



# ACTA

**Reunión del 13 de julio de 2022, de las 9.00 a las 12.30 horas y de las 15.00 a las 18.30 horas,**

**y del 14 de julio de 2022, de las 9.00 a las 12.00 horas y de las 15.00 a las 17.00 horas**

**Bruselas, Sala Altiero Spinelli (3E-2)**

La reunión comienza el miércoles 13 de julio de 2022, a las 9.02 horas, bajo la presidencia de Tomáš Zdechovský (cuarto vicepresidente) y Benoît Biteau (vicepresidente de AGRI).

**13 de julio de 2022, de las 9.00 a las 12.30 horas**

**1. Aprobación del orden del día**

Se aprueba el proyecto de orden del día tal como figura en la presente acta.

**2. Comunicaciones de la presidencia**

La presidencia señala a la atención de los miembros la información recogida en el boletín CONT News. Además, anuncia el contenido de una carta en relación con la delegación CONT a Bulgaria en abril de 2022.

**3. Aprobación de actas de reuniones**

- 15 y 16 de junio de 2022

PV – PE734.218v01-00

Se aprueba el acta.

*Presentaciones conjuntas con la Comisión de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (AGRI)*

**4. Informe Especial n.º 14/2022 titulado «Respuesta de la Comisión al fraude en la política agrícola común: ha llegado el momento de profundizar»**

CONT/9/09439

Ponente:

Luke Ming Flanagan (The Left)

- Presentación del Informe Especial a cargo de Nikolaos Milionis (miembro ponente del TCE)

**Intervienen:** Tomáš Zdechovský, Benoît Biteau, Nikolaos Milionis (miembro del TCE), Christina Borchman (Comisión, DG AGRI), Herbert Dorfmann, Sophia in 't Veld, Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Martin Häusling, Alin Mituța, Zbigniew Kuto miuk.

10.25 Gilles Boyer reanuda la presidencia de la reunión de Tomáš Zdechovský.

**5. Informe Especial n.º 16/2022 del TCE titulado «Datos en la política agrícola común: El potencial desaprovechado que ofrecen los macrodatos para las evaluaciones de la política»**

CONT/9/09429

Ponente:

Luke Ming Flanagan (The Left)

- Presentación del Informe Especial a cargo de Joëlle Elvinger (miembro ponente del TCE)

**Intervienen:** Tomáš Zdechovský, Gilles Boyer, Benoît Biteau, Joëlle Elvinger (miembro del TCE), Tassos Haniotis (Comisión, DG AGRI), Peter Jahr.

**6. Informe Especial n.º 12/2022 del TCE titulado «Durabilidad en el desarrollo rural - La mayoría de los proyectos se mantienen en funcionamiento durante el período exigido, pero se podrían lograr resultados más duraderos»**

CONT/9/09417

Ponente:

Petri Sarvamaa (PPE)

DT – PE734.229v02-00

- Presentación del Informe Especial a cargo de Viorel Ștefan (miembro ponente del TCE) (Grupo político responsable: PPE)

**Intervienen:** Gilles Boyer, Benoît Biteau, Viorel Ștefan (miembro del TCE), Pierre Bascou (Comisión, DG AGRI), Herbert Dorfmann, Daniel Buda, Tomáš Zdechovský.

11.22 Tomáš Zdechovský reanuda la presidencia de la reunión de Gilles Boyer.

**7. Informe Especial n.º 10/2022 del TCE titulado «Leader y el desarrollo local participativo facilitan la implicación local, pero aún no se han demostrado suficientemente sus beneficios adicionales»**

CONT/9/09438

Ponente:

Petri Sarvamaa (PPE)

DT – PE734.368v01-00

- Presentación del Informe Especial a cargo de Eva Lindström (miembro ponente del TCE) (Grupo político responsable: PPE)

**Intervienen:** Tomáš Zdechovský, Benoît Biteau, Eva Lindstrom (miembro del TCE), Pierre Bascou (Comisión, DG AGRI), Petri Sarvamaa (declaración por escrito), Daniel Buda, Peter Jahr.

- Se suspende la reunión a las 11.52 horas.

\* \* \*

**13 de julio de 2022, de las 15.00 a las 16.00 horas**

**\*\*\* A puerta cerrada \*\*\***

## **8. Reunión de los coordinadores**

\* \* \*

La reunión se reanuda a las 16.09 horas, bajo la presidencia de Tomáš Zdechovský (vicepresidente cuarto)

**13 de julio de 2022, de las 16.00 a las 16.30 horas**

**\*\*\* Turno de votaciones \*\*\***

## **9. Intercambio de información entre las autoridades policiales de los Estados miembros y derogación de la Decisión Marco 2006/960/JAI del Consejo**

CONT/9/08243

\*\*\*I 2021/0411(COD) COM(2021)0782 – C9-0457/2021

Ponente de opinión:

Caterina Chinnici (S&D)

AD – PE732.691v02-00

AM – PE734.193v01-00

Fondo:

LIBE – Lena Düpont (PPE)

PR – PE732.767v01-00

AM – PE735.476v01-00

- Aprobación del proyecto de opinión

Se aprueba el proyecto de opinión por 20 votos a favor, 1 voto en contra y 0 abstenciones. (Véase la página de la votación nominal y el resumen de los resultados en la página 7)

**\*\*\* Fin del turno de votaciones \*\*\***

La reunión se suspende a las 16.22 horas y se reanuda a las 16.33 horas bajo la presidencia de Tomáš Zdechovský (vicepresidente cuarto).

**13 de julio de 2022, de las 16.30 a las 18.30 horas**

**10. Aprobación de la gestión 2020: Agencia Europea de la Guardia de Fronteras y Costas**

CONT/9/06703

Ponente:

Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

- Intercambio de puntos de vista con la Comisión, el Consejo de Administración de Frontex y la directora ejecutiva en funciones de Frontex

**Intervienen:** Tomáš Zdechovský, Alexander Fritsch (presidente del Consejo de Administración de Frontex), Aija Kalnaja (directora ejecutiva adjunta de Frontex), Olivier Onidi (Comisión, DG HOME), Ramona Strugariu, Bas Eickhout.

La reunión termina a las 18.00 horas.

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La reunión comienza a las 9.04 horas bajo la presidencia de Isabel García Muñoz (vicepresidente primero). primero).

**14 de julio de 2022, de las 9.00 a las 10.30 horas**

*Con la participación de miembros de la Comisión de Asuntos Constitucionales (AFCO)*

**11. Informe Especial n.º 17/2022 del TCE titulado «Consultores externos en la Comisión Europea: margen de reforma»**

CONT/9/09447

Ponente:

Maria Grapini (S&D)

DT – PE734.385v01-00

- Presentación del Informe Especial a cargo de François-Roger Cazala (miembro ponente del TCE)

**Intervienen:** Isabel García Muñoz, François-Roger Cazala (miembro del TCE), Rosa Aldea Busquets (Comisión, DG BUDG), Christian Roques (Comisión, DG HR), Daniel Freund, Joachim Kuhs.

