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| Европейски парламент  2019-2024 |  |

<Commission>{CONT}Комисия по бюджетен контрол</Commission>

CONT(2019)0724\_1

ПРОТОКОЛ

Заседание от 24 юли 2019 г., 9.00 − 12.30 ч. и 14.30 − 18.30 ч.

Заседателна зала: „Йожеф Антал“ (6Q2)

БРЮКСЕЛ

Заседанието беше открито в 9.05 ч., сряда, 24 юли 2019 г., под председателството на Моника Холмайер (председател).

**24 юли 2019 г., 9.00 – 12.30 ч.**

***При закрити врати***

**1.** **Заседание на координаторите**

Резюмето на препоръките на координаторите е приложено към настоящия протокол.

\* \* \*

**24 юли 2019 г., 14.30 – 18.30 ч.**

**2.** **Приемане на дневния ред**

Проектът на дневен ред беше приет във вида, отразен в настоящия протокол.

**3.** **Съобщения на председателя**

**4.** **Технически семинар относно вътрешноинституционалното и междуинституционалното сътрудничество в областта на бюджетния контрол**

Изказаха се: Моника Холмайер, Анри Гретен (член на ЕСП), Лазарос С. Лазару (член на ЕСП), Мартин Вебер (директор, ЕСП), Йоахим Кус, Ангелика Винциг, Томаш Здеховски, Мартина Длабайова, Роза Алдеа Бускетс (ГД „Бюджет“), Йохан Урел (ГД „Бюджет“), Оливие Шастел, Ангелика Винциг, Нилс Фишер (тематичен отдел ,,Г“), Рудолфс Вердинс (тематичен отдел ,,Г“), Вера Миличевич (тематичен отдел ,,Г“), Алесандро Д’Алфонсо (EPRS) и Рон Корвер (EPRS).

**5.** **Размяна на мнения относно приоритетите на комисията CONT за деветия парламентарен мандат**

Изказаха се: Моника Холмайер, Оливие Шастел, Томаш Здеховски, Йоахим Кус.

**6.** **Разни въпроси**

**7.** **Следващи заседания**

 4 септември 2019 г., 14.30 – 18.30 ч. (Брюксел)

 25 септември 2019 г., 9.00 – 12.30 ч. и 14.30 – 18.30 ч.

 26 септември 2019 г., 9.00 – 12.30 ч.

ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/ ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/ LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRS/DALYVIŲ SĄRAŠAS/ JELENLÉTI ÍV/REĠISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/ LISTĂ DE PREZENŢĂ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

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| Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedníctvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (\*) |
| Monika Hohlmeier, Isabel García Muñoz, Caterina Chinnici, Martina Dlabajová, Tamás Deutsch |
| Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselõk/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputaţi/Jäsenet/Ledamöter |
| Matteo Adinolfi, Olivier Chastel, Lefteris Christoforou, Ryszard Czarnecki, Martina Dlabajová, Luke Ming Flanagan, Daniel Freund, Michael Heaver, Joachim Kuhs, Claudiu Manda, Tsvetelina Penkova, Markus Pieper, Sabrina Pignedoli, Angelika Winzig, Lara Wolters, Tomáš Zdechovský |
| Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanţi/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter |
| Gilles Boyer, Maria Grapini, Niclas Herbst, David Lega, Mikuláš Peksa, Sándor Rónai, Viola Von Cramon‑Taubadel, Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez |

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| 56 (8) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/ Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Točka dnevnog reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkės punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Aġenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt) | |
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| Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/ Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/ Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer |
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| По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l’invitation du président/ Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina taċ-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitaţia preşedintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan |
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| Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/ Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (\*) | |
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| Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/ Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (\*) | |
| Rosa Aldea Busquets (DG BUDG), Johan Ureel (DG BUDG) | |
| Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/ Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Druge institucije/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/ Más intézmények/Istituzzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituţii/Iné inštitúcie/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ | |
| ECA | Henri Grethen (Member), Lazaros S Lazarou, (Member), Martin Weber (Director for Presidency), |

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| Други участници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Drugi sudionici/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Parteċipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alţi participanţi/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare |
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| Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/ Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/ Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Segretarjat gruppi politiċi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/ Gruppernas sekretariat | |
| PPE  S&D  Renew  Verts/ALE  ID  ECR  GUE/NGL  NI | Balazc Széchy, Edyta Tarczynska  Hélène Beaghe  Dominykas Mordas  Robert Godina  Elisa Reschini  Mariana Lorenzano |

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| Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Ured predsjednika/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Preşedinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli | |
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| Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/ Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Ģenerālsekretāra kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/ Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/ Generalsekreterarens kansli | |
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| Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Ģenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/ Direttorat Ġenerali/Directoraten‑generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcţii Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat | |
| DG PRES  DG IPOL  DG EXPO  DG EPRS  DG COMM  DG PERS  DG INLO  DG TRAD  DG LINC  DG FINS  DG ITEC  DG SAFE | Monika Strasser, Niels Fischer, Rudolfs Verdins and Vera Milicevic  Alessandro D'Alfonso and Ron Korver |

