COUNCIL DECISION

of 19 February 1973

giving a discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget and the supplementary budgets of the European Communities for the financial year 1970

(73/114/ECSC, EEC, Euratom)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, and in particular Article 78 (d) thereof;

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 206 thereof;

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 180 thereof;

Having regard to the accounts of revenue and expenditure and the financial statements relating to the implementation of the budget for the financial year 1970;

Having regard to the Report [1] of the Audit Board on the accounts for the financial year 1970, to which report are annexed the replies of the institutions to the comments concerning them;

Whereas Regulation No 25 [2] on the financing of the common agricultural policy lays down certain rules of financial and budgetary policy concerning the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund; whereas similar rules for the European Social Fund were laid down in the Financial Regulation [3] on the methods and procedure for making available to the Commission the financial contributions of Member States referred to in Article 200 (1) and (2) of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and on the technical conditions for carrying out the financial operations relating to the European Social Fund (Article 209 (b)) of the Treaty;

Whereas the Council has adopted the budget [4] and the additional budget for the financial year 1970;

Whereas certain appropriations available at the close of the abovementioned financial year have been carried forward to the following financial year;

Whereas the observations and comments in the report of the Audit Board on the accounts for the financial year 1970 include the noting of certain irregularities and certain mistakes; whereas suitable action must be taken on this matter;

Whereas, however, the general implementation by the Commission of the budgets for the financial year 1970 was such as to entitle it to be given a discharge in respect of the implementation of these budgets;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The views of the Council on the observations and comments of the Audit Board are as set out in the Annex.

---

(1) This Report is available from the institutions of the European Communities.

(2) OJ No 30, 20. 4. 1962, p. 991/62.

(3) OJ No 22, 30. 3. 1961, p. 509/61.

(4) OJ No L 60, 16. 3. 1970, p. 1.
OJ No L 218, 3. 10. 1970, p. 39.
OJ No L 8, 11. 1. 1971, pp. 1 and 20.

Article 2

The Council closes at the sum of ..... 116 774 857·52 u.a. (a)
the total administrative expenditure (1) of the Communities paid out during the financial year 1970, that sum being made up as follows:

	Payment from appropriations carried forward from the financial year 1969 u.a.	Payment from appropriations for the financial year 1970 u.a.
— European Parliament	265 944·68	9 010 723·96
— Council	305 484·26	10 139 208·86
— Commission	7 202 004·30	87 686 221·68
— Court of Justice	24 796·80	2 140 472·98
	7 798 230·04	108 976 627·48

Since a sum of ..... 11 023 933·62 u.a. (b)
was carried forward from the financial year 1970 to the financial year 1971, under the heading of administrative expenditure, that sum being made up as follows:

	u.a.
— European Parliament	330 641·64
— Council	944 152·08
— Commission	9 703 054·90
— Court of Justice	46 085·00

while a sum of ..... 10 332 237·25 u.a. (c)
had been carried forward from the financial year 1969 to the financial year 1970, that sum being financed from revenue for the financial year 1969,

the Council closes at the sum of ..... 117 466 553·89 u.a. (a+b—c)

the total revenue to cover administrative expenditure (1) for the financial year 1970 accruing as follows:

11 189 580·52 u.a. from own revenue

18 000 000·00 u.a. from ECSC levies

88 276 973·37 u.a. from contributions from the Member States

Article 3

The Council closes at the sum of ..... 37 041 700·72 u.a.
the total expenditure paid out during the financial year 1970 in respect of the European Social Fund.

(1) Expenditure relating to the European Social Fund and the EAGGF is not included in this total.

Article 4

The Council closes at the sum of ..... 2 366 766 775·00 u.a. the total expenditure paid out during the financial year 1970 in respect of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund.

Article 5

The Council gives a discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget and the supplementary budgets of the European Communities for the financial year 1970.

Done at Brussels, 19 February 1973.

For the Council

The President

A. LAVENS

ANNEX

A. MATTERS CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

COMMISSION

Need for more careful accounting administration

(No 68 — point (b) in the Report)

The Council acknowledges the temporary confidential nature of the study of the rational- invites the Commission to take all necessary measures to prevent such irregularities in the future.

Refusal to communicate to the Audit Board a study on the administrative procedures for implementing the budgets

(No 70 — point (a) in the Report)

The Council acknowledges the temporary confidential nature of the study of the rationalization of budgetary procedures carried out for the Commission by a team of management consultants. The Council would however like the Audit Board to see this study during the next financial year in order to ascertain how the Commission plans to improve the administration of its services.

Need for more extensive documentation on the use of appropriations

(No 193 in the Report)

The Council draws the Commission's attention to the need for each Commission service to draw up regularly the documents which should make it possible to obtain an overall view of the administration of the service.

B. MATTERS RELATING TO THE INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS CONCERNING STAFF

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

COMMISSION

Need to draw up a complete organigramme of the services

(No 196 in the Report)

The Council invites the Commission to provide the Audit Board in future with an organigramme giving comprehensive information on the number, functions and composition of the services.

Absence of an implementing Regulation for the provisions relating to cover against the risks from accident and occupational diseases

(No 200 in the Report)

The Council urges that the implementing Regulations to Article 73 of the Staff Regulations be adopted.

In the meantime it invites the Commission to take action against third parties responsible for accidents to its staff, in order to obtain reimbursements of the sums paid to its staff during periods of unfitness for work.

C. MATTERS RELATING TO EFFICIENT FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

COMMISSION

Need for better administration of the computing centre

(No 75 in the Report)

The Council considers, like the Audit Board, that the administration of the computing centre should be based on a work survey and a breakdown of the time and cost involved in each large-scale programme. It notes the measures adopted by the Commission in the interim in order to make these surveys.