**12. Estudio sobre el uso por parte de la Comisión Europea de consultores en la elaboración de la legislación**

CONT/9/09519

Ponente:

Petri Sarvamaa (PPE)

- Presentación a cargo del Departamento Temático de Asuntos Presupuestarios (PolDep D)

**Intervienen:** Isabel García Muñoz, Jack Malan (Centro de Servicios de Evaluación Estratégica), Marta Dimauro (Centro de Servicios de Evaluación de Estrategia), Daniel Freund, Joachim Kuhs.

**14 de julio de 2022, de las 10.30 a las 11.00 horas**

**13. Misión de la Comisión CONT a Italia (25-27 de mayo de 2022)**

CONT/9/09040

- Información a la comisión sobre la misión de la Comisión CONT a Italia del 25 al 27 de mayo de 2022

**Intervienen:** Isabel García Muñoz.

Se suspende la reunión a las 10.37 horas y se reanuda a las 11.07 horas.

**14 de julio de 2022, de las 11.00 a las 12.00 horas**

**\*\*\* A puerta cerrada \*\*\***

**14. Misión de la Comisión CONT a Polonia (18-20 de julio de 2022)**

CONT/9/09445

Intercambio de puntos de vista con la Comisión y la OLAF a la luz de los preparativos de la misión a Polonia

**Intervienen:** Isabel García Muñoz, Florian Geyer (Comisión, DG JUST), Maria Ntziouni-Doumas (OLAF), Lara Wolters, Mikuláš Peksa, Joachim Kuhs.

Se suspende la reunión a las 11.59 horas.

\* \* \*

La reunión se reanuda a las 15.04 horas bajo la presidencia de Joachim Kuhs (miembro).

**14 de julio de 2022, de las 15.00 a las 16.00 horas**

**15. Informe Especial n.º 08/2022 del TCE titulado «Apoyo del FEDER a la competitividad de las pymes: Las deficiencias de diseño restan eficacia a la financiación»**

CONT/9/09461

Ponente:

Mikuláš Peksa (Verts/ALE)

- Presentación del Informe Especial a cargo de Pietro Russo (miembro ponente del TCE) (Grupo político responsable: Verts/ALE)

**Intervienen:** Joachim Kuhs, Pietro Russo (miembro del TCE), Catherine Wendt (Comisión, DG REGIO), Mikuláš Peksa.

**14 de julio de 2022, de las 16.00 a las 17.00 horas**

***Con la participación de los miembros de la Comisión de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (AGRI)***

**16. Informe Especial n.º 11/2022 del TCE titulado «Protección del presupuesto de la UE - Es necesario hacer un mejor uso de las listas negras»  
CONT/9/09416**

Ponente:

Sándor Rónai (S&D)

DT – PE734.228v01-00

- Presentación del Informe Especial a cargo de Helga Berger (miembro ponente del TCE)

**Intervienen:** Joachim Kuhs, Helga Berger (miembro del TCE), Olivier Waelbroeck (Comisión, DG BUDG), Sándor Rónai.

**17. Asuntos varios**

**18. Próximas reuniones**

- 5 de septiembre de 2022, Bruselas
- 8 de septiembre de 2022, Bruselas

La reunión termina a las 16.22 horas.

## Results of roll-call votes

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Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

**9. Information exchange between law enforcement authorities of Member States, repealing Council Framework Decision 2006/960/JHA - CONT/9/08243**

**9.1. Final vote**

<b>20</b>	<b>+</b>
ECR	Andželika Anna Możdżanowska
ID	Matteo Adinolfi
PPE	Lefteris Christoforou, José Manuel Fernandes, David Lega, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Andrey Novakov, Jörgen Warborn, Tomáš Zdechovský
RENEW	Gilles Boyer, Olivier Chastel, Sophia in 't Veld, Michal Wiezik
S&D	Isabel García Muñoz, Maria Grapini, Tsvetelina Penkova, Sándor Rónai
VERTS/ALE	Daniel Freund, Malte Gallée, Viola von Cramon-Taubadel

<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
ID	Jean-François Jalkh

<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Corrections to votes and voting intentions</b>	
<b>+</b>	Markus Pieper
<b>-</b>	
<b>0</b>	



**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALLOLIJATE 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/PREZENČNĂ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjetništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezidium/Birou/Předsednictvo/Předsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)	
Gilles Boyer (3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-chair), Isabel García Muñoz (1 <sup>st</sup> vice-Chair), Tomáš Zdechovský (4 <sup>th</sup> Vice-Chair)	
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Βουλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/ Nariai/Képviselek/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter	
Matteo Adinolfi (1), Gilles Boyer (1), Olivier Chastel (1), Lefteris Christoforou (1), Ryszard Czarnecki (1), José Manuel Fernandes (1), Daniel Freund (2), Isabel García Muñoz (2), Jean-François Jalkh (1), Joachim Kuhs (1), Alin Mituța (1), Markus Pieper (1), Sándor Rónai (2), Lara Wolters (1), Tomáš Zdechovský (2).	
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Pötagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter	
Bas Eickhout (1), Eider Gardiazabal Rubial (1), Maria Grapini (1), David Lega (1), Marian-Jean Marinescu (1), Andrey Novakov (1), Mikuláš Peksa (2), Tsvetelina Penkova (1), Ramona Strugariu (1), Michal Wiezik (1), Sophia in 't Veld (1), Viola von Cramon-Taubadel (1)	

209 (7)	
Malte Gallée, Andzelika Anna Mozdzanowska, Jörgen Warborn	
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 schôdze/Τοčka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)	
Benoît Biteau, Daniel Buda, Herbert Dorfmann, Martin Häusling, Peter Jahr, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk	4, 5, 6 & 7

Присъствал на/Presente el/Přítomný dne/Til stede den/Anwesend am/Viibis(id) kohal/Παρόν στις/Present on/Présent le/Nazočni  
 dana/Presente il/Piedalījās/ Dalyvauja/Jelen volt/Prezenti fi/Aanwezig op/Obecny dnia/Presente em/Prezent/Přítomný dňa/Navzoči  
 dne/Läsnä/Närvarande den:

- (1) 13.7.2022  
 (2) 14.7.2022

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Nověrotáji/Stebětójai/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/Εσιμεhe kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair/Sur l'invitation du président/ Na poziv predsednika/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
Jack Malan & Marta Dimauro (Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services).