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| Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Õigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/ Service juridique/Pravna služba/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/ Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten |
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| Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/ Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Segretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/ Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet |
| Evelyn Waldherr, Cécile Bourgault, Christian Ehlers, Philippe Godts, Charlotte Kutzenberger, Benoit Lefort, Olivier Sautière |
| Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padėjėjas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenter |
| Veronika Patyi-Horvath |

\* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/ Pirmininkas/Elnök/'Chairman'/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande

(VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/ Vice‑Chair(wo)man/Potpredsjednik/Vice‑Président/Potpredsjednik/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/ Viċi 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/ Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande

(M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Član/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/ Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot

(F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Dužnosnik/ Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Uffiċjal/Ambtenaar/Urzędnik/Funcionário/Funcţionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/ Tjänsteman

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| **European Parliament**  2019 - 2023 |  |

*Committee on Budgetary Control  
- The Secretariat -*

**COORDINATORS' MEETING**

**Wednesday, 24 July 2019**

**Brussels, Meeting room JAN 6Q**

**Summary of Recommendations**

*24 July 2019*

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[2. Allocation of legislative and non-legislative reports and opinions 9](#_Toc16092493)

[3. ECA special reports and other products 9](#_Toc16092494)

[4. Resumption of business 10](#_Toc16092495)

[4.1. Pending reports from the 8th legislative term 10](#_Toc16092496)

[4.1.1. Protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States - 10](#_Toc16092497)

[4.1.2. Investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) as regards cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the effectiveness of OLAF investigations 10](#_Toc16092498)

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[4.2.1. Discharge 2017: General budget of the EU - Council and European Council 11](#_Toc16092501)

[4.2.2. Discharge 2017: European Asylum Support Office (EASO) - 11](#_Toc16092502)

[4.3. Pending MFF opinions from the 8th legislative term 11](#_Toc16092503)

[During the preceding legislature, CONT adopted two opinions addressed to BUDG on the MFF: the first one related to the consultation paper issued by the Commission before the MFF proposal was made (opinion by Petri Sarvamaa, EPP), and the second one concerned the interim report drafted by BUDG on the proposals for the MFF and the decision on own resources (opinion Ines Ayala Sender, S&D/Gerbrandy, ALDE). The MFF proposal and the proposal concerning the implementation measures for the own resources will be adopted by consent. Two other proposals concerning the own resources will be adopted via the consultation procedure. 11](#_Toc16092504)

[4.4. EPPO - Appointment of European Public Prosecutor - joint procedure with LIBE committee 12](#_Toc16092505)

[5. Decisions on new procedures 13](#_Toc16092506)

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[6. Calendar of committee meetings - July-December 2019 14](#_Toc16092511)

[7. Calendar of discharge 2018 procedure and Practical arrangements for Commission discharge 14](#_Toc16092512)

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[10. Missions 14](#_Toc16092515)

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[12. Networks 15](#_Toc16092517)

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[Items for information 16](#_Toc16092520)

[15. CONT working methods 16](#_Toc16092521)

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[19.1. The calendar of Commissioners-designate hearings 16](#_Toc16092526)

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[20. Time and date of next Coordinators' meeting: 17](#_Toc16092528)

# Items for decision

## 1. Allocation of discharge reports, EIB and PIF annual reports for the 9th term

It was proposed to distribute all discharge reports, as well as PIF and EIB annual reports for the entire 9th legislative term: five financial years starting from 2018 to 2022.

The allocation of discharge reports was based on a points system following CONT standard practice established in previous terms.

**Decision:** Coordinators decided on the allocation of discharge, EIB and PIF reports for the entire 9th legislative term as presented in the below table:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Discharge reports** | **Year 2018** | **Year 2019** | **Year 2020** | **Year 2021** | **Year 2022** |
| **Commission** | Chair | ID | Renew | EPP | SD |
| **Parliament** | SD | EPP | Greens | SD | EPP |
| **Other Institutions** | EPP | SD | Renew | Greens | GUE |
| **Agencies** | ECR | ECR | EPP | Renew | EPP |
| **Joint Undertakings** | ECR | ECR | ECR | ECR | Renew |
| **EDF** | Greens | ECR | GUE | EPP | ID |
| **Annual reports** | **Year 2018** | **Year 2019** | **Year 2020** | **Year 2021** | **Year 2022** |
| **PIF report** | ID | Renew | SD | GUE | SD |
| **EIB report** | Greens | Greens | SD | EPP | Greens |

## 2. Allocation of legislative and non-legislative reports and opinions

In the past, CONT used to allocate legislative and non-legislative reports and opinions as well as reports on the appointments/renewal of the ECA members following the sector allocation.

It was proposed to coordinators to discuss if this method of allocation should be maintained or if a different system by fixed price or auction system might be considered.

**Decision:**  The item was postponed to the next coordinators’ meeting.

## 3. ECA special reports and other products

Coordinators were invited

- to exchange views proposed options regarding the different selections choices, cooperation with other committees and follow-up to presentation of special reports;

- to decide which system should be used for the allocation and selection of special reports and on the allocation of sectors to political groups;

- to decide on the follow-up to be given to presentations, the treatment of working documents related to ECA special reports;

- to decide on the treatment of Commission discharge Volume II report;

- to take a decision on how to deal with the “backlog” of ECA special reports (publication from April to July 2019).

