



# NOTULEN

Vergadering van 8 november 2021, 13.45-18.45 uur en 9 november 2021, 9.00-12.00 uur

BRUSSEL

De vergadering wordt op maandag 8 november 2021 om 13.47 uur geopend, onder voorzitterschap van Isabel García Muñoz (ondervoorzitter).

**8 november 2021, 13.45 – 15.15 uur**

**1. Aanneming van de agenda**

De ontwerpagenda wordt aangenomen in de volgorde van deze notulen.

**2. Mededelingen van de voorzitter**

De ondervoorzitter vestigt de aandacht van de leden op de informatie in CONT News.

**3. Kwijting 2020: Algemene begroting van de EU – Europese Commissie**

CONT/9/06482

2021/2106(DEC) COM(2021)0381[01] – C9-0258/2021

Rapporteur:

Olivier Chastel (Renew)

Bevoegd:

CONT

Advies:

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

- Gedachtewisseling met Stella Kyriakides, commissaris voor Gezondheid en Voedselveiligheid

**Sprekers:** Isabel García Muñoz, Stella Kyriakides (Europese Commissie, Gezondheid en Voedselveiligheid), Olivier Chastel, Petri Sarvamaa, Claudiu Manda, Daniel Freund.

De vergadering wordt om 14.44 uur geschorst.

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De vergadering wordt om 16.51 uur hervat onder voorzitterschap van Isabel García Muñoz (ondervoorzitter).

### **8 november 2021, 16.45 – 18.45 uur**

#### **4. Kwijting 2020: Algemene begroting van de EU - Kwijting aan overige instellingen CONT/9/07537**

Rapporteur:

Isabel García Muñoz (S&D)

- Gedachtewisseling, in aanwezigheid van Marek Opiola, rapporterend lid van de Rekenkamer, met secretarissen-generaal en directeuren van de volgende instellingen en organen:
  - Raad en Europese Raad
  - Hof van Justitie
  - Europese Rekenkamer
  - Europees Economisch en Sociaal Comité
  - Comité van de Regio's
  - Europese Ombudsman
  - Europese Toezichthouder voor gegevensbescherming

**Sprekers:** Isabel García Muñoz, Marek Opiola (Rekenkamer), Valerio Polacco (Hof van Justitie), Zacharias Koliass (Rekenkamer), Gianluca Brunetti (Europees Economisch en Sociaal Comité), Petr Blížkovský (Comité van de Regio's), Cesira D'Aniello (Ombudsman), Leonardo Cervera Navas (Europese Toezichthouder voor gegevensbescherming), Jeroen Lenaers, Alin Mituța, Daniel Freund, Sabrina Pignedoli.

De vergadering wordt om 18.55 uur geschorst.

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De vergadering wordt om 9.02 uur hervat onder voorzitterschap van Petri Sarvamaa (ondervoorzitter).

### **9 november 2021, 9.00 – 10.30 uur**

**5. Kwijting 2020: Algemene begroting van de EU – Europese Commissie**

CONT/9/06482

2021/2106(DEC) COM(2021)0381[01] – C9-0258/2021

Rapporteur:

Olivier Chastel (Renew)

Bevoegd:

CONT

Advies:

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

- Gedachtewisseling, in aanwezigheid van Marek Opiola, rapporterend lid van de Rekenkamer, met Ilze Juhansone, secretaris-generaal van de Europese Commissie

**Sprekers:** Petri Sarvamaa, Marek Opiola (Rekenkamer), Ilze Juhansone (Europese Commissie, secretaris-generaal), Olivier Chastel, Claudiu Manda, Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel

**9 november 2021, 10.30 - 12.00 uur**

**6. Kwijting 2020: Algemene begroting van de EU – Europese Commissie**

CONT/9/06482

2021/2106(DEC) COM(2021)0381[01] – C9-0258/2021

Rapporteur:

Olivier Chastel (Renew)

Bevoegd:

CONT

Advies:

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

- Gedachtewisseling, in aanwezigheid van Baudilio Tomé Muguruza, rapporterend lid van de Rekenkamer, met Ylva Johansson, commissaris voor Binnenlandse Zaken

**Sprekers:** Isabel García Muñoz, Baudilio Tomé Muguruza (Rekenkamer), Ylva Johansson (Europese Commissie, Binnenlandse Zaken), Olivier Chastel, Petri Sarvamaa, Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel, José Manuel Fernandes.

