

## **Practical arrangements for the 2022 Commission's discharge: Hearings of Commissioners**

### **Timetable**

As attached in Annex I.

### **Written questions before the hearing**

Before each hearing, written questions will be posed. The number of questions should be appropriate to allow the Commission to provide answers of high quality given the short deadlines. Following the latest discussions in the CCC, questions should be kept to the remit of CONT and not exclusively concern the areas of competence of other Committees. Such questions will be answered in writing. They should be clearly related to the implementation of the budget in 2022. The replies by the Commissioner should allow for a thorough preparation of the hearing.

Written questions will be submitted to the Commission **ten** working days before the hearing. The Commission will provide written answers to the committee **three** working days before the meeting at the latest. In the event that the hearing falls on a Monday afternoon, the replies are expected on the preceding Wednesday at noon. Due to the tight timeline, questions and answers will be in English only.<sup>1</sup>

### **Duration of the hearing**

Approximately 90 minutes per Commissioner.

### **Place of the hearings**

The hearings of Commissioners are expected to take place in situ in the Parliament.

### **Procedure during the hearing**

Introduction by the European Court of Auditors, which submits its findings according to its annual and special reports. (max. 7 minutes)

The Commissioner may make a brief presentation of the Commission's replies to these findings (5 minutes max.) (No general statement).

The EP Rapporteur puts questions and the Commissioner replies.

The shadow rapporteurs put their questions to the Commissioner. If time allows, the ping-pong system will be applied for questions and answers.

This first round of questions can be followed by a second round of questions open to other Members, if time allows. This concerns in particular the Chairs and Rapporteurs of opinion-

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<sup>1</sup> Exceptionally, for the hearings taking place on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 November, additional time for questions and answers is needed because of the preceding public holidays (1 and 2 November)/ autumn break. For these hearings, the deadline to submit questions to the Commission will be Thursday 12 October.

giving Committees that are, in accordance with rule 56.8 ROP, invited in an advisory capacity to the hearing.

Winding up comments by ECA, the Commissioner and the Rapporteur.

### **After the hearing**

Supplementary documents and/or written answers to questions that could not be replied during the hearing should be provided within **five** working days. They should be sent to the CONT Secretariat, which will forward them to all CONT Members.

On an exceptional basis, written follow-up questions and answers may be agreed during the hearing, if requested by consensus of the rapporteur, shadow rapporteurs and the Chair.

### **General correspondence**

Any information submitted to the Secretariat and/ or Rapporteur (such as technical comments from the Commission) will be circulated to the shadow rapporteurs.