



MINUTES

Meeting of 11 January 2021, 13.45 -15.45 and 16.45-18.45

BRUSSELS

The meeting opened at 13.54 with Monika Hohlmeier (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of agenda

The draft agenda was adopted in the form shown in these minutes.

2. Chair's announcements

The Chair drew the attention of Members to the information in the CONT News.

3. 2019 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission

CONT/9/03689

2020/2140(DEC) COM(2020)0288[01] – C9-0220/2020

Rapporteur:

Joachim Kuhs (ID)

PR – PE655.922v01-00

Responsible:

CONT

Opinions:

AFET, DEVE, INTA, BUDG, ECON, EMPL, ENVI, ITRE, IMCO, TRAN, REGI, AGRI, PECH, CULT, JURI, LIBE, AFCO, FEMM, PETI

- Exchange of views with Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner responsible for Jobs and Social Rights, in the presence of reporting ECA member Tony Murphy

Decision: Exchange of views

The following spoke: Monika Hohlmeier, Tony Murphy (ECA Member), Commissioner Nicolas Schmit, Joachim Kuhs, Markus Pieper, Tsvetelina Penkova, Olivier Chastel, Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel.

11 January 2021, 15.15 – 16.15

4. EU Anti-Fraud Programme

CONT/9/01461

***I 2018/0211(COD) COM(2018)0386 – C8-0236/2018

Rapporteur:

Monika Hohlmeier (PPE)

Responsible:

CONT

- Reporting back to committee on the negotiations (Rule 74(3)) from the trilogue held on 8 December 2020
- Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations

Decision: Adopted.: 26 votes to 1, with 1 abstentions

The following spoke: Monika Hohlmeier, Tsvetelina Penkova, Pascal Durand, Joachim Kuhs, Ryszard Czarnecki.

The meeting was suspended at 15:26

* * *

The meeting adjourned at 16:47 with with Monika Hohlmeier (Chair) presiding.

11 January 2021, 16.45 – 18.45

5. 2019 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission

CONT/9/03689

2020/2140(DEC) COM(2020)0288[01] – C9-0220/2020

Rapporteur:

Joachim Kuhs (ID)

PR – PE655.922v01-00

Responsible:

CONT

Opinions:

AFET, DEVE, INTA, BUDG, ECON, EMPL, ENVI, ITRE, IMCO, TRAN, REGI, AGRI, PECH, CULT, JURI, LIBE, AFCO, FEMM, PETI

- Exchange of views Commissioner Johannes Hahn, responsible for Budget and

Administration in the presence of ECA reporting members: Tony Murphy (AR), Annemie Turtelboom (Budgetary and financial management), Eva Lindström (EU revenue) and Jan Gregor (AR on performance)

The following spoke: Monika Hohlmeier, Tony Murphy (ECA Member), Annemie Turtelboom (ECA Member), Eva Lindström (ECA Member), Jan Gregor (ECA Member), Commissioner Johannes Hahn, Joachim Kuhs, Markus Pieper, Tsvetelina Penkova, Olivier Chastel, Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel, Arnaud Danjean, Isabel García Muñoz, Petri Sarvamaa.

6. Any other business

None

7. Next meetings

- 25 January 2021 - 26 January 2021
- 22 February 2021 - 23 February 2021

The meeting ended at 18.37.

Results of roll-call votes

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4.1. Final Vote	5

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

4. EU Anti-Fraud Programme - CONT/9/01461

4.1. Final Vote

26	+
EPP	Lefteris CHRISTOFOROU, José Manuel FERNANDES, Monika HOHLMEIER, Marian-Jean MARINESCU, Markus PIEPER, Petri SARVAMAA, Angelika WINZIG, Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ
S&D	Caterina CHINNICI, Corina CREȚU, Isabel GARCÍA MUÑOZ, Claudiu MANDA, Tsvetelina PENKOVA, Lara WOLTERS
Renew	Gilles BOYER, Olivier CHASTEL, Pascal DURAND
ID	Joachim KUHS
GREENS/EFA	Daniel FREUND, Michèle RIVASI, Viola VON CRAMON-TAUBADEL
ECR	Ryszard CZARNECKI, Ryszard Antoni LEGUTKO
The Left	Luke Ming FLANAGAN, Younous OMARJEE
NI	Sabrina PIGNEDOLI

1	-
ID	Jean-François JALKH

1	0
ID	Matteo ADINOLFI

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/
JELENĹTI ÍV/REGĪSTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