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 (*)	
Christina Borchman (Commission, DG AGRI), Tassos Haniotis (Commission, DG AGRI), Pierre Bascou (Commission, DG AGRI), Olivier Onidi (Commission, DG HOME), Rosa Aldea Busquets (Commission, DG BUDG), Christian Roques (Commission, DG HR), Florian Geyer (Commission, DG JUST), Maria Ntziouni-Doumas (OLAF), Catherine Wendt (Commission, DG REGIO), Olivier Waelbroeck (Commission, 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/Istituzjonijiet u korpi ohra/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	Nikolaos Milionis, Joëlle Elvinger, Viorel Stefan, Eva Lindstrom, François-Roger Cazala, Pietro Russo, Helga Berger, François-Roger Cazala, Helena Piron.
Frontex	Alexander Fritsch, Aija Kalnaja.

Други учасници/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/Partecipanti ohra/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/Sekretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi poličiči/Fractiesekretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Sekretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat</p>	
PPE	Dimo Ivanov, Inmaculada Mateos Buendia, Madalina Stoian
S&D	
Renew	Beata Jurik
ID	
Verts/ALE	
ECR	
The Left	John Mc Gilloway
NI	

<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 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>Καбинет 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/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, Stefan Schulz</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 Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten</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/Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet</p>
<p>Kaare Barslev, Giulia Bastianello, Marius Cobianu, Fernando Gallego-Osuna, Benoit Lefort, Ana Nogueira, Diego Rasetti, Hans Stander</p>
<p>Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asyistent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten</p>
<p>Kameliya Velcheva, Anna Aaresu</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/Mistopředseda/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/Képviselő/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/Urządник/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman



## COORDINATORS' MEETING

Wednesday 13 July 2022

15.00-16.00

Brussels

ASP 3E2

### Summary of coordinators' recommendations

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## **Items for decision**

### **1. New referrals**

#### **1.1. Draft opinion to BUDG on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2023**

As part of the annual budgetary procedure and following the European Parliament resolution of 5 April 2022 on general guidelines for the preparation of the 2023 budget, Section III – Commission, for which CONT provided an opinion in the form of a letter, the European Parliament will in November adopt a resolution on the Council position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2023. A draft report will be prepared by the BUDG Committee. The deadline set by BUDG to receive opinions from other Committees is 29 September, at 12.00.

The CONT rapporteur for the 2023 budget is Mr CHASTEL (RE) following the Coordinators' decision of 24 January 2022. An opinion in the form of a letter would be co-signed by him and by the CONT Chair.

#### **Decision:**

Coordinators decided that CONT should provide an opinion to BUDG on the draft budgetary resolution for the year 2023, and that it is prepared as an opinion in the form of a letter.

#### **1.2. Follow-up of a motion for a resolution on EU support for welfare organisations**

The CONT Committee has been referred the follow-up of the motion for resolution MfR B9-0286/2022 on EU support for welfare organisations by Guido Reil (ID) in application of Rule 143 (5) RoP.

The text of the motion for resolution is very much focussed on alleged irregularities among charitable associations and welfare organisations in Germany with reference to one particular case.

The ID Coordinator was not present to explain the background of the motion for a resolution.

#### **Decision:**

Coordinators decided not to follow-up the motion for a resolution.

## 2. Discharge calendar 2021

Coordinators were given an updated discharge calendar for 2021. The main update is that there is a re-scheduling of dates in September and that the Directorates-General have been identified.

In addition, the Chair made an announcement with an update:

2.1 The two rapporteurs from the EPP working on the 2021 discharge for the Commission will be Ms Hohlmeier (RRF) and Mr Lenaers (MFF)

2.2 The Rapporteurs wish to slightly update the list of Commission DGs to be invited for a hearing in comparison with the initial list proposed in the discharge calendar:

No longer: DG EMPL

New: DG HOME, DG DEFIS, DG ENV

Final list: AGRI, BUDG, DEFIS, ENV, HOME, REGIO, RTD, SANTE, SG RECOVER + ECFIN

2.3 This also means an increase of discharge hearings with Commissioners: from 8 to 10 hearings (9 Commissioners' hearings, and one hearing with the SG of the EC), one of which will take place in Strasbourg. These changes will be reflected in an updated version of the discharge calendar and in the updated calendar of CONT meetings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2022.

S&D made a comment that it would like to have the deadlines for submission of questions in preparation for the hearings to be included in the discharge timetable. This will be done by the Secretariat before the start of the hearings.

The Greens and the Left requested that the meeting on 6 October in Strasbourg would not take place in the afternoon, for which the Chair provided a response that the meeting will take place in the morning.

RE requested the updated discharge calendar to be circulated before the summer break in order to reflect the dates in Members' calendars.

### **Decision:**

Coordinators approved the updated discharge calendar, including the remarks made in the announcements.

## 3. Practical arrangements for the European Parliament, the Commission, Other Institutions, the Agencies and the Joint Undertakings and the standard questionnaire for the Agencies - 2021 Discharge

As regards the standard questionnaire, S&D requested sufficient time between the deadline for submitting questions and receipt of the ECA Annual Report on the Agencies.

The Secretariat has requested ECA an advance copy of the report for CONT Members, as was requested and provided for the 2020 discharge.

S&D proposed adding the phase '*noting an exception for issues which remain unresolved*' to the line "*repetition of old cases over several years should be avoided*" within the Practical arrangements for the EP. There was no opposition by the other Coordinators to this proposal.

**Decision:**

Coordinators approved:

- the practical arrangements for the EP, the Commission, Other Institutions, the Agencies and the Joint Undertakings;
- the standard questionnaire for the Agencies.

**4. Handling of the discharge to EPPO for 2021**

The EP will for the first time be deciding on the discharge to EPPO for the financial year 2021.

**Decision:**

Coordinators decided that the discharge to EPPO should be handled in the group of Other Institutions.

**5. Outcome of the meeting of the working group on the future of discharge**

The Working Group submitted to the CONT Coordinators its proposals for amendments to the EP's Rules of procedure and to the Financial Regulation. The proposals were discussed. See annex 1 for the comments made by the groups.

**Decision:**

Coordinators discussed the proposals, and referred their comments, as presented in annex 1, back to the working group.

**6. Working methods of the CONT Committee when the CCC guidelines/ rule 216 in the RoP has been revised**

Clarification from the S&D representative in the coordinators' meeting: In general S&D supports the proposal, but personally it will be difficult for the representative to participate remotely, as there will be no interpretation.



The Coordinators considered that the delegation should be granted initially for a limited time period, to evaluate the application in practice.

**Decision:**

Coordinators decided to give a delegation to the CONT Chair to decide to hold Coordinators meetings in a hybrid format for a period from now until 31 October 2022.

**7. Non-CONT Member to participate in the mission to Cyprus for the Left Group**

The Left group has informed the Secretariat that none of the group's CONT Members are able to join the mission to Cyprus from 19 to 21 September 2022. The Left requests to authorise the participation of Mr Giorgos GEORGIU, Member (in AFET Committee) from Cyprus, as an accompanying Member (out of quota).

