

THURSDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2018

09.00 - 12.30

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak (PHS) 3C050, Brussels

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was e-mailed to Members on 26 October 2018 and is in the [file for the meeting](#).

2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair draws attention to the following points:

Languages available

FR,DE,IT,NL,EN,ES,CS,ET,HU,PL,BG and RO.

Webstreaming

The CONT meeting is webstreamed on the [Europarl website](#).

Please be aware that each time a speaker activates the microphone to make an intervention, the camera will be automatically directed to the speaker.

THURSDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2018

09.00 - 12.30

PUBLIC MEETING

3. DISCHARGE 2017: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

CONT/8/14263



Discharge Hearing with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, *Federica Mogherini*, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, *Pietro Russo*

Rapporteur: [Arndt Kohn](#) (S&D)

Administrator: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Jose Ignacio Salafranca (EPP), Wolf Klinz (ALDE), Benedek Javor (Verts/ALE), Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL), Marco Valli (EFDD), Jean-François Jalkh (ENF)

The European External Action Service (EEAS) is a functionally autonomous body of the European Union, separate from the General Secretariat of the Council and from the Commission. It is treated as an institution for the purposes of the Financial Regulation and therefore subject to the procedure of discharge provided for in Article 319 of the TFEU and in Article 263 of the Financial Regulation.

It is placed under the authority of the High Representative / Vice-President (HRVP) of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms Federica Mogherini, who is invited to the CONT meeting for a discharge hearing with Members on the implementation of EEAS budget and activities during the financial year 2017.

In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions addressed to the EEAS were sent on 6 September 2018. The answers received from the EEAS were e-mailed to the CONT Members on 8 October 2018 and will be available on the [CONT website](#).

The questionnaire mainly deals with the following issues: the EEAS building policy throughout the world, the breakdown of various costs, the evolution of human resources as well as the follow-up of previous discharge procedures.

According to the findings of the ECA related to Chapter 10 'Administration', the audit evidence indicates that the level of error in spending was not material and the testing of transactions produced an estimated overall level of error of 0,5%. The Court did not identify any specific issues concerning the EEAS.

The documents are available on [CONT website](#), of particular relevance for the hearing as regards the 2017 EEAS discharge are:

- The ECA's 2017 Annual Report, Chapter 10;
- The EEAS 2017 Annual Activity Report;
- The EEAS Budgetary and Financial Management Report.

It is proposed that the discharge hearing will proceed as follows:

- introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, Mr Pietro Russo, who will present the findings of the ECA Annual Report 2017;
- High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini will briefly reply to this introduction and present the EEAS's achievements;
- CONT Rapporteur Arndt Kohn and other Members will question the HR/VP and/or the ECA;
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

4. DISCHARGE 2017: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CONT/8/14083



Discharge Hearing with Neven Mimica, Commissioner responsible for International Cooperation & Development, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Juhan Parts

Rapporteur: [Inés Ayala Sender](#) (S&D)

Administrators: Philippe Godts and Christian Ehlers

Shadow Rapporteurs: Ingeborg Gräßle (EPP), Martina Dlabajová (ALDE), Bart Staes (Verts/ALE), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL), Jean-François Jalkh (ENF)

The "Global Europe" transactions subject to audit by the ECA in 2017 represent EUR 9.8 billion:

- Development Cooperation Instrument: EUR 2.7 billion;
- European Neighbourhood Instrument : EUR 2 billion;
- Humanitarian aid: EUR 2.1 billion;
- Instrument for Pre accession Assistance: EUR 1.6 billion;
- Other actions and programmes: EUR 1.4 billion.

The documents of particular relevance for the exchange of views as regards the 2017 Commission discharge are:

- The ECA's 2017 Annual Report, Chapters 1, 2 and 9;
- The Commission's follow-up report COM (2018) 545 final;
- The Annual Activity Reports of DGs DEVCO.

These documents are available on the [CONT website](#).

In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions for this meeting were sent to the Commission on 25 October 2017 and e-mailed to Members on the same day. Questions concern, in particular, the following issues: residual error rate study; management of investment facilities; African peace facility; external dimension of the migration policy and External Assistance and Management Report (EAMR).

The Secretariat expects to receive the answers from the Commission on 6 November 2018 and email them to Members on the same day, these will be available on the [CONT website](#).

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commissioner proceeds as follows:

- Introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2017;
- Commissioner in charge will reply to this introduction;
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the Court;
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

5. 2017 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - 8TH, 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH EDFs

CONT/8/14268



Discharge Hearing with *Neven Mimica*, Commissioner responsible for International Cooperation & Development, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, *Juhan Parts*

Rapporteur: [Marco Valli](#) (EFDD)

Administrator: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Joachim Zeller (EPP), Iris Hoffmann (S&D), Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE), Indrek Tarand (Verts/ALE), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL), Barbara Kappel (ENF)

The European Development Fund (EDF) is the main instrument for providing European Union aid for development cooperation to the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and Overseas Countries and Territories. The EDFs are funded by the Member States, governed by their own financial regulations and managed outside the framework of the EU general budget.

