



# PÖYTÄKIRJA

Kokous 30. syyskuuta 2024 klo 15.00–18.30

BRYSEL

30. syyskuuta 2024 klo 15.00–16.00

\*\*\* Suljetuin ovin \*\*\*

## 1. Koordinaattoreiden kokous

\*\*\* Suljetuin ovin pidetty kokous päättyi \*\*\*

\* \* \*

Puheenjohtaja Niclas Herbst avasi kokouksen maanantaina 30. syyskuuta 2024 klo 16.09.

30. syyskuuta 2024 klo 16.00–17.15

## 2. Esityslistan hyväksyminen

Esityslistaluonnos hyväksyttiin sellaisena kuin se on esitettyinä tässä pöytäkirjassa.

## 3. Puheenjohtajan ilmoitukset

Puheenjohtaja pyysi jäseniä kiinnittämään huomiota CONT News -uutiskirjeessä esitettyihin tietoihin.

## 4. Pöytäkirjojen hyväksyminen

- 23. heinäkuuta 2024

PV – PE763.048v02-00

Pöytäkirja hyväksyttiin.

## 5. Vastuuvapaus 2022: EU:n yleinen talousarvio – Euroopan parlamentti

CONT/10/00941

- Keskustelu Euroopan parlamentin pääsihteerin Alessandro Chiochettin kanssa vuoden 2022 vastuuvapausmenettelyn johdosta toteutetuista toimista

**Puheenvuoron käyttivät:** Niclas Herbst, Alessandro Chiochetti (Euroopan parlamentin pääsihteeri), Monika Hohlmeier, Giuseppe Lupo, Tamás Deutsch, Daniel Freund, José Cepeda, Tomáš Zdechovský.

### 30. syyskuuta 2024 klo 17.15–17.30

\*\*\* Äänestys \*\*\*

#### 6. Vastuuvapaus 2022: EU:n yleinen talousarvio – Eurooppa-neuvosto ja neuvosto

CONT/10/00445

2023/2131(DEC) COM(2023)0391[03] – C9-0250/2023

Esittelijä:

Jonas Sjöstedt (The Left)

PR – PE761.252v01-00

AM – PE763.112v01-00

Vastaava:

CONT

- Mietintöluonnoksen hyväksyminen

**Päätös:** Lopullinen äänestys päätöksestä: 1 puolesta (vastuuvapauden myöntämisen puolesta), 22 vastaan ja 1 tyhjää (ks. nimenhuutoäänestys).

\*\*\* Äänestys päättyy\*\*\*

Kokous keskeytettiin klo 17.22, ja sitä jatkettiin klo 17.30 kolmannen varapuheenjohtajan Claudiu Mandan johdolla.

### 30. syyskuuta 2024 klo 17.30–18.30

#### 7. Euroopan tilintarkastustuomioistuimen erityiskertomus 07/2024: Sääntöjenvastaisiin EU-menoihin sovellettavat komission takaisinperintäjärjestelmät

CONT/10/00942

- Erityiskertomuksen esittely, asiasta vastaava tilintarkastustuomioistuimen jäsen Jorg Kristijan Petrovič

**Puheenvuoron käyttivät:** Claudiu Manda, Jorg Kristijan Petrovič (Euroopan tilintarkastustuomioistuimen jäsen), Olivier Waelbroeck (komissio, budjettipääosasto), Bert-Jan Ruissen.

#### 8. Muut asiat

#### 9. Seuraava kokous

10. lokakuuta 2024 (Strasbourg)

17. lokakuuta 2024 (Bryssel)

Kokous päättyi klo 17.58.

