

## NEWSLETTER

### COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2019**

15.00 – 18.00 (Public meeting)

18.00 – 18.30 - Coordinators' meeting "in camera"

**TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2019**

9.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30

Room: József Antall (JAN) 6Q2, 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, 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.

##### Voting cards

The electronic voting system will be used for the votes and Members are reminded to bring their electronic voting card.

##### Adoption of Coordinators' recommendations

The summary of Coordinators' recommendations of the meeting on 8 October 2019 was circulated to the Members on 22 October 2019.

If no objections are received before the end of the meeting, these recommendations will be deemed approved.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- 5 September 2019
- 26 September 2019
- 8 October 2019
- 17 October 2019

If no objections are received before the end of the meeting, the minutes will be deemed approved.

**MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2019**

**15.00 - 18.00**

**CONT PUBLIC MEETING**

### 4. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) No 883/2013 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 (COM(2018)0338 – C8-0214/2018 – 2018/0170(COD))

[Procedure](#)



**Reporting back to committee on the negotiations (Rule 74(3) of the Rules of procedure)**

Rapporteur: [Jean-Marian Marinescu](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Christian Ehlers

Shadow Rapporteurs: Caterina Chinnici (S&D), Martina Dlabajová (RE), Michèle Rivasi (Greens), Jean-François Jalkh (ID), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE)

The first inter-institutional trilogue on the above issue took place on 5 November 2019 in the European Parliament.

Rule 74(3) of Parliament's Rules of procedure stipulates: "After each trilogue, the Chair of the negotiating team and the rapporteur shall, on behalf of the negotiating team, report back to the next meeting of the committee responsible."

On this occasion the rapporteur will report back on the discussions held on 5 November.

### 5. DISCHARGE 2018: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - COMMISSION

[Procedure file](#)



**Exchange of views with Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos, EU Commissioner responsible for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, in the presence of Leo Brincat, ECA Member**

Rapporteur: [Monika Hohlmeier](#) (EPP)

Administrators: Philippe Godts / Christian Ehlers

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D), Olivier Chastel (RE), Viola Von Cramon-Taubel (Greens), Joachim Hans Kuhs (ID) Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

The transactions subject to audit by the European Court of Auditors in the section concerning migration and security of Chapter 8 "Security and Citizenship" of its Annual Report 2018 represent EUR 1.5 billion excluding decentralised agencies, or approximately 1% of the EU budget.

Most of the expenditure for migration and security is from two funds: the Asylum Migration and Integration fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF). The management of most AMIF and ISF funds is shared between the Member States and the Commission. The objective of AMIF is to contribute to the effective management of migration flows and to bring about a common EU approach to asylum and immigration. The ISF aims to achieve a high level of security in the EU. It has two instruments: ISF Borders and Visa and ISF Police.

The audit scope for this MFF heading does not allow for a quantified conclusion on the level of error. The Court, nevertheless, highlights one main issue where there is scope for improvement. It concerns the controls on procurement.

The documents of particular relevance for the exchange of views as regards the 2018 Commission discharge are:

- The ECA's 2018 Annual Report, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 8;
- The Commission's follow-up report COM (2019) 334 final and;
- The respective Annual Activity Report of the Director General.

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 30 October 2019 and emailed to Members on the same day. Questions concern in particular the annual activity report of DG HOME, the situation in Greece, the resettlement and relocation schemes, the management of the AMIF and the external dimension of migration. The Commission's answers are expected on 7 November and the CONT secretariat will forward them immediately.

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commissioner Avramopoulos shall proceed 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 2018;
- Commissioner Avramopoulos will reply to this introduction;

## Committee on Budgetary Control

- CONT Rapporteur will put questions to the Commissioner and the Court;
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the Court;
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

### 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 II 2020

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

[Procedure file](#)



**Exchange of views with Commissioner Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner responsible for Regional Policy, in the presence of Tony Murphy, ECA Member**

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

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D), Olivier Chastel (RE), Viola Von Cramon-Taubel (Greens), Joachim Hans Kuhs (ID) Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

Regional policy is part of Chapter 6 in the European Court of Auditors' Annual Report entitled "Economic, social and territorial cohesion". The main policy instrument is the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

In 2018, payments reached EUR 39,5 billion. In 2018, the Commission accepted accounts with expenditure for 248 out of 419 approved Operational Programmes (OPs) (around EUR 11,9 billion). These accounts came from 202 assurance packages submitted by all 28 Member States for the 2014-2020 programming period. In addition, the Commission closed or partially closed 217 OPs (around EUR 11,7 billion) from the 2007-2013 programming period. The audit population (around EUR 23,6 billion) consisted of the expenditure included in these assurance packages for the 2016/2017 accounting year (2014-2020 period) and the expenditure certified by certifying authorities and underlying audit authorities' final control reports for 2007-2013.

