DECISION (EU, Euratom) 2020/1966 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

of 13 May 2020

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Research Executive Agency (REA) for the financial year 2018

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

— having regard to the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018 ([1]),

— having regard to the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2018 (COM(2019) 316 — C9-0050/2019) ([2]),

— having regard to the final annual accounts of the Research Executive Agency for the financial year 2018 ([3]),

— having regard to the Commission's report on the follow-up to the discharge for the 2017 financial year (COM(2019) 334),

— having regard to the Commission's annual report to the discharge authority on internal audits carried out in 2018 (COM(2019) 350), and to the accompanying Commission staff working document (SWD(2019) 300),

— having regard to the Court of Auditors' report on the annual accounts of the Research Executive Agency for the financial year 2018, together with the Agency's reply ([4]),

— having regard to the statement of assurance ([5]) as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2018, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

— having regard to the Council's recommendation of 18 February 2020 on the discharge to be given to the executive agencies in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2018 (05762/2020 — C9-0019/2020),

— having regard to Articles 317, 318 and 319 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

— having regard to Article 106a of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

— having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 ([6]), and in particular Articles 62, 164, 165 and 166 thereof,

— having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 ([7]), and in particular Articles 69, 260, 261 and 262 thereof,

— having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 58/2003 of 19 December 2002 laying down the statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programmes ([8]), and in particular Article 14(3) thereof,

([1]) OJ L 57, 28.2.2018, p. 1.
([2]) OJ C 327, 30.9.2019, p. 1.
([3]) OJ C 376, 6.11.2019, p. 47.
([4]) OJ C 417, 11.12.2019, p. 1.
([5]) OJ C 417, 11.12.2019, p. 34.
([6]) OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.
([7]) OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.
([8]) OJ L 11, 16.1.2003, p. 1.

— having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1653/2004 of 21 September 2004 on a standard financial regulation for the executive agencies pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 58/2003 laying down the statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programmes ([9]), and in particular the first and second paragraphs of Article 66 thereof,

— having regard to Commission Implementing Decision 2013/778/EU of 13 December 2013 establishing the Research Executive Agency and repealing Decision 2008/46/EC ([10]),

— having regard to Rule 99 of and Annex V to its Rules of Procedure,

— having regard to the opinions of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; the Committee on Development; the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs; the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety; the Committee on Transport and Tourism; the Committee on Regional Development; the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development; the Committee on Culture and Education; the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality,

— having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control (A9-0069/2020),

A. whereas, under Article 17(1) of the Treaty on European Union, the Commission is to execute the budget and manage programmes and, pursuant to Article 317 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, is to implement the budget in cooperation with the Member States, on its own responsibility, having regard to the principles of sound financial management;

1. Grants the Director of the Research Executive Agency discharge in relation to the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2018;

2. Sets out its observations in the resolution forming an integral part of the decisions on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018, Section III — Commission and executive agencies;

3. Instructs its President to forward this decision, the decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018, Section III — Commission and the resolution forming an integral part of those decisions, to the Director of the Research Executive Agency, the Council, the Commission of the European Union and the Court of Auditors, and to arrange for their publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (L series).

The President
David Maria SASSOLI

The Secretary-General
Klaus WELLE

([9]) OJ L 297, 22.9.2004, p. 6.
([10]) OJ L 346, 20.12.2013, p. 54.