**Decision:**

Coordinators decided to approve the GUE Member from AFET to accompany the CONT mission to Cyprus as an accompanying Member.

**8. Joint BUDG-CONT meeting with Commissioner Hahn on RoL conditionality mechanism**

**Decision:**

Coordinators decided to organise a joint meeting with BUDG on the Commission's reaction to the Hungarian reply to the official notification sent in relation to the Rule of Law Conditionality Mechanism.

**9. Any other business**

1. Announcement by the Chair:

The discharge calendar has been changed. The CONT meeting planned on 26 and 29 September had to be cancelled because of the absence of Members.

The changes are as follows:

- The hearing with the SG of the EP will be re-scheduled to 25 October
- The hearing with the DGs will be re-scheduled to 8 September, 24/25 October and 7 November

2. Announcement by the Chair:

For the programming exercise of committee activities in the coming semester, CONT is invited to submit proposals for hearings, travel activities & activities with national parliaments in the first half of 2023. The CCC would then adopt the draft programmes during their meeting on 18 October 2022. The Secretariat will launch a written call for proposals to collect proposals that will be put for decision by the CONT Coordinators on 5 September 2022.

The discharge calendar will be circulated before the summer holiday.

3. Request from the Greens' Rapporteur:

Can we have an exchange of views in a Committee meeting on the OLAF report on Frontex to which the CONT Members have been given access.

The Chair indicated to bring this proposal to the Chair of the Committee, considering the importance of the subject and the limited availability of meeting slots.

**10. Date of next Coordinators' meeting**

- 5 September 2022

## **Annex 1 - Groups' comments on 'the future of discharge'**

### **The EPP made the following comments:**

- We are in agreement with the proposals for modifications and the explanations provided by the Legal Service. Nevertheless, for Article 5 of Annex V - the discharge procedure, the EP would favour the obligation for the Rapporteur to make a recommendation as regards granting or postponing the discharge.
- Moreover, EPP would like to propose that the Court of Auditors no longer issues two separate reports on compliance and performance, but that the performance part should be included in the annual report as a separate chapter on an ongoing basis. The EPP believes that the EP should not include in its rules of procedure the annual reports and the special reports in two separate reports.

EPP therefore asks that points (d) and (e) of Article 1 of Annex V be merged and reworded to include all relevant outputs of the Court of Auditors, without making a distinction between compliance and performance reports.

### **S&D made the following comments:**

S&D agrees with most of the modifications within the proposal put forward for discussion by the Legal Service. However, S&D highlights the issues with potential disagreement:

- S&D does not support the proposal to merge resolutions for agencies and joint undertakings. There are political constraints, as, for example, that a problematic agency, may not receive sufficient attention, visibility and criticism if it is put together with other agencies. Another risk is that problems which may be relevant only for one agency are generalised and used to attack other agencies in the same cluster.
- S&D does not agree with the proposal the discharge resolution to include separate chapters according to commissioners' portfolios and individual assessment to them. The Commission is a collective body and the College takes the decisions. The commissioners which are responsible for the policy areas spending the biggest part of the EU budget are very restricted in taking decisions individually. With the system of Vice-Presidents who 'supervise' policy-responsible commissioners, the latter are not fully independent. The most expenditure related policies are implemented under shared management where member states have a crucial role to play. The Court of Auditors presents its Annual report based on the headings of the respective MFF. We could not expect to receive Court's observation for the portfolio of each individual commissioner. This means, that the assessment and the conclusions of the Parliament cannot be based on an independent and sufficient audit information and risk to be politically driven.
- S&D considers that the current practice should be maintained to have plenary vote based on the CONT proposal, in order not to "weaken" CONT's role.'

Comments provided by S&D in writing after the meeting:

- S&D agrees with the proposed alignment of the EP Rules of procedure with 2018 Financial Regulation and other new developments and that the scope of discharge covers external assigned revenue. We agree with the clarification between first and second phases of discharge procedure and its chronological presentation.
- S&D supports that the final votes on decisions and resolutions are always by roll-call, both in CONT and in Plenary (EP RoP, Annex V, Article 3(2)).
- S&D supports that amendments won't be admissible for the discharge decision but only to the motion for a resolution (EP RoP, Annex V, Article 3(3)).
- S&D is in favour to vote the discharge decisions before the resolutions with the open rule depending on what CONT decides (EP RoP, Annex V, Article 3(4)).
- S&D also agrees with the proposed more detailed rules on the contents of discharge resolutions.

### **RE made the following comments:**

RE is broadly in agreement on the text.

- On the EPP's proposal to ask the ECA for one report on compliance and performance, the coordinator noted that that could be impossible for the Court, as they have always said that it is impossible for their timetable to combine the two. Possibly, under a new ECA President it will be possible.
- RE also supports S&D comment that the resolution for the Agencies and Joint Undertakings should not be grouped together. We should maintain the current practice of separate reports.
- And as regards the vote in plenary, RE is in support of S&D's remark to follow the Committee's proposal.

### **The Left made the following comments:**

#### **POSITIVE ELEMENTS**

We want to thank the Legal service and the WG all for having drafted these proposals. Lots of good elements are incorporated in it.

Despite all these positive developments, we have some concerns on some of the elements proposed.

#### **POSSIBLY CRITICAL ELEMENTS**

##### **RoP**

- ORDER of VOTE on DECISION and RESOLUTION  
we do not agree with the revision of the order of voting on the motion for resolution before the decision.

New art 3.4 annexe 5 introduce the possibility to decision on a different order, that in general terms should be the decision before the resolution. In general we would prefer the original 4.3 text that defines a clear order (decision before resolution) but if political groups in majority want to have this new possibility included, we may accept this only as possibility.

- POSSIBILITY OF AM TABLED IN CONT on the DECISION

We want to keep the possibility for Members to table AM on the decision in CONT. We are afraid that the new Art 3.3 (current Art 4.2) in combination with new art 5.1 and in particular with the new structure introduced in Annexe 5 will mean that this possibility will no longer be an option. We would oppose this. We know that AM on the decision are finally not voted, since the vote on decision takes place no matter what, but Members have used this option for AM on decision as a political mean to express a political message we would like to keep

*Current Art 4 was to be applied only to Plenary procedure, while the structure of the Annexe is changed in a way that it is not clear if this new Art 3.3 is to be applied only to plenary or also to CONT procedure.*

- plenary vote on decision

We understand that the procedure included in 5.2 and 5.3 is identical to the current system where the plenary decision will be based on the CONT proposal. We see some positive in revising this procedure (Plenary vote to be on the same line of CONT vote where + means grant discharge and - means postpone discharge) but at the same time, we think that changing the procedure would reduce the impact and value of the CONT Vote.