<p>Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezidium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)</p>
<p>Monika Hohlmeier (Chair), Isabel García Muñoz (1st VP) and Caterina Chinnici (2nd VP)</p>
<p>Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Βουλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/ Nariai/Képviselek/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter</p>
<p>Matteo Adinolfi, Olivier Chastel, Lefteris Christoforou, Corina Crețu, Ryszard Czarnecki, José Manuel Fernandes, Luke Ming Flanagan, Daniel Freund, Jean-François Jalkh, Joachim Kuhs, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Claudiu Manda, Younous Omarjee, Tsvetelina Penkova, Markus Pieper, Sabrina Pignedoli, Michèle Rivasi, Petri Sarvamaa, Angelika Winzig, Lara Wolters, Tomáš Zdechovský</p>
<p>Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Pötagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter</p>
<p>Gilles Boyer, Pascal Durand, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Andrey Novakov, Jan Olbrycht, Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel</p>

<p>209 (7)</p>
<p>Arnaud Danjean</p>
<p>216 (3)</p>
<p>56 (8) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/ Päevakorra punkt/Σημείο της ημερήσιας διάταξης/Agenda item/Point OJ/Τοčka dnevnoĝ reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)</p>
<p></p>

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Εσimehe kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair/Sur l'invitation du président/ Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/ Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nöukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)	
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)	
Commissioner Nicolas Schmit and Commissioner Johannes Hahn	
Други институции и органи/Otras instituciones y organismos/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner og organer/Andere Organe und Einrichtungen/Muud institutsioonid ja organid/Λοιπά θεσμικά όργανα και οργανισμοί/Other institutions and bodies/Autres institutions et organes/Druge institucije i tijela/Altre istituzioni e altri organi/Citas iestādes un struktūras/Kitos institucijos ir įstaigos/Más intézmények és szervek/Istituzzjonijiet u korpi oħra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições e outros órgãos/Alte instituții și organe/Iné inštitúcie a orgány/Muut toimielimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och organ	
ECA	Tony Murphy (Member), Annemie Turtelboom (Member), Eva Lindström (Member) and Jan Gregor (Member)

Други учасници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Dруги sudionici/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Dруги udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

<p>Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppenes 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/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat</p>	
<p>PPE S&D Renew ID Verts/ALE ECR The Left NI</p>	

<p>Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο του Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Ured predsednika/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</p>	
<p>Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο του Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Ġeneralsekretära 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</p>	
<p>Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Ġenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Generali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat</p>	
<p>DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG EPRS DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG LINC DG FINS DG ITEC DG SAFE</p>	

<p>Правна служба/Service Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Óigusteenistus/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</p>
<p>Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία της επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Sekretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet</p>
<p>Evelyn Waldherr</p>
<p>Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asyistent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten</p>
<p>Veronika Patyi-Horvath</p>

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair/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/Potpredsjednik/Vice-Président/Potpredsjednik/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/ Vīci 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem/Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Βουλευτής/Member/Membre/Član/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képvisező/Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
- (F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Dužnosnik/Funcionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/UrządNIK/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Urädnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman

NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, 11 JANUARY 2021

13.45 – 16.15 and 16.45 – 18.45

Room: remote meeting with Interactio (Jozsef Antall 6Q1)

13:45 - 15:15

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda and meeting documents are available in the [meeting file](#).

2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair draws attention to the following points:

The remote voting session with EPvote is scheduled for Monday, 11 January 2021, 15.45-16.15.

Languages available

FR DE IT EN ES CS HU PL RO

[Webstreaming](#)

The meeting will be webstreamed and can be followed live via the [CONT webpage](#).

3. 2019 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CONT/9/03689 - [2020/2140\(DEC\)](#)



Discharge hearing with Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner responsible for Jobs and Social Rights, in the presence of reporting ECA member Tony Murphy

Rapporteur:

[Joachim Kuhs \(ID\)](#)

Administrator:

Kaare Barslev

Shadow Rapporteurs: Markus Pieper (EPP), Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D), Olivier Chastel (RE), Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel (Greens), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

DG EMPL's main areas of intervention are:

Under shared management: European Social Fund (ESF), including the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) and Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD);

Under direct management: EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI), part of Erasmus+ and of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) and funds allocated by virtue of the powers conferred by the Treaty (so-called 'Prerogatives') for social dialogue, mobility, analysis of the social situation, demographics and the family; and contributions to 5 decentralised agencies (Cedefop, ELA, ETF, EU-OSHA and Eurofound).