**Decision:** The item was postponed to the next coordinators’ meeting.

## 4. Resumption of business

## 4.1. Pending reports from the 8th legislative term

According to Rule 240, “*At the beginning of each parliamentary term, the Conference of Presidents shall take a decision on reasoned requests from parliamentary committees and other institutions to resume or continue the consideration of […] unfinished business.*”

The committee will have to continue its work on several files where Parliament has adopted its first-reading position during the previous term.

Negotiations for a first reading agreement have not started in any of these cases, trilogue meetings cannot be started until further guidance is received from the Conference of Presidents, which is expected in September 2019.

### 4.1.1. Protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States -

2018/0136(COD) COM(2018)0324

The Commission published the legislative proposal on 2 May 2018 [COM(2018)0324](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2018/0324/COM_COM(2018)0324_EN.pdf).

The report was treated jointly by CONT and BUDG in accordance with Rule 54.

A first reading vote took place on 4 April 2019 in [plenary](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0349_EN.html?redirect); awaiting Council first reading position.

**Decision:** Coordinators agreed to resume business and EPP reconfirmed Petri Sarvamaa as rapporteur.

### 4.1.2. Investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) as regards cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the effectiveness of OLAF investigations

2018/0170(COD) COM(2018)0338

The Commission published the legislative proposal on 30 May 2018 [COM(2018)0338](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2018/0338/COM_COM(2018)0338_EN.pdf). A first reading vote took place on 16 April 2019 in [plenary](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0383_EN.html?redirect); awaiting Council first reading position.

**Decision:** Coordinators agreed to resume business. EPP was invited to nominate a new rapporteur.

### 4.1.3. EU Anti-Fraud Programme

The Commission published the legislative proposal on 30 May 2018 [COM(2018)0386](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2018/0386/COM_COM(2018)0386_EN.pdf)  A first reading vote took place on 12 February 2019 in [plenary](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0068_EN.html?redirect); awaiting Council first reading position.

**Decision:** Coordinators agreed to resume business. EPP was invited to nominate a new rapporteur.

## 4.2. Postponed 2017 discharge reports

### 4.2.1. Discharge 2017: General budget of the EU - Council and European Council

On 26 March 2019 the Plenary postponed the decision on granting the Secretary-General of the Council discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Council and of the Council for the financial year 2017.

Timetable proposed for a second draft report:

-4-5 September 2019: consideration of the draft report

-6 September 2019: deadline for amendments

-25-26 September: vote in CONT committee

-October II: plenary vote

**Decision:** Coordinators agreed to resume business. S&D confirmed Isabel Garcia Munoz as new rapporteur.

Coordinators approved the proposed timetable.

### 4.2.2. Discharge 2017: European Asylum Support Office (EASO) -

The Plenary vote that took place on 26 March 2019 postponed the decision on granting discharge to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) for the financial year 2017.

Timetable proposed for a second draft report:

-4-5 September 2019: hearing of the Executive-Director of EASO and consideration of the draft report

-6 September 2019: deadline for amendments

-25-26 September: vote in CONT committee

-October II: plenary vote

**Decision:** Coordinators agreed to resume business. EPP reconfirmed Petri Sarvamaa as rapporteur.

Coordinators approved the proposed timetable.

## 4.3. Pending MFF opinions from the 8th legislative term

## During the preceding legislature, CONT adopted two opinions addressed to BUDG on the MFF: the first one related to the consultation paper issued by the Commission before the MFF proposal was made (opinion by Petri Sarvamaa, EPP), and the second one concerned the interim report drafted by BUDG on the proposals for the MFF and the decision on own resources (opinion Ines Ayala Sender, S&D/Gerbrandy, ALDE). The MFF proposal and the proposal concerning the implementation measures for the own resources will be adopted by consent. Two other proposals concerning the own resources will be adopted via the consultation procedure.

## 4.4. EPPO - Appointment of European Public Prosecutor - joint procedure with LIBE committee

Under the Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 on the European Public Prosecutors Office (EPPO), the European Chief Prosecutor is set to head the European Public Prosecutor's Office. This is an independent office in charge of investigating, prosecuting and bringing to justice crimes against the budget of the European Union (EU). The European Chief Prosecutor is jointly appointed by common accord, by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

There are currently 22 Member States participating under enhanced cooperation. The EPPO is expected to start its operation in November 2020.

Following the selection procedure provided by the EPPO Regulation, the shortlisted candidates for the post of the European Chief Prosecutor were the following:

 Laura Codruţa KÖVESI (Romania).

 Jean-François BOHNERT (France), and

 Andrés RITTER (Germany)

The Council without hearing any of the candidates, selected Mr BOHNERT as preferred candidate.

On its side, the European Parliament put Ms KÖVESI first after having organised, on 26 February 2019 a full-fledged hearing of the three candidates by a joint meeting of the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). In a separate vote, both committees made an identical choice.

