



CONT_PV(2023)1129-1

MINUTES

**Meeting of 29 November 2023, 9.00-12.30, 12.30-13.00 (coordinator's meeting),
and 14.30-18.15**

and 30 November 2023, 9.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30

Brussels, Room Spinelli (3E-2)

The meeting opened at 9.05 on Wednesday, 29 November 2023, with Monika Hohlmeier (Chair) presiding. At 9.56 Sándor Rónai (2nd Vice-Chair) took the chair. At 11.36 Monika Hohlmeier (Chair) continued presiding.

29 November 2023, 9.00 – 11.30

1. Adoption of agenda

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

2. Chair's announcements

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

3. Approval of minutes of meetings

- 25-26 October 2023 PV – PE755.972v01-00
- 6-7 November 2023 PV – PE756.036v01-00

The minutes were approved.

4. 2022 Discharge to the Agencies

CONT/9/13723

Rapporteur:

Petri Sarvamaa (PPE)

- Hearing with the representatives of the following agencies, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, François-Roger Cazala and the Executive Director of EIOPA, Fausto Parente, in his capacity as Chair of the EU Agencies' network
- Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT)
- European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA)

The following spoke: Monika Hohlmeier, François-Roger Cazala (ECA Member), Fausto Parente (EIOPA), Ildikó Horváth (CdT), María Montserrat Marín López (CEPOL), Andrea Ammon (ECDC), Agnès Diallo (eu-LISA), Petri Sarvamaa, Sándor Rónai

29 November 2023, 11.30 – 12.30

5. ECA Special Report 26/2023: The Recovery and Resilience Facility's performance monitoring framework. Measuring implementation progress but not sufficient to capture performance
CONT/9/13641

Rapporteur:

Carlos Coelho (PPE)

- Presentation by ECA reporting Member Ivana Maletić

The following spoke: Monika Hohlmeier, Ivana Maletić (ECA Member), Maria Teresa (Maite) Fabregas (Commission, SG RECOVER), Geraldine Mahieu (Commission, DG ECFIN), Carlos Coelho, Isabel García Muñoz, Petri Sarvamaa

The meeting adjourned at 12.55.

29 November 2023, 12.30 – 13.00

***** In camera *****

6. Coordinators' meeting

***** End of in camera *****

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The meeting resumed at 14.36. CONT held a minute of silence for Ms **Michèle Rivasi** who suddenly died on 29 November 2023.

29 November 2023, 14.30 – 15.30

7. Partial renewal of Members of the Court of Auditors – SE nominee

CONT/9/13451

2023/0813(NLE)

14069/2023 – C9-0379/2023

Rapporteur:

Angelika Winzig (PPE)

PR – PE755.021v01-00

Responsible:

CONT

- Hearing of Hans Lindblad, candidate nominated by Sweden

The following spoke: Monika Hohlmeier, Hans Lindblad (SE ECA candidate), Angelika Winzig, Tsvetelina Penkova (questions read out by Monika Hohlmeier)

The meeting adjourned at 15.16 and resumed at 15.35.

29 November 2023, 15.30 – 16.30

8. Partial renewal of Members of the Court of Auditors – PT nominee

CONT/9/13567

2023/0814(NLE)

14429/2023 – C9-0397/2023

Rapporteur:

Mikuláš Peksa (Verts/ALE)

PR – PE756.091v01-00

Responsible:

CONT

- Hearing of João Leão, candidate nominated by Portugal

The following spoke: Monika Hohlmeier, João Leão (PT ECA candidate), Mikuláš Peksa, Carlos Coelho, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial (on behalf of Tsvetelina Penkova)

29 November 2023, 16.30 – 16.40

9. Vote on the partial renewal of Members of the Court of Auditors - SE and PT

The nomination of the SE nominee was adopted with 18 votes in favour, 0 against, and 3 abstentions.

The nomination of the PT nominee was adopted with 14 votes in favour, 2 against, and 5 abstentions.

29 November 2023, 16.40 – 18.15

10. 2022 Discharge to the Joint Undertakings

CONT/9/13724

- Hearing with Joint Undertakings in the presence of the ECA reporting Member

Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz replaced by Ioanna Metaxopoulou, ECA Director of Chamber IV. The invited JUs are:

- European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (Fusion for Energy), (Rapporteur: Michal Wiezik, Renew)
- European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (Rapporteur: Michal Wiezik, Renew)
- Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (Rapporteur: Jozef Mihál, Renew)

The following spoke: Monika Hohlmeier, Ioanna Metaxopoulou (ECA Director of Chamber IV), Gustav Kalbe (Commission, DG CNECT), Jan Panek (Commission, DG ENER), Keir Fitch (Commission, DG Move), Marc Lachaise (F4E), Anders Dam Jensen (EuroHPC), Giorgio Travaini (EU Rail), Angelika Winzig (questions read out by Monika Hohlmeier), Corina Crețu

The meeting adjourned at 18.25.

* * *

The meeting resumed on 30 November 2023 at 9.11 with Caterina Chinnici (4th Vice-Chair) presiding.

30 November 2023, 9.00 – 10.00

11. Study on "The EU Emissions Trading System: Method and Effects of Free Allowance Allocation"

CONT/9/13725

- Presentation of the study by the authors followed by an exchange of views

The following spoke: Caterina Chinnici, Andrew Lilico (Expert), Marian-Jean Marinescu, Heiko Kunst (Commission, DG CLIMA).

The meeting adjourned at 9.53 and resumed at 10.05. At 10.09 Monika Hohlmeier (Chair) took the Chair.

30 November 2023, 10.00 – 11.00

12. 2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - EDF (8th, 9th, 10th and 11th)

CONT/9/13028

2023/2183(DEC)

COM(2023)0392 – C9-0302/2023

Rapporteur:

Joachim Kuhs (ID)

Responsible:

CONT

Opinions:

DEVE

- Hearing with Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen, responsible for International partnerships in the presence of ECA reporting Member Baudilio Tomé Muguruza

The following spoke: Monika Hohlmeier, Caterina Chinnici, Baudilio Tomé Muguruza (ECA Member), Jutta Urpilainen (Commissioner), Joachim Kuhs, Isabel García Muñoz

The meeting adjourned at 11.15 and resumed at 11.20

30 November 2023, 11.00 – 12.30

13. 2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Commission

CONT/9/12735

2023/2129(DEC)

COM(2023)0391[01] – C9-0248/2023

Rapporteur:

Isabel García Muñoz (S&D)

Responsible:

CONT

Opinions:

AFET, DEVE, EMPL, ENVI, TRAN, REGI, AGRI, PECH, CULT, LIBE, FEMM

- Hearing with Commissioner Johannes Hahn, responsible for Budget and Administration in the presence of ECA reporting Members Jan Gregor (AR), Lefteris Christoforou (Financial and Budgetary Management), Marek Opiola (Revenue) and Jorg Petrovič (Performance)

The following spoke: Monika Hohlmeier, Jan Gregor (ECA Member), Lefteris Christoforou (ECA Member), Marek Opiola (ECA Member), Jorg Petrovič (ECA Member), Johannes Hahn, (Commissioner), Isabel García Muñoz, Petri Sarvamaa, Daniel Freund, Joachim Kuhs

At 12.38 Isabel García Muñoz (1st Vice-Chair) took the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 12.40.