- Decision to postpone the vote on the resolution

Art 6.6. we do not understand why the decision to postpone the vote on the resolution is no longer linked to the fact that the decision contradicts some parts of the resolution but is left open for decision. We are afraid that this new article is less clear than the previous art 5 (3)

*Legal services underlines that the new wording is clearer because it would be very difficult to establish in detail which of the provisions of the recommendation would "contradict" the decision and justify postponement. The proposed option is much easier to handle in practical terms in plenary, e.g. given that negative remarks alone do not necessarily constitute a contradiction and do not automatically lead to a refusal of discharge.*

### **Revision of the FIN REG**

We understand that the proposed revision of the FinReg is based on the proposals made by the EP in its resolution voted in last November. Nevertheless, we see the need for further changes

- Art 261.2 when referring to ECA Annual report and to be consistent with actual practice of a report on performance, we would need to talk about reports and not report
- Art 261.3 the EP requested in its resolution to extend its power on discharge not only to the Commission but also to all Union institutions and bodies. The provision

in Art 260 4 maybe should be clarified by also including in art 261.3 the reference in addition to the COM also to all Union institutions and bodies. One could add “, the other Union institutions and the Union bodies referred to in Articles 70 and 71” to Article 261(3)

Consulting with the legal services, we kind of understood that the better place to whole new art 261 .4 could be 260.

- Additionally we would like to echo a request by the legal service on additional revision of art 261.4 to make it clearer “The provisions governing the procedure for granting discharge to the Commission in accordance with Article 319 TFEU, in respect of the implementation of the budget, shall apply to the procedure for granting discharge to the other Union institutions and to the Union bodies referred to in Articles 70 and 71.”

This is because only Union bodies are referred to in Art 70 and 71.

# NEWSLETTER

## COMMITTEE MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 13 JULY 2022**

09:00 – 12:30 and 15:00 - 18:30

**THURSDAY 14 JULY 2022**

09:00 – 12:00 and 15:00 - 17:00

*Room: Altiero Spinelli 3E - 2*

**Wednesday 13 July 2022, 09:00 – 12:30**

### 1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

### 2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair draws attention to the following points:

**Languages available (due to the limitations of DG LINC, not all requested languages have been granted)**

Interpretation for the joint meeting was requested in the following languages:

13/07/2022, 09:00 – 12:30 DE EN FR IT EL ES PT CS HU PL RO HR

13/07/2022, 15:30 – 16:30 DE EN FR IT ES CS PL RO (if possible)

13/07/2022, 16:30 – 18:30 DE EN FR IT EL ES PT CS HU PL RO (if possible) HR

14/07/2022, 09:00 – 12:00 DE EN FR IT EL ES PT CS HU PL RO (if possible) HR

14/07/2022, 15:00 – 17:00 DE EN FR IT EL ES PT CS HU PL RO HR

#### Webstreaming

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

#### **Adoption of Coordinators' recommendations**

The summary of the Coordinators' recommendations of the written procedures of 16 and 22 June 2022 was circulated to the Members on 6 July 2022.

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

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

*Joint presentations with Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)*

**4. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 14/2022 - THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSE TO FRAUD IN THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY: TIME TO DIG DEEPER**

CONT/9/09439



*Presentation of the special report by reporting ECA Member Nikolaos Milionis*

<b>Rapporteur:</b> <a href="#">Flanagan</a> (The Left)	<a href="#">Luke Ming</a>
<b>Administrator:</b> Gallego Osuna	Fernando
<b>Shadow Rapporteur:</b> <b>In't Veld</b> (Renew)	<b>Sophie</b>

Various bodies protect the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) financing from fraud at EU and national level. The Court's audit examined whether the Commission has taken appropriate action on fraud in CAP spending, by assessing the fraud risks inherent in CAP payment schemes, and whether the Commission has identified and properly responded to the fraud risks affecting CAP spending.

The Court found that the Commission has responded to instances of fraud in CAP spending, but was not sufficiently proactive in addressing the impact of the risk of illegal land grabbing on CAP payments, in monitoring Member States' anti-fraud measures, and in exploiting the potential of new technologies. The Court further notes that fraud risks vary between the CAP payment schemes. The Court presents an overview of the fraud risks affecting the various CAP payments schemes, having identified risks linked to beneficiaries concealing breaches of eligibility conditions, to the complexity of the financed measures, and to illegal forms of 'land grabbing'.



## 5. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 16/2022: DATA IN THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY - UNREALISED POTENTIAL OF BIG DATA FOR POLICY EVALUATIONS

CONT/9/09429



*Presentation of the special report by reporting ECA Member by Joëlle Elvinger*

**CONT Rapporteur:**  
(The Left)

[Luke Ming Flanagan](#)

**Administrator:**

Giulia Bastianello

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) represents more than a third of the EU budget. The policy has numerous complex and inter-related objectives. Using an evidence-based approach in policy decisions and establishing a causal link between a CAP measure and its results require various data from different sources and subsequent analysis.

The objective of the audit was to assess whether the Commission is making good use of data and analytics for CAP policy analysis. This assessment is relevant both for the CAP starting in 2023 and for the post-2027 CAP. The ECA examined how the Commission has used the available data for policy analysis in recent years, and whether the available data are sufficient. The ECA also examined what the Commission is doing to address data gaps, including the use of big data.

The ECA found that the Commission holds large amounts of data for CAP design, monitoring and evaluation. The Commission uses conventional tools such as spreadsheets to analyse the data it collects from the Member States. Current data and tools do not deliver certain significant elements (e.g. details of the environmental practices applied, and off-farm income) that are needed for well-informed policy making. The Commission has taken several legislative and other initiatives to make better use of existing data, but barriers to making the best use of collected data remain. Obstacles such as a lack of standardisation and limitations due to data aggregation reduce data availability and usability.

The ECA recommends that the Commission should establish a framework for using disaggregated data from Member States; and make more use of and develop data sources to meet policy needs. The Commission accepts the ECA recommendations.

## 6. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 12/2022 - DURABILITY IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT. MOST PROJECTS REMAIN OPERATIONAL FOR THE PERIOD REQUIRED, BUT THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO ACHIEVE LONGER LASTING RESULTS

CONT/9/09417

### *Presentation of the special report by reporting ECA Member Viorel Ștefan*



**CONT Rapporteur:** Petri Sarvamaa **Administrator:** Hans Stander

Rural areas presented 83% of EU territory in 2018 and some of these areas face particular challenges such as depopulation, unemployment, lower quality of basic services and a higher risk of poverty or social exclusion.

From 2007 the EU has spent approximately EUR 10 billion to diversify its rural economy and EUR 15 billion to improve infrastructure in rural areas through the rural development programmes.

