



NOTULEN

Vergadering van 15 november 2021, 13.45 - 16.15 uur en 16.45 - 18.45 uur

BRUSSEL

Zaal: József Antall (6Q2)

De vergadering wordt op maandag 15 november 2021 om 13.57 uur geopend onder voorzitterschap van Monika Hohlmeier (voorzitter).

15 november 2021, 13.45 - 14.45 uur

1. Aanneming van de agenda

De ontwerpagenda wordt aangenomen met de volgende wijzigingen:

- Punt 7 wordt uitgesteld.

2. Mededelingen van de voorzitter

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

3. Goedkeuring van notulen van vergaderingen

- 14 oktober 2021

PV – PE699.149v01-00

De notulen worden goedgekeurd.

4. Verslag van de Europese Rekenkamer over de prestaties van de EU-begroting – stand van zaken eind 2020

CONT/9/07518

- Presentatie van het verslag door **François-Roger Cazala**, rapporterend lid van de Europese Rekenkamer

Sprekers: Monika Hohlmeier, François-Roger Cazala (lid van de Europese Rekenkamer), Bernhard Windisch (Europese Commissie, DG BUDG), Olivier Chastel, Tsvetelina Penkova, Mikuláš Peksa.

15 november 2021, 14.45 - 16.15 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 met **Mariya Gabriel**, commissaris verantwoordelijk voor Innovatie, Onderzoek, Cultuur, Onderwijs en Jeugd, in aanwezigheid van **Mihails Kozlovs**, rapporterend lid van de Europese Rekenkamer

Sprekers: Monika Hohlmeier, Mihails Kozlovs (lid van de Europese Rekenkamer), Mariya Gabriel (commissaris verantwoordelijk voor Innovatie, Onderzoek, Cultuur, Onderwijs en Jeugd), Olivier Chastel, Tsvetelina Penkova, Mikuláš Peksa, Ramona Strugariu.

De vergadering wordt van 15.56 tot 16.15 uur voorgezeten door Ramona Strugariu (lid).

De vergadering wordt om 16.15 uur geschorst.

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De vergadering wordt om 16.53 uur hervat onder voorzitterschap van Olivier Chastel (voorzitter).

15 november 2021, 16.45 - 18.15 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 met **Nicolas Schmit**, commissaris voor Werkgelegenheid en Sociale Rechten, in aanwezigheid van **Lazaros Lazarou** en **Pietro Russo**, rapporterende leden van de Europese Rekenkamer

Sprekers: Olivier Chastel, Lazaros Lazarou (lid van de Europese Rekenkamer), Pietro Russo (lid van de Europese Rekenkamer), Nicolas Schmit (commissaris verantwoordelijk voor Banen en Sociale Rechten), Monika Hohlmeier (schriftelijke bijdrage), Tsvetelina Penkova, Mikuláš Peksa.

De vergadering wordt van 17.39 tot 18.17 uur voorgezeten door Tomáš Zdechovský (lid).

15 november 2021, 18.15 - 18.45 uur

7. Deelname van CONT aan werkbezoek van LIBE aan Ljubljana, Slovenië van 13-15 oktober 2021

CONT/9/07511

- Verslag aan de commissie door Mikuláš Peksa

Dit punt wordt uitgesteld tot de vergadering van 29-30 november.

8. Rondvraag

9. Volgende vergaderingen

- 29-30 november 2021
- 6 december 2021

De vergadering wordt om 18.17 uur gesloten.

**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/
JELENLĒTI ĪV/REGĪSTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
LISTĀ DE PREZENŤĀ/PREZENČNĀ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LĀSNĀOLOLISTA/NĀRVAROLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezidium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Monika Hohlmeier (Chair)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Βουλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/ Nariai/Képviselek/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Olivier Chastel, Lefteris Christoforou, Tsvetelina Penkova, Tomáš Zdechovský
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Pötagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Mikuláš Peksa, Ramona Strugariu

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 dnevnog 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)

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/Komisja/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
Mariya Gabriel (Commissioner responsible for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth); Nicolas Schmit (Commissioner responsible for Jobs and Social rights), Bernhard Windisch, Nicolas Clisson, Jean Subtil, Mateja Munda (DG BUDG)
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
François-Roger Cazala, Mihails Kozlovs, Lazaros Lazarou, Pietro Russo, Bogdan Sinca, Edite Dzalbe, Laura Graudina, Jean-Francois Hynderick, Michal Machowski, Helena Piron

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 osallistajat/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 grupernas sekretariat</p>	
<p>PPE S&D Renew ID Verts/ALE ECR The Left NI</p>	<p>Anna Ksiączakova Stephanie Antoine-Jacquemard, Beata Jurik Robert Godina</p>

