

## NEWSLETTER

### COMMITTEE MEETING

**THURSDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2019**

9.00 – 12.00

Room: Louise Weiss (LOW) N1.3

Strasbourg

#### 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, PT, 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.

THURSDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2019

9.00 - 12.00

CONT PUBLIC MEETING

### 3. DISCHARGE 2018: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE (EEAS)

[Procedure file](#)



**Exchange of views with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, in the presence of Pietro Russo, ECA Member**

Rapporteur: [Tomáš Zdechovský](#) (EPP)

Administrators: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Isabel Garcia Munoz (S&D), Cristian Ghinea (RE), Mikulas Peksa (Greens), Joachim Hans Kuhs (ID), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

**Please be aware that the High Representative will have to leave the CONT committee at 9.45 in order to be available for the debate in plenary. The other EEAS representatives will stay until the end of the hearing.**

The European External Action Service (EEAS) is a functionally autonomous body of the European Union, separate from the General Secretariat of the Council and from the Commission. It is treated as an institution for the purposes of the Financial Regulation and therefore subject to the procedure of discharge provided for in Article 319 of the TFEU and in Article 263 of the Financial Regulation.

It is placed under the authority of the High Representative/Vice-President (HRVP) of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms Federica Mogherini, who is invited to the CONT meeting for a discharge hearing with Members on the implementation of EEAS budget and activities during the financial year 2018.

In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions addressed to the EEAS were sent on 8 October 2019. The answers received from the EEAS were e-mailed to the CONT Members on 29 October 2019 and are available on the [CONT website](#).

The questionnaire mainly deals with the following issues: the evolution of human resources, the EEAS building policy, the breakdown of various costs, transparency and control related issues as well as the follow-up of previous discharge procedure.

According to the observations of the ECA's annual report related to Chapter 10 'administration', no specific issues were reported for the EEAS for the second year in a row and no material levels of error were identified in the EEAS annual activity report and governance arrangement.

## Committee on Budgetary Control

The documents are available on [CONT website](#), of particular relevance for the hearing as regards the 2018 EEAS discharge are:

- The ECA's 2018 Annual Report, Chapter 10;
- The EEAS 2018 Annual Activity Report;
- The EEAS Budgetary and Financial Management Report;
- The EEAS report on the follow-up to the discharge 2017.

It is proposed that the discharge hearing will proceed as follows:

- introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, Mr Pietro Russo, who will present the findings of the ECA Annual Report 2018;
- High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini will briefly reply to this introduction and present the EEAS's achievements;
- CONT Rapporteur Tomáš Zdechovský and other Members will question the HR/VP and/or the ECA;
- 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 11 2020

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

[Procedure file](#)



**Exchange of views with Neven Mimica, Commissioner responsible for International Cooperation & Development, in the presence of Baudilio Tomé Muguruza, 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)

MFF heading "Global Europe" covers expenditures on all external actions (foreign policy) funded by the European Union general budget.

The main Commission Directorates-general involved in implementing the external action budget are the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), the Directorate-General for

## Committee on Budgetary Control

Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), the Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI).

In 2018, payments for 'Global Europe' amounted to 9,5 billion euros and were disbursed using several instruments and delivery methods, in more than 150 countries

The number of transactions audited by the Court was not sufficient to estimate the level of error.

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 9;
- The Commission's follow-up report COM (2019) 334 final; and
- The Annual Activity Reports of DGs DEVCO.

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 19 November 2019 and e-mailed to Members on the same day. Questions concern, in particular, the following issues: residual error rate study; management of investment facilities and trust funds; African peace facility; external dimension of the migration policy and External Assistance and Management Report (EAMR).

The Secretariat expects to receive the answers from the Commission on 26 November 2019 and email them to Members on the same day, these will be available on the [CONT website](#).

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commissioner proceeds 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 in charge will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur and 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

## 5. DISCHARGE 2018: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - 8TH, 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUNDS (EDFs)

[Procedure file](#)



**Exchange of views with Neven Mimica, Commissioner responsible for International Cooperation & Development, in the presence of Baudilio Tomé Muguruza, ECA Member**

Rapporteur: [Michèle Rivasi](#) (Greens)  
Administrators: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: David Lega (EPP), Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D), Luisa Porritt (RE), Joachim Hans Kuhs (ID) Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)

The European Development Fund (EDF) is the main instrument for providing European Union aid for development cooperation to the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and Overseas Countries and Territories. The EDFs are funded by the Member States, governed by their own financial regulations and managed outside the framework of the EU general budget.

Following the usual procedure, Members submitted their written questions related to the 2018 EDF discharge to the rapporteur on 18 November 2019. The questions were sent to the European Commission on 19 November 2019. The replies from the European Commission should be e-mailed to CONT Members on 26 November 2019 and will be available on the [CONT website](#).

The questionnaire addresses, *inter alia*, the weaknesses of the EDFs financial implementation, the EDF investment strategy, the management of budget support, the EDF value for money and the human rights dimension in the implementation of the EDF .

According to the findings of the ECA 2018 Annual Report related to the activities funded by the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th EDFs (JO C 340 of 8.10.2019), the expenditure for the financial year 2018 is materially affected by error and the testing of transactions produced an estimated overall level of error of 5,2%.

The documents are published in the [CONT website](#) and of particular relevance for the hearing as regards the 2018 EDF discharge are:

- The ECA's 2018 Annual Report on the activities funded by the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th EDFs;
- The 2018 Annual Activity Report for DG DEVCO;
- The annual accounts of the EDF 2018.

## Committee on Budgetary Control

It is proposed that the exchange of views shall proceed as follows:

- introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, Mr Baudilio Tomé Muguruza who will present the findings of the ECA Annual Report 2018;
- Commissioner Neven Mimica will briefly reply to this introduction and present 2018 main achievements in the area of EDF's cooperation aid;
- CONT Rapporteur Michèle Rivasi and 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. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## 7. NEXT MEETINGS

- 4 December 2019, 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)
- 4 December 2019, 14.30 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 5 December 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](#)
- 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

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Email: [Policy Department Webpage](#)

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