On 7 March 2019 the Conference of Presidents appointed the EP negotiating team to lead negotiations with the Council on the appointment and confirmed a negotiating mandate expressing support for Ms KÖVESI:

*“the Conference of Presidents has decided to endorse the LIBE and CONT Committees’ recommendation on the order of ranking following the hearing of the selected candidates and decided on Parliament’s mandate with a view to reaching a common accord with the Council on the appointment of the European Chief Prosecutor.* ***The negotiating team will be composed by Mr MORAES, Chair of the LIBE Committee, Ms GRÄSSLE, Chair of the CONT Committee, and Mrs SARGENTINI (Vice-Chair of the LIBE Committee).*** *President TAJANI will write to the Romanian Presidency on this. The matter will be referred back to the Conference of Presidents before concluding the negotiations with the Council.”*

Four meetings were held in Mars and April 2019 between the Council and EP negotiating teams. Due to the contrasting positions, the two institutions were not able to reach an agreement on the selected candidate. The negotiations with the Council should resume as soon as possible in order to allow EPPO to take up its investigative work as of autumn 2020.

**Decision:** Coordinators agreed to appoint CONT Chair, Ms Hohlmeier to be mandated by the CoP to lead the negotiations on behalf of CONT committee.

Coordinators approved a joint draft letter from CONT and LIBE Chairs to the President/CoP in view of the renewal of the EP negotiating team for the continuation of the negotiations with the Council.

## 5. Decisions on new procedures

## 5.1. Opinions referred to CONT

| **CONT Procedure reference** | **Title** | **Decision:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CONT/9/00544 | Opinion to BUDG  General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020 - all sections- 2019/2028(BUD) | S&D confirmed Corina Cretu as rapporteur. |

## 5.2. Own initiative reports

### 5.2.1. Annual report on the control of the financial activities of the EIB for 2018

With regard to its responsibilities in the control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank (Annex V, Chapter V, point 3 of the Rules), the Committee on Budgetary Control decided at its meeting of 29 May 2013 to further develop its relations with the EIB and to draw up an own initiative report on the EIB annual reports.

This own-initiative report falls under the category of Annual Activity and Monitoring Reports (Article 1(1) (d) and Annex I of the Compendium of Rules on the Procedure for granting authorisation to draw-up own-initiative reports - Decision of the Conference of Presidents of 12 December 2002.

**Decision:** Coordinators approved a draft letter to the CCC Chair requesting the authorisation of this own initiative report.

### 5.2.2. Annual Report 2018 on the Protection of the EU's Financial Interests - Fight against fraud

The Commission's annual reports on the protection of the Communities' financial interests have been the subject of parliamentary scrutiny for many years and play an important role in Parliament's discharge procedure. The OLAF annual reports are generally considered as complementary to the Commission's.

The Commission's annual report falls within the competences conferred on the Committee on Budgetary Control in Annex VI, Chapter V of Parliament's Rules of Procedure.

This initiative report will fall under category "Annual Activity and Monitoring Reports (as listed in Annex 1)" mentioned in Article 1 d) of the decision of the Conference of Presidents of 12 December 2002 on the procedure for granting authorisation to draw up own-initiative reports, and is subject to automatic authorisation.

This report is an out of quota own-initiative report.

**Decision:** Coordinators approved a draft letter to the CCC Chair requesting the authorisation of this own initiative report.

## 6. Calendar of committee meetings - July-December 2019

Coordinators received the calendar of committee meeting dates from July to December 2019 as approved by the CONT coordinators of the 8th term.

**Decision:** Coordinators confirmed the proposed calendar of CONT committee meetings for the 2nd half of 2019. (*Annex I* of this note)

## 7. Calendar of discharge 2018 procedure and Practical arrangements for Commission discharge

Coordinators received the proposed draft calendar for the 2018 discharge procedure (for all discharge files) and the practical arrangements in for the Commission discharge 2018.

**Decision:** Coordinators confirmed the proposed discharge 2018 calendar and the practical arrangements for the Commission discharge with the following changes:

- Exchange of view with Directors-General of DG AGRI, REGIO, HOME, DEVCO and Research

to be moved to the 25-26 September CONT meeting

- Addition of DG EMPL to the above list of Directors-General to be invited

- One additional hearing: Commissioner responsible for Employment

- AM deadline for all discharge reports: Wednesday, 29 January 2020, 14.00

The approved discharge calendar can be consulted in *Annex II* of this note.

## 8. Calendar and practical arrangements for Agencies discharge 2018 -

Coordinators will find in received the proposed draft calendar and practical arrangements specific to the 2018 agencies discharge procedure as well as the standard questionnaire to be sent to all agencies. On the basis of proposals made by political groups, the standard questionnaire used for discharge 2017 has been updated for 2018.

**Decision:** Coordinators

• confirmed the proposed draft calendar and practical arrangements specific to the 2018 agencies discharge procedure;

• approved the revised standard questionnaire amended on the basis of the drafting proposals from political groups.

The standard questionnaire will be sent to the Agencies' Network on 25 July 2019 with their replies requested by 12 September 2019. Members wishing to ask additional questions will have the possibility to do so during the second round of written questions by 18 October 2019.

## 9. Public hearings

Standing parliamentary committees may organise hearings of guests (experts/stakeholders) in connection with their work. Such hearings take place during the ordinary meeting time of the committee.

Coordinators’ attention was drawn to the list of public hearings organised during the 8th legislative term that can be consulted in the [Balance Sheet of CONT committee](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/163425/CONT_Draft%20balance%20sheet_8th%20term.pdf).