<p>Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinet des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο του 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</p>	
<p>Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinet des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο του Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Ġeneralsekretāra 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/Direção-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>Monika Strasser, Niels Fischer</p>

<p>Правна 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 Jurídico/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten</p>
<p>Aleksandra Kerestelieva</p>
<p>Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusseksretariat/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, Kaare Barslev, Giulia Bastianello, Fernando Gallego Osuna, Benoît Lefort, Ana Maria Nogueira, Diego Rasetti, Paulus Johannes Stander, Kristyna Zavelova</p>
<p>Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asyistent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten</p>
<p>Kameliya Velcheva</p>

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predsedna/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
- (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chair/Potpredsjednik/Vice-Président/Potpredsjednik/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/ Vici 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Vaaruheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem/Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Βουλευτής/Member/Membre/Član/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jāsen/Ledamot
- (F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Dužnosnik/Funcionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urządник/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman

NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2021

13.45 – 16.15 and 16.45 – 18.45

Room: József Antall (6Q2)

15 November 2021, 13.45 – 14.45

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING

- 14 OCTOBER 2021 PE699.149v01-00

4. REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE EU BUDGET - STATUS AT THE END OF 2020

CONT/9/07518



Presentation of the report by reporting ECA Member, François-Roger Cazala

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 reporting Member of the European Court of Auditors, Mr François-Roger Cazala, will present the main conclusions of the Report on the performance of the EU budget - Status at the end of 2020. His intervention will focus on Chapter 1, "Performance framework", while the specific chapters will be discussed in the respective hearings.

For the financial year 2020, the Court of Auditors has, for the second time, split the annual report in two parts. This second part covers the performance of spending programmes under the EU budget. The first part of the annual report was presented to the CONT Committee on 26 October.



According to Article 287 of the TFEU, the ECA draws up an annual report at the end of each financial year. This report, including the statement of assurance (DAS - *Declaration d'Assurance*) concerning the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, is considered by the Council and the Parliament in the framework of the discharge procedure under Article 319 of the TFEU.

The presentation of the European Court of Auditors' Annual Report marks the beginning of the discharge cycle related to the year 2020. Upon examination of all relevant documents and a series of hearings with Commissioners in the EU's main spending areas, Parliament will decide in spring 2022 - acting on a recommendation from the Council - whether to grant discharge to the Commission and other EU bodies in respect of the implementation of the EU budget for the year 2020.

The Report of the European Court of Auditors on the performance of the EU budget - Status at the end of 2020 will be published in English on the ECA website eca.europa.eu. It will also be available on the [CONT website](#) after publication.

15 November 2021, 14.45 – 16.15

5. 2020 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COMMISSION
CONT/9/06482 - [2021/2106\(DEC\)](#)



Discharge hearing with Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner responsible for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, in the presence of reporting ECA member Mihails Kozlovs

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 CONT Committee will hold a hearing with Commissioner Gabriel in the context of the discharge procedure for the Commission for financial year 2020.

Research policy is part of Chapter 4 in the European Court of Auditors' Annual Report entitled "Competitiveness for growth and jobs – MFF heading 1a". The Commission's Directorate-General on Research and Innovation, DG RTD, implements EU funds under this policy field, which in 2019 represented 13,9 % of the total EU budget (EUR 24,1 billion in payments).

DG Research and Innovation is responsible for the Horizon 2020 and the Euratom framework programmes. 2020 was the last year of implementation of Horizon 2020 and intensive preparations of its successor Horizon Europe - the largest R&I programme globally, with the agreed budget of EUR 95.5 billion. DG RTD's expenditure is implemented mainly in direct management in the form of grants to public or private beneficiaries participating in projects. DG RTD had a reservation in its Annual Activity Report for 2019, concerning the Seventh Framework Programme, as its residual error rate was above the materiality threshold at 3,52 %, but due to the new "de minimis rule", there are no reservations open in 2020.



In 2020, 64 (i.e. 48%) of the 133 transactions examined contained errors. For this Chapter, the error was estimated by the Court to reach 3.9%. The ECA results indicate that the level of error remains high for research and innovation expenditure, which was the main source of error, especially as regards personnel costs, and much lower for the rest of the sub-heading. According to the ECA, The Commission has taken action to improve the quality of its ex post audits. However, its supervision and review thereof still has weaknesses. It has revised the method for calculating the representative error rate for Horizon 2020, leading to an increase of 0.41 percentage point.

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, as well as
- the Commission's Integrated Financial and Reporting package, and
- the 2020 Annual Activity Report of DG RTD.