**7. Rondvraag**

**8. Volgende vergaderingen**

- 15 november 2021
- 29-30 november 2021

De vergadering wordt om 11.45 uur gesloten.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/ΚΟΗΛΟΛΙΓΑΤΕ ΝΙΜΕΚΙΡΙ/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNÍH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/  
JELENĒTI ĪV/REGĪSTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/  
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČÍH/LÁSŃÁOLOLISTA/NĀRVAROLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedníctvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Isabel García Muñoz, Petri Sarvamaa
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Βουλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/ Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Olivier Chastel, Lefteris Christoforou, Daniel Freund, José Manuel Fernandes, Claudiu Manda, Alin Mituța, Sabrina Pignedoli
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Jeroen Lenaers, Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel

209 (7)
216 (3)
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 schůdze/Τοčka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Oprazovalci/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/Nðukogu/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/Komisja/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)	
Stella Kyriakides, Ilze Juhansone, Ylva Johansson, Pascal Leardini, Michael Wimmer, Christopher Becher, Kai Wynands, Christian Linder, Tom Snels, Alice Brokelind, Henrik Nielsen, Marta Cygan, Enrique Garcia Martin-Romo	
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 instituiçōes e outros órgãos/Alte institúții și organe/Iné inštitúcie a orgány/Muut toimeelimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och organ	
ECA	Marek Opiola, Zacharias Koliass, Baudilio Tomé Muguruza
CoJ	Valerio Placco
EESC	Gianluca Brunetti
CoR	Petr Blížkovský
Ombudsman	Cesira D'Aniello
EDPS	Leonardo Cervera Navas

Други учасници/Outros 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/Partecipanti oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Drugi 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 sihteeristö/De politiska grupernas sekretariat</p>	
<p>PPE S&amp;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 kantseli/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 Președinte/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/Generalsekretära 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 generalného 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/Ģenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat Ġenerali/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>	

Πравна служба/Service Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/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
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/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet
Evelyn Waldherr, Kaare Barslev, Giulia Bastianello, Cristina Degueldre, Fernando Gallego Osuna, Ana Maria Nogueira, Diego Rasetti, Kristyna Zavrelova
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asyistent/Pomočnik/ Avustajaja/Assistenten
Asta Skripiene

- \* (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-Présidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/  
 Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem/Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Βουλευτής/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/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urządник/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/  
 Tjänsteman



# NEWSLETTER

## COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2021**

13.45 – 15.45 and 16.45 – 18.45

**TUESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2021**

9.00 – 12.00

*Room: Altiero Spinelli 3E2*

13.45 – 15.00 **Joint meeting with AFET**

*Room: SPAAK 3C50*

**8 November 2021, 13.45 – 15.15**

### 1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

### 2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair draws attention to the following points:

#### Languages available

DE EN FR IT EL ES PT CS HU PL RO

#### [Webstreaming](#)

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

### 3. 2020 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CONT/9/06482 - [2021/2106\(DEC\)](#)



## Exchange of views with Commissioner **Stella Kyriakides**, responsible for Health and Food Safety

Rapporteur: [Olivier Chastel](#) (Renew)  
Administrators: Kaare Barslev / Fernando Gallego Osuna

Shadow Rapporteurs: **Monika Hohlmeier** (EPP), **Tsvetelina Penkova** (S&D), **Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel** (Greens/EFA), **Joachim Kuhs** (ID), **Ryszard Czarnecki** (ECR) and **Luke Ming Flanagan** (The Left)

DG SANTE operates under the political leadership of the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety on the basis of multi-annual policies and financial frameworks. The 3rd Health Programme 2014-2020 provides funding for health policy and Regulation (EU) No. 652/2014 provides the financial framework for food safety, animal and plant health. Since April 2020, the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI) has financed measures such as vaccine advance purchase agreements, and procurement of medical equipment and therapeutics to support and complement Member States' Efforts.

