

## NEWSLETTER

### COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2019**

15.00 – 18.00 (Public meeting)

18.00 – 19.00 (Coordinators' meeting)

Room: József Antall (JAN) 4Q1

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.

**MONDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2019**

**15.00 - 18.00**

**CONT PUBLIC MEETING**

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

[Procedure file](#)



**Exchange of views with the Acting Secretary General of the European Commission, Ilze Juhansone, in the presence of Pietro Russo, 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 Secretariat-General of the European Commission is one of the central services of the European Commission, facilitating its smooth and effective functioning and providing strategic direction.

It is the President's department, at the service of the President, the College and the other Commission departments. It manages the collegial decision-making process and ensures the alignment of EU policies with the political priorities of the Commission. In agreement with the President, the Secretariat-General provides support to the Vice-Presidents in the performance of their role.

According to the annual activity report of the Secretary General "2018 was a crucial year to drive forward the implementation of the political priorities of the Juncker Commission. The Secretariat-General played a key role in a number of aspects of the Commission's work, from the proposals on the future long-term budget for the Union, to the preparedness work linked to the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union. In order to be better prepared for the new challenges ahead, the Secretariat-General's organisation chart underwent major changes during the reporting year. The new structure properly conveys the principles underpinning the mission statement of the Secretariat-General and its different service roles and better reflects the priorities of the Commission as well as the policies where the Secretariat-General is in the lead." (AAR 2018 page 7)

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 and 3.
- The Commission's follow-up report COM (2019) 334 final, and
- The Annual Activity Report of the Secretariat-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 7 November 2019 and e-mailed to Members on the same day. The answers from the Commission are expected for the 14 November 2019 and will be emailed to Members.

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commission Acting Secretary General 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;
- Commission Acting Secretary General Ilze Juhanšone will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur will put questions to the Acting Secretary General and the Court;
- Other Members will question the Commission 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

## 4. 2017 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE (EASO)



### Consideration of the motion for decision on closure of accounts

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 23 October 2019, the EP refused to grant the Executive Director of the European Asylum Support Office discharge for the financial year 2017.

Following such refusal, the EP's Rules of Procedure foresee that "a formal proposal to close the accounts for the year in question shall be submitted at a subsequent part-session" (Annex V, Article 5 (2) (b)).

The Rapporteur tabled a motion for decision to close the accounts of EASO. The motion for decision has been circulated to Members on 6 November 2019.

### CONT timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for amendments	CONT	22 November 2019, 12:00
Adoption in CONT	CONT	4 December 2019
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	December 2019

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

[Procedure file](#)



**Exchange of views with the Vice-President of the European Parliament with responsibility for the budget, *Pedro Silva Pereira*, 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: [Maria Grapini](#) (S&D)  
Administrators: Cécile Bourgault

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tamas Deutsch (EPP), Gilles Boyer (RE), Daniel Freund (Greens), Joachim Hans Kuhs (ID) Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)

#### **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 2018 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 2018 budget implementation to their Coordinators by 24 September 2019. The questionnaire was finalised and submitted to the Secretary-General on 30 September 2019. The Secretary-General's written replies were made available to Members on 11 November 2019.

#### **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 2018 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 January 2020
Deadline for amendments	CONT	29 January 2020 14:00
Adoption in CONT	CONT	20 February 2020
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	March II 2020

### 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 7. NEXT MEETINGS

- 28 November 2019, 9.00 – 12.00 (Strasbourg)
- 4 December 2019, 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)
- 4 December 2019, 14.30 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 5 December 2019, 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)

**MONDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2019**

**18.00 - 19.00**

**IN CAMERA MEETING**

### 8. 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

### 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

The items contained herein are drafted by the secretariat of the European Parliament and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. This document may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organizations. The secretariat does not necessarily endorse the view(s) expressed on.