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 28 October 2020, answers were received on Wednesday 10 November and forwarded to the CONT Members immediately.

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

- Introduction by the reporting Member of the ECA, Mihails Kozlovs, who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2020, and the Report on the performance of the EU budget;
- Commissioner Gabriel will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs will put questions to the Commissioner and the ECA followed by answers (using the ping-pong system);
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the ECA;
- Closing remarks by the Commissioner.

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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15 November 2021 October 2021, 16.45 – 18.45

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

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



Discharge hearing with *Nicolas Schmit*, Commissioner responsible for Jobs and Social Rights, in the presence of reporting ECA members *Lazaros Lazarou* and *Pietro Russo*

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 CONT Committee will hold a hearing with Commissioner Schmit in the context of the discharge procedure for the Commission for financial year 2020.

The area of Jobs and Social Rights is covered under Chapter 5 “Economic, social and territorial cohesion” of the Court’s annual report. In 2020, cohesion represented a 34.3% of the total payments, for an amount of EUR 59.5 billion. Spending under this sub-heading focuses on reducing development disparities between the different Member States and regions of the EU and strengthening all regions’ competitiveness. Specifically, these objectives are implemented through, among others, the European Social Fund (ESF), which aims to encourage a high level of employment and the creation of more and better jobs, including measures through the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) targeting regions with a high youth unemployment rate.

Responsibility for implementing the multiannual operational programmes is shared between the Commission (including, among others, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)) and the Member States.

Audit authorities had reported quantifiable errors in the assurance/closure packages for 64 of the 213 transactions sampled by the ECA from assurance and closure packages. These errors concerned ineligible costs (43), public procurement (21), accounting and calculation errors (six), state aid (two), and missing supporting documents (one). According to the ECA, the number and impact of the errors detected demonstrate that the controls in place do not yet sufficiently mitigate the high inherent risk of error in this area. This particularly concerns managing authorities whose verifications are ineffective for preventing or detecting irregularities in the expenditure declared by beneficiaries. Other errors are the result of decisions taken by managing authorities themselves.

Regarding the error rates, DG EMPL reported rates of 1.4 % for the KPI and 1.9 % for maximum risk. The ECA indicates that DG EMPL did not take full account of possible errors beyond those detected. If DG EMPL had applied the same approach as DG REGIO, its maximum rate would have been 2.1 %.

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, as well as
- the Commission's Integrated Financial and Reporting package, and
- the 2020 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 28 October 2020, answers were received on Wednesday 10 November and forwarded to the CONT Members immediately.

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

- Introduction by the reporting Members of the ECA, Lazaros Lazarou and Pietro Russo, who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2020, and the Report on the performance of the EU budget;
- Commissioner Schmit will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs will put questions to the Commissioner and the Court followed by answers (using the ping-pong system);
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the ECA;
- Closing remarks by the Commissioner.

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

15 November 2021, 18.15 – 18.45

7. CONT PARTICIPATION IN LIBE MISSION TO LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA ON 13-15

OCTOBER 2021

CONT/9/07511



Reporting back to committee by [Mikuláš Peksa](#)

Administrator:

Ana Maria Nogueira

A LIBE mission to Slovenia took place on 12-13 October. The LIBE Monitoring Group on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights (DRFMG) mission aimed at taking stock of the latest developments in the country regarding the situation of the rule of law, the state of the media freedom and pluralism and the fight against corruption. At the request of the CONT Coordinators to participate to the evaluation of the situation concerning the rule of law in Slovenia, for budgetary control matters and CONT's

competence, Mr Mikuláš Peksa joined the LIBE mission. He will report back to the CONT Committee on the main findings.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETINGS

- 29 - 30 November 2021
- 6 December 2021

PAPERLESS PROGRAMME (INTERNAL USERS ONLY)

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

NEWS FROM POLICY DEPARTMENT - BUDGETARY AFFAIRS

[Publications Catalogue 2019 - 2021](#)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

CONT

Briefing: "[The state of implementing procurement procedures in EU Agencies: enhancing transparency and assessing flexibility](#)"

Brochure of the workshop "[The state of implementing procurement procedures in EU Agencies: enhancing transparency and assessing flexibility](#)"

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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](#)

Brochure of the workshop "[The EU borrowing strategy for NGEU: design, challenges and opportunities](#)"

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?](#)"

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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](#)"

BUDG

Brochure of the workshop "[The EU borrowing strategy for NGEU: design, challenges and opportunities](#)"

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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 "Single Audit approach - root causes of the weaknesses in the work of the Member States' management and audit authorities"

- 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

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

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