

NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, 04 MARCH 2024
16:00 - 19:00

BRUSSELS, SPINELLI 1G-3

Monday, 04 March 2024, 16:00 - 17:45

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair draws attention to the following points:

Interpretation was requested in the following languages:

DE EN FR IT EL ES PT FI HU PL SK RO and HR.

Webstreaming

The meeting will be webstreamed and can be followed [live](#).

Adoption of Coordinators' recommendations

The Coordinators' recommendations from the Coordinators meeting of 22 February 2024 were circulated to the Members on 27 February 2024.

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

*** *Voting time* ***

3. 2022 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CONT/9/12735

[2023/2129\(DEC\)](#)



PR – PE753.552v01-00
AM – PE758.989v01-00
AM – PE758.988v01-00

Adoption of draft report

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

Administrators: Hans Stander and Benoit Lefort

Shadow Rapporteurs: **Monika Hohlmeier** (EPP) **Olivier Chastel** (Renew), **Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel** (Greens/EFA), **Ryszard Czarnecki** (ECR), **Joachim Kuhs** (ID), **Luke Ming Flanagan** (The Left)

Opinions: AFET, DEVE, EMPL, ENVI, TRAN, REGI, AGRI, CULT, LIBE, FEMM

CONT Members tabled 364 amendments to the draft report, resulting in around 50 compromise amendments that cover the main areas of the report, including its political priorities, and observations and recommendations concerning the MFF and RRF. In a shadows meeting on 27 February, the most important Compromise Amendments were discussed.

Under the Political Priorities, the Members draw attention to the fact that in 2022, the flexibility in the EU Budget was exhausted to address multiple events, mainly caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine: support for Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees, addressing the EU's dependency on Russian fossil fuels, energy supply and risks for food supply. They commend EU action and call to maintain these flexibilities to address future crises. They however also draw attention to the fact that there is enormous pressure on the EU Budget, also because of the need to repay the debt resulting from RRF related borrowing.

As regards the MFF, the Members consider the adverse opinion of the Court on the legality and regularity of expenditure to be problematic, as did the Council in its recommendations on the discharge. Considerable attention is given to the increasing divide between the Court and Commission in, respectively, the error rate (4,2 %) and risk at payment (1,9 %) that, though based on different methodologies, should present a similar picture of compliance of EU expenditure with applicable rules and regulations. The amendments to be voted also draw attention to the Hamas attacks on 7 October and its repercussions for EU funding.

As regards the RRF, the report acknowledges the positive impact the Facility has had on the recovery after the COVID-19 crisis and the first steps made to create a more resilient Union. At the same time it echoes the findings of the Court as regards milestones and targets that the Court did not consider as satisfactorily fulfilled and the qualified opinion of the Court on the related expenditure. Unclear and vaguely defined milestones and targets have contributed to this, as well as the novel implementation method that required new methodologies to be developed and experience to be gained. The Committee calls on the Commission to learn the lessons from the new performance based approach and to implement those lessons in new instruments, such as the Ukraine Facility and the Western Balkans Facility.

The draft report is available on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Vote	CONT	4 March 2024
Vote	Plenary	April I 2024

DISCHARGE 2022: AGENCIES

4. DISCHARGE 2022: REPORT ON DISCHARGE IN RESPECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022: PERFORMANCE, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

CONT/9/12985 [2023/2182\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.545v01-00 AM – PE757.250v01-00

5. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR ASYLUM (BEFORE 19.1.2022 THE EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE)

CONT/9/12966 [2023/2164\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.532v01-00 AM – PE757.240v01-00

6. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN UNION AVIATION SAFETY AGENCY

CONT/9/12926 [2023/2145\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.511v01-00 AM – PE757.215v01-00

7. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN BANKING AUTHORITY

CONT/9/12928 [2023/2146\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.513v01-00 AM – PE757.216v01-00

8. 2022 DISCHARGE: AGENCY FOR SUPPORT FOR BEREC (BEREC OFFICE)

CONT/9/12916 [2023/2141\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.507v01-00 AM – PE757.211v01-00

9. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

CONT/9/12982 [2023/2172\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.543v01-00 AM – PE757.249v01-00

10. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

CONT/9/12932 [2023/2148\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.516v01-00 AM – PE757.218v01-00

11. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR THE COOPERATION OF ENERGY REGULATORS (ACER)

