

**MONDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2018**

16.00 - 18.30

**TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2018**

09.00 - 13.00

Room: Altiero Spinelli (ASP) A 3G-3, Brussels

## 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was e-mailed to Members on 21 November 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, EL, ES, FI, CS, ET, HU, LT, PL, SL, 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.

**MONDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2018**

**16.00 - 18.30**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

### 3. STUDY ON EU-FUNDED LARGE-SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE: DEFICIENT PROJECT PREPARATION AND PROCUREMENT PROCESSES?

CONT/8/15042



#### Presentation of the study

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

Administrators: Vera Milicevic (PolDep) and Tereza Pinto de Rezende (CONT)

Public procurement is a key part of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It is one of the market-based instruments to be used to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives by improving the conditions for business to innovate and encouraging the wider use of green procurement supporting the shift towards a resource efficient and low-carbon economy. At the same time, the Europe 2020 strategy stresses that public procurement policy must ensure the most efficient use of public funds and that procurement markets must be kept open Union-wide.

The study will assess if the major large-scale infrastructure projects are well planned, cost-efficient and provide sustainable results. In order to identify weaknesses of the current public procurement processes, systems and legislation, the study will analyse more in detail the ex-ante evaluation, the organisation of call for tenders and the cost benefit analysis undertaken by the European Commission when selecting the projects. Recommendations will be drawn with the aim of ensuring a more transparent, efficient and accountable public procurement.

The study is available in the [CONT website](#).

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

CONT/8/14103



**Discharge hearing with the Vice-President of the European Parliament with responsibility for the budget, *David-Maria Sassoli*, the Secretary-General, *Klaus Welle* and the Internal Auditor of the European Parliament, *Robert Galvin*, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, *Pietro Russo***

Rapporteur: [Claudia Schmidt](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Tereza Pinto de Rezende

Shadow Rapporteurs: Gilles Pargneaux (S&D), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE), Benedek Jávor (Greens/EFA), Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL), Marco Valli (EFDD), Jean-François Jalkh (ENF)

### **Relevant documents**

Members will find the relevant documents for the European Parliament discharge such as the report on budgetary and financial management, the annual accounts of the political groups, and the report on compliance with payment time limits, the report on contracts awarded, Director-Generals' Annual Activity Reports and the replies and follow-up to last year's discharge resolution on the [CONT 2017 budget discharge website](#).

### **Written questions**

Following the established procedure for the adoption of the EP discharge questionnaire, Members were asked to submit questions related to the 2017 budget implementation to their Coordinators by 2 October 2018. The Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs consolidated the questionnaire which was then finalised and submitted to the Secretary-General on 10 October 2018. The Secretary-General's written replies were made available to Members on 20 November 2018.

### **Structure of the hearing**

It is proposed that the discussion will take the following structure:

- statement by the Court of Auditors;
- short presentation by the Vice-President responsible for budgetary affairs;
- brief presentation by the Secretary-General of the answers to the written questions ;
- presentation by the Internal Auditor of the European Parliament of his 2017 annual report;
- statement and oral questions by the Rapporteur;
- Q&A session with other Members;
- closing remarks by the Rapporteur.

### **CONT Timetable:**

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	21-22/01/2019
Deadline for tabling amendments	CONT	30/01/2019
Vote	CONT	20-21/02/2019
Adoption	Plenary	March II 2019



**TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2018**

**09.00 - 12.00**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

## **5. DISCHARGE 2017: EU GENERAL BUDGET - DISCHARGE TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

CONT/8/15043



**Discharge hearings with the Secretary Generals of the Other Institutions and Bodies, in the presence of the Member of the Court of Auditors responsible, *Pietro Russo***

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

Administrators: Charlotte Kutzenberger

Shadow Rapporteurs: José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra (EPP), Raffaele Fitto (except for ECA: Monica Macovei) (ECR), Wolf Klinz (ALDE), Benedek Javor (Greens/EFA), Dennis de Jong (GUE), Marco Valli (EFDD), Jean-François Jalkh (ENF)

The European Court of Auditors reports have indicated that the expenditures in 2017 of the “Other Institutions” were free of material error. No significant weaknesses were detected by the ECA in relation to the topics audited.

The Secretary-Generals of the Other Institutions received the questions put by CONT Members with technical and specific queries on 16 October 2018. The written replies were made available to Members on 15 November 2018 and can be consulted on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Committee invited the Secretary Generals of the Other Institutions to attend the discharge hearing and the discussion will take the following structure:

- Introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, Mr Russo, who will present the ECA findings concerning the respective Institutions in the Annual Report 2017
- Presentation by the Secretary Generals of the Institutions of the answers to the written questions:
  - Court of Justice
  - Court of Auditors
  - European Economic and Social Committee
  - Committee of the Regions
  - European Ombudsman
  - European Data Protection Supervisor
- CONT Rapporteur questions to the Secretary Generals
- Other Members questions
- Replies by the Institutions' Secretary Generals
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur

### CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	21-22/01/2019
Deadline for tabling amendments	CONT	30/01/2019
Vote	CONT	20-21/02/2019
Adoption	Plenary	March II 2019

## 6. 2017 DISCHARGE TO THE JOINT UNDERTAKINGS

CONT/8/15044



**Discharge hearings with the representatives of the Joint Undertakings, in the presence of the Member of the Court of Auditors responsible, *Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz***

Rapporteur: [Martina Dlabajová](#) (ALDE)

Administrator: Michal Czaplicki

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tomas Zdechovský (EPP), Miroslav Poche (S&D), Notis Marias (ECR), Indrek Tarand (Greens/EFA), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL), Marco Valli (EFDD), Barbara Kappel (ENF)

For the financial year 2017, the eight Joint Undertakings (JUs) subject to the discharge procedure by the Parliament are the following: Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), Electric Components and Systems for European Leadership (ECSEL), Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR), CLEAN SKY, Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (FCH), Bio-Based Industries (BBI), Fusion for Energy (F4E) and Shift2Rail.

