

NEWSLETTER

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

9.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 17.30

THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

9.00 – 12.30

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak (PHS) 4B001, Brussels

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

9.00 - 12.30

PUBLIC MEETING

*** ELECTRONIC VOTING ***

3. DISCHARGE 2017: 2ND REPORT ON THE EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE ([EASO](#))

[Procedure file](#)

Adoption of second draft report



Rapporteur: [Petri Sarvamaa](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Cécile Bourgault

Shadow Rapporteurs: Lara Wolters (S&D), Ramona Strugariu (RE), Viola Von Cramon-Taubel (Greens), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)

On 26 March 2019, the Parliament decided to postpone the discharge on EASO. The second draft report concerning the 2017 discharge on EASO was presented by the Rapporteur to the CONT Committee on 4 September 2019.

EASO is the only decentralised agency for which the European Court of Auditors (ECA) issued an adverse opinion on the legality and regularity of the payments underlying the accounts. The main issues identified regarding EASO were related to material and systematic instances of non-compliance of payments with the Office's Financial Regulation, mainly related to public procurement and recruitment procedures.

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) opened an investigation and discovered a breach of procurement procedures, misappropriation of EU funds, mismanagement, abuse of position in human resources issues, breaches of data protection rules, harassment and inappropriate behaviour towards staff members

Members can consult the case report under the procedure applicable to confidential documents. Should Members wish to do so, please contact Marcia Maguire (marcia.maguire@ep.europa.eu) until the 27 September 2019.

Based on the measures taken by EASO in light of the ECA and the OLAF observations, the Rapporteur is in favour of refusing discharge to EASO. The amendments were sent to Members on 11 September, the draft report, other relevant information and the amendments are available on the [CONT website](#).



Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Adoption in CONT	CONT	25 September
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	October II

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

[Procedure file](#)



Adoption of the second draft report

Rapporteur: [Isabel García Muñoz](#) (S&D)

Administrator: Charlotte Kutzenberger

Shadow Rapporteurs: Angelika Winzig (EPP), Olivier Chastel (RE), Mikulas Peksa (Greens), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

On 26 March 2019, Plenary postponed the 2017 Council and European Council discharge, maintaining the decision and reconfirming the content of the report as voted in the CONT Committee.

Following this vote, the Rapporteur presented her second draft report at the beginning September 2019. Twenty amendments were tabled with deadline of 9 September, calling the Council to enhance its efforts to join finally the transparency register and to undertake all necessary steps to be transparent and fully accountable to Union citizens for their funds by citing evidences confirming this obligation.

The Rapporteur also criticizes the practices of the Member States hosting the EU Presidency regarding corporate sponsorship policy in the draft report. Ms. García Muñoz calls the Council to adopt guidelines in order to promote financial transparency and independency of the Presidency.

Ms Garcia Munoz repeats the outstanding issues and Parliament's responsibilities in the discharge process and proposes to refuse the Council and European Council's discharge for the financial year 2017.

The draft report and amendments can be found on the [CONT website](#).

Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Adoption in CONT	CONT	25 September
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	October II

5. GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020 - ALL SECTIONS

[Procedure file](#)

Adoption of draft opinion to BUDG



Rapporteur: [Corina Crețu](#) (S&D)

Administrator: Philippe Godts

Shadow Rapporteurs: Lefteris Christoforou (EPP), Olivier Chastel (RE), Mikulas Peksa (Greens), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

In her draft opinion, Ms Crețu calls on the Committee on Budgets of the European Parliament, in coordination with the sector committees of this Parliament, to promote a real culture of “result orientation” aiming at optimizing the use of funds, analysing the reasons leading to low performance programmes and pushing for measures for improvement of absorption and performance.

CONT Members tabled 22 amendments regarding, in particular, programmes of technical assistance; Frontex activities; Horizon 2020; a separate heading for security and defence and a clear allocation of tasks between OLAF and the EPPO.

The draft opinion and amendments can be found on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Adoption in CONT	CONT	25-26 September
Adoption in BUDG	BUDG	14 October
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	October II

***** END OF ELECTRONIC VOTING *****



6. 2018 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

[Procedure file](#)



Exchange of views with Commission Directorates-General on the reservations issued in their 2018 annual activity reports

Rapporteur: [Monika Hohlmeier](#) (EPP)
Administrator: Philippe Godts / Christian Ehlers

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D), Olivier Chastel (RE), Viola Von Cramon-Taubel (Greens), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

Exchange of views on the annual activity reports, and in particular on the reservations issued in those reports by the Commission Directorates-General with:

- **Mr Jean-Eric Paquet**, Director-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD),
- **Mr Jerzy Bogdan Plewa**, Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI),
- **Mr Marc Lemaître**, Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO),
- **Mr Joost Korte**, Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)
- **Ms Paraskevi Michou**, Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) and
- **Mr Koen Doens**, Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO).

In its resolution accompanying the Commission discharge for 2017, the Parliament “draws attention to the reservations issued by the Commission services during the normal annual discharge procedures, to the fact that every Member State performs differently in using the diversity of Union funds and that there are always areas where improvement is required”.

In their annual activity reports for 2018, the Directors-General who are Authorising Officers by Delegation identified the main reasons for their reservations and set out remedial actions to address them.