DG SANTE pursues its policies with a focus on prudent management and protection of the EU's financial resources. The Director-General is the authorising officer by delegation and has sub-delegated budget implementation responsibilities to Directors and Heads of Unit. DG SANTE's budget in 2020 was dominated by the Emergency Support Instrument to fight the COVID-19 pandemic: commitments of EUR 3 277 million and payment credits of EUR 2 993 million, were almost seven times higher than in previous years. About 93% of the 2020 budget was implemented under direct management, mainly through grants and procurement while 7% was implemented through indirect management, mainly subsidy payments to EU decentralised agencies for their running costs.

In 2020, DG SANTE's average residual error rate amounted to 0,8% leading to an estimated risk at closure of 1,6% and thus, did not exceed the materiality threshold of 2%. Against this background, DG SANTE does not consider it appropriate to make a reservation in the Director-General's declaration of assurance.

The Court of Auditors has not done any relevant audits concerning the Health programme or Food Safety during the last year. Therefore, there will not be a member of the Court of Auditors present at this hearing.

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

- the Court of Auditors' 2020 Annual Report, and
- the Annual Report on Performance of the EU budget (to be published by 15 November), as well as
- the Commission's Integrated Financial and Reporting package, and
- the 2020 Annual Activity Report of DG Health and Food Safety

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 20 October 2021. The Commission's answers were expected on 3 November 2021, received in the morning of 4 November, and forwarded to CONT Members by the CONT Secretariat.

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

- Introduction by Commissioner Kyriakides;
- CONT Rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs will put questions to the Commissioner, followed by answers (the ping-pong system);
- Other Members will question the Commissioner;
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

## CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of the draft report	CONT	10 February 2022
Deadline for amendments	CONT	1 March 2022
Adoption of draft report	CONT	31 March 2022
Adoption of report	Plenary	May 2022

*The meeting will be suspended until 16.45*

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**8 November 2021, 16.45 – 18.45**

### **4. DISCHARGE 2020: EU GENERAL BUDGET - DISCHARGE TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

CONT/9/07537



**Exchange of views with Secretary Generals and Directors of the following Other Institutions and bodies in the presence of ECA reporting member Marek Opiola**

- COUNCIL AND EUROPEAN COUNCIL
- COURT OF JUSTICE
- COURT OF AUDITORS
- EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
- COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
- EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN
- EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION SUPERVISOR

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

Shadow Rapporteurs: **Jeroen Lenaers** (EPP), **Alin Mituta** (Renew): EEAS, COR, EDPS, **Martina Dlabajová** (Renew): Court of Auditors, **Ramona Strugariu** (Renew): Court of Justice, **Pascal Durant** (Renew): Council and European Council, **Olivier Chastel** (Renew): EESC, European Ombudsman, **Mikulas Peksa** (Greens/EFA), **Joachim Kuhs** (ID), **Ryszard Czarnecki** (ECR) and **Luke Ming Flanagan** (The Left).

The European Institutions enjoy administrative autonomy according to Articles 316 and 335 of the TFEU and they are individually responsible for the implementation of their budgets according to Article 59 of the Financial Regulation. Parliament's Budgetary Control Committee takes a decision on discharge to other institutions and bodies on the basis of Rule 100 of Parliament's Rules of procedure.

Following the usual annual procedure, questions related to the 2020 discharge were suggested by CONT Members. The Rapporteur submitted the full set of questions to each concerned Institution. The Q&A catalogue was forwarded to CONT Members on 22 October (and on 26 October for the late replies from CoR and EDPS) and is available on the [CONT website](#).



The questionnaires are focused on the sound financial management at large, as well as on human resources and procurement, the evolution of budget implementation over time, and the efficiency of the implemented controls and evaluation tools. Specific attention is paid to the Covid-19 crisis related measures.

