

Discharge for 2022 budget – EU institutions other than the European Commission

During the April I plenary session, the European Parliament is scheduled to vote on the discharge for the implementation of the 2022 EU budget. Its Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) recommends granting discharge for the implementation of eight administrative sections of the EU budget and for the European Public Prosecutor's Office. CONT recommends postponing the decision to grant discharge for the European Council and the Council.

Discharge procedure

Through the [discharge procedure](#) ([Article 319](#) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU), the European Parliament scrutinises EU budget spending, verifies compliance with relevant rules, and checks that resources have been used effectively. Parliament has the exclusive competence to grant or, ultimately, refuse discharge for each EU institution and body that has its own section in the EU budget ([Rules 100, 104\(3\)](#) and [Annex V](#) of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure). The sections are: European Parliament (Section I); European Council and Council (II); Court of Justice – CJEU (IV); Court of Auditors – ECA (V); European Economic and Social Committee – EESC (VI); European Committee of the Regions – CoR (VII); European Ombudsman – EO (VIII); European Data Protection Supervisor – EDPS (IX); and European External Action Service – EEAS (X). Even though the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) is formally a decentralised agency, CONT has grouped it with the other institutions because of its prominent function. Parliament believes that the EPPO should have its own section of the EU budget in the future.

CONT [prepares](#) discharge reports, taking into account the ECA's [annual report](#) and [statement of assurance](#), and the [annual accounts, activity and management reports](#) of the other institutions and bodies, as well as their [replies](#) to CONT's questionnaires. Heading 7 of the budget, European public administration, covering the administrative expenses of all institutions, bodies and agencies, plus pensions and the European Schools, [represents 5.9% \(€11.7 billion\)](#) of the EU budget.

Discharge reports for the 2022 EU budget

CONT proposes granting discharge to most EU institutions and bodies while highlighting areas for improvement. For the European Council and the Council, though, it proposes postponing the decision. While acknowledging that there has been progress in gender representation at the middle management level, CONT sees persistent problems in this regard for senior positions in the EDPS, EEAS, EPPO and CJEU. CONT raises concerns about allegations of involvement of UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) employees in acts of terror, and insists on audits and controls to ensure that deployed funds benefit civilians. It condemns the extensive use of air taxis and private planes by the High Representative. It recommends creating a single interinstitutional system to manage members' travel, missions and use of cars, in order to enhance transparency and efficiency. CONT urges the EO, ECA and EDPS to join the Transparency Register. It requests adequate resources for the EPPO, to ensure effective monitoring of Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) expenditure and funds deployed in Ukraine. It furthermore requests improvements to the EO and EDPS buildings to ensure their accessibility for persons with disabilities. CONT regrets that the remote meeting allowance paid to EESC members has not been repealed, and requests new controls to prove attendance.

Committee responsible for the discharge reports: CONT; Rapporteurs: [Section I](#) – Andrey Novakov (EPP, Bulgaria); Sections [II](#), [IV](#), [V](#), [VI](#), [VII](#), [VIII](#), [IX](#) and [EPPO](#) – Luke Ming Flanagan (The Left, Ireland); Section [X](#) – Monika Hohlmeier (EPP, Germany).

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