The Court examined whether investments to diversify the rural economy and in rural infrastructure have delivered durable benefits. In particular, the Court assessed the compliance aspect of durability, i.e. whether legal durability requirements were met. Furthermore, the Court assessed whether there are factors affecting project durability, also beyond legal requirements. Finally, the Court examined whether there was enough evidence that EU funding brought long term diversification opportunities in rural areas.

The Court found that most infrastructure investments and diversification projects were operational throughout the legal durability period, but diversification projects frequently ended soon after. The Court extended its assessment to touristic accommodation projects that were financed through the rural development fund and found that they had limited economic viability. And the Court found limited evidence that EU funding brings long term diversification in rural areas. The Commission in its reply did not fundamentally contest the findings of the Court.

The Court made two recommendations to address the identified issues, which the Commission accepted.

## 7. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 10/2022 - LEADER AND COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITATES LOCAL ENGAGEMENT BUT ADDITIONAL BENEFITS STILL NOT SUFFICIENTLY DEMONSTRATED

CONT/9/09438

### *Presentation of the special report by reporting ECA Member Eva Lindström*



**CONT Rapporteur:** Petri Sarvamaa

**Administrator:** Fernando Gallego Osuna

The EU introduced the LEADER programme in 1991 as a bottom-up initiative to support the development of disadvantaged rural regions through projects addressing local needs. Since 2014, the EU has used the LEADER approach (known as community-led local development) for several EU funding streams in rural, urban and coastal areas. The main characteristic of the LEADER approach is the application of participatory and bottom-up methods to involve local communities in project development and decision-making processes. Local action groups, made up of partners from the public, private and civil society manage activities. In the 2014-2020 period, the EU planned to provide funding of up to €9.2 billion for LEADER and community-led local development.

More than a decade after the Court's 2010 special report on LEADER, the new audit shows that improvements have taken place in some areas and that the LEADER approach facilitates local engagement. However, the Court concludes that there is little evidence that the benefits of the LEADER approach outweigh the costs and risks it incurs.

The Court concludes that in view of the additional costs and risks compared to other funding models and the continued lack of demonstrable benefits, it would recommend that the Commission should evaluate the costs and benefits of LEADER and assess the community-led local development.

***The meeting will be suspended until 15.00***

\* \* \*

***Wednesday 13 July 2022, 15:00 - 16:00***

***\*\*\* In camera \*\*\****

## 8. COORDINATORS' MEETING

\* \* \*

***Wednesday 13 July 2022, 16:00 - 16:30***

\*\*\* *Voting time* \*\*\*

## 9. INFORMATION EXCHANGE BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES OF MEMBER STATES, REPEALING COUNCIL FRAMEWORK DECISION 2006/960/JHA

CONT/9/08243  
[2021/0411\(COD\)](#)

COM(2021)0782 – C9-0457/2021

### *Adoption of draft opinion*



**CONT Rapporteur for the opinion:**  
**Responsible Rapporteur in LIBE:**  
**Administrator:**

[Caterina Chinnici](#) (S&D)

[Lena Düpont](#) (EPP)  
Fernando Gallego Osorio

**Shadow Rapporteurs:**

**Petri Sarvamaa** (PPE), **Sophie In't Veld** (Renew), **Luke Ming Flanagan** (The Left)

The existing legal framework on the exchange of information between law enforcement authorities of Member States (the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement and Framework Decision 2006/960/JHA) should be updated and replaced, so as to facilitate and ensure, through the establishment of clear and harmonised rules, the adequate and rapid exchange of information between the competent law enforcement authorities of different Member States. The proposed Directive establishes rules for the exchange of information between the law enforcement authorities of the Member States where necessary for the purpose of preventing, detecting or investigating criminal offences. Information exchange will ensure police officers make relevant information available to their counterparts in other Member States.

CONT members tabled a total of 42 amendments to the Commission proposal. The rapporteur proposed a series of compromise amendments covering a diverse number of issues.

Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Adoption in main Committee	LIBE	End summer/autum 2022

\*\*\* *End of vote* \*\*\*

Wednesday, 13 July 2022, 16:30 - 18:30

## 10. 2020 DISCHARGE : EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

CONT/9/06703

### Exchange of views with the Commission, Frontex management board and Frontex acting Executive Director



**CONT Rapporteur:**  
(EPP)

[Tomáš Zdechovský](#)

**Administrator:**

Hans Stander

**Shadow Rapporteurs:**

**Caterina Chinnici** (S&D), **Ramona Strugariu** (Renew), **Bas Eickhout** (Greens), **Joachim Kuhs** (ID), **Ryszard Czarnecki** (ECR), **Younous Omarjee** (The Left)

The Parliament decided on 4 May 2022 to postpone the discharge for the European Border and Coastguard Agency (Frontex) for the year 2020. In the resolution accompanying the decision to postpone the discharge, Parliament noted the (limited) progress made on the conditions set when granting discharge for the year 2019. Another consideration for not yet granting discharge, was the OLAF final report that had been presented to the CONT Committee in an in-camera meeting on 28 February 2022, but that had not been provided to the Members yet. Shortly before the vote in Plenary, on 28 April, the Executive Director of Frontex resigned and his tasks were taken over by an acting Executive Director, who leads the Agency until the appointment of a new Executive Director.

In today's exchange of views, the Chair of the Frontex Management Board, the acting Executive Director of Frontex and the Deputy Director-General for Home Affairs will give an update of where the Agency stands and where the Agency is going.

#### CONT Timetable Frontex 2<sup>nd</sup> discharge report

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	5 September 2022
Deadline for amendments	CONT	6 September 2022, 14:00 hrs
Adoption of draft report	CONT	6 October 2022 (tbc)
Adoption of report	Plenary	October II 2022

\*\*\*

Thursday 14 July 2022, 09:00 - 10:30

With the participation of Members of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)

## 11. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 17/2022 - EXTERNAL CONSULTANTS AT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION - SCOPE FOR REFORM

CONT/9/09447

*Presentation of the special report by reporting ECA Member [Francois-Roger Cazala](#)*



**CONT Rapporteur:**  
(S&D)

[Maria Grapini](#)

**Administrator:**

Ana Maria Nogueira

In recent years, the Parliament, the Council and the media have shown interest in the Commission's increasing use of external consultants. In particular, questions have been raised about the type and amounts contracted, the risks of concentration, overdependence and conflicts of interest and the need to use external consultants, as opposed to using internal staff. The ECA SR aims to contribute to improved transparency and accountability of this important area. The audit focused on whether the European Commission managed to get value for money and to safeguard its

interests.

In its conclusions, the ECA special report concludes that the way the European Commission hires and uses external consultants does not fully ensure that it maximises value for money or fully safeguards its interests. There are significant gaps in the framework governing the use of these services, with potential risks related to the concentration of service providers, overdependence and conflicts of interest, which are not sufficiently monitored. The auditors also point out weaknesses in how consultants' work and its added value are assessed.