**Decision:** Coordinators were invited to communicate to the secretariat their proposals for public hearings for the first part of 2020 by **20 September 2019, 12.00.**

## 10. Missions

Standing parliamentary committees can organise missions outside the three places of work in connection to their powers and responsibilities. The annual quota for CONT is 25 Members.

Coordinators’ attention was drawn to the list of missions organised during the 8th legislative term that can be consulted in the [Balance Sheet of CONT committee](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/163425/CONT_Draft%20balance%20sheet_8th%20term.pdf)

Because of the workload related to the discharge procedure, the secretariat proposed to organise one mission only in the first half of 2020, which could take place in the week 21 of 2020 (turquoise week).

**Decision:** Coordinators decided to organise two missions during the 1st half of 2020: week 9 - February 2020 and week 21 - May 2020.

Coordinators were invited to communicate to the secretariat their proposal for these missions by **20 September 2019, 12.00.**

## 11. Annual meeting with European Court of Auditors

The Court of Auditors agreed, subject to CONT Coordinators decision, to hold the annual meeting with the Committee on Wednesday, 6 November 2019, PM in Luxembourg.

Coordinators were informed that the annual visit to ECA could this year be combined with a visit to EIB.

**Decision:** Coordinators endorsed this proposal but requested to change the date to Tuesday, 19 November 2019. (to be confirmed by ECA)

## 12. Networks

During the 8th legislative term CONT committee was represented by one or several members in the following networks:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Network/working group*** | ***Starting committee*** |
| Gender Mainstreaming Network | FEMM |
| Petitions Network | PETI |

**Decision:** Coordinators were invited to nominate members to represent CONT committee in these networks by **20 September 2019, 12.00** in view of making a decision at the next coordinators’ meeting.

## 13. Linguistic profile of CONT committee meetings

Based on the composition of the committee and the languages of the committee members the proposed linguistic profile of the committee meetings will be as follows:

 Meeting rooms with 12 interpretation booths:

FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, EL, ES, CS, HU, PL, BG, RO.

 Meeting rooms with 14 interpretation booths (or more):

FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, EL, ES, FI, SV, CS, HU, PL, BG, RO.

**Decision:** coordinators endorsed the linguistic profile of the committee meetings.

## 14. EP Discharge - Budget item 400

In the frame of the EP discharge, the Secretary-General forwarded the financial reports of the political groups i.e. the audit reports and the financial reports for the financial year 2018 to the Committee on Budgetary Control and asked the Committee to keep him informed about the steps of the procedure that it will follow before the reports can be submitted for adoption by the Bureau in September.

On the grounds that none of the audit reports shows a qualified audit opinion, the secretariat proposed that the Committee would, as usual, state its observations in the frame of the 2018 Parliament’s discharge procedure.

Coordinators were informed that these documents will be published after the Bureau has approved them on 16 September. Before approval by the Bureau, the documents can be consulted on appointment in the secure reading room of the CONT Secretariat.

**Decision:** coordinators approved the draft reply from the Chair to the Secretary-General.

# Items for information

## 15. CONT working methods

Coordinators took note of the working methods of CONT committee with regards to coordinators’ meetings and committee meetings.

## 16. Balance sheet of CONT activities in the 8th legislative term

Coordinators attention was drawn the [balance sheet of CONT activities](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/163425/CONT_Draft%20balance%20sheet_8th%20term.pdf) during the 8th legislative term.

## 17. “Setting the Future Agenda”

Coordinators were informed that the aim of this project initiated by the Secretary General of the European Parliament is to empower the Members of the new Parliament in the policy-making by providing them with fresh ideas and policy options, as well as highlighting what has been achieved in the past and what is still to be done.

Coordinators received four concept notes on possible policy priorities to CONT on the following topics:

#### 17.1. Strengthening the fight against fraud - using the potential of Article 325 TFEU

#### 17.2. Conflict of interest, a new definition in the financial regulation

#### 17.3. Monitoring the cost-effectiveness in the implementation of the EU’s policies

#### 17.4. Discharge - a way out of the deadlock concerning discharge of the Council

**Decision:** Coordinators took note of these possible policy priorities in view of discussion and possible decisions at the September coordinators’ meeting.

## 18. Documents received for information

Coordinators received for information all documents the committee received for information since the last coordinators’ meeting (15 April 2019). They were informed that most of these documents are available online on the CONT website, any Members wishing to consult these documents can contact CONT Secretariat for further information.

## 19. Any other business

## 19.1. The calendar of Commissioners-designate hearings

The Chair informed the coordinators of the planned timetable of Commissioners-designate hearings:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| End of August | List of Commissioners-designate and portfolios sent to Parliament |
| 2-5 September | CCC proposal for the division of responsibilities between committees and CoP decision |
| 9-12 September | Committees adopt their specific questions |
| 17 September | CCC proposal on the calendar, format and questionnaires for the hearings |
| 19 September | CoP decision on the hearings |
| 30 September - 8 October | Hearings of Commissioners-designate and evaluation meetings |
| 20 - 23 October | EP plenary vote on the College |

**Decision:** Coordinators took note of this timetable, specific details and questions to Commissioner-designate/s to be heard in CONT will be discussed at the next coordinators’ meeting.