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The meeting resumed at 15.02 with Sándor Rónai (2nd Vice-Chair) presiding. At 15.22 Monika Hohlmeier (Chair) took the Chair.

30 November 2023, 15.00 – 16.30

14. 2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - European External Action Service
CONT/9/12831
2023/2134(DEC) COM(2023)0391[06] – C9-0253/2023

Rapporteur:

Luke Ming Flanagan (The Left)

Responsible:

CONT

Opinions:

AFET

- Hearing with Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in the presence of ECA reporting Member Laima Andrikienė

The following spoke: Monika Hohlmeier, Sándor Rónai, Laima Andrikienė (ECA Member), Josep Borrell Fontelles (EEAS High Representative/Vice-President), Kristin De Peyron (EEAS), Luke Ming Flanagan, Eleni Stavrou (questions read out by Monika Hohlmeier), Katalin Cseh, Mikuláš Peksa, Stefano Sannino (EEAS), Gianmarco Di Vita (EEAS)

30 November 2023, 16.30 – 18.30

15. 2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Parliament
CONT/9/12754
2023/2130(DEC) COM(2023)0391[02] – C9-0249/2023

Rapporteur:

Andrey Novakov (PPE)

Responsible:

CONT

Opinions:

JURI

- Exchange of views with the following Directors-General:
 - Directorate-General for the Presidency (DG PRES)
 - Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM)
 - Directorate-General for Personnel (DG PERS)
 - Directorate-General for Infrastructure and Logistics (DG INLO)
 - Directorate-General for Finance (DG FINS)
 - Directorate-General for Security and Safety (DG SAFE)

The following spoke: Monika Hohlmeier, Andrey Novakov, Markus Winkler (Parliament, DG PRES), Jaume Duch Guillot (Parliament, DG COMM), Kristian Knudsen (Parliament, DG PERS), Leena Maria Linnus (Parliament, DG INLO), Didier Klethi (Parliament, DG FINS), Katja Vatter (Parliament, DG SAFE), Isabel García Muñoz (on behalf of Maria Grapini), Daniel Freund

16. Any other business

17. Next meetings

- 4 December 2023
- 22-23 January 2024

The meeting adjourned at 18.44.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Contents

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Key:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

7. Vote on the partial renewal of Members of the Court of Auditors – SE nominee

Date adopted	29.11.2023
Result of final vote	+ : 18 - : 0 0 : 3
Members present for the final vote	Gilles Boyer, Caterina Chinnici, Ilana Cicurel, Carlos Coelho, Beatrice Covassi, Isabel García Muñoz, Monika Hohlmeier, Joachim Kuhs, Alin Mituța, Sándor Rónai, Angelika Winzig
Substitutes present for the final vote	Arnaud Danjean, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Niclas Herbst, Jozef Mihál, Mikuláš Peksa, Wolfram Pirchner, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Marie Dauchy, Loucas Fourlas, Margarida Marques

8. Vote on the partial renewal of Members of the Court of Auditors – PT nominee

Date adopted	29.11.2023
Result of final vote	+ : 14 - : 2 0 : 5
Members present for the final vote	Gilles Boyer, Caterina Chinnici, Ilana Cicurel, Carlos Coelho, Beatrice Covassi, Isabel García Muñoz, Monika Hohlmeier, Joachim Kuhs, Alin Mituța, Sándor Rónai, Angelika Winzig
Substitutes present for the final vote	Arnaud Danjean, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Niclas Herbst, Jozef Mihál, Mikuláš Peksa, Wolfram Pirchner, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Marie Dauchy, Loucas Fourlas, Margarida Marques

**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 SAŲAŠAS/
JELENLÉTI ÍV/REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezidium/Birou/Předsednictvo/Předsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Monika Hohlmeier (Chair), Isabel García Muñoz (1 st Vice-Chair), Sándor Rónai (2 nd Vice-Chair), Gilles Boyer (1) (3 rd Vice-Chair), Caterina Chinnici (4 th Vice-Chair)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Βουλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputăți/ Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Ilana Cicurel (1), Carlos Coelho, Beatrice Covassi (1), Luke Ming Flanagan (2), Daniel Freund (2), Joachim Kuhs, Alin Mituța (1), Petri Sarvamaa, Angelika Winzig (1)
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Corina Crețu (1), Katalin Cseh (2), Arnaud Danjean (1), Eider Gardiazabal Rubial (1), Niclas Herbst (1), Marian-Jean Marinescu (2), Jozef Mihál (1), Andrey Novakov (2), Mikuláš Peksa, Wolfram Pirchner (1), Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner (1), Michal Wiezik (1)

209 (7)	
Marie Dauchy, Loucas Fourlas, Margarida Marques	
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 schůdce/Τοčka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)	
Hans Lindblad (SE ECA nominee)	Item 7
João Leão (PT ECA nominee)	Item 8
Andrew Lilico (Expert)	Item 11

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/Preženti fi/Aanwezig op/Obecny dnia/Presente em/Prezent/Přítomný dňa/Navzoči
dne/Läsnä/Närvarande den:

- (1) 29.11.2023
(2) 30.11.2023

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/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 (*)	
Maria Teresa (Maite) Fabregas (Commission, SG RECOVER), Geraldine Mahieu (Commission, DG ECFIN), Gustav Kalbe (Commission, DG CNECT), Jan Panek (Commission, DG ENER), Keir Fitch (Commission, DG Move), Heiko Kunst (Commission, DG CLIMA), Jutta Urpilainen (Commissioner responsible for International partnerships), Johannes Hahn, (Commissioner responsible for Budget and Administration)	
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/Istutuzzjonijiet 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 toimeilimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och organ	
ECA	François-Roger Cazala, Ivana Malétić, Ioanna Metxapoulou, Baudilio Tomé Muguruza, Jan Gregor, Lefteris Christoforou, Marek Opiola, Jorg Petrovič, Laima Andrikiénė
EEAS	Josep Borrell Fontelles, Kristin De Peyron
EIOPA	Fausto Parente (in his capacity as Chair of the EU Agencies' network)
CdT	Ildikó Horváth
CEPOL	María Montserrat Marín López
ECDC	Andrea Ammon
eu-LISA	Angès Diallo