Following the usual procedure, Members submitted their written questions related to the 2017 EDF discharge to the rapporteur on 23 October 2018. The questions were sent to the European Commission on the same day. The replies from the European Commission should be e-mailed to CONT Members on 6 November 2018 and will be available on the [CONT website](#).

The questionnaire focus on, *inter alia*, the financial support to the African and Security Architecture; the evolution of the EU trust fund for Africa; the level of error rate and the nature of errors; the efficiency of the implemented controls and evaluation tools.

According to the findings of the ECA 2017 Annual Report related to the activities funded by the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th EDFs (JO C 357 of 4.10.2018), the expenditure for the financial year 2017 is materially affected by error and the testing of transactions produced an estimated overall level of error of 4,5%.

The documents are published in the [CONT website](#) and of particular relevance for the hearing as regards the 2017 EDF discharge are:

- The ECA's 2017 Annual Report on the activities funded by the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th EDFs;
- The 2017 Annual Activity Report for DG DEVCO;
- The annual accounts of the EDF 2017.

It is proposed that the exchange of views shall proceed as follows:

- introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, Mr Juhan Parts, who will present the findings of the ECA Annual Report 2017;
- Commissioner Neven Mimica will briefly reply to this introduction and present 2017 main achievements in the area of EDF's cooperation aid;
- the CONT Rapporteur Marco Valli and other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the Court;
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

6. 2017 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - 8TH, 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH EDFs

CONT/8/14268



Presentation of the Annual Report of the ACP Investment Facility by Luca Lazzaroli, Director General, Deputy Head of Operations, European Investment Bank

Rapporteur: [Marco Valli](#) (EFDD)

Administrator: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Joachim Zeller (EPP), Iris Hoffmann (S&D), Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE), Indrek Tarand (Verts/ALE), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL), Barbara Kappel (ENF)

In parallel with the EDF discharge procedure, the EIB will present to CONT Members the results of its activities in the Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific, and the overseas territories through its ACP Investment Facility.

In that context, Mr Luca Lazzaroli will present the 2017 Investment Facility Annual Report and provide replies to written and oral questions.

Following the same procedure as applied for the Commissioner's hearings, CONT Members submitted questions to the Rapporteur by 23 October 2018, these questions were sent to the EIB the same day. The written replies were e-mailed to CONT Members on 5 November 2018 and will be made available on the [CONT website](#).

The outcome of this exchange of views will be taken into consideration within the EDF discharge procedure.



7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. NEXT MEETINGS

- 15 November 2018, 9.00 – 10.00 (Strasbourg)
- 19 November 2018, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 20 November 2018, 9.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 26 November 2018, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 27 November 2018, 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)

PAPERLESS PROGRAMME (INTERNAL USERS ONLY)

Access CONT committee meeting documents on [eMeeting](#) or any CONT committee information on [eCommittee](#)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact the [CONT Secretariat](#) or visit the [website](#) of the CONT committee

NEWS FROM POLICY DEPARTMENT - BUDGETARY AFFAIRS

POLICY DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS

Recent publications

CONT

Proceedings of the Workshop on "[How to better combat fraud? Follow up of the Commission's anticorruption sharing programme](#)"

In-Depth Analysis "[State Aid and EU funding: are they compatible?](#)"

Study "[Ensuring high quality job creation from EU funding programmes: how can the best practice of Horizon 2020 be better integrated into other programmes \(ESF, Youth Guarantee, Globalisation Fund\)?](#)"

In-Depth Analysis "[The effectiveness and visibility of EU funding in the Western Balkan countries with a special focus on the cross-border cooperation](#)."

CONT/BUDG

Study "[Oversight and Management of the EU Trust Funds](#)"

BUDG

Briefings "[Defence: Member States' Spending](#)" and "[Defence: What has the EU done?](#)"

In-Depth Analysis "[The EU spending on fight against climate change](#)"

Study "[EU funds for migration, asylum and integration policies](#)"

Study "[Potential revenue from the extension of charging fees by EU Agencies](#)"

Study "[Financial Implementation of European Structural and Investment Funds](#)"

Forthcoming presentations

CONT

- Study "Ex Ante Conditionality in ESI funds state of play and their potential impact on the Financial Implementation of the Funds" - **20 November 2018**

- Study "EU-funded large-scale infrastructure: deficient project preparation and procurement processes?" - **26 November 2018**

CONTACTS

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Policy Department Webpage:

http://www.poldepnet.ep.parl.union.eu/poldept/cms/cache/offonce/poldepnet/poldep_d/poldepd_presentation

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