CONT/9/12914 [2023/2140\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.506v01-00 AM – PE757.210v01-00

12. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE COOPERATION (EUROJUST)

CONT/9/12974 [2023/2168\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.539v01-00 AM – PE757.244v01-00

13. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING (CEDEFOP)

CONT/9/12921 [2023/2143\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.509v01-00 AM – PE757.213v01-00

14. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

CONT/9/12930 [2023/2147\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.515v01-00 AM – PE757.217v01-00

15. 2022 DISCHARGE: ENISA (EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR CYBERSECURITY)

CONT/9/12956 [2023/2159\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.527v01-00 AM – PE757.229v01-00

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16. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

CONT/9/12934 [2023/2149\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.517v01-00 AM – PE757.219v01-00

17. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN FISHERIES CONTROL AGENCY

CONT/9/12936 [2023/2150\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.518v01-00 AM – PE757.220v01-00

18. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

CONT/9/12938 [2023/2151\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.519v01-00 AM – PE757.221v01-00

19. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS (EUROFOUND)

CONT/9/12972 [2023/2167\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.538v01-00 AM – PE757.243v01-00

20. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

CONT/9/12980 [2023/2171\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.542v01-00 AM – PE757.248v01-00

21. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

CONT/9/12940 [2023/2152\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.520v01-00 AM – PE757.222v01-00

22. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

CONT/9/12945 [2023/2154\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.522v01-00 AM – PE757.224v01-00

23. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN INSURANCE AND OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS AUTHORITY

CONT/9/12942 [2023/2153\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.521v01-00 AM – PE757.223v01-00

24. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN LABOUR AUTHORITY (ELA)

CONT/9/12947 [2023/2155\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.523v01-00 AM – PE757.225v01-00

25. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION (EUROPOL)

CONT/9/12976 [2023/2169\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.540v01-00 AM – PE757.246v01-00

26. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING (CEPOL)

CONT/9/12924 [2023/2144\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.510v01-00 AM – PE757.214v01-00

27. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY

CONT/9/12954 [2023/2158\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.526v01-00 AM – PE757.228v01-00

28. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY

CONT/9/12949 [2023/2156\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.524v01-00 AM – PE757.226v01-00

29. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN MONITORING CENTRE FOR DRUGS AND DRUG ADDICTION

CONT/9/12951 [2023/2157\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.525v01-00 AM – PE757.227v01-00

30. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR THE OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF LARGE-SCALE IT SYSTEMS IN THE AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE (EU-LISA)

CONT/9/12968 [2023/2165\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.534v01-00 AM – PE757.241v01-00

31. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR RAILWAYS

CONT/9/12958 [2023/2160\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.528v01-00 AM – PE757.230v01-00

32. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK (EU-OSHA)

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CONT/9/12970 [2023/2166\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.535v01-00 AM – PE757.242v01-00

33. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN SECURITIES AND MARKETS AUTHORITY

CONT/9/12962 [2023/2162\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.530v01-00 AM – PE757.238v01-00

34. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR THE SPACE PROGRAMME

CONT/9/12978 [2023/2170\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.541v01-00 AM – PE757.247v01-00

35. 2022 DISCHARGE: EURATOM SUPPLY AGENCY

CONT/9/12960 [2023/2161\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.529v01-00 AM – PE757.231v01-00

36. 2022 DISCHARGE: EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION

CONT/9/12964 [2023/2163\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.531v01-00 AM – PE757.239v01-00

37. 2022 DISCHARGE: TRANSLATION CENTRE FOR THE BODIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

CONT/9/12919 [2023/2142\(DEC\)](#) PR – PE753.508v01-00 AM – PE757.212v01-00

Adoption of draft reports



Rapporteur: [Petri Sarvamaa](#) (EPP)
Administrators: Marius Cobianu and Susana Delmas Costa

Shadow Rapporteurs:

Sándor Rónai (S&D)

Renew: **Ramona Strugariu** (CEPOL, EMCDDA, EUAA, eu-LISA, EUROJUST, EUROPOL, FRA, Frontex); **Alin Mituța** (EBA, ELA, ETF, EU-OSHA); **Gilles Boyer** (EIOPA, ESMA); **Katalin Cseh** (ACER, BEREC, ECDC, ECHA, EEA, EFSA, EIT, EMA, ENISA, ESA-EURATOM, EUSPA); **Ilana Cicurel** (Cedefop, CdT, EFCA, EIGE, EMSA, Eurofound); **Olivier Chastel** (EASA, ERA, Horizontal report)

Bas Eickhout (Greens/EFA)

Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR)

Joachim Kuhs (ID)

Younous Omarjee (The Left)

For the 2022 discharge of the EU Agencies, the Rapporteur tabled 34 draft reports, which were considered in Committee on 1 February 2024. A total of 285 amendments (a drop from 359 for the previous discharge exercise) were tabled to the draft reports. A total of 25 opinions from other committees have also been received.