F4E	Marc Lachaise
EuroHPC	Anders Dam Jensen
EU Rail	Giorgio Travaini

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	

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politiçi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat	
PPE	Inmaculada Mateos Buendía, Horia Cercel
S&D	Diana Popova
Renew	Bjørn Strøm
Verts/ALE	
ECR	
ID	Ekaterina Frolova
The Left	Elisa Reschini, Stamatia Chatzimarkou
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantslei/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 Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli	
Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο του Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálního tajemníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli	
Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	

DG PRES	Markus Winkler
DG IPOL	Monika Strasser, Niels Fischer
DG EXPO	
DG EPRS	
DG COMM	Jaume Duch Guillot
DG PART	
DG PERS	Kristian Knudsen
DG INLO	Leena Maria Linnus
DG TRAD	
DG LINC	
DG FINS	Didier Klethi
DG ITEC	
DG SAFE	Katja Vatter

Правна служба/Servicio 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/Právný servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten
Amandine Guerin, Mihkel Allik
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία της επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/ Sekretariat komisji/Sekretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet
Evelyn Waldherr, Kaare Barslev, Giulia Bastianello, Marius Covianu, Christelle Courtade, Susana Pilar Delmas Costa, Fernando Gallago Osuna, Benoît Lefort, Ana Maria Nogueira, Diego Rasetti, Paulus Johannes Stander, Cristina Degueldre, Evelyn Gisbrecht, Miren Itxaso Madariaga Alcaraz, Jasna Toskova
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistentz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten
Anna Aresu, Kameliya Velcheva

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



COORDINATORS' MEETING

Wednesday, 29 November 2023

12.30-13.00

Brussels

SPINELLI 3E2

Summary of Coordinators' recommendations

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Coordinators present:

EPP: Petri SARVAMAA
S&D: Isabel GARCÍA MUÑOZ
Renew: Olivier CHASTEL (written contribution)
Greens: -
ID: Joachim KUHS
ECR: -
The Left: Luke Ming FLANAGAN (written contribution)

Items for decision

1. New referrals

1.1. Draft opinion to AFET on Establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans 2023/0397(COD) COM(2023)0692

Decision:

Coordinators decided that CONT should provide an opinion to AFET on the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans. EPP will be responsible for the opinion for the price of one point and will indicate the Rapporteur (who needs to have published his declaration of interest prior to be appointed).

2. Screening of ECA reports

Report	Title	Date of publication	Pol.group	Secretariat's/Chair's proposal
ECA SR 24/2023 <i>Annex I</i>	Smart cities - Tangible solutions, but fragmentation challenges their wider adoption	30 Oct 2023	RENEW	Refer to ITRE and ENVI committees for presentation
ECA SR 25/2023 <i>Annex II</i>	EU aquaculture policy: Stagnating production and unclear results despite increased EU funding	15 Nov 2023	RENEW	Refer to PECH for presentation
ECA Review 05/2023 <i>Annex III</i>	Reforming the EU's economic governance	7 Nov 2023	EPP	Refer to ECON for presentation
ECA Review 06/2023 <i>Annex IV</i>	The Commission's 2022 annual management and performance report for the EU budget	14 Nov 2023	S&D	Presentation in CONT by ECA at the hearing of Commissioner Hahn on 30 November 2023
ECA SR 27/2023 <i>Annex V</i>	Screening foreign direct investments in the EU	6 Dec 2023	S&D	Refer to INTA & ITRE for presentation

ECA SR 28/2023 <i>Annex VI</i>	Public procurement in the EU	4 Dec 2023	ID	Presentation in joint CONT-IMCO meeting
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Decision:

Coordinators approved the proposals by the Secretariat/the Chair.

3. Joint CONT-LIBE meeting on Europol's report on European Financial and Economic Crime Threat Assessment (EFACTA)

Europol's first ever threat assessment on the topic of financial and economic crime in Europe, '[The other side of the coin: an analysis of financial and economic crime in the EU](#)', sheds a light on this system which sustains the finances of criminals worldwide. It provides operational insights and strategic intelligence contributed by EU Member States and Europol's partners.

Decision:

Coordinators decided that the Europol report on European Financial and Economic Crime Threat Assessment (EFACTA) should be presented at an upcoming CONT meeting, preferably together with LIBE.

4. Feedback on the European Parliament's suggestions for the ECA 2024 work programme and a call for contributions for ECA 2025+ work programme

ECA President Tony Murphy has written a letter to EP President Metsola with Feedback on the European Parliament's suggestions for the ECA 2024 work programme and a call for contributions for ECA 2025+ work programme.

ECA will publish on their website eca.europa.eu the European Court of Auditors' (ECA) 2024+ work programme on Tuesday, 12 December 2023.

Decision:

Coordinators took note of the deadline to propose topics for the ECA's work Programme 2025 until **15 January 2024 eob** in view of endorsing CONT's contribution at the next Coordinators meeting on 22-23 January.

(NB: Coordleg has set a deadline for proposals from Committees on 21 February 2024 and has created a new template (annexed to this summary) to be used for the proposals).

5. Letter to Commissioner Hahn on access to EU funds in Hungary

BUDG and CONT Chairs have sent a letter to Commissioner Hahn, as a follow-up to the joint BUDG/CONT meeting of 7 November 2023, to request a comprehensive information note about the state of play on access to EU funds in Hungary.

According to latest developments Hungary has requested, and is likely to receive, pre-financing under RePowerEU of 920 million euro. The positive Commission assessment of the Hungarian modified RRP has been sent to the Council for adoption.

Decision:

Coordinators agreed that the Chair should send a letter to the Commission and the Council building on the supplementary legal analysis from the Legal Service concerning deficiencies in the internal control system of the Hungarian RRP. A draft will be sent to Coordinators for approval.

Furthermore, Commissioners Dombrovskis, Gentiloni and Hahn should be invited to a meeting to explain on which basis the Commission would justify the payment of pre-financing to Hungary and why this was not mentioned at the last meeting with Commissioner Hahn. A joint meeting with BUDG to that extent is envisaged for 24 January 2024.

In the context of the arguments presented by the EPP Coordinator, the S&D Coordinator suggested to add Commissioner Hahn to the recipients of the letter, so the Commission's answer is coordinated among the relevant cabinets.