The Court examined the following for 'Economic, social and territorial cohesion' in 2018:

- a sample of 220 transactions, designed to be statistically representative of the full range of spending under MFF sub-heading 1b, which the audit authorities had previously checked;
- the work done by audit authorities to validate the information contained in the 24 assurance/closure packages, also using the sample of 220 transactions;
- the Commission's audit work, after the acceptance of the accounts, to check regularity aspects of the 2014-2020 assurance packages;

- the Commission's work when reviewing and validating the error rates reported in the 2018 assurance/closure packages. ECA also looked at the relevance and reliability of the regularity information in the AARs of DG REGIO and DG EMPL and its inclusion in the Commission's Annual Management and Performance Report (AMPR).

The Court has quantified the estimated level of error at 5,0%. DG REGIO claims the residual error rate to be 1,9%.

The documents of particular relevance for the hearing with Commissioner Hahn are:

- The ECA's 2018 Annual Report, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 6;
- The Commission's follow-up report COM (2019)334 final; and
- The respective Annual Activity Report of the Director General.

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

In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, CONT sent the written questions to the Commission on 30 October 2019 and emailed them to Members on the same day. The Commission's answers are expected on 7 November and the CONT secretariat will forward them immediately.

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commissioner Hahn to proceed as follows:

- Introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, Tony Murphy, who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2018;
- Commissioner Hahn will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur will put questions to the Commissioner and/or the Court;
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the Court;
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

### 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 II 2020

**MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2019**

**18.00 - 18.30**

**IN CAMERA MEETING**

## 7. COORDINATORS' MEETING



Meeting held in camera

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**TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2019**

**9.00 - 9.15**

**JOINT BUDG/CONT PUBLIC MEETING**

**\*\*\* ELECTRONIC VOTING \*\*\***

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

CJ13/9/01459 - [2018/0136\(COD\)](#)

**Vote on the decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations (Rule 72 of the Rules of procedure)**

BUDG Rapporteur: [Eider Gardiazabal Rubial](#) (S&D)

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

CONT Administrator: Philippe Godts

BUDG Administrator: Emiliano Imeroni



CONT Shadow Rapporteurs: Caludiu Manda (S&D), Katalin Cseh (RE), Daniel Freund (Greens), Joachim Hans Kuhs (ID), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR)

## Committee on Budgetary Control

BUDG Shadow Rapporteurs: Joachim Hans Kuhs (ID)

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.

A first reading vote took place on 4 April 2019 in Plenary. Under Rule 72 of the European Parliament's Rules of procedure, a vote by a majority of the members of the two committees is required in order to enter negotiations on the basis of Parliament's first reading position.

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

**TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2019**

**9.15 - 12.00**

**CONT PUBLIC MEETING**

### PARTIAL RENEWAL OF MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS

#### **9. HEARING OF ALEX BRENNINKMEIJER, CANDIDATE NOMINATED BY NETHERLANDS (RENEWAL OF MANDATE)**



Rapporteur: [Tomas Zdechovsky](#) (EPP)  
Administrator: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Sándor Rónai (S&D), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

## 10. HEARING OF FRANÇOIS-ROGER CAZALA, CANDIDATE NOMINATED BY FRANCE (NEW MANDATE)



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

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tomas Zdechovsky (EPP), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

## 11. HEARING OF JOELLE ELVINGER, CANDIDATE NOMINATED BY LUXEMBOURG (NEW MANDATE)



Rapporteur: [Olivier Chastel](#) (RE)  
Administrator: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tomas Zdechovsky (EPP), Lara Wolters (S&D), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

## 12. HEARING OF KLAUS-HEINER LEHNE, CANDIDATE NOMINATED BY GERMANY (RENEWAL OF MANDATE)



Rapporteur: [Tomas Zdechovsky](#) (EPP)  
Administrator: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

## 13. HEARING OF NIKOLAOS MILIONIS, CANDIDATE NOMINATED BY GREECE (RENEWAL OF MANDATE)



Rapporteur: [Sándor Rónai](#) (S&D)  
Administrator: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tomas Zdechovsky (EPP), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)



## Committee on Budgetary Control

### Background

The Members of the European Court of Auditors shall be appointed for a term of six years. In accordance with Article 286(2) of the TFEU the Council, after consulting the European Parliament, shall adopt the list of Members drawn up in accordance with the proposals made by each Member State.

