

NEWSLETTER

HIGHLIGHTS

[Monika HOHLMEIER](#) (EPP, DE) is the **new Chair** of the [Committee on Budgetary Control](#), elected by acclamation on 10 July 2019.

Ms. Hohlmeier completed her degree as management assistant in hotel and hospitality in 1983. In 1984, she created together with her family a charitable foundation in which she worked for years in an honorary capacity. This foundation developed over 35 years to a very successful institution in Bavaria helping socially deprived citizens. Before joining the European Parliament, Monika Hohlmeier served as State Secretary in the Bavarian Ministry for Education and Culture between 1993 and 1998, followed by her announcement as Bavarian Minister for Education and Culture between 1998 and 2005. She was member of the Bavarian Parliament between 1990 and 2008. Monika Hohlmeier speaks fluently English, French and German.



Ms. Hohlmeier has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2009. She has since been serving on the Committee on Budget Control, the [Committee on Budgets](#) and on the [Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China](#). From 2014 on Ms. Hohlmeier has also been a member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, in which she already served as substitute between 2009 and 2014.

Between 2009 and 2011 she was a member of the special committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis. In the period of 2012 and 2013, Ms. Hohlmeier was a Member of the Special Committee on Organized Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering. From 2017 until 2018 she acted as the Co-rapporteur for the Special Committee on Terrorism. In addition, she served as the chair of the Sky and Space Intergroup between 2014 and 2019.

In 2019, Ms. Hohlmeier was re-elected to the European Parliament and occupies currently the post as Chair for the Committee on Budgetary Control and:

- Committee on Budgets, Member
- [Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#), Substitute Member
- Conference of Committee Chairs, Member
- [Delegation for the relations with the People's Republic of China](#), Member
- [Delegation for the relations with Canada](#), Substitute Member

During its constituent meeting, the Committee also elected its Vice-Chairs:

- **1st Vice-Chair:** [Isabel GARCÍA MUÑOZ](#) (S&D, ES) - elected by acclamation

Ms. García Muñoz completed her studies in Telecommunications Engineering at the University of Zaragoza and worked for the Institute for Engineering Research of Aragon. She became a municipal councillor of Muel from 2007 to June 2019 and a Member of the Cortes of Aragon in the 2015 regional elections. Ms. García Muñoz was elected MEP in 2019 and is a Member of the [Committee on Transport and Tourism](#), a Substitute to the [Committee on Regional Development](#) as well as 1st Vice-Chair the [Committee on Budgetary Control](#).

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- **2nd Vice-Chair:** Ms. [Caterina CHINNICI](#) (S&D, IT) - elected by secret ballot

Ms. Chinnici graduated in law, she was Prosecutor General of the Court of Appeal of Caltanissetta, and Public Prosecutor at the juvenile court in Caltanissetta and later in Palermo. She was appointed as regional counsellor for family and local governments, and then regional counsellor for the civil service. Between 2012 and 2014 Ms. Chinnici served as Head of the Juvenile Justice Department of the Italian Ministry of Justice.

In 2014, Ms. Chinnici became a MEP and was Member of the [Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#), substitute Member of the Committees on Budgetary Control and on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, and Member of the Special Committee on Terrorism between 2017 and 2018. In addition to her committee assignments, Ms. Chinnici served as co-chairwoman of the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights and as a member of the European Parliament Intergroup on Integrity (Transparency, Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime). Ms. Chinnici was reelected in 2019 serving as Vice-Chair of the [Committee on Budgetary Control](#) and is also a Member of the [Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#) and a Substitute at the [Committee on Legal Affairs](#).



CONT Bureau: Tamás Deutsch (4th VC), Isabel García Muñoz (1st VC), Monika Hohlmeier (Chair), Caterina Chinnici (2nd VC) and Martina Dlabajová (3rd VC)

- **3rd Vice-Chair:** Ms [Martina DLABAJOVÁ](#) (Renew Europe, CZ) - elected by acclamation

She graduated in political science with a specialization in the European Union at the University of Padua. She was elected the president of the Regional Chamber of Commerce of the Zlín Region. She also founded and managed several companies in the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Italy.