## 19.2. Discharge of Council and European Council

EPP coordinators, Mr Zdechovsky requested to follow-up on the negations with the Council with regards to the non-cooperation in the discharge procedure for over a decade.

**Decision:** The Secretariat was mandated to draft a follow-up letter to the Secretary-General of the Council, requesting an answer to the last letter sent on 16 July 2018 in the context to overcome the inter-institutional conflict in the annual discharge procedure.

After the meeting, the draft letter was communicated to Coordinators and approved by written procedure.

## 20. Time and date of next Coordinators' meeting:

 9 or 12 September 2019 (TBC)



**Issue N°10 - 24 July 2019**

**NEWSLETTER**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**D NEWS**

[Monika HOHLMEIER](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96780/MONIKA_HOHLMEIER/home) (EPP, DE) is the **new** **Chair** of the [Committee on Budgetary Control](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/cont/home.html), elected by acclamation on 10 July 2019.



Ms. Hohlmeier completed her degree as [management](https://www.dict.cc/englisch-deutsch/management.html) [assistant](https://www.dict.cc/englisch-deutsch/assistant.html) [in](https://www.dict.cc/englisch-deutsch/in.html) [hotel](https://www.dict.cc/englisch-deutsch/hotel.html) [and](https://www.dict.cc/englisch-deutsch/and.html) [hospitality](https://www.dict.cc/englisch-deutsch/hospitality.html) in 1983. In 1984, she created together with her family a charitable foundation in which she worked for years in an honorary capacity. This foundation developed over 35 years to a very successful institution in Bavaria helping socially deprived citizens. Before joining the European Parliament, Monika Hohlmeier served as State Secretary in the Bavarian Ministry for Education and Culture between 1993 and 1998, followed by her announcement as Bavarian Minister for Education and Culture between 1998 and 2005. She was member of the Bavarian Parliament between 1990 and 2008. Monika Hohlmeier speaks fluently English, French and German.

Ms. Hohlmeier has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2009. She has since been serving on the Committee on Budget Control, the [Committee on Budgets](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/budg/home.html) and on the [Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/d-cn/home) . From 2014 on Ms. Hohlmeier has also been a member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, in which she already served as substitute between 2009 and 2014.

Between 2009 and 2011 she was a member of the special committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis. In the period of 2012 and 2013, Ms. Hohlmeier was a Member of the Special Committee on Organized Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering. From 2017 until 2018 she acted as the Co-rapporteur for the Special Committee on Terrorism. In addition, she served as the chair of the Sky and Space Intergroup between 2014 and 2019.

In 2019, Ms. Hohlmeier was re-elected to the European Parliament and occupies currently the post as Chair for the Committee on Budgetary Control and:

 Committee on Budgets, Member

 [Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/home.html), Substitute Member

 Conference of Committee Chairs, Member

 [Delegation for the relations with the People’s Republic of China](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/d-cn/home), Member

 [Delegation for the relations with Canada](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/d-ca/home), Substitute Member

During its constituent meeting, the Committee also elected its Vice-Chairs:

 **1st Vice-Chair**: [Isabel GARCÍA MUÑOZ](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/197742/ISABEL_GARCIA+MUNOZ/home) (S&D, ES) - elected by acclamation

Ms. García Muñoz completed her studies in Telecommunications Engineering at the University of Zaragoza and worked for the Institute for Engineering Research of Aragon. She became a municipal councillor of Muel from 2007 to June 2019 and a Member of the Cortes of Aragon in the 2015 regional elections. Ms. García Muñoz was elected MEP in 2019 and is a Member of the [Committee on Transport and Tourism](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/tran/home.html), a Substitute to the [Committee on Regional Development](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/regi/home.html) as well as 1st Vice-Chair the [Committee on Budgetary Control](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/cont/home.html).

 **2nd Vice-Chair**: Ms. [Caterina CHINNICI](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/124861/CATERINA_CHINNICI/home) (S&D, IT) - elected by secret ballot

Ms. Chinnici graduated in law, she was Prosecutor General of the Court of Appeal of Caltanissetta, and Public Prosecutor at the juvenile court in Caltanissetta and later in Palermo. She was appointed as regional counsellor for family and local governments, and then regional counsellor for the civil service. Between 2012 and 2014 Ms. Chinnici served as Head of the Juvenile Justice Department of the Italian Ministry of Justice.

In 2014, Ms. Chinnici became a MEP and was Member of the [Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_on_Civil_Liberties,_Justice_and_Home_Affairs), substitute Member of the Committees on Budgetary Control and on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, and Member of the Special Committee on Terrorism between 2017 and 2018. In addition to her committee assignments, Ms. Chinnici served as co-chairwoman of the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights and as a member of the European Parliament Intergroup on Integrity (Transparency, Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime). Ms. Chinnici was reelected in 2019 serving as Vice-Chair of the [Committee on Budgetary Control](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/cont/home.html) and is also a Member of the [Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/home.html) and a Substitute at the [Committee on Legal Affairs](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/juri/home.html).