The following candidates have been proposed by the Member States:

- **Alex Brenninkmeijer**, Candidate nominated by Netherlands
- **François-Roger Cazala**, Candidate nominated by France
- **Joelle Elvinger**, Candidate nominated by Luxembourg
- **Klaus-Heiner Lehne**, Candidate nominated by Germany
- **Nikolaos Milionis**, Candidate nominated by Greece

Appointments to the ECA are submitted to Parliament's plenary on the basis of a report from CONT, which takes into account the primary law requirement of Article 286(1) of the TFEU: "*the Members of the Court of Auditors shall be chosen from among persons who belong or have belonged in their respective States to external audit bodies or who are especially qualified for this office. Their independence must be beyond doubt.*", as well as other considerations.

### A. Procedure

According to Rule 129 (1) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, "*candidates nominated as Members of the Court of Auditors shall be invited to make a statement before the committee responsible and to answer questions put by members. The committee shall vote on each nomination separately by secret ballot.*"

#### I. Questionnaires and statements

In preparation for the hearing, each **candidate** has been asked, in both cases, i.e. a first appointment and a renewal of mandate, to answer the **questionnaire** prepared by CONT.

#### II. The hearing

The hearing will take place according to the timetable set out in the draft agenda. Each candidate will be invited to make an opening statement (5 minutes) and the remainder of his hearing will be devoted to replies to questions from Members 40 minutes in case of a first mandate, and 25 minutes in case of renewal.

#### III. Evaluation, votes and adoption of draft report

Once all the hearing have been completed, the committee will hold an evaluation of the candidates and then proceed to vote on each nomination. Evaluation, votes and adoption of draft report **will be in camera**.

According to Rule 129 (1), the committee shall vote by secret ballot. The vote may be carried out by means of the electronic voting system in accordance with Rule 192. Members should indicate for each candidate whether they give a favourable opinion, a negative opinion or abstain.

## Committee on Budgetary Control

### B. The report

The format of opinions on candidates for membership of the Court of Auditors is defined as follows<sup>1</sup>:

- a) each recommendation on each nomination shall be submitted in the form of a report, to be adopted on the basis of a majority of the votes cast, with the report merely indicating the nomination;
- b) the report shall consist of:
  - i. citations summarising the circumstances of the referral to Parliament;
  - ii. recitals outlining the procedure to the competent committee;
  - iii. operative text which may only consist of a favourable opinion or an unfavourable opinion;
- c) citations and recitals shall not be put to the vote;"

These strict rules on procedures, before the Committee on Budgetary Control and in plenary sitting, adopted by Parliament **do not allow any amendments** to be tabled to the draft report.

The draft report will be finalised, according to the outcome of the evaluation and the vote in committee. The candidate's curriculum vitae and the answers to CONT questionnaire or summary shall be annexed to the report.

The report for plenary will state that Parliament delivers either a favourable or a negative opinion on the appointment of the candidate.

The draft reports were circulated to Members on 28 October and are available on the [CONT website](#).

### CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	NOVEMBER II

**TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2019**

**12.00 - 12.30**

**IN CAMERA MEETING**

## 14. EVALUATION, VOTES AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT REPORTS (ITEMS 9-13 OF THE DRAFT AGENDA) - IN CAMERA -

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<sup>1</sup> Parliament's resolution of 4 February 2014

**TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2019**

**14.30 - 16.00**

**CONT PUBLIC MEETING**

## **15. DISCHARGE 2018: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - COMMISSION**

[Procedure file](#)



**Exchange of views with Commissioner Carlos Moedas, EU Commissioner responsible for Research, Science and Innovation, in the presence of Mihails Kozlovs, ECA Member**

Rapporteur: [Monika Hohlmeier](#) (EPP)

Administrators: Philippe Godts / Christian Ehlers

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D), Olivier Chastel (RE), Viola Von Cramon-Taubel (Greens), Joachim Hans Kuhs (ID) Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

Research and Innovation falls under Chapter 5 'Competitiveness for growth and jobs' in the European Court of Auditors (ECA) Annual Report 2018.

In 2018, payments of DG R&I reached EUR 3,1 billion. The Court's audit sample comprised 130 transactions and was designed to be representative of the full range of spending under this MFF sub-heading. It consisted of 81 transactions in research and innovation (22 under the FP7 and 59 under Horizon 2020) and 49 transactions under other programmes and activities, in 19 Member States and 4 non-member countries. The Court has quantified the estimated level of error for the whole MFF1a area at 2%, two percentage points lower than last year.