By far the largest amount is paid under the ESF, which is covered by chapter 5 in the ECA's Annual Report. According to this, payments from the ESF amounted to EUR 13,9 billion, equivalent to 25,9% of spending under heading 1b "Economic, social and territorial cohesion".

The Court has examined a sample consisting of a total of 236 statistically representative transactions under this heading and the estimated rate of error is 4,4%.

Furthermore, ECA concludes among other things that the weaknesses found in the work of several audit authorities covered by their sample currently limit the reliance that can be placed on that work.

The discharge hearing will be based on information provided in public documents, such as:

- the Court of Auditors' 2019 Annual Report, especially chapter 5 and
- the new Annual Report on Performance of the EU budget, as well as
- the Commission's Integrated Financial and Reporting package, and
- the 2019 Annual Activity Report of DG EMPL

All the relevant documents can be found 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 18 December 2020. The Commission's answers were received on 7 January 2021 and forwarded immediately to Members.

It is proposed that the hearing with Commissioner Schmit proceeds as follows:

- Introduction by the reporting Member of the European Court of Auditors, Tony Murphy, who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2019, and the Report on the performance of the EU budget;
- Commissioner Nicolas Schmit will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs will put questions to the Commissioner and the Court followed by answers (the ping-pong system);
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the Court;
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Exchange of views	CONT	22-23 February 2021
Deadline for amendments	CONT	2 March 2021
Vote	CONT	22-23 March 2021
Adoption of report	Plenary	April 2021

15:15 - 16:15



4. EU ANTI-FRAUD PROGRAMME

CONT/9/01461 - [2018/0211\(COD\)](#)



Reporting back to committee from trilogue held on 8 December 2020/

Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations

Rapporteur: [Tamás Deutsch](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Benoît Lefort

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D), Christian Ghinea (RE), Michele Rivasi (Greens), Joachim Hans Kuhs (ID), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR)

The purpose of the EU Anti-Fraud Programme is to assist the Member States and the relevant Union bodies to help them better protect the Union's financial interests.

It rolls over the Hercule III programme that supports activities against fraud, corruption and any illegal activities, mainly in the field of customs, and combines it with the financing basis for the Anti-fraud information system and the Irregularity management system, which are two IT applications.

The Commission published the legislative proposal on 30 May 2018 [COM\(2018\)0386](#). A first reading vote took place on 12 February 2019 in [Plenary](#). CONT decided to open interinstitutional negotiations on 8 October 2019. A political agreement on a draft text was reached at the first trilogue held on 8 December 2020.



As the interinstitutional negotiations have led to a compromise, in accordance with Rule 74(4) of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the provisional agreement is submitted as a whole to the CONT Committee for confirmation by way of a single vote.

This file will not proceed to plenary directly, as it is in early second reading phase. After a positive vote, a confirmation letter by the CONT Chair would be sent to the Council, which would then initiate their first reading procedure on the basis of this text. Only once the Council formally adopts its first reading, and it is announced in plenary, CONT will have a second vote on the file, in preparation of the second reading. The second vote will be on the recommendation for the plenary to accept the Council's first reading without amendments as the Parliament's second reading position. The timetable for the next steps is still to be decided.

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Vote on negotiating mandate	CONT	11 January 2021
Council first reading	Council	tbc
Vote on Council's first reading	CONT	tbc
Adoption of report	Plenary	tbc



The meeting will be suspended until 16.45

16:45 - 18:45

5. 2019 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CONT/9/03689 - [2020/2140\(DEC\)](#)



Discharge hearing with Commissioner Hahn, responsible for Budget and Administration in the presence of ECA reporting members: Tony Murphy (AR), Annemie Turtelboom (Budgetary and financial management), Eva Lindström (EU revenue) and Jan Gregor (AR on performance)

Rapporteur:
Administrator:

[Joachim Kuhs \(ID\)](#)
Kaare Barslev

Shadow Rapporteurs: Markus Pieper (EPP), Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D), Olivier Chastel (RE), Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel (Greens), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

Budgetary and financial management is covered by chapter 2 in the ECA's Annual Report. ECA concludes among other things that for 2019, commitment and payment appropriations available in the final budget have been used almost fully but that at the end of 2019, outstanding commitments reached an all-time high. Overall absorption of ESIF funds remain lower than in the corresponding year of the previous MFF, which together with revised rules for implementing the ESI Funds, triggered by the COVID-19 crises, risks creating a pressure on the payment appropriations available from 2020 onwards. Furthermore, ECA mentions that it is important to have a complete picture of the total risk to which the EU budget is exposed, including the risk generated by the budgetary guarantees such as the EFSI. ECA highlights that, according to their audit mandate, ECA can only examine EIB operations which are financed or guaranteed by the EU budget. ECA considers that it would be beneficial for the part of the EIB operations not backed by the EU budget to be subject to an independent external examination of their regularity and performance.