Items for information

6. Outcome of written procedure

- Written procedure of 26 October 2023 - outcome sent out on 13 November 2023, replacing the Coordinators meeting of 26 October 2023
- Written procedure of 15 November 2023 - outcome sent on 20 November 2023 - on the EoV with EP Directors-General in the framework of the EP discharge - the proposal of the CONT Rapporteur for the Parliament Discharge concerning which DGs will be invited for the upcoming exchange of views was endorsed by the Coordinators.

7. Revised EP Rules of Procedures as of 1st November 2023

The Parliament's Bureau has adopted new rules concerning potential conflicts of interests and transparency. The Secretariat informed about these new rules in an email on 6 November at 15:12 to all Members, Political Advisors and APAs.

For the work of the CONT Committee the most important changes are new obligations for Members related to their activities in the Committees, in particular:

- a. Before being appointed as Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs, participants in inter-institutional negotiations or in delegations, Members have to

declare whether or not they are aware of having a conflict of interest in the exercise of their duties (filling an e-form).

- b. Rapporteurs shall list the entities or persons from whom they received input on matters pertaining to the subject of the file. In practical terms this means that the so-called "*legislative footprint*" becomes mandatory. A declaration of input has to be filled in by the rapporteur and annexed to the report/opinion when tabling it. Reports without a declaration of input will not be accepted for tabling at plenary stage.

The latest clarifications from Coordleg are annexed to this summary.

8. Launch of procedure for expertise for 2024

A new procedure for the selection of expertise was launched in spring 2023. The Policy Department would like to initiate the procedure again with a view of deciding on a few proposals for expertise (a maximum of two studies), which could be presented for the new CONT Committee in autumn 2024.

The Policy Department and the CONT Secretariat will come up with a first draft list of proposals for expertise. This draft will then be discussed in a technical meeting with political advisers, the Policy Department and the CONT Secretariat with a view of presenting some informal and preliminary ideas about which proposals are seen as the most interesting and giving guidance on detailed formulations of the proposals. The final draft list of proposals will then be presented to Coordinators for further discussion and approval. Coordinators will of course also have the possibility to add new proposals. It would be useful if proposals are presented as early as possible in the process.

The ambition would be to present the first draft list of proposals for 2024 in a meeting with Policy Advisors in early January.

9. Documents received for information

10. State of play of appointments on CONT files

- [Work in progress document](#)
- [Overview of the points](#)

11. Any other business

The Chair raised the issue about written questions from Members in the discharge procedure, which are coming after the deadline.

There was agreement that deadlines should as far as possible be respected but that the Committee always had tried to be helpful if a Member had problems in meeting a deadline. It should always be insured that both the rapporteur and the Secretariat is informed about questions.

12. Date of next Coordinators' meeting

- 22-23 January 2024

NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2023

09.00 – 12.30 and 12:30-13:00 (coordinators' meeting)

and 14.30 – 18.15

THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2023

09.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30

Wednesday 29 November 2023, 09.00 – 11.30

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair draws attention to the following points:

Interpretation was requested in the following languages:

DE EN FR IT EL ES PT HU PL RO SK and HR, partially SV

Webstreaming

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

Adoption of Coordinators' recommendations

Summary of coordinators' recommendations from the written procedure of 26th October 2023 was circulated to the Members on 13 November 2023. The outcome of the written procedure of 15 November 2023 was circulated to Members on 20 November 2023.

<i>If no objections are received before the end of the meeting, these recommendations will be deemed approved.</i>
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3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| •25-26 October 2023 | PV – PE755.972v01-00 |
| •6-7 November 2023 | PV – PE756.036v01-00 |

4. 2022 DISCHARGE TO THE AGENCIES

CONT/9/13723



*Discharge hearing with representatives of the following agencies, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, **François-Roger Cazala**:*

Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT)
European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL)
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA)

Rapporteur : [Petri Sarvamaa](#) (EPP)

Administrators: Susana Delmas Costa
Marius Cobianu

Shadow Rapporteurs : [Sándor Rónai](#) (S&D), Renew: [Ramona Strugariu](#) (CEPOL, EMCDDA, EUAA, eu-LISA, EUROJUST, EUROPOL, FRA, Frontex), [Alin Mituța](#) (EBA, ELA, ETF, EU-OSHA), [Gilles Boyer](#) (EIOPA, ESMA), [Katalin Cseh](#) (ACER, BEREC, ECDC, ECHA, EEA, EFSA, EIT, EMA, ENISA, ESA-EURATOM, EUSPA), [Ilana Cicurel](#) (Cedefop, CdT, EFCA, EIGE, EMSA, Eurofound), [Olivier Chastel](#) (EASA, ERA), Horizontal report: [Bas Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Ryszard Czarnecki](#) (ECR), [Joachim Kuhs](#) (ID), [Younous Omarjee](#) (The Left)

Horizontal Report on performance, financial management and control of the EU Agencies [2023/2182\(DEC\)](#)

The agencies invited to the hearing are the following:

- Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT) [2023/2142\(DEC\)](#);
- European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) [2023/2144\(DEC\)](#);
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) [2023/2147\(DEC\)](#);
- European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-Lisa) [2023/2165\(DEC\)](#).

The documents are published on the [CONT website](#). Of particular relevance for the hearing as regards the 2022 discharge for the Agencies are:

- The ECA's 2022 [Annual Report](#) on EU agencies;
- The replies from the EU Agencies to the questions of the CONT Committee ([standard questionnaire](#), [individual and horizontal](#) written questions).

Reporting Member of the European Court of Auditors, Mr François-Roger Cazala, will present the findings and conclusions of the ECA's annual report on the Agencies for the financial year 2022. This year's report contains also the results of ECA's analysis of how the agencies' responded to the climate and energy crises and how they reported on climate and energy performance.

Mr Fausto Parente, chair of the EU Agencies Network, will represent the Network in the discussion. The EU Agencies network contributed, among other, to the preparation for this hearing by providing horizontal replies, on behalf of all agencies, on questions asked by the Members of the CONT Committee.

The Rapporteur for the 2022 discharge to the Agencies decided to invite CdT, CEPOL, ECDC and eu-LISA, due to ECA's qualified opinion on the expenditure of those agencies.

The hearing is structured as follows:

- Introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, Mr François-Roger Cazala, who will present the findings of the ECA Annual Report on EU agencies for the financial year 2022;
- Response of the Chair of the EU Agencies' Network, Mr Fausto Parente, to the ECA annual report;

- CONT Rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs will address questions to the Court, to the EU Agencies Network and the representatives of the above mentioned Agencies, followed by answers (ping-pong system);
- Other Members will question the Court and the representatives of the agencies ;
- Closing remarks by the representatives of the agencies, the ECA Member and the CONT Rapporteur.