The European Court of Auditors in their reports have indicated that the accounts of all eight JUs present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Joint Undertaking at 31 December 2017 in accordance with their Financial Regulation and with accounting rules adopted by the Commission's accounting officer. However for ECSEL, the Court has added a qualified opinion as to projects taken over by the Artemis and ENIAC JUs due to variation of methodologies and procedures used by the National Funding Authorities (NFAs). For F4E the Court's opinion was accompanied by an emphasis of matter related to the EU contribution to the ITER project costs.

The Court pointed out that two JUs - SESAR and IMI - had implementation rate for payment appropriations significantly lower than expected. The Court pointed out that for BBI there is a high risk that the industry members will not achieve the minimum amount of operational cash contributions (182.5 million euro) by the end of the programme.

From the eight Joint Undertakings, the Rapporteur selected three of them to be invited to the hearing:

- Development of Fusion for Energy (F4E)
- Electric Components and Systems for European Leadership (ECSEL)
- Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR)

Other JU representatives are also welcome to attend the hearing if they so wish.

It is proposed that the hearing shall proceed as follows:

## Committee on Budgetary Control

- Introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors (ECA), Ms Gáll-Pelcz, who will present the findings of the respective Annual Reports 2017;
- Presentation of the Rapporteur;
- Presentation of each of the JUs invited;
- The Chair, Shadow Rapporteurs and other Members will ask questions to the invited guests;
- The Joint Undertakings will reply to the questions posed;
- Closing remarks of the ECA Member and Rapporteur.

The documents that are important for this hearing are available on the [CONT website](#).

### CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	21-22/01/2019
Deadline for tabling amendments	CONT	30/01/2019
Vote	CONT	20-21/02/2019
Adoption	Plenary	March II 2019

**TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2018**

**12.00 - 13.00**

**JOINT BUDG/CONT MEETING**

### **JOINT MEETING WITH BUDG ON PROTECTION OF THE UNION'S BUDGET IN CASE OF GENERALISED DEFICIENCIES AS REGARDS THE RULE OF LAW IN THE MEMBER STATES**

CJ13/8/13999- [2018/0136\(COD\)](#)



#### Consideration of amendments

BUDG Rapporteur: [Eider Gardiazabal Rubial](#) (S&D)  
CONT Rapporteur: [Petri Sarvamaa](#) (EPP)

CONT Administrator: Philippe Godts  
BUDG Administrator: Emiliano Imeroni

CONT Shadow Rapporteurs: Inés Ayala Sender (S&D), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE), Bart Staes (Greens/ALE), Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL), Marco Valli (EFDD)

BUDG Shadow Rapporteurs: Esteban Gonzalez Pons (EPP), Anneli Jäätteenmäki (ALDE), Sven Giegold (Greens/ALE), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)



## Committee on Budgetary Control

The Commission proposal that forms an integral part of the MFF 2021-2027 package, aims at establishing the rules necessary for the protection of the Union's budget in the case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in Member States.

CONT and BUDG members will have the opportunity to consider the 242 amendments tabled on 25 October 2018.

In addition to the 48 amendments already presented by the co-rapporteurs during the joint BUDG/CONT meeting of 10 October 2018, the Members tabled 194 amendments regarding in particular fundamental values and Copenhagen criteria, assessment of generalised deficiencies, protection of final beneficiaries and the procedure to adopt/lift measures needed in case of deficiency concerning the rule of law. Some amendments aim at rejecting the Commission proposal.

The draft opinion and the amendments are available on the [CONT website](#).

### CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Vote	BUDG/CONT	13/12 /2018 (Strasbourg)
Adoption	Plenary	January 2019

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## 8. NEXT MEETINGS

- 3 December 2018, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 13 December 2018, 8.30 – 11.45 (Strasbourg)

### 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

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### CONT

Workshop on "EU Member States declaration" - 2019

### POLICY DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS

#### Recent publications

#### CONT

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](#)"

Proceedings of the Workshop on "[The revision of OLAF Regulation in light of the future cooperation with EPPO](#)"

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

Study "Ex Ante Conditionality in ESI funds state of play and their potential impact on the Financial Implementation of the Funds" - not online yet

#### BUDG

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 publications

#### CONT

Study "Good examples of aligning the budget with the 'performance based budgeting' principles in 3 most progressive Member States" - 2019

Study "Transparency of funding for NGOs financed from the EU Budget (update)" - **January 2019**

Study "Key performance indicators for convergence in regional development - how reliable are they to ensure targeted and result-oriented spending?" - **March 2019**

### CONTACTS

Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs - [poldep-budg@ep.europa.eu](mailto:poldep-budg@ep.europa.eu)

Policy Department Webpage:

[http://www.poldepnet.ep.parl.union.eu/poldept/cms/cache/offonce/poldepnet/poldep\\_d/poldepd\\_presentation](http://www.poldepnet.ep.parl.union.eu/poldept/cms/cache/offonce/poldepnet/poldep_d/poldepd_presentation)

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