The budget of the Other Institutions is mostly administrative and the Court of Auditors (ECA) indicates administrative expenditure as low risk. According to the findings of the ECA 2020 Annual Report, the expenditure for the financial year 2020 was free from material error. Besides ECA Annual Report, of particular relevance for the hearing on 2020 discharge are:

- The 2020 Annual Activity Reports of the different Other Institutions,
- The related annual accounts, and
- The Q&A catalogue.

All the relevant documents can be found on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	24-25 January 2022
Deadline for amendments	CONT	31 January 2022, 14.00
Adoption of draft report	CONT	28 February 2022
Adoption of report	Plenary	May 2022

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**9 November 2021, 9.00 – 10.30**

## **5. 2020 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

CONT/9/06482 - [2021/2106\(DEC\)](#)



**Exchange of views with Secretary General of the European Commission, Ilze Juhansone in the presence of ECA reporting member Marek Opiola**

Rapporteur:  
Administrators:  
Gallego Osuna

[Olivier Chastel](#) (Renew)  
Kaare Barslev / Fernando

Shadow Rapporteurs: **Monika Hohlmeier** (EPP), **Tsvetelina Penkova** (S&D), **Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel** (Greens/EFA), **Joachim Kuhs** (ID), **Ryszard Czarnecki** (ECR) and **Luke Ming Flanagan** (The Left)

The Secretariat-General of the European Commission is one of the central services of the European Commission, it facilitates its smooth and effective functioning and provides strategic direction.

It is the President's department, at the service of the President, the College and the other Commission departments. It manages the collegial decision-making process and ensures the alignment of EU policies with the political priorities of the Commission. In agreement with the President, the Secretariat-General provides support to the Vice-Presidents in the performance of their role.

As reported in the annual activity report of the Secretary General, 2020 was the first full year of the von der Leyen Commission and of the implementation of the new priorities. It was also marked by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretariat-General was at the heart of the Commission's comprehensive response to all aspects of the pandemic, from the immediate crisis response to the longer-term economic recovery plan. This year's report contains a dedicated section on the role of the Secretariat-General in coordinating the COVID-19 pandemic response.



In 2020, the Secretariat-General steered and coordinated, together with the Directorate-General for Budget, the negotiation of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, which was adopted in December 2020, and NextGenerationEU, a temporary instrument designed to boost the economic recovery and support the green and digital transitions. Together, the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027 and NextGenerationEU form the largest package ever financed through the EU budget, worth around EUR 1.8 trillion.

The Secretariat-General also began to play a central role in the implementation of the centrepiece of NextGenerationEU, the Recovery and Resilience Facility. The newly-created Recovery and Resilience Taskforce supports Member States in the elaboration of their Recovery and Resilience Plans, making sure that these comply with regulatory requirements and that the proposed investments and reforms will provide strong support to a sustainable economic recovery. This role will continue in 2021 with the formal assessment of the draft plans, the preparation of the legal measures for their approval, and the monitoring of implementation.

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

- the Court of Auditors' 2020 Annual Report, and
- the new Annual Report on Performance of the EU budget (to be published by 15 November), as well as
- the Commission's Integrated Financial and Reporting package, and
- the 2020 Annual Activity Report of the Secretariat General of the Commission.

In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions for this meeting were sent to the Commission on 21 October 2021. The Commission's answers were received on 4 November 2021 and forwarded to the CONT Members by the CONT secretariat.

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commission Secretary General Juhansone proceeds as follows:

- Introduction by the reporting Member of the European Court of Auditors, Marek Opiola, who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2020, and the Report on the performance of the EU budget (to be published by 15 November);
- The Commission Secretary-General, Ms Juhansone will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs will put questions to the Commissioner and the ECA followed by answers (the ping-pong system);
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the ECA;
- Closing remarks by the ECA Member and the CONT Rapporteur.