Amendments were related to gender and geographical balance, encouraging the agencies to pursue a better representation in particular among senior management, and to efficiency gains (including with regard to energy and climate neutrality), digitalisation, performance, and staff policy, among others.

In preparation for the vote in Committee, the Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs have worked on a number of compromise amendments that will be put to the vote, aimed at reaching political consensus on topics, and a clear, structured text in the final reports. The final reports will be voted in Plenary during the session of April I.

All language versions of the draft reports and the reference documents can be consulted on the [CONT website](#).

CONT timetable

Event	Body	Date
Vote	CONT	4 March 2024
Vote	Plenary	April I 2024

38.2022 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EDF (8TH, 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH)

CONT/9/13028

[2023/2183\(DEC\)](#)

PR – PE753.512v01-00

AM – PE758.971v01-00



Adoption of draft report

Rapporteur: [Joachim Kuhs](#) (ID)

Administrator: Ana Maria Nogueira

Shadow Rapporteurs: **Caterina Chinnici** (EPP), **Isabel García Muñoz** (S&D), **Olivier Chastel** (Renew), **François Thiollet** (Greens/EFA), **Ryszard Czarnecki** (ECR), **Younous Omarjee** (The Left)

Opinion: DEVE

On 5 October 2023, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) issued an unqualified (“clean”) opinion on the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions for the financial year 2022 for the 9th, 10th and 11th European Development Funds (EDFs), as well as observed various matters needing improvement.

On 29 November 2023, in the framework of the 2022 discharge procedure, the CONT Committee held an exchange of views with Commissioner Urpilainen responsible for International Partnerships in the presence of ECA reporting member Baudilio Tomé Muguruza.

On 1 February 2024, during the consideration of the draft, echoing the ECA's main observations, the Rapporteur stressed the need to: (a) check that accounting balances for closed EDFs are cleared in a timely manner; (b) ensure that pre-financing and invoices are cleared in a timely manner in the annual accounts; (c) take measures to improve EU delegations' control systems for the clearing of pre-financing; (d) reiterate the obligation to comply with VAT rules and carry out appropriate checks; (e) strengthen ex ante controls before accepting expenditure and (f) improve the RER (residual error rate) methodology and verify its proper application.

On 25 January 2024, the Committee on Development (DEVE) delivered an opinion on the EDFs 2022 discharge exercise for which Mr Antoni Comín i Oliveres was Rapporteur.

Fourty amendments were tabled to the draft report. Amendments tabled concerned among others, the need for cooperation between the public and private sectors to address poverty, respect for the rule of law and the need for transparency and accountability for all entities involved in the implementation of the EDFs and increase the fight against corruption. Amendments also specifically re-iterated the Court's criticism on the study on the Residual Error Rate by the Commission.

The Court of Auditor's report and other background documents (including DG's annual activity reports, final accounts, etc.) can be found on the CONT website. All language versions of the draft report and the reference documents can be consulted on the [CONT website](#).

CONTTime table

Event	Body	Date
Vote	CONT	04 March 2024
Vote	Plenary	April I 2024

*** End of voting time ***

39. STUDY ON FUTURE OF DIGITALISATION OF BUDGETARY CONTROL

CONT/9/14271

Presentation of the study by the authors followed by an exchange of views

CONT Administrators: Fernando Gallego Osuna and Christelle Courtade

PolDep Administrators: Alexandra Pouwels and Andras Schwarcz

This study explores new technological developments that are or could be applied in the field of budgetary control and how these could be used to limit the prevention of fraud and corruption and ensure sound financial management of EU funds. New technological developments covered by the study include big data analytics, artificial intelligence, digital platforms, robotic process automation, distributed ledger technologies (blockchain) and satellite imagery. This document was prepared by the Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services (CSES) at the request of the European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control.