*CONT Bureau: Tamás Deutsch (4th VC), Isabel García Muñoz (1st VC), Monika Hohlmeier (Chair), Caterina Chinnici (2nd VC) and Martina Dlabajová (3rd VC)*



 **3rd Vice-Chair**: Ms [Martina DLABAJOVÁ](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/124709/MARTINA_DLABAJOVA/home) (Renew Europe, CZ) - elected by acclamation

She graduated in political science with a specialization in the European Union at the University of Padua. She was elected the president of the Regional Chamber of Commerce of the Zlín Region. She also founded and managed several companies in the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Italy.

In the 2014, Ms. Dlabajová was appointed as a Vice-Chair in the [Committee on Budgetary Control](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_on_Budgetary_Control), a member in the [Committee on Employment and Social Affairs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_on_Employment_and_Social_Affairs) and Substitute in the [Committee on Transport and Tourism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_on_Transport_and_Tourism). She initiated the Parliamentary Intergroup for Creative Industries and was appointed its Vice-President. Ms. Dlabajová was reelected in 2019 serving as Vice-Chair of the [Committee on Budgetary Control](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/budg/home.html) and is also a Member of the [Committee on Industry, Research and Energy](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/itre/home.html) and a Substitute in the [Committee on Budgets](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/budg/home.html).

 **4th Vice-Chair**: Mr [Tamás DEUTSCH](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96826/TAMAS_DEUTSCH/home) (EPP, HU) - elected by secret ballot

Mr. Deutsch studied at the Faculty of Law in Budapest and graduated in 1999. He was vice president of the Hungarian Olympic Committee from 1999 to 2001. He was a member of the Hungarian Parliament between 1990 and 2009 and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Since 2009, Mr. Deutsch is Member of the European Parliament and is serving as Vice-Chair of the [Committee on Budgetary Control](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/cont/home.html). He was a Member of the [Committee on Regional Development](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/regi/home.html), [Delegation to the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/d-ru/home.html), as a Substitute to the [Committee on Petitions](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/peti/home.html), [Committee on Employment and Social Affairs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_on_Employment_and_Social_Affairs), [Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/d-ua/home.html), [Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/euronest/en/home.html).

In 2104, Mr. Deutsch became a Member of Committee on Regional Development, [Delegation for relations with Israel](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/d-il/home.html) and [Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/dmed/home.html), and as Substitute on the [Committee on Budgets](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/budg/home.html), [Delegation for relations with the United States](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/d-us/home.html) and [Committee on Industry, Research and Energy](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/itre/home.html). Upon reelection in 2019, Mr. Deutsch is also a Member of the Committee of Regional Development and a Substitute on the Committee on Budgets.

**Practical information**

The draft agenda and meeting documents are available in the [meeting file.](http://www.emeeting.europarl.europa.eu/emeeting/committee/agenda/201907/CONT?meeting=CONT-2019-0724_1&session=07-24-09-00)

**Interpretation:**  FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, EL, ES, FI, SV, CS, HU, PL, BG and RO.

[Webstreaming](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/committees/schedule?committee=CONT): please be aware that each time a speaker activates the microphone to make an intervention, the camera will be automatically directed to the speaker.

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, 24 July 2019**

9.00 - 12.30

Room: József Antall (JAN) 6Q2



**Coordinators’ meeting**

**Meeting held in camera**

**Wednesday, 24 July 2019**

14.30 - 18.30

**4. Technical workshop on inter-, and intra-institutional cooperation in the field of budgetary control, with the participation of:**

- European Court of Auditors, ***Henri Grethen***, Member of ECA and -- ***Martin Weber***, Director for ECA Presidency

- European Commission, DG BUDG, ***Maria Rosa Aldea Busquets***

- European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)

- Policy Department D, ***Niels Fischer***, Head of Unit

This workshop aims at explaining how the Court of Auditors (ECA) and the Commission cooperate with the European Parliament in order to assist the European Parliament in its exercise of political control with regard to the discharge on the implementation of the budget.

The Court of Auditors as the EU’s independent auditor, has the task to examine the accounts of all revenue and expenditure of the Union. It provides the European Parliament and the Council with a statement of assurance as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions. The Court of Auditors draws up an annual report after the close of each financial year. For CONT, this report is the starting point for the annual discharge exercise. In addition to its compliance review, the Court of Auditors puts increasingly more emphasis on performance review in the form of special reports and other products. In its role of monitoring the cost-effectiveness of the various forms of Union financing in the different Union policies, CONT used to organise presentations of most of these special reports in its committee meetings and followed-up on them in the framework of the discharge procedure. The ever increasing number of special reports and other products - 40 in 2018 - raises an organisational challenge for CONT.

In its presentation, the Court of Auditors will notably touch on the following issues:

- Doing more with less (MFF and challenges facing the EU);

- ECA’s role as the Union’s external auditor;

- CONT as ECA’s key partner in the European Parliament;

- How ECA selects its audit topics and how it reports on audit findings;

- ECA’s role in protecting the Union’s financial interests;

- What are the strategic priorities of ECA?