## 12. STUDY ON 'THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S USE OF CONSULTANTS IN PREPARING LEGISLATION'

CONT/9/09519

*Presentation by Policy Department on Budgetary Affairs (PolDep D)*



**CONT Rapporteur:**  
(EPP)

[Petri Sarvamaa](#)

**Administrator:**

Ana Maria Nogueira

**Poldep D:**

Stefan Schulz

The experts commissioned to analyse the Commission's growing reliance on consultants have parsed the available data on consultancy contracts, examined comparable practices in selected Member States, and discussed the question with the industry. They will present their preliminary findings, with key interviews with Commission DGs still outstanding. Looking beyond anecdotal press reporting, the increasing use of consultants by the Commission merely reflects the trend in many Member States. However, in

their opinion, this has not led to an over-reliance on such services, nor to the often-feared dominance of the "Big Four" consultancy firms. The study concurs with the ECA special report in noting a potential lack of central oversight over the procurement practice, and highlights the possibility of in-house bias in the use of consultants' findings, making recommendations for mitigating these risks.

Thursday 14 July 2022, 10:30 - 11:00

### 13. CONT MISSION TO ROME, ITALY - 25-27 MAY 2022

CONT/9/09040



#### **Reporting back to committee from CONT mission to Italy on 25 - 27 May 2022**

**Chair of the mission:**

[Monika Hohlmeier](#) (EPP)

**Administrator:**

Diego Rasetti

The fact-finding mission to Rome was targeting two main topics: the first one was the risk of disbursement of CAP resources to beneficiaries not compliant with labour regulations: such operators, as reported by some media, would have been in close proximity with organised crime and responsible for the hiring of not registered migrants from the illegal labour market managed by mafia associations. The second was related to the risk of infiltration of the organised crime in the implementation of Next Gen EU, having specific regard to the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

The meeting with the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, the Paying Agency AGEA, the inspectors of the Ministry of Labour and Employment and other representatives also members of a special Task Force established in 2020, allowed collecting useful data on the phenomenon of the illegal hiring and exploitation of workers also known as "*caporalato*". The debate looked also into some practical aspects of the implementation of the new provisions on the social conditionality, introduced with the new CAP Regulation that will soon enter into force.

The Ministry of Finance representatives provided information on the complex architecture and governance of the RRF in Italy, with particular focus on the multilayered monitoring and controlling structure. The many authorities met during the visit (the Italian Senate Anti-Mafia Commission, the National Anti-Mafia Prosecutor and the law enforcement authorities Arma dei Carabinieri, Guardia di Finanza, Polizia di Stato) confirmed the great "interest" of the organised crime into the EU resources and in particular the risk of mafia infiltration into the actions implementing the unprecedented amount of resources deployed jointly by the RRF and the new MFF.

The transnational profiles of the organised crime were discussed in depth with the Deputy Chief European Prosecutor and with one of the Italian Delegated European Prosecutors; further analyses were provided by the Europol representative and by the Chief of the Department of Public Security, both promoters of the "Law Enforcement Forum (LEF) Next Gen EU".

Overall, the CONT Delegation appreciated the national authorities' knowledge and expertise on the many facets of the organised crime's operations. It was possible identifying good practices, built on tested preventive actions and on the synergies of administrative measures and criminal remedies. The debate pointed out the effectiveness of such actions to obstacle the aggressive and pervasive contagion of the mafia organisations, but it was also underlined the importance of knowledge-sharing and knowledge-building, the value of international cooperation and the need to enhance awareness and preparedness in other Countries where the organised crime threat is very present and possibly not adequately countered.

Amongst the takeaway: the importance of attacking mafia assets and the proceeds of crime; the benefits of the interoperability of data bases; the added value of anticipating the intervention of police forces before the launching of criminal proceedings, to take full advantage of the information and data analysis that they can perform; the positive impact that only a disciplined coordination can bring in managing high level of complexity as those related to the implementation of the RRF.



The CONT Delegation identified also a number of topics on which a follow-up would be appropriate, having specific regard to the role and effectiveness of the actions by the Italian paying agency and to the further actions of the Law Enforcement Forum in the international landscape.

**Thursday 14 July 2022, 11:00 - 12:00**

**\*\*\* In Camera\*\*\***

#### **14. CONT MISSION TO POLAND (18 - 20 JULY 2022)**

CONT/9/09445

***In-camera exchange of views with Commission and OLAF in the light of the preparations of the mission to Poland 2022***



**Chair of the mission:**

[Monika Hohlmeier](#) (EPP)

**Administrator:** Benoît Lefort

From 18 to 20 July 2022, the CONT Committee will hold an official fact-finding mission to Poland.

The mission's objective is to focus on ongoing developments in the country concerning the protection of the EU budget in relation to the Rule of law-conditionality Regulation. For the purpose of this mission, CONT has interpreted the Rule of law-conditionality aspect as to whether the Polish management of EU funds under shared management complies with rule of law standards (respect of applicable rules including public procurement procedures, sufficient control procedures, etc.).

The CONT Members will hold meetings with civil society organisations and investigative journalists involved in the Rule of law conditionality mechanism, with the Supreme Audit Organisation's President, with the Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, which is the national paying agency supervising all operational programmes listed in the Partnership Agreement, and with their counterparts in the national parliament. Furthermore, the mission will also include an on-the-spot visit of an EU-financed project, namely the construction of the metro line II in Warsaw. Finally, the CONT Members will also meet Frontex' Management Board, interim Executive Director and Fundamental Rights Officer.

A member of the European Court of Auditors and European Commission officials will join the European Parliament mission to Poland.

***The meeting will be suspended until 15.00***

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*Thursday 14 July 2022, 15:00 - 16:00*

**15. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 08/2022 - ERDF SUPPORT FOR SME COMPETITIVENESS:  
DESIGN WEAKNESSES DECREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF FUNDING**

CONT/9/09461

*Presentation of the special report by reporting ECA Member **Pietro Russo***



**CONT Rapporteur:  
Administrator:**

**TBD (Green)**  
Marius Cobianu

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are a mainstay of the EU economy and EU policy aims to increase their competitiveness. The European Regional and Development Fund (ERDF) contributes to this objective. ERDF is one of the largest EU funding sources for SMEs, and improving SME competitiveness was the second biggest ERDF thematic objective (TO) for the 2014-2020 programme period, with a budget of around €40.3 billion. Overall, three quarters of ERDF funding for SMEs (75 %) provides them with direct support. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic,

the EU released additional funds for SMEs.

The Court examined whether the ERDF contributed to improving SME competitiveness for the 2014-2020 period, by assessing how SME needs were addressed by ERDF programmes, programme calls and selection procedures ensuring that beneficiary SMEs increased their competitiveness. The Court selected ERDF programmes addressing thematic objective n° 3 (TO3), 'Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs', in Germany, Italy, Poland and Portugal, since these were the Member States with the largest absolute amount of projects planned under TO3. In total, the report's sample comprised 24 projects.