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	01 February 2024
Deadline for amendments	CONT	08 February 2024, 12.00
Adoption of draft report	CONT	07 March 2024
Adoption of report	Plenary	April II 2024

Wednesday 29 November 2023, 11.30 – 12.30

5. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 26/2023: THE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY’S PERFORMANCE MONITORING FRAMEWORK. MEASURING IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS BUT NOT SUFFICIENT TO CAPTURE PERFORMANCE

CONT/9/13641

Presentation of the report by ECA reporting member [Ivana Maletić](#)

Rapporteur:

[Carlos Coelho](#) (EPP)

Administrator:

Hans Stander

The reporting Member of the European Court of Auditors, Ms Ivana Maletić, will present the main conclusions of the ECA Special Report on **the RRF’s performance monitoring framework**.

In this report the Court concludes that the RRF’s monitoring framework measures implementation progress, but that the framework is not sufficient for measuring the RRF’s overall performance.



In the RRF’s performance monitoring framework, there are two essential elements:

1. The milestones and targets, on which the payments to Member States are based, and
2. The 14 common indicators, that all Member States have to report on and that measure progress in the six policy pillars of the RRF.

The Court assessed whether these elements of the RRF monitoring framework are suitable, whether there are arrangements to assure data quality and whether reports provide appropriate and timely information.

The Court made the following three main observations:

1. Milestones and targets and common indicators contribute to measuring implementation progress but are limited for assessing overall performance.

The most problematic issue identified by the Court is that Milestones and Targets vary in their level of ambition (e.g. number of participants vs participants receiving a certification), and from output to results, making comparisons and compilation of results across Member States difficult.

As regards the common indicators, the Court remarks that they do not provide a complete view of the RRF's outputs and results. Also, they generally do not measure beyond output, and do not comprehensively cover all important investments or reforms, such as major structural reforms (economic, labour market and judicial reforms) and investments in infrastructure and public transport.



2. The Commission and Member States generally made arrangements to ensure data quality, but there are shortcomings.

The Commission and Member States set up IT-systems for data processing relating to milestones and targets. The timing of quality checks vary among Member States, and possibly there are issues at the first entry level, as the Commission detected, but generally the Court did not find specific issues.

As regards the common indicators, the Court found issues as Member States' audit authorities do not check adherence to methodologies for data collection in the Member States and this process is not audited by the Commission. Also, some information from Member States is based on estimates, which is mostly the case in disaggregated data (data broken down by gender/age/enterprise size). This affects the reliability of data when combined with data not based on estimates.

3. Reporting obligations have mostly been met, but information on progress has so far been limited and the RRF Scoreboard has weaknesses.

The Court concluded that the RRF Scoreboard is user-friendly and visually attractive, but that the way (sub)measures are assigned to 'primary' and 'secondary' policy area, which in turn are assigned to the six RRF pillars, results in each euro's contribution to the RRF objectives counted twice. This leads to a misleading presentation of progress in the scoreboard, the Court considers, as this is also not disclosed by the Commission.

The Court also found that not all relevant information was reported by Member States, though reporting was generally in line with the RRF Regulation.

The Rapporteur has prepared a [working document](#) summarising the main findings of the Court and recommendations based on the Special Report.

The Commission will be represented by Ms Maria Teresa Fabregas of SG RECOVER and Ms Geraldine Mahieu of DG ECFIN.

Wednesday 29 November 2023, 12.30 – 13.00

6. COORDINATOR'S MEETING

***** In camera *****

Wednesday 29 November 2023, 14.30 – 15.30

7. PARTIAL RENEWAL OF MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS - SE NOMINEE

CONT/9/13451

[2023/0813\(NLE\)](#)



Hearing of [Hans Lindblad](#), candidate nominated by Sweden

Rapporteur:

[Angelika Winzig](#) (EPP)
PR – PE755.021v01-00

Shadow Rapporteur:

[Olivier Chastel](#) (Renew)

Administrator:

Kaare Barslev

The Members of the European Court of Auditors are appointed for a term of six years. In accordance with Article 286(2) of the TFEU the Council, after consulting the European Parliament, shall adopt the list of Members drawn up in accordance with the proposals made by each Member State.

Appointments to the ECA are submitted to Parliament's plenary on the basis of a report from CONT. The report takes into account the requirement of Article 286(1) of the TFEU: "*The Members of the Court of Auditors shall be chosen from among persons who belong or have belonged in their respective States to external audit bodies or who are especially qualified for this office. Their independence must be beyond doubt.*"

In Parliament, the procedure is defined in Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure (RoP). According to Rule 129 (1), "*candidates nominated as Members of the Court of Auditors shall be invited to make a statement before the committee responsible and to answer questions put by members. The committee shall vote on each nomination separately by secret ballot.*"

In preparation for the hearing, the candidate has been asked to answer a questionnaire prepared by CONT.

The hearing is structured as follows:

- Opening of the hearing by the Chair;
- The candidate will give an opening statement (maximum of 8 minutes);
- The CONT Rapporteur and shadow-rapporteurs will put questions to the candidate using the ping-pong system;
- Other members will question the candidate (catch-the-eye if time permits);
- Concluding remarks by the Chair.

After the hearing, the committee will hold an evaluation of the candidate, if required, and then proceed to vote on the appointment.

According to Rule 129 (1) RoP, the committee shall vote by secret ballot. Members shall indicate whether they give a favourable opinion, a negative opinion or abstain.

The format of reports on candidates for membership of the Court of Auditors is defined in Parliament's resolution of 4 February 2014, which implies that amendments cannot be tabled for this report.

The draft report will be finalised, according to the outcome of the evaluation and the vote in committee. The candidate's CV and the answers to the questionnaire are annexed to the report.

The report for plenary will state that Parliament delivers either a favourable or a negative opinion on the appointment of the candidate. The vote in Plenary is planned for the December session. The draft report is available on the CONT website.

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Vote	CONT	29 November 2023
Vote	Plenary	December 2023

Wednesday 29 November 2023, 15.30 – 16.30

8. PARTIAL RENEWAL OF MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS - PT NOMINEE

CONT/9/13567

[2023/0814\(NLE\)](#)

Hearing of João Leão, candidate nominated by Portugal



Rapporteur:

(Greens/EFA)

Shadow Rapporteurs:

[Olivier Chastel](#) (Renew)

[Mikuláš Peksa](#)

PR – PE756.091v01-00

[Carlos Coelho](#) (EPP),

Administrator:

Kaare Barslev

The procedure is identical as for agenda item 7.

