

**Question for written answer E-004905/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Frédérique Ries** (Renew)

**Subject:** Increasing the resources of the Court of Auditors in order to audit expenditure related to the NextGenerationEU European Recovery Plan

In an interview<sup>1</sup>, the President of the Court of Auditors, Klaus-Heiner Lehne, has expressed alarm at the lack of resources being allocated to monitor the use of EU funds, when the EU is releasing the first instalments of its NextGenerationEU funds.

This historic recovery plan amounting to EUR 750 billion, combined with the EU's regular budget for 2021-2027, is the largest budgetary effort ever made. It is an unprecedented commitment to get on top of the pandemic, strengthen our resilience and create sustainable jobs.

The increased amounts disbursed and the complexity of the eligibility rules for these funds increase the risk of errors and the need to monitor the proper use of the EU budget. In its annual report published today<sup>2</sup>, the Court of Auditors states that the level of irregularities in EU spending in 2020 remains low, at 2.7%, the same as in 2019.

Can the Commission therefore:

1. confirm and justify the fact that seven temporary posts are going to be made available to the Court out of the forty posts the latter deems necessary in order to carry out its task of auditing EU expenditure under the European Recovery Plan;
2. specify what resources it intends to deploy in the short and medium term to control the integrity of the expenditure connected to the increased EU budget, and say how those resources will be allocated in accordance with the environmental and digital priorities?

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<sup>1</sup> C. Herwartz, E. Fischer, 'Damit 750 Milliarden euro nicht versickern: EU-Rechnungshofchef warnt vor Verschwendung der Corona-Hilfen', Handelsblatt, 26 October 2021.  
[<https://www.handelsblatt.com/politik/international/klaus-heiner-lehne-im-interview-damit-750-milliarden-euronicht-versickern-eu-rechnungshofchef-warnt-vor-verschwendung-der-corona-hilfen/27735256.html>, consulted on 26 October 2021]

<sup>2</sup> Available at [https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/annualreports-2020/annualreports-2020\\_EN.pdf](https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/annualreports-2020/annualreports-2020_EN.pdf) (paragraph 1.34, p. 41) [Consulted on 26 October 2021]