In the 2014, Ms. Dlabajová was appointed as a Vice-Chair in the [Committee on Budgetary Control](#), a member in the [Committee on Employment and Social Affairs](#) and Substitute in the [Committee on Transport and Tourism](#). She initiated the Parliamentary Intergroup for Creative Industries and was appointed its Vice-President. Ms. Dlabajová was reelected in 2019 serving as Vice-Chair of the [Committee on Budgetary Control](#) and is also a Member of the [Committee on Industry, Research and Energy](#) and a Substitute in the [Committee on Budgets](#).

- **4th Vice-Chair:** Mr [Tamás DEUTSCH](#) (EPP, HU) - elected by secret ballot

Mr. Deutsch studied at the Faculty of Law in Budapest and graduated in 1999. He was vice president of the Hungarian Olympic Committee from 1999 to 2001. He was a member of the Hungarian Parliament between 1990 and 2009 and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Since 2009, Mr. Deutsch is Member of the European Parliament and is serving as Vice-Chair of the [Committee on Budgetary Control](#). He was a Member of the [Committee on Regional Development](#), [Delegation to the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee](#), as a Substitute to the [Committee on Petitions](#), [Committee on Employment](#)

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and Social Affairs, [Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee](#), [Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly](#).

In 2104, Mr. Deutsch became a Member of Committee on Regional Development, [Delegation for relations with Israel](#) and [Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean](#), and as Substitute on the [Committee on Budgets](#), [Delegation for relations with the United States](#) and [Committee on Industry, Research and Energy](#). Upon reelection in 2019, Mr. Deutsch is also a Member of the Committee of Regional Development and a Substitute on the Committee on Budgets.

Practical information

The draft agenda and meeting documents are available in the [meeting file](#).

Interpretation: FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, EL, ES, FI, SV, CS, HU, PL, BG and RO.

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

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 24 JULY 2019

9.00 - 12.30

Room: József Antall (JAN) 6Q2



COORDINATORS' MEETING

Meeting held in camera

WEDNESDAY, 24 JULY 2019

14.30 - 18.30

4. TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON INTER-, AND INTRA-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF BUDGETARY CONTROL



with the participation of:

- European Court of Auditors, **Henri Grethen**, Member of ECA and **Martin Weber**, Director for ECA Presidency
- European Commission, DG BUDG, **Maria Rosa Aldea Busquets**
- European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)
- Policy Department D, **Niels Fischer**, Head of Unit

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This workshop aims at explaining how the Court of Auditors (ECA) and the Commission cooperate with the European Parliament in order to assist the European Parliament in its exercise of political control with regard to the discharge on the implementation of the budget.

The Court of Auditors as the EU's independent auditor, has the task to examine the accounts of all revenue and expenditure of the Union. It provides the European Parliament and the Council with a statement of assurance as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions. The Court of Auditors draws up an annual report after the close of each financial year. For CONT, this report is the starting point for the annual discharge exercise. In addition to its compliance review, the Court of Auditors puts increasingly more emphasis on performance review in the form of special reports and other products. In its role of monitoring the cost-effectiveness of the various forms of Union financing in the different Union policies, CONT used to organise presentations of most of these special reports in its committee meetings and followed-up on them in the framework of the discharge procedure. The ever increasing number of special reports and other products - 40 in 2018 - raises an organisational challenge for CONT.

In its presentation, the Court of Auditors will notably touch on the following issues:

- Doing more with less (MFF and challenges facing the EU);
- ECA's role as the Union's external auditor;
- CONT as ECA's key partner in the European Parliament;
- How ECA selects its audit topics and how it reports on audit findings;
- ECA's role in protecting the Union's financial interests;
- What are the strategic priorities of ECA?

The Commission will then be invited to give an overview on how it implements the EU budget and how the Parliament controls the Commission in this regard. The presentation should make clear which tools the Commission can offer in order to allow Parliament to effectively control the implementation of the budget by discussing notably the following topics:

- short overview of the size and use of the EU budget in the different policy fields;
- implementation by the Commission in the different forms of management;
- the different reports produced by the Commission; and
- management and controls system in place.

With regard to the intra-institutional cooperation, the responsible research service will then outline how CONT Members can obtain expertise in the field of budgetary affairs. Expertise can be provided to the entire committee in the form of studies, briefings or workshops. Special forms of expertise, such as impact assessments and implementation reports are as well available on demand. Coordinators can recommend to the committee to request such expertise. Individual Members can also request tailor-made expertise for themselves.