The Court has drawn a number of conclusions based on its audit work and presented recommendations to the Commission.

Member of ECA, Mr Pietro Russo, will present the Special Report and the Commission representative will give some initial comments. Afterwards firstly the rapporteur and then Members from CONT will take the floor with comments and pose eventual questions to the Court and the Commission.

Thursday 14 July 2022, 16:00 - 17:00

*With the participation of Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)*

## 16. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 11/2022 - PROTECTING THE EU BUDGET. BETTER USE OF BLACKLISTING NEEDED

CONT/9/09416

*Presentation of the special report by reporting ECA Member Helga Berger*



**CONT Rapporteur:**

**Administrator:**

**Sándor Rónai (S&D)**

Hans Stander

The EU and the Member States are jointly responsible for protecting the EU's financial interests with respect to EU funds. "Blacklisting" (or exclusion) is a tool that international bodies and national authorities use to protect public finances. The Commission uses the Early Detection and Exclusion System to exclude economic operators that are considered untrustworthy, because they have been involved in fraud, corruption, professional misconduct, money laundering, or non-payment of taxes. In 2020, the EU paid out around EUR 150 billion under financial agreements, with EDES covering a quarter of EU spending (in 2020 EUR 39 billion) under direct and indirect management.

Not covered is the expenditure in shared management, as EDES is not applicable and Member States are not obliged to set up similar systems.

The Court examined whether exclusion mechanisms were being used effectively to protect EU funds from untrustworthy counterparties in the 2016-2020 period. In particular, the Court analysed the effectiveness of EDES' exclusion situations, exclusion procedures, blacklist of excluded counterparties, and arrangements for identifying counterparties in exclusion situations with regard to direct and indirect management. As regards to shared management, the Court selected four Member States to review their exclusion arrangements and to identify good practices within cohesion and agricultural spending.

The Court concluded that exclusion is not used effectively to protect the EU budget. Although EDES has a broad scope and robust exclusion procedures, the Commission had only 18 non-bankruptcy related exclusions recorded at the end of 2020.

In order to overcome this, the Court made five recommendations to the Commission, which were accepted. The Commission intends to address the most important shortcomings through a revision of the Financial Regulation.

## 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## 18. NEXT MEETINGS

- 5 September 2022 (Brussels)
- 26 September 2022 (Brussels)

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

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

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

## NEWS FROM POLICY DEPARTMENT - BUDGETARY AFFAIRS

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

#### [Publications Catalogue 2019 - 2021](#)

##### CONT

Briefing ["EU customs control mechanisms and their possible improvement"](#)  
Study ["Possible Solutions for Missing Trader Intra-Community Fraud"](#)  
Study ["COVID-19 response of EU public administration"](#)  
At a Glance ["Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors" \(The Netherlands\)](#)  
Study ["Single Audit approach - root causes of the weaknesses in the work of the Member States' management and audit authorities"](#)  
Study ["Practices on the Side-Earnings of EU Public Office Holders and Functionaries"](#)  
Study ["Identifying patterns of fraud with EU funds under shared management, similarities and differences between member states"](#)  
Briefing ["Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors" \(Cyprus and Malta\)](#)  
Briefing ["Budgetary transfers in the EP in 2021 - still in the wake of the crisis"](#)  
Briefing ["The EP's response to the COVID-19 crisis: budgetary impact"](#)  
Briefing ["Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors" \(Slovenia, Czech Republic, Latvia\)](#)  
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"](#)  
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"](#)

##### BUDG

[Workshop Proceedings "The EU borrowing strategy for NGEU: design, challenges and opportunities"](#)  
Briefing on [Solidarity and Wealth Tax](#)  
Study ["Climate mainstreaming in the EU Budget 2022 update"](#)  
Study ["New EU own resources: possibilities and limitations of steering effects and sectoral policy co-benefits"](#)  
Study ["The next revision of the financial regulation and the EU Budget galaxy: How to safeguard and strengthen budgetary principles and parliamentary oversight?"](#)  
Study ["The new EFSD+ and the EIB's external lending mandate"](#)  
Study ["Financing of political structures in EU Member States"](#)  
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"](#)  
In-depth Analysis ["Next Generation EU borrowing: a first assessment"](#)

## FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

### BUDG

Study on "Social tracking"

### CONT

Workshop Proceedings "EU customs control mechanisms and their possible improvement"

Study "The European Commission's use of consultants in preparing legislation"

Briefing "Technical support provided to EU Member States"

## CONTACTS

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

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## News from the EU Agencies Network



### **EU decentralised Agencies (EUAN) acquiring EMAS certification**

The EU Agencies Network identified in its 2021-2027 Network Strategy as one of the strategic pillars “Administrative Excellence”. One area of activities under this pillar, includes becoming greener and EMAS certified. Three EMAS certified Agencies, [EEA](#), [EFSA](#) and [EUIPO](#) were recently joined by ETF, [ECHA](#) ([certificate](#) link), [EMSA](#) and [EUROPOL](#) in acquiring the certification. For more information, please visit the Agencies websites.

The Greening Network (GN) of the EUAN is continuously working on supporting decentralised Agencies and Joint Undertakings in becoming EMAS certified. In the framework of its thematic group on “Climate neutrality” the GN organised a webinar on “*Path to a greenhouse gas neutral administration. Stages and guidelines*”.



### **EUAN DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARDS 2022**

#### **EUAN - Diversity and Inclusion Activities**

EU Agencies Network strategic pillar of “Administrative Excellence” includes also the area of “Diversity and Inclusion”, which the EUAN regards as essential.

In 2021 EUAN created a Working Group on Diversity and Inclusion (WG D&I) which focuses its activities on gender equality, cross cutting measures, persons with disabilities and staff with disabled dependents, LGBTIQ+ and underrepresented age groups among staff.

In terms of activities, the WG on D&I organised three Leadership Talks, first one on Sexism at work, second on the topic of “*Women Redefining Leadership*” which featured seven female Executive Directors and third on “*Overcoming alpha leadership culture: how everyone can become a “successful leader*”.

Additionally, the EUAN collaborated on creating a video promoting diversity and inclusion in the workplace, which can be found here: [In EU Agencies, diversity is our strength. We are all #UnitedInDiversity - YouTube](#).

In the [EUAN D&I Brochure](#) the WG collected examples of how Agencies and Joint Undertakings reach out to more diverse talent and enhance the values of equality and inclusion in their organizations.

The Network launched in June the first edition of “**The EU Network D&I Award 2022**” to acknowledge the value of initiatives taken by Agencies and Joint Undertakings, boost awareness on D&I and showcase best practices. Deadline for submissions is 30 November 2022.