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Vote	CONT	29 November 2023
Vote	Plenary	December 2023

Wednesday 29 November 2023, 16.30 – 16.40

***** Voting time *****

9. VOTE ON THE PARTIAL RENEWAL OF MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS - SE AND PT NOMINEES

CONT/9/13451 CONT/9/13567

***** End of voting time *****

Wednesday 29 November 2023, 16.40 – 18.15

10. 2022 DISCHARGE TO THE JOINT UNDERTAKINGS

CONT/9/13724



Discharge hearing with representatives of Joint Undertakings in the presence of ECA reporting member, [Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz](#)

The three Joint Undertakings (JUs) invited to the hearing:

The European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (F4E)
[2023/2178\(DEC\)](#)

The European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU)

[2023/2177\(DEC\)](#)

Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking [2023/2176\(DEC\)](#)

Co-Rapporteurs: [Michał Wiezik](#) (Renew)

[József Mihál](#) (Renew)

Administrator: Ana Maria Nogueira

Shadow Rapporteurs : [Angelika Winzig](#) (EPP), [Corina Crețu](#) (S&D), [Michèle Rivasi](#) (Greens/EFA), [Ryszard Czarnecki](#) (ECR), [Matteo Adinolfi](#) (ID), [Younous Omarjee](#) (The Left)

Joint Undertakings (JUs) are partnerships between the EU, represented by the Commission and private partners from industry and research organisations. In some cases, intergovernmental organisations and Participating States are also involved. The primary mission of JUs is to foster the transformation of scientific knowledge into marketable breakthrough innovations within a strategic vision that the partners share. Moreover, JUs should respond to European social challenges currently insufficiently served by industry.

For the financial year 2022, the nine Joint Undertakings subject to the discharge procedure by Parliament were the following:

- The Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research Joint Undertaking (SESAR 3);
- The Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking;
- The Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI);
- The Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (Clean H2);
- The Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking (KDT);
- The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE);
- The Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (EU-RAIL);

- The European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC);
- The European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (F4E).

According to the Annual Report on EU Joint Undertakings for the financial year 2022, the ECA audit of the nine JUs for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 confirmed similar results reported to previous years. Through the statements of assurance issued for each JU, the Court provided:

- unqualified (clean) audit opinions on the reliability of accounts for nine JUs; and
- unqualified (clean) audit opinions on the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the accounts for nine JUs.

However, the Court highlighted areas of importance through other matter or emphasis of matter paragraphs, and identified areas for improvement through the observations, without calling the audit opinions into question. Amongst others, the Court highlighted the following:

- Weaknesses in the implementation of the JUs' research and innovation programmes – Insufficient information on members' contributions at programme level;
- Implementation rate for the JU's 2022 operational budget was significantly lower than in previous years;
- Half of the JUs lacked a structured risk-based approach to ex-ante controls for Horizon 2020 grants;
- Most JUs showed weaknesses in the use of the reinforced monitoring tool;
- Most JUs have not yet developed a risk-based ex-post audit approach for Horizon 2020 grant payments;

The hearing is structured as follows:

- Chair's introductory remarks;
- Introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors (ECA), Ms Ildiko Gáll-Pelcz, who will present the findings of the specific ECA Annual Report 2021;
- First comments by the Commission;
- Presentation by the Directors of each of the JUs invited:
 - F4E;
 - EuroHPC;
 - EU - Rail
- Remarks and questions from the Rapporteurs;
- Replies from the Joint Undertakings;
- In a ping-pong system, the Chair, Shadow Rapporteurs and other Members will ask questions to the invited guests;
- The Joint Undertakings will reply to the questions posed;
- Closing remarks of the ECA Member, the Joint Undertakings, Commission and the Rapporteurs.

[\[1\] Council Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2085](#) of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe

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

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	23-24 January 2024
Deadline for amendments	CONT	30 January 2024, 12.00
Adoption of draft report	CONT	22 February 2024
Adoption of report	Plenary	April II 2024

Thursday 30 November 2023, 09.00 – 10.00

11. THE EU EMISSIONS TRADING SYSTEM: METHOD AND EFFECTS OF FREE ALLOWANCE ALLOCATION

CONT/9/13725

Presentation of the Study by Policy Department D

Administrator:

Fernando Gallego Osuna

The EU ETS is a cornerstone of the EU's policy to combat climate change and its key tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions cost-effectively. It is the world's first major carbon market and remains the biggest one. In order to avoid 'carbon leakage', i.e. industry moving its production processes to other parts of the world where there is no carbon pricing scheme, part of the allowances are allocated to industry for free. With the planned introduction of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, CBAM, these free allowances will gradually be phased out. Nevertheless, recent press articles criticised this system.

This [expertise](#) for the Committee on Budgetary Control reviews the criticisms of the free allocation system and its transparency. It also assesses the risk this system creates unintended distortions. It estimates the volume and value of free allocations until their gradual phasing out and the impact of the system on future own resources. It concludes with three policy recommendations.

12. 2022 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EDF (9TH, 10TH AND 11TH)

CONT/9/13028

[2023/2183\(DEC\)](#)

Discharge hearing with Commissioner [Jutta Urpilainen](#), responsible for International partnerships in the presence of ECA reporting member [Baudilio Tomé Muguruza](#)



Rapporteur:

[Joachim Kuhs](#) (ID)

Administrator:

Giulia Bastianello

Opinion:

DEVE

Shadow Rapporteurs: [Caterina Chinnici](#) (EPP), [Isabel García Muñoz](#) (S&D), [Olivier Chastel](#) (Renew), [Michèle Rivasi](#) (Greens/EFA), [Ryszard Czarnecki](#) (ECR), [Younous Omarjee](#) (The Left)

The European Development Funds (EDFs) were the main instruments, outside the EU general budget, financing development cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and regions, and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), until the end of 2020. The 11th EDF reached its final stage as the sunset clause came into effect on 31 December 2020. This clause sets a cut-off date for commitments, meaning that as of 2021 no further financing agreements can be signed under the 11th EDF. However, specific contracts for the existing financing agreements will still be signed until 31 December 2023 (and even later for audit and evaluation). Furthermore, the implementation of the ongoing projects funded by the European Development Fund will continue until their completion.

In the context of the new Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027, the EU cooperation with ACP countries is integrated in the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe. Similarly, the cooperation with OCTs is now covered by the Overseas Association Decision. This means that while up to 2021 the EDF programmes were funded by the voluntary contributions of EU Member States, as of 2021 development programmes will be funded through the EU budget.

The EDFs are managed almost entirely by the Commission (DG INTPA). A small proportion (5 %) of the 2022 EDF payments was managed by DG ECHO.