The documents of particular relevance for the exchange of views with Commissioner Moedas are:

- The ECA's 2018 Annual Report, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5;
- The Commission's follow-up report COM (2019) 334 final and;
- The respective Annual Activity Report of the Director General.

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

In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, CONT sent written questions for this meeting to the Commission on 31 October 2019 and emailed to Members on the same day. The Commission should answer the questions 8 November 2019.

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commissioner Moedas shall proceed 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 2018;

## Committee on Budgetary Control

- Commissioner Moedas will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur will put questions to the Commissioner and/or the Court;
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the Court;
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

### 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 II 2020

**TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2019**

**16.00 - 18.30**

**CONT PUBLIC MEETING**

## 16. DISCHARGE 2018: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - OTHER INSTITUTIONS



### Exchange of views with the Secretary Generals or Directors of the Other Institutions (except EEAS), in the presence of Pietro Russo, ECA Member

Rapporteur: [Tomas Zdechovsky](#) (EPP)  
 Administrator: Charlotte Kutzenberger

Shadow Rapporteurs: Isabel Garcia Munoz (S&D), Cristian Ghinea (EEAS, CoR, EDPS) (RE), Martina Dlabajova (ECA) (RE), Ramona Strugariu (CoJ) (RE), Olivier Chastel (Council, EESC, Ombudsman) (RE), Mikulas Peksa (Greens), Joachim Hans Kuhs (ID), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

According to the Court of Auditors the payments as a whole for the year 2018 for administrative expenditure of the "Other Institutions" were free from material error. The Court observed that no significant weaknesses had been identified in respect of the audited topics.

- Council and European Council
- European Court of Justice
- European Court of Auditors
- European Economic and Social Committee
- Committee of Regions
- European Ombudsman
- European Data Protection Supervisor

## Committee on Budgetary Control

Members were asked to submit questions related to the 2018 Discharge to Other Institutions to the Rapporteur by 30 September 2019. The replies received from the Other Institutions were emailed to the Members on 29 October 2019 and are available on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Committee invited the Secretary Generals or Directors of the Other Institutions to attend the exchange of views on 12 November 2019, which will take the following structure:

- Introduction by the Member of the Court of Auditors responsible, Mr Pietro Russo, presenting the ECA findings concerning the Other Institutions;
- Presentation of the CONT Rapporteur.
- Statements of the Secretary Generals or Directors (approximately 5 minutes each) ;
- The Rapporteur, The Chair, Shadow Rapporteurs and other Members will ask questions;
- Replies by the Institution's Secretary Generals or Directors;
- Closing statement of the ECA Member and the CONT Rapporteur.

Through the exchange of views the Members will assess the management of the expenditure and the performance of those Institutions during the financial year of 2018.

The documents relevant for this hearing 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

## 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## 18. NEXT MEETINGS

- 18 November 2019, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 28 November 2019, 9.00 – 12.00 (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

### POLICY DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS

#### Recent Publications

##### CONT

###### Studies

- The European Public Prosecutor's Office: strategies for coping with complexity [EN](#)
- Appointment of the Commission's Secretary General in 2018 [EN](#)
- Appointment procedures in the EU institutions [EN](#)
- Aligning the budget with the Performance-Based Budgeting: lessons from Member States [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

- Gaps and Errors in the TED database [EN](#)
- Follow up to the 2009 and 2014 Studies on the Code of Conduct for Commissioners - Improving Effectiveness and Efficiency [EN](#)

##### BUDG

###### Studies

- Mainstreaming Innovation Funding in the EU Budget [EN](#)
- Protection of EU financial interest on customs and VAT: cooperation of national tax and customs authorities to prevent fraud [EN](#)
- Gender responsive EU Budgeting Update of the study 'The EU Budget for Gender Equality' and review of its conclusions and recommendations [EN](#)

#### At a Glance

- The next MFF and Own Resources [EN](#)

#### In-depth Analysis

- The History of the EU Budget [EN](#)
- How the EU Budget Has Developed and Changed in the Last 10 years? [EN](#)

#### Forthcoming Publications

##### BUDG

###### Studies

- Study "Documenting climate mainstreaming in the EU budget - making the system more transparent, stringent and comprehensive"
- Study "How EU funds tackle economic divide in the European Union"
- Study "Pilot projects and preparatory actions (PP/PA) in the EU budget 2014-2019"
- Study "A Just Transition Fund - How the EU budget can best assist in the necessary transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy"

#### CONTACTS

Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs  
Email: [Policy Department Webpage](#)

#### Disclaimer

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