EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Audiovisual Services

2011 discharge - EU general budget, European External Action Service : Extracts from the exchange of views with Catherine ASHTON, EU High Representative and Vice-President of the EC.

Type: News Reference: 89827 Duration: 00:03:22 Lieu: Brussels, Belgium - Belgian Parliament
End production: 10/01/2013 First transmission: 10/01/2013

Catherine ASHTON, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, answers questions from MEPs on the 2011 discharge - EU general budget, European External Action Service.

Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.

TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
00:00:00	Title	00:00:05
00:00:05	Exterior view of the European Parliament in Brussels	00:00:05
00:00:10	Derk Jan EPPINK (European Conservatives and Reformists Group, Belgium), in ENGLISH: "These are incentives for staff and a compensation for hardship postings. Given these staff members also receive salary adjustments and others for undertaking such roles, in the current budgetary situation in Member States that might be rather too generous?"	00:00:21

	generous?	
00:00:31	Marta ANDREASEN (Europe of freedom and democracy Group, UK), in ENGLISH: "My question is: Is the EEAS going to replace the Member State Embassies or not?"	00:00:08
00:00:39	Catherine ASHTON, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the EC, in ENGLISH: "Mr Eppink, you challenged me on budget neutrality, when we took over the service I said we would ensure that the amalgamation would not cost more than it did before, that is budget neutrality and that's right. The additional resources I asked for is because when the services were transferred we didn't get the resources that came with them and we had to invite that to be remedied so I don't believe I have broken that promise. It really does matter, especially in this economic climate, that we are very prudent. We have	00:00:03

	prudent. We have cut costs wherever we can, costs of travel, I've tried to focus much more on using videolinks where we can, we've cut back on a number of people who go on a delegation at any time, we try to make sure that when people are coming over from different parts of the world for training and so on that we use those days they are with us for the maximum possible opportunity."	
00:00:42	Catherine ASHTON, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the EC, in ENGLISH: "The particular question on whether we are going to replace member state embassies, the answer is NO. We are not a member state, we don't do what member states do, we do what the European Union does"	00:01:11
00:01:53	Catherine ASHTON, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of	00:00:26

	Vice President of the EC, in ENGLISH: "In terms of the staffing I have explained about Hong Kong being different to Jamaica cause of costs, it is also that as the Euro fluctuates across the world, if the Euro goes down against particular currencies it costs us more to be able to do some things we want to do. And we're trying to make sure that we're rational in ensuring that we're spending resources effectively, particularly when it comes to residences."	
00:02:19	Catherine ASHTON, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the EC, in ENGLISH: "You asked as well whether we could have an independent inspector who would look at that, and actually the evaluation service that we've set up performs that as well. This is a service that within the headquarters goes out and evaluates what delegations are doing, it's a	00:00:41

	doing, it's a support service too, it looks at things like how the administration is running, what's effective, what's the quality of where people are living, how is security dealt with and so on, how are people working effectively together, cause you're pulling together people from different countries, different institutions, and asking them to work together efficiently, it works remarkably well but this is also a service that can help deal with any issues and problems."	
00:03:00	Cutaways (5 shots)	00:00:22
00:03:22	END	00:00:00

© European Union, 2014