.