According to the Annual Management and Performance Report for the EU budget in 2018 (COM 2019) 299 final/2, 30 authorising officers by delegation issued unqualified declarations of assurance, while 20 issued qualified declarations with a total of 40 reservations. These reservations affect revenue as well as expenditure. In all cases, the authorising officers by delegation concerned adopted action plans to address the underlying weaknesses and mitigate the resulting risks.

Of the 40 reservations, 38 are recurrent and two are new (one by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises; and one by the Home Affairs Department).

Half the reservations concern legacy programmes for the period 2007-2013. For these legacy programmes, there is only a very limited number of transactions remaining. These reservations are maintained, despite all having low financial impacts, as the related error levels remain above the 2% materiality threshold.

The Annual Activity reports 2018 are available on the [CONT website](#). These reports and the Management Plans are available on the [Commission website](#).

WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

14.30 - 17.30

PUBLIC MEETING

7. / 8. DISCHARGE 2017/2018: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - COMMISSION



Exchange of views with Commissioner Günther Oettinger and presentation of the report on the follow-up to the discharge for the 2017 financial years

Rapporteur: [Monika Hohlmeier](#) (EPP)
Administrator: Philippe Godts / Christian Ehlers

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D), Olivier Chastel (RE), Viola Von Cramon-Taubel (Greens), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

Exchange of views with the EU Commissioner responsible for Budget and Human Resources, Günther Oettinger, and in presence of Manfred Kraff, Director-General of the European Commission's internal Audit Service, on the basis of the following documents:

-)] the follow-up to the discharge for the 2017 financial year (Article 262 of the Financial Regulation, COM (2019) 334;
-)] the 2018 Annual Management and Performance Report for the EU Budget COM (2019) 299;
-)] the Annual Report to the Discharge Authority on internal audits carried out in 2018 (Article 118(4) of the Financial Regulation) ,COM (2019)350 and SWD(2019) 300 final.

The Communication of the Commission on the follow-up to the discharge for the 2017 financial year explains the measures taken by the Commission in light of Parliament's resolution.

Exchange of views with Commissioner Günther Oettinger on the 2018 discharge procedure

The 2018 Annual Management and Performance Report for the EU Budget, drafted pursuant to Article 318 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in accordance with the Article 247(1)(b) of the Financial Regulation, depicts in section one performance and results, and in section two internal control, and financial management achievements. Bringing together information on the performance and management of the EU budget, the Annual Management and Performance Report endeavours to provide a comprehensive overview of how the EU budget supports the Union's political priorities.

The Annual Report to the Discharge Authority on internal audits, carried out in 2018, is based on the audit and consulting work by the Internal Audit Services in the Commission Directorates-General and Executive Agencies. It includes information on significant risk exposure, control issues and governance aspects. These documents are available on the [CONT website](#).

The discussion could be organised in the following way:

-) Commissioner Oettinger could introduce the follow-up to Parliament's 2017 Commission discharge and the Annual Management and Performance Report;
-) the Shadow Rapporteur of the 2017 discharge and the Rapporteur of the 2018 discharge reply before the floor is given to other CONT Members;
-) in a second round, the Commission Internal Auditor could present the Annual Report to the Discharge Authority on internal audits carried out in 2017 ;
-) the floor is given to other CONT Members;
-) replies by the Commissioner and the Internal Auditor;
-) closing remarks by the Rapporteurs.

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

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	20-21 January 2020
Deadline for amendments	CONT	29 January 2020
Adoption in CONT	CONT	19-20 February 2020
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	March 11 2020

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

[Procedure file](#)



Exchange of views with the Secretary-General of the European Parliament, Klaus Welle on the follow-up of the 2017 discharge

Rapporteur for the **follow-up of the 2017 discharge**: [Tamás Deutsch](#) (EPP)
 Rapporteur for the **2018 discharge**: [Maria Grapini](#) (S&D)
 Administrator: Cécile Bourgault

Shadow Rapporteurs: Gilles Boyer (RE), Daniel Freund (Greens) Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)

In accordance with the resolution of 26 March 2019 accompanying the decision on discharge for the financial year 2017, the Secretary General will briefly summarise the replies and follow-up of the EP administration to the various questions and requests of the 2017 EP discharge resolution before proceeding to an exchange of views.

The Secretary General's written replies have been made available prior to the committee meeting. These were sent to Members by email on 17 September and have been published on the [CONT website](#). It is proposed that the discussion is structured following this order of interventions:

Committee on Budgetary Control

-) brief presentation by the Secretary General on the replies and follow-up of the administration;
-) statement and oral questions by the Rapporteur for the follow-up of the 2017 discharge;
-) reply by the Secretary General to the Rapporteur;
-) questions by the Rapporteur for the 2018 discharge and then by other Members;
-) replies by the Secretary General and closing remarks by the Rapporteur for the follow-up of the 2017 discharge.

The Follow-up Report to 2017 Discharge European Parliament resolution is available on the [CONT website](#).

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. NEXT MEETINGS

-) 8 October 2019 – 9.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30 (Brussels)
-) 17 October 2019 - 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)

THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

9.00 - 12.30

IN CAMERA MEETING

12. COORDINATORS' MEETING



Meeting held in camera

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

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- 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](#)

Forthcoming Publications

BUDG

Studies

- The History of the EU Budget (not published)



CONTACTS

Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs

email: [Policy Department Webpage](#)

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