All the relevant documents can be found on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of the draft report	CONT	10 February 2022
Deadline for amendments	CONT	1 March 2022
Adoption of draft report	CONT	31 March 2022
Adoption of report	Plenary	May 2022

**9 November 2021, 10.30 – 12.00**

## 6. 2020 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CONT/9/06482 - [2021/2106\(DEC\)](#)



**Exchange of views with Commissioner [Ylva Johansson](#), responsible for Home Affairs in the presence of ECA reporting member [Baudilio Tomé Muguruza](#)**

Rapporteur: [Olivier Chastel](#) (Renew)  
Administrators: Kaare Barslev / Fernando Gallego Osuna

Shadow Rapporteurs: **Monika Hohlmeier** (EPP), **Tsvetelina Penkova** (S&D), **Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel** (Greens/EFA), **Joachim Kuhs** (ID), **Ryszard Czarnecki** (ECR) and **Luke Ming Flanagan** (The Left)

Under Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) heading 3 - "security and citizenship", a range of policies are covered, whose common objective is to strengthen the concept of European citizenship by creating an area of freedom, justice and security without internal borders.

The most significant area of expenditure concerns the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI). This was set up in April 2020 to help EU Member States address the COVID-19 pandemic by funding, among other things, the cross-border transfer and transport of patients, medical staff and essential medical items; research into and production of vaccines and treatments; and the development, purchase and distribution of testing supplies.

Migration and security also represents a significant share of the budget heading. Spending in this area comes from two funds – the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF). The management of most AMIF and ISF funding is shared between the Member States (or associated countries) and the Commission's DG for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME). The objective of AMIF is to contribute to the effective management of migration flows and bring about a common EU approach to asylum and immigration. The overall aim of the ISF is to ensure security in the EU while facilitating legitimate travel and respecting fundamental freedoms and human rights. It operates through two instruments: ISF Borders and Visa and ISF Police.

The transactions subject to audit by the European Court of Auditors in the section concerning migration and security of Chapter 7 "Security and Citizenship" of its Annual Report 2020 represent EUR 6,3 billion excluding decentralised agencies, approximately 3,7% of the EU budget.

The audit scope for this MFF heading does not allow for a quantified conclusion on the level of error.

The documents of particular relevance for the exchange of views as regards the 2020 Commission discharge are:

- The ECA's 2020 Annual Report, chapters 1 and 8;
- The ECA's 2020 Annual Report on the performance of the EU budget (to be published by 15 November)
- The Commission's follow-up report
- The respective Annual Activity Report of the Director General.



These documents are available 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 21 October 2021. The Commission's answers were received on 4 November 2021 and forwarded to the CONT Members by the CONT secretariat.

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commissioner Johansson shall proceed as follows:

- Introduction by the reporting ECA Member Baudilio Tomé Muguruza, who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2020 and the Annual Report on performance (to be published by 15 November);
- Commissioner Johansson 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 ECA;
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

#### CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of the draft report	CONT	10 February 2022
Deadline for amendments	CONT	1 March 2022
Adoption of draft report	CONT	31 March 2022
Adoption of report	Plenary	May 2022

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## 8. NEXT MEETINGS

- 15 November 2021
- 29 - 30 November 2021

9 November 2021, 13.45 – 15.00 (Room: SPAAK 3C50)

## JOINT AFET/CONT MEETING

### 1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

### 2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

## JOINT AGENDA POINT WITH COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS (AFET)

### 3. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 23/2021: REDUCING GRAND CORRUPTION IN UKRAINE: SEVERAL EU INITIATIVES, BUT STILL INSUFFICIENT RESULTS

CONT/9/07554

#### Presentation of the special report by reporting ECA Member Juhan Parts



Rapporteur: [Katalin Cseh](#) (Renew)

Administrator:

Benoît Lefort

Ukraine is the second largest beneficiary country of the European Neighbourhood Instrument. Overall, the Commission has committed roughly EUR 5.6 billion to macro-financial assistance (MFA) programmes and EUR 2.2 billion to assistance programmes since 2014. The Commission also guarantees European Investment Bank loans of EUR 4.4 billion. The EU is the largest donor to Ukraine.