The digitalisation process and the development of IT technologies in recent years have unveiled new possibilities in different fields. In the field of budgetary control, these innovative technologies contribute to strengthening the prevention and detection of irregularities, including cases of fraud, corruption and the misuse of funds and thus, reinforce the protection of EU financial interests. It is therefore of utmost importance to explore these new frontiers.

In this context, this study has explored how new technologies currently used in the field of budgetary control; what new developments can be expected in the field of budgetary control; and, how these could

be used to protect the budget of the Union in general, including but not limited to the prevention of fraud and corruption, the sound financial management of EU funds and the protection of the Union's budget.

Despite progress in fraud prevention and detection, persistent gaps in understanding fraud's extent and motivations highlight the need for more robust protections for the EU budget. The emphasis is on digitalization as a key strategy, with the European Commission pushing for 'digital by default' practices. However, uneven adoption of digital tools across Member States, due to factors like low awareness and privacy concerns, calls for enhanced efforts in tool development and mandatory usage to ensure effective financial management.

Key recommendations include improving and mandating EU digital tools for budgetary control, such as ARACHNE, EDES, and IMS, to foster better interoperability and data quality. Enhanced awareness and training are advocated to increase tool effectiveness and adoption. The document also proposes exploring data-driven technologies, like machine learning and AI, through pilot projects to advance budgetary controls and reduce fraud. It suggests mutual learning and sharing of best practices to facilitate the adoption of innovative technologies across Member States.

Furthermore, the document acknowledges challenges in technology implementation, advocating for common standards and a code of conduct to ensure ethical use. It recommends thorough cost-benefit analysis before deploying new technologies and calls for regular monitoring of technological advancements to adapt and improve EU budgetary control mechanisms effectively.

The recommendations of the study aim for a comprehensive approach to safeguarding the EU budget, leveraging digital tools and new technologies to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability in fund management.

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40. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

41. NEXT MEETINGS

- 20 March 2024 (Brussels)
- 09 April 2024, joint CONT-LIBE (Brussels)

PAPERLESS PROGRAMME (INTERNAL USERS ONLY)

Access CONT committee meeting documents on [eMeeting](#) or any CONT committee information on [eCommittee](#)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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NEWS FROM POLICY DEPARTMENT - BUDGETARY AFFAIRS

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Publications Catalogue 2019 - 2023](#)

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 Briefing [“Preventing EU funds from ending up with individuals or companies tied to the EU-Russia sanctions list”](#)

BUDG

Study [“The impacts of recent inflation developments on the EU finances”](#)
 Briefing [“ITER financing by the EU budget - state-of-play”](#)
 Briefing [“An estimate of the European Union's long-term borrowing cost bill”](#)
 Briefing [“Gender budgeting in the Member States”](#)
 At a Glance [“Options for a stronger and more agile EU budget”](#)
 Study [“Options for a stronger and more agile EU budget”](#)
 Briefing [“Ukraine: Financing of reconstruction and the role of the EU budget”](#)
 Briefing [“Budgetary aspects of EU defence policy”](#)
 In-Depth Analysis [“Recovery and Resilience Dialogue with the European Commission”](#)

Committee on Budgetary Control

Briefing [“EU Financial assistance to Africa and Latin America 2021-2027”](#)

Briefing [“Human and Financial Resources in Decentralised EU Agencies”](#)

In-Depth Analysis [“The rising cost of European Union borrowing and what to do about it”](#)

Briefing [“Statistical own resources: Examples of the gender pay gap and food waste”](#)

At a Glance [“The tools for protecting the EU budget from breaches of the rule of law: the Conditionality Regulation in context”](#)

Briefing [“Financial impact of the war in Ukraine: current and future challenges for the EU budget”](#)

Study [“The tools for protecting the EU budget from breaches of the rule of law the Conditionality Regulation in context”](#)

Briefing [“EU external action and crisis response: is the EU budget fit for purpose?”](#)

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

BUDG

Study “Contingent liabilities for the EU budget: an updated appraisal”

Study “The performance framework for the EU budget: further steps towards the mainstreaming of horizontal priorities and for delivering an outcome/impact-oriented approach”

CONT

Study “Lessons learned from the implementation of crisis response tools inside the EU, from a budgetary control point of view”

Study “The future of digitalisation of budgetary control”

Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs - poldep-budg@ep.europa.eu

Policy Department Webpage: <https://poldepnet.in.ep.europa.eu/home/budgetary-affairs/presentation-of-poldep-d.html>

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