The Commission will then be invited to give an overview on how it implements the EU budget and how the Parliament controls the Commission in this regard. The presentation should make clear which tools the Commission can offer in order to allow Parliament to effectively control the implementation of the budget by discussing notably the following topics:

- short overview of the size and use of the EU budget in the different policy fields;

- implementation by the Commission in the different forms of management;

- the different reports produced by the Commission; and

- management and controls system in place.

With regard to the intra-institutional cooperation, the responsible research service will then outline how CONT Members can obtain expertise in the field of budgetary affairs. Expertise can be provided to the entire committee in the form of studies, briefings or workshops. Special forms of expertise, such as impact assessments and implementation reports are as well available on demand. Coordinators can recommend to the committee to request such expertise. Individual Members can also request tailor-made expertise for themselves.

**5. Exchange of views on CONT priorities for the 9th legislative term**

The point of departure for CONT are the competences conferred to the European Parliament in the TFEU Treaty and the competences attributed to CONT in Parliament’s Rules of Procedure (RoP).

Under Article 319 TFEU the European Parliament decides on granting discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget. The European Parliament is the sole discharge authority: it takes the final decision on whether to grant or not to grant discharge upon recommendation of the Council. Parliament further developed the discharge exercise in order to include the other EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies with a view to ensure full accountability and transparency of the financial management of all EU bodies. CONT prepares Parliament’s decision which is taken by the plenary. The discharge procedure, running from September to April, constitutes the prime workload in CONT.

Initially CONT focused primarily on the legality and regularity of financial transactions; over the years CONT put increasing emphasis on “performance audits”, analysing thus if the EU’s financial assistance achieved the intended political objective. This approach requires regular scrutiny and evaluation of the various EU’s spending policies. The European Court of Auditors helps CONT to fulfil its mission in this regard by providing special reports and other products reviewing the performance of different EU policies. CONT might consider to select those reports which it considers to be of primary importance from the angle of performance of EU budget spending policies.

In the past legislature, CONT had to deal with a few cases, of alleged “conflicts of interest” (Article 61 of the Financial Regulation), which caused financial support to be suspended, or where Parliament called for a Commission appointment procedure to be relaunched.

Among the different discharges procedures, the discharge to the Council creates particular problems since 2009. Since then, Parliament refuses discharge to the Council, as the Council declines to send requested documents or to answer questions of the discharge authority. In fact, the Council holds the view that it is not accountable to the European Parliament.



In addition to the discharge, CONT is competent for legislative procedures in relation to Article 322 - financial regulations - and Article 325 TFEU on the protection of the EU’s financial interests against fraud and any other illegal activities. In this context, CONT is particularly concerned about alleged customs’ and Value-added Tax (VAT) fraud.

Two bodies have play an important role in combatting fraud: the European Anti-Fraud-Office (OLAF) and the future European Public Prosecutors’ Office (EPPO). The EPPO Regulation on implementing enhanced cooperation in the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office was adopted on 12 October 2018, and Parliament and Council currently seek to find a common candidate for the position of Prosecutor General. In 2018, the Commission submitted a proposal amending the OLAF Regulation concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) as regards cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the effectiveness of OLAF investigations. This proposal aims at improving the compatibility of the OLAF and EPPO Regulations before the entry into force of the latter in October 2020.

However, in April 2019 Parliament adopted a first reading position on the Commission proposal for a revised OLAF regulation, which went beyond the Commission proposal, as the Parliament endeavours to remedy other perceived shortcomings in the current OLAF Regulation as well.

Two more legislative proposals will require CONT’s attention where Parliament has already adopted its first reading under the previous legislature: the protection of the Union’s budget in case of generalized deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States, a file jointly dealt with the BUDG committee and the EU Anti-Fraud-Programme which is part of the next MFF package.

Finally, CONT will have to set its priorities for fact finding missions and expertise under the new legislature.

**Next meetings**

 4 September 2019, 9.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30, and

 5 September 2019, 9.00 - 12.30 (Brussels)

 25 September 2019, 9.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30, and

 26 September 2019, 9.00 - 12.30 (Brussels)

**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](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/621806/IPOL_STU(2019)621806_EN.pdf)

- Performance Indicators for Convergence in Regional Development - How reliable are they to ensure Targeted and Result-Oriented spending? [EN](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/621807/IPOL_STU(2019)621807_EN.pdf)

- Effectiveness of cohesion policy: learning from the project characteristics that produce the best results [EN](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/636469/IPOL_STU(2019)636469_EN.pdf)

- Protection of EU financial interest on customs and VAT: Cooperation of national tax and customs authorities to prevent fraud [EN](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/636470/IPOL_STU(2019)636470_EN.pdf)

**In-depth Analysis**

- Integrated Territorial Investments as an effective tool of the Cohesion Policy [EN](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2019/636472/IPOL_IDA(2019)636472_EN.pdf)

**BUDG**

**Studies**

- Mainstreaming Innovation Funding in the EU Budget [EN](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/636471/IPOL_STU(2019)636471_EN.pdf)

- Gender responsive EU Budgeting Update of the study ‘The EU Budget for Gender Equality’ and review of its conclusions and recommendations [EN](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/621801/IPOL_STU(2019)621801_EN.pdf)

**Forthcoming Publications**

**BUDG**

**Studies**

- The History of the EU Budget (not published)

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