Henri Grethen



Martin Weber



Maria Rosa Aldea Busquets

5. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CONT PRIORITIES FOR THE 9TH LEGISLATIVE TERM

The point of departure for CONT are the competences conferred to the European Parliament in the TFEU Treaty and the competences attributed to CONT in Parliament's Rules of Procedure (RoP).

Under Article 319 TFEU the European Parliament decides on granting discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget. The European Parliament is the sole discharge authority: it takes the final decision on whether to grant or not to grant discharge upon recommendation of the Council. Parliament further developed the discharge exercise in order to include the other EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies with a view to ensure full accountability and transparency of the financial management of all EU bodies. CONT prepares Parliament's decision which is taken by the plenary. The discharge procedure, running from September to April, constitutes the prime workload in CONT.

Initially CONT focused primarily on the legality and regularity of financial transactions; over the years CONT put increasing emphasis on "performance audits", analysing thus if the EU's financial assistance achieved the intended political objective. This approach requires regular scrutiny and evaluation of the various EU's spending policies. The European Court of Auditors helps CONT to fulfil its mission in this regard by providing special reports and other products reviewing the performance of different EU policies. CONT might consider to select those reports which it considers to be of primary importance from the angle of performance of EU budget spending policies.

In the past legislature, CONT had to deal with a few cases, of alleged "conflicts of interest" (Article 61 of the Financial Regulation), which caused financial support to be suspended, or where Parliament called for a Commission appointment procedure to be relaunched.

Among the different discharges procedures, the discharge to the Council creates particular problems since 2009. Since then, Parliament refuses discharge to the Council, as the Council declines to send requested documents or to answer questions of the discharge authority. In fact, the Council holds the view that it is not accountable to the European Parliament.

In addition to the discharge, CONT is competent for legislative procedures in relation to Article 322 - financial regulations - and Article 325 TFEU on the protection of the EU's financial interests against fraud and any other illegal activities. In this context, CONT is particularly concerned about alleged customs' and Value-added Tax (VAT) fraud.



Two bodies have play an important role in combatting fraud: the European Anti-Fraud-Office (OLAF) and the future European Public Prosecutors' Office (EPPO). The EPPO Regulation on implementing enhanced cooperation in the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office was adopted on 12 October 2018, and Parliament and Council currently seek to find a common candidate for the position of Prosecutor General. In 2018, the Commission submitted a proposal amending the OLAF Regulation concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) as regards cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the effectiveness of OLAF investigations. This proposal aims at improving the compatibility of the OLAF and EPPO Regulations before the entry into force of the latter in October 2020.

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However, in April 2019 Parliament adopted a first reading position on the Commission proposal for a revised OLAF regulation, which went beyond the Commission proposal, as the Parliament endeavours to remedy other perceived shortcomings in the current OLAF Regulation as well.

Two more legislative proposals will require CONT's attention where Parliament has already adopted its first reading under the previous legislature: the protection of the Union's budget in case of generalized deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States, a file jointly dealt with the BUDG committee and the EU Anti-Fraud-Programme which is part of the next MFF package.

Finally, CONT will have to set its priorities for fact finding missions and expertise under the new legislature.

NEXT MEETINGS

- 4 September 2019, 9.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30, and
- 5 September 2019, 9.00 - 12.30 (Brussels)
- 25 September 2019, 9.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30, and
- 26 September 2019, 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

Studies

- The European Public Prosecutor's Office: strategies for coping with complexity [EN](#)
- Performance Indicators for Convergence in Regional Development - How reliable are they to ensure Targeted and Result-Oriented spending? [EN](#)
- Effectiveness of cohesion policy: learning from the project characteristics that produce the best results [EN](#)
- Protection of EU financial interest on customs and VAT: Cooperation of national tax and customs authorities to prevent fraud [EN](#)

In-depth Analysis

- Integrated Territorial Investments as an effective tool of the Cohesion Policy [EN](#)

BUDG

Studies

- Mainstreaming Innovation Funding in the EU Budget [EN](#)
- Gender responsive EU Budgeting Update of the study 'The EU Budget for Gender Equality' and review of its conclusions and recommendations [EN](#)



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Forthcoming Publications

BUDG

Studies

- The History of the EU Budget (not published)