Own resources is covered by chapter 3 in the ECA's Annual Report. ECA concludes that the audit evidence indicates that the level of error in revenue was not material. It concludes furthermore, that the examined

revenue systems were overall effective. The key internal Traditional Own Resources controls that were assessed at the Commission and in certain Member States were partially effective. ECA also found important weaknesses in Member States' controls to reduce the customs gap that requires EU action.

Administration is covered by chapter 9 in the ECA's Annual Report. Spending on administration amounted to EUR 10,9 billion in 2019 equivalent of 6,5% of total EU spending. The Commission accounted for EUR 6,1 billion equivalent of 57,9% of administrative spending. ECA concludes that the overall audit evidence indicates that the level of error in spending on administration was not material.

The discharge hearing will be based on information provided in public documents, such as:

- the Court of Auditors' 2019 Annual Report, especially chapters 1, 2, 3 and 9 and
- the new Annual Report on Performance of the EU budget, as well as
- the Commission's Integrated Financial and Reporting package, and
- the 2019 Annual Activity Reports from DG BUDG and DG HR

All the relevant documents can be found 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 18 December 2020. CONT secretariat received The Commission's answers on 8 January 2021 and forwarded them immediately to Members.

It is proposed that the hearing with Commissioner Hahn proceeds as follows:

- Introduction by each of the reporting Members of the European Court of Auditors, Tony Murphy, Annemie Turtelboom, Eva Lindström and Jan Gregor who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2019, and the Report on the performance of the EU budget;
- Commissioner Johannes Hahn will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs will put questions to the Commissioner and the Court followed by answers (the ping-pong system);
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CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Exchange of views	CONT	22-23 February 2021
Deadline for amendments	CONT	2 March 2021
Vote	CONT	22-23 March 2021
Adoption of report	Plenary	April 2021

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7. NEXT MEETINGS

- 25-26 January 2021 (Brussels)
- 22-23 February 2021 (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

CONT

Briefing "[Gender and geographical balance in the governance structures of Horizon 2020](#)"

Briefing "[Horizon 2020: Geographical balance of beneficiaries](#)"

At a Glance "[Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors](#)" (update)

Documentation workshop "[Open spaces at EU institutions versus traditional work spaces: justification, evolution, evaluation and results](#)"

Briefing "[Open Plan Offices - The new ways of working. The advantages and disadvantages of open office space](#)"

Briefing "[Gender equality in the college of the European Court of Auditors](#)"

At a Glance "[Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors](#)"

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Briefing "[EU Gender budgeting: where do we stand?](#)"

Study "[Pilot projects and preparatory actions \(PP/PA\) in the EU budget 2014-2019](#)"

Briefing "[Next Generation EU - Where are assigned revenue? Which impact in 2021?](#)"

Study "[How EU funds tackle economic divide in the European Union](#)" (Available in [DE](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#), [RO](#))

Study "[Documenting climate mainstreaming in the EU budget - making the system more transparent, stringent and comprehensive](#)"

Briefing "[Assigned revenue in the Recovery Plan - The frog that wishes to be as big as the ox?](#)"

Study "[A Just Transition Fund - How the EU budget can best assist in the necessary transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy](#)" (Available in [DE](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#))

Briefing "[The net operating balances: Variants, emerging numbers and history](#)" (Available in [DA](#), [DE](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [NL](#), [PL](#), [SV](#))

Forthcoming Publications

CONT

- Study "[The largest 50 beneficiaries in each EU Member State of CAP and cohesion funds](#)"

- Study "[MEP's pension rights before and after the Members Statute in 2009](#)"

- Briefing "[Special advisers to the European Commission](#)"

BUDG

- Study "[Locations of the EU decentralised agencies](#)"

- Study "[The Management Boards of the Decentralised Agencies](#)"

- Study "[The "cost of non-EU – agencies", focusing on the health and safety cluster of the EU decentralised agencies](#)"

Forthcoming Events

BUDG Study presentation on Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in the EU Budget 2014-2019

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