Ukraine has been suffering from corruption – particularly grand corruption – for many years. Transparency International defines grand corruption as “the abuse of high-level power that benefits the few at the expense of the many, and causes serious and widespread harm to individuals and society”. In Ukraine, it is based on informal connections between government officials, members of parliament, prosecutors, judges, law enforcement agencies (LEAs), managers of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and politically connected individuals/companies

The Court concluded that the EU’s strategy in Ukraine did not specifically focus on the fight against grand corruption, and its impact was difficult to monitor. The EEAS and the Commission regarded corruption as a “crosscutting priority” for which a multi-dimensional approach is needed, rather than as a single “priority sector”. However, they did not develop a focused strategy for targeting grand corruption and the dominance of the oligarchic system.

Grand corruption remains a key problem in Ukraine. Judicial reform is experiencing setbacks, anti-corruption institutions are at risk, trust in such institutions remains low, and the number of convictions resulting from grand corruption is small.

Notably, the Court recommended the EEAS and the Commission to design and implement specific actions that target grand corruption; to assess and adjust the scale of its support for civil society organisations and investigative journalism in order to enhance transparency and foster reform; and to contribute to removing impediments to free and fair competition.

It is proposed that the presentation of the ECA Special Report proceeds as follows:



- CONT and AFET Chairs' initial remarks;
- The ECA Member Juhan Parts will present the Report;
- The European Commission's representative will make introductory remarks;
- CONT Rapporteur will make observations and raise questions;
- CONT and AFET Members will make remarks and put questions to the ECA Member and the Commission's representatives;
- The ECA and the European Commission representatives will reply to the questions posed;
- CONT and AFET Chairs will make concluding remarks.

The ECA report is available in all EU languages on the [ECA website](#) and also on the [meeting documents](#).

#### **4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **PAPERLESS PROGRAMME (INTERNAL USERS ONLY)**

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

##### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Contact [CONT Secretariat](#) or visit the [website](#) of the CONT committee

## NEWS FROM POLICY DEPARTMENT - BUDGETARY AFFAIRS

### Publications Catalogue 2019 - 2021

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

#### CONT

Study [Requirements for a unique beneficiary database](#)

Proceedings of the workshop [Missing Trader Fraud: definition, effects, prevention and solutions](#)

Study [Impact of Organised Crime on the EU's Financial Interests](#)

Briefing [Budgetary control of the Sustainable Development Goals in the EU budget](#)

Briefing [The financial management of visitor groups to the national parliaments](#)

At a Glance [The Impact of Organised Crime on the EU's Financial Interests](#)

Proceedings of the workshop [The EU's current role in GRECO and ambitions for the future: How to move towards full membership](#)

Briefing [EU cooperation with the Group of States against Corruption \(GRECO\): how to move towards full membership](#)

Background note on [Simplification" for the CONT hearing](#)

Briefing [Missing Trader Intra-Community Fraud](#)

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

Proceedings of the workshop [Use of big data and AI in fighting corruption and misuse of public funds - good practice, ways forward and how to integrate new technology into contemporary control framework"](#)

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

Study [Special advisers to the Commission \(2014 - 2019\)](#)

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](#)

#### BUDG

Briefing: ["The Sustainable Development Goals in the EU budget"](#)

Briefing ["The financial management of visitor groups to the national parliaments"](#)

Briefing ["The integration of the European Development Funds into the MFF 2021 - 2027"](#)

In-depth Analysis ["Implementation of the EU Trust Funds and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey" Update - March 2021](#)

In-depth Analysis ["Reform of the EU own resources"](#)

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”**

## **FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS**

### **BUDG**

- Study "The new EFSD+ and the EIB's external lending mandate"
- Briefing "The borrowing strategy for Next Generation EU: design, challenges and opportunities"
- Study "Recovery, Brexit, Off-Budget instruments... what should be addressed in the next revision of the Financial Regulation?"
- Study "New EU own resources: possibilities and limitations of steering effects and sectoral policy co-benefits"
- 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"

### **CONT**

- Study "Identifying patterns of fraud with EU funds under shared management, similarities and differences between member states"
- Briefing "The Early-detection and exclusion system"

## **CONTACTS**

Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs - [poldep-budg@ep.europa.eu](mailto: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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