

Directorate for Budgetary Affairs
Secretariat of the Committee on Budgetary Control

Practical arrangements for the 2022 Parliament's discharge

The Parliament's discharge starts with a written and oral follow-up hearing for the preceding discharge resolution in the presence of the previous year's Rapporteur and the Parliament's Secretary-General (September of year n+1).

This follow-up hearing for the preceding discharge resolution is prepared by written replies to and actions taken on the Parliament discharge resolution of the previous year, which are sent to Members one week ahead of the hearing.

Questionnaire

With a view to prepare the exchange of views (November of year n+1) with the Parliament's Secretary-General, the Parliament's Vice-President responsible for Budget, the Internal Auditor and the Director for the Authority of European Political Parties and Foundations, CONT Members have the possibility to raise written questions related to the implementation of the Parliament's budget concerning year n (2022).

Written questions from Members should be inserted into a pre-defined list of chapters/topics in order to facilitate the consolidation and the clarity of the final questionnaire to be sent to Parliament's Services.

Due to the tight timeline, questions and answers will be in English only.

There is only one round of questions ahead of the November exchange of views.

Members are encouraged to raise strategic written questions, focused on the concrete discharge year or related to it, real discharge concerns, and on key priority topics; repetition of old cases over several years should be avoided.

Each Coordinator will collect the questions of the Members of her/his group, and will ensure their compilation and review. Then Coordinators forward them to CONT Secretariat, which provides a quality and consistency check of the questions raised and organises them into a draft questionnaire.

The draft questionnaire is then sent by CONT Secretariat to the rapporteur, who may decide, after informal consultation of shadow rapporteurs, to remove some questions in order to better focus on strategic and priority discharge issues.

Afterwards, the final questionnaire, under the responsibility of the rapporteur, is sent to the Parliament's Secretary-General and DG for Finance, which coordinates replies from Parliament's services. Written replies are circulated one week prior to the November exchange of views with the Parliament's Secretary-General, the Parliament's Vice-President for Budget, the Internal Auditor and the Director of the Authority for European Political Parties and European Political Foundations.