For 2022, the total value of expenditure subject to the ECA audit in this area was EUR 3.0 billion.

For the financial year ending 31 December 2022, the ECA concluded that the EDFs' accounts were reliable, therefore were not affected by material misstatements, and that the revenue transactions did not contain a material level of error. However, the ECA issued an adverse opinion on expenditure for the 2022 financial year. The estimated material level of error for expenditure accepted in the accounts is 7.1% (compared to 4.6 % in 2021).

The discharge hearing will be based, among others, on information from: the ECA's 2022 Annual Report; the annual accounts of the EDF for the financial year 2022, the 2022 Annual Activity Report of DG INTPA, the Report on the implementation of the financial assistance provided to the OCTs under the 11th European Development Fund in 2022, and the Budget Support, Trends and Results 2023.

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

- Introduction by the reporting the ECA Member, Baudilio Tomé Muguruza, who will present the findings of the Annual Report 2022 on the EDF;
- Commissioner Urpilainen will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs will put questions to the Commissioner and the ECA followed by answers (the ping-pong system);
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the ECA;
- Closing remarks by the Commissioner, the ECA Member, the CONT Rapporteur and the Chair.

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

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of the draft report	CONT	01 February 2024
Deadline for amendments	CONT	08 February 2024 at 12hrs
Adoption of draft report	CONT	07 March 2024
Adoption of report	Plenary	April II 2024

Thursday 30 November 2023, 11.00 – 12.30

13. 2022 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CONT/9/12735

[2023/2129\(DEC\)](#)



Discharge hearing with Commissioner [Johannes Hahn](#), Commissioner responsible for Budget and Administration in the presence of ECA reporting members [Jan Gregor \(AR\)](#), [Lefteris Christoforou \(Financial and Budgetary Management\)](#), [Marek Opiola \(Revenue\)](#) and [Jorg Petrovic \(Performance\)](#)

Rapporteur:
(S&D)

[Isabel García Muñoz](#)

Administrators:
Stander,

Benoît Lefort, Hans

Opinions: AFET, DEVE, EMPL, ENVI, TRAN, REGI, AGRI, PECH, CULT, LIBE, FEMM

Shadow Rapporteurs: [Monika Hohlmeier](#) (EPP), [Olivier Chastel](#) (Renew), [Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel](#) (Greens/EFA), [Joachim Kuhs](#) (ID), [Ryszard Czarnecki](#) (ECR), [Luke Ming Flanagan](#) (The Left)

The CONT Committee will hold a hearing with Commissioner Hahn in the context of the discharge procedure for the Commission for financial year 2022. Traditionally this is the occasion for the European Court of Auditors to present a wrap-up of their audit work for the year.

Budgetary and financial management is covered by chapter 2 in the ECA's Annual Report. ECA concluded that during 2022 most of the available commitment and payment appropriations were used, with EUR 179,4 billion in commitment appropriations (out of EUR 179,8 billion available) and EUR 167,3 billion in payment appropriations (out of EUR 170,6 billion available) used.

The Court observed a slow-down in payments made for the European Structural and Investment Funds, of EUR 64,9 billion in 2022, compared to EUR 75,1 billion in 2021, with total absorption now at 80,4 %.

Implementation of NGEU funds accelerated in 2022, but remained slower than expected, with commitments increasing to EUR 306,0 billion (EUR 143,5 billion in 2021) and pre-financing and payments increasing to EUR 47,1 billion (EUR 46,4 billion in 2021), while the Commission expected to pay EUR 63,0 billion.

Outstanding commitment reached an all-time high, with EUR 263,7 billion for the EU Budget and EUR 189,1 billion for NGEU, totaling EUR 452,8 billion. The Commission expects this amount to grow further, possibly exceeding EUR 458 billion, before it declines when the implementation of NGEU nears completion (between 2024 and 2026).

The total exposure of the EU budget to contingent liabilities – liabilities that depend on a specific future event occurring – was EUR 248,3 billion (EUR 204,9 billion in 2022). The increase is mainly caused by additional borrowing for RRF and SURE loans, and MFA loans to Ukraine.

This year, the Court reverted back to its old practice of reporting on performance of the EU budget in its Annual report, instead of splitting the Annual Report into two parts with a separate part on performance as was the practice in the past three years. The current chapter 3 provides an overview of key messages of Special Reports from 2022, the implementation of recommendations made in the Court's 2019 report on performance of the EU budget, and the implementation of recommendations from the Court's Special Reports published in 2019.

Revenue, amounting to a total amount of EUR 245.3 billion, is covered by chapter 4 in the ECA's Annual



Report. ECA concludes that the level of error in revenue was not material, but highlights, as in previous years, persistent weaknesses in the effectiveness of control systems at the level of both the Commission and Member States.

Administration is covered by chapter 10 of the ECA's Annual Report. Spending on administration amounted to EUR 11,6 billion in 2022. The Court notes that this amount comprised spending on human resources and pensions (about 70 % of the total), buildings, equipment, energy, communications and information technology. ECA concludes that the overall audit evidence indicates that the level of error in spending on administration was not material.

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

In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions for this meeting were sent to the Commission on 10 November 2022, answers were received on 24 November and forwarded to the CONT Members immediately.

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

- Introductions by the reporting Members of the European Court of Auditors, who will present the findings of the Annual Report 2022 on this area;
- Commissioner Hahn will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs will put questions to the Commissioner and the ECA followed by answers (the ping-pong system);
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the ECA;
- Closing remarks by the Commissioner, CONT Rapporteur and the Chair.

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of the draft report	CONT	01 February 2024
Deadline for amendments	CONT	08 February, 2024 at 12hrs
Adoption of draft report	CONT	07 March 2024
Adoption of report	Plenary	April II 2024

Thursday 30 November 2023, 15.00 – 16.30

14. DISCHARGE 2022: EU GENERAL BUDGET - EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

CONT/9/12831

2023/2134(DEC)

Discharge hearing with [Josep Borrell Fontelles](#), High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in the presence of ECA reporting Member [Laima Andrikiienė](#)



Rapporteur: [Luke Ming Flanagan](#) (The Left)

Administrator: Kaare Barslev

Opinion: AFET

Shadow rapporteurs:

EPP: [Eleni Stavrou](#)

S&D: [Sándor Rónai](#)

Renew: [Alin Mituța](#)

Greens/EFA: [Mikuláš Peksa](#)

ID: [Joachim Kuhs](#)

ECR: [Ryszard Czarnecki](#)

The European External Action Service (EEAS) is a functionally autonomous body of the European Union, separate from the General Secretariat of the Council and from the Commission. It is treated as an institution for the purposes of the Financial Regulation and therefore, subject to the procedure of discharge provided for in Article 319 of the TFEU and in Article 263 of the Financial Regulation.

The EEAS is placed under the authority of the High Representative/Vice-President (HRVP) of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles, who is invited to the CONT meeting for a discharge hearing with Members on the implementation of EEAS budget and activities during the financial year 2022.

In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions addressed to the EEAS were sent on 27 October 2023. The answers received from the EEAS were sent to CONT Members on 16 November, and are available on the CONT website.

The questions from the questionnaire deal with budgetary and financial management, internal management, performance and internal control, human resources including equality and staff well-being, digitalisation, cybersecurity and data protection, buildings and security, environment and sustainability, interinstitutional cooperation, communication, the war in Ukraine and Gaza.

The documents of particular relevance for the hearing are:

- The ECA 2022 Annual Report, chapter 10;
- The EEAS 2022 Annual Activity Report;
- The Annual accounts of the EEAS for the financial year 2022;
- The EEAS follow-up report to the discharge for the financial year 2021.

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

The discharge hearing is expected to proceed as follows:

- Introduction by the reporting Member of the European Court of Auditors, Ms Laima Andrikiienė, who will present the findings of the ECA Annual Report 2022;



- Introductory statement by HRVP Josep Borrell Fontelles on the EEAS work and achievements;
- The CONT rapporteur and shadows will ask questions to EEAS staff and or ECA using the ping-pong system.

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	22-23 January 2024
Deadline for amendments	CONT	30 January 2024, 12.00
Adoption of draft report	CONT	22 February 2024
Adoption of report	Plenary	April II 2024

Thursday 30 November 2023, 16.30 – 18.30

15. 2022 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

CONT/9/12754

[2023/2130\(DEC\)](#)

Discharge hearings with the following Directorates-General:



**Directorate-General for the Presidency (DG PRES),
Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM),
Directorate-General for Personnel (DG PERS),
Directorate-General for Infrastructure and Logistics (DG INLO),
Directorate-General for Finance (DG FINS),
Directorate-General for Security and Safety (DG SAFE)**

Rapporteur: [Andrey Novakov](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Fernando Gallego Osuna

Shadow Rapporteurs: [Maria Grapini](#) (S&D), [Gilles Boyer](#) (Renew), [Daniel Freund](#) (Greens/EFA), [Matteo Adinolfi](#) (ID), [Ryszard Czarnecki](#) (ECR), [Younous Omarjee](#) (The Left)

In the context of the European Parliament's discharge for financial year 2022, a written questionnaire was sent to the Parliament's administration, after having received the proposals from the CONT Coordinators and focusing on strategic and priority discharge issues related to 2022 and of direct budgetary relevance, in line with the working arrangements. Written replies are expected by Monday 27 November. In parallel, it was decided to organise this exchange of views with the Directors-General of several key Directorates-General, to discuss about their subject areas.

Relevant documents

Members will find the relevant documents for the European Parliament discharge such as the report on budgetary and financial management, the annual accounts, the report on contracts awarded, Director-Generals' Annual Activity Reports and the replies and follow-up to last year's discharge resolution on the [CONT 2022 budget discharge website](#).

Structure of the hearing

It is proposed that the discussion will take the following structure:

- Opening statement by the Chair and the 2022 Parliament's discharge rapporteur
- Short presentation by the Directorates General (2 minutes each)
- Q&A session with the rapporteur, shadow rapporteurs and other Members (using the ping-pong format);
- closing remarks by the Rapporteur and the Chair.

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	22-23 January 2024
Deadline for amendments	CONT	30 January 2024, 12:00
Vote	CONT	22 February 2024
Adoption of report	Plenary	April II 2024

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17. NEXT MEETINGS

- 4 December 2023
- 22-23 January 2024

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

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Study [“Transparency and accountability of EU funding for NGOs active in EU policy areas within EU territory”](#)

At a Glance [“Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors: Slovakia”](#)

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Briefing [“The Role of Investigative Journalism to Uncover Fraud and Corruption in Europe”](#)

Study [“The use of contract agents in decentralised EU agencies”](#)

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Briefing [“Preventing EU funds from ending up with individuals or companies tied to the EU-Russia sanctions list”](#)

At a Glance [“Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors: Slovakia”](#)

Briefing [“Cohesion policy investments and Next Generation EU recovery fund: state of play of the monitoring and controls”](#)

Briefing [“Rule of law-related ‘super milestones’ in the recovery and resilience plans of Hungary and Poland”](#)

Briefing [“Financial support for the treatment and accompanying of Ukrainian refugees”](#)

At a Glance [“The European Commission's Use of Consultants in Preparing Legislation”](#)

Study [“The European Commission's use of consultants in preparing legislation”](#)

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Briefing [“ITER financing by the EU budget - state-of-play”](#)

Briefing [“An estimate of the European Union's long-term borrowing cost bill”](#)

Briefing [“Gender budgeting in the Member States”](#)

At a Glance [“Options for a stronger and more agile EU budget”](#)

Study [“Options for a stronger and more agile EU budget”](#)
Briefing [“Ukraine: Financing of reconstruction and the role of the EU budget”](#)
Briefing [“Budgetary aspects of EU defence policy”](#)
In-Depth Analysis [“Recovery and Resilience Dialogue with the European Commission”](#)
Briefing [“EU Financial assistance to Africa and Latin America 2021-2027”](#)
Briefing [“Human and Financial Resources in Decentralised EU Agencies”](#)
In-Depth Analysis [“The rising cost of European Union borrowing and what to do about it”](#)
Briefing [“Statistical own resources: Examples of the gender pay gap and food waste”](#)
At a Glance [“The tools for protecting the EU budget from breaches of the rule of law: the Conditionality Regulation in context”](#)
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Study [“The tools for protecting the EU budget from breaches of the rule of law the Conditionality Regulation in context”](#)
Briefing [“EU external action and crisis response: is the EU budget fit for purpose?”](#)
Workshop Proceedings [“The Role of the EU budget in International Climate Finance”](#)

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

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Study “Contingent liabilities for the EU budget: an updated appraisal”
Study “The performance framework for the EU budget: further steps towards the mainstreaming of horizontal priorities and for delivering an outcome/impact-oriented approach”
Study “The impact of inflation on the financing of EU policies”

CONT

Study “Lessons learned from the implementation of crisis response tools inside the EU, from a budgetary control point of view”
Study “The future of digitalisation of budgetary control”
Study “Due diligence in EU institutions procurement rules and practices”

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-d.html>

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