## Results of roll-call votes

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## 6. 2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Council and Council

### 6.1. Final vote on Decision

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | + |
|   |   |

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 22        | -  |
| ECR       | Bert-Jan Ruissen   |
| PPE       | Georgios Aftias, Caterina Chinnici, Esteban González Pons, Niclas Herbst, Monika Hohlmeier, Kinga Kollár, Jacek Protas, Tomáš Zdechovský |
| PfE       | Tamás Deutsch, Virginie Joron, Ondřej Knotek, Julien Sanchez   |
| Renew     | Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy   |
| S&D       | José Cepeda, Sérgio Gonçalves, Giuseppe Lupo, Csaba Molnár   |
| The Left  | Rudi Kennes, Jonas Sjöstedt  |
| Verts/ALE | Damian Boeselager, Daniel Freund   |

|     |             |
|-----|-------------|
| 1   | 0           |
| ECR | Dick Erixon |

#### Key to symbols:

+ : grants discharge

- : refuses discharge

0 : abstention

## 6.2. Final vote on Motion for a Resolution

| 17        | +  |
|-----------|--|
| PPE       | Georgios Aftias, Caterina Chinnici, Esteban González Pons, Niclas Herbst, Monika Hohlmeier, Jacek Protas, Tomáš Zdechovský |
| Renew     | Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy   |
| S&D       | José Cepeda, Sérgio Gonçalves, Giuseppe Lupo, Claudiu Manda, Csaba Molnár  |
| The Left  | Rudi Kennes, Jonas Sjöstedt  |
| Verts/ALE | Damian Boeselager, Daniel Freund   |

| 6   | -  |
|-----|--|
| ECR | Dick Erixon, Bert-Jan Ruissen                                |
| PfE | Tamás Deutsch, Virginie Joron, Ondřej Knotek, Julien Sanchez |

| 1   | 0             |
|-----|---------------|
| ESN | Arno Bausemer |

|   | Corrections to votes |
|---|----------------------|
| + | Bert-Jan RUISSSEN    |
| - |                      |
| 0 |                      |

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/  
JELENLĒTI ĪV/REGĪSTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/  
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

|   |
|---|
| Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/<br>Biuras/Elnökség/Prezidium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)   |
| Niclas Herbst (P), Caterina Chinnici (VP1), Claudiu Manda (VP3).  |
| Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Βουλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/<br>Nariai/Képviselek/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter   |
| Georgios Aftias, Damian Boeselager, José Cepeda, Olivier Chastel, Tamás Deutsch, Dick Erixon, Daniel Freund, Gerben-Jan<br>Gerbrandy, Monika Hohlmeier, Virginie Joron, Ondřej Knotek, Kinga Kollár, Giuseppe Lupo, Claudiu Manda, Jacek Protas, Julien<br>Sanchez, Jonas Sjöstedt, Tomáš Zdechovský. |
| Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/<br>Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Pötagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/<br>Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter      |
| Grzegorz Braun, Eero Heinäluoma, Rudi Kennes, Bert-Jan Ruissen.   |

|   |
|---|
| 216 (7)   |
|   |
| 222 (3)   |
| Arno Bausemer, Sérgio Gonçalves.  |
| 57 (8) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/<br>Päevakorra punkt/Σημείο της ημερήσιας διάταξης/Agenda item/Point OJ/Τοčka dnevnoĝ reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības<br>punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea<br>de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan) |
|   |

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair/Sur l'invitation du président/ Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/ Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nðukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/ Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (\*)

Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/ Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (\*)

Olivier Waelbroeck.

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 oħra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições e outros órgãos/Alte instituții și organe/Iné inštitúcie a orgány/Muut toimielimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och organ

ECA

Jorg Kristijan Petrovič.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppenes sekretariat/<br>Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Sekretariats of political groups/Secrétariat<br>des groupes politiques/Ταμνεία του κλιμακωτού εκπαιδευτικού/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/<br>Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Segretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Sekretariado dos grupos<br>políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat poliitičnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmién sihteeristö/<br>De politiska grupernas sekretariat |  |
| PPE<br>S&D<br>PflE<br>ECR<br>Renew<br>Verts/ALE<br>The Left<br>ESN<br>NI   |  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinet des Präsidenten/Presidendi<br>kantslei/Γραφείο του Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Ured predsednika/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja<br>kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do<br>Presidente/Cabinet Preşedinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli  |   |
|   |   |
| Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/<br>Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο του Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du secrétaire<br>général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/<br>Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do<br>Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/<br>Generalsekreterarens kansli |   |
|   |   |
| Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/<br>Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/<br>Direktorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni<br>direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat  |   |
| DG PRES<br>DG IPOL<br>DG EXPO<br>DG EPRS<br>DG COMM<br>DG PART<br>DG PERS<br>DG INLO<br>DG TRAD<br>DG LINC<br>DG FINS<br>DG ITEC<br>DG SAFE<br>Legal Service  | M. Strasser (Director for Budgetary Affairs), E. Waldherr (Head of Unit). |



- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/  
Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
- (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/  
Vice-Chair/Potpredsjednik/Vice-Président/Potpredsjednik/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/ Viči  
'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/UrządNIK/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Úradnik/Virkamies/  
Tjänsteman

## CONT COORDINATORS' MEETING

Monday, 30 September 2024

15.00 - 16.00

Room: SPAAK 5B1

### Summary of recommendations

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#### **Coordinators present:**

**EPP:** Tomáš Zdechovský

**S&D:** Absent, written contribution provided by Carla Tavares

**PfE:** Tamás Deutsch

**ECR:** Dick Erixon, replacing Joachim Stanislaw Brudzinski

**Renew:** Olivier Chastel

**Verts/ALE:** Daniel Freund

**The Left:** Jonas Sjöstedt

**ESN:** Absent

## Items for decision

### 1. *Written questions to the Commissioner-designate for Budget and other Commissioners-designate*

On 1 October 2024, the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC) discussed the distribution of competences for the confirmation hearings of Commissioners-designate in view of submitting a proposal to the Conference of Presidents for decision.

According to the decision of the CoP, BUDG and CONT are jointly responsible for the hearing of the Commissioner-designate for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration, Piotr SERAFIN. Consequently, each committee can pose three written questions to the Commissioner-designate.

#### **Decision:**

Coordinators discussed and approved the written questions to ask to the **Commissioner-designate for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration:**

#### **1. Q1 on RRF funds and future performance-based funding:**

*The delivery model of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) constitutes a significant change of EU financing in so far as the disbursement of funds is based on the fulfilment of targets and milestones and not linked to costs. Both ECA and the Parliament have pointed to serious shortcomings in the model when it comes to control and transparency. Without major improvements, this new delivery cannot serve as a blueprint for future EU spending.*

What would be your plans to improve the monitoring of the RRF spending, especially in avoiding double-funding, ensuring transparency by reporting the final recipients of funds and ensuring respect of national and European legal requirements? How will you apply the lessons learnt from the design and implementation of the RRF to other performance-based facilities and what is your stance on the creation of future performance based facilities, especially in the next MFF? How would you ensure that the mechanisms for measuring performance focus on results rather than on outputs and avoid greenwashing? In the implementation of both direct management funds (as is the case for the RRF) and shared management ones, what concrete actions will you take to significantly reduce bureaucratic burden, including through an increase of digitalisation, and ensure that EU funds generate growth?

#### **2. Q2 on the Anti-Fraud architecture:**

*With the creation of the EPPO, the EU Anti-Fraud architecture reached a further important milestone, but in the absence of any coordination of the many components involved, the results in protecting the EU budget appear to be suboptimal.*

What measures do you intend to take to improve the protection of the EU's financial interests in a tangible and measurable way? In order to improve your accountability as Commissioner responsible for the anti-fraud architecture, which measures will you propose to ensure better coordination between all components of the anti-fraud landscape, including, OLAF, the EPPO, Europol and Eurojust? Might a merger e.g. of OLAF and the EPPO lead to better synergies and results and how can the recoveries from fraudulent and irregular expenditure be improved?

#### **3. Q3 on the Rule of Law Conditionality mechanism:**

*The Regulation on the Rule of law Conditionality was a key achievement under the past legislative term since it made the disbursing EU funds to Member States conditional upon the respect of rule of law standards. Despite clear legal obligations for the Commission to keep the European Parliament informed, it was usually the media that were better informed than the Parliament.*

What measures will you take to live up to your legal obligations to inform the European Parliament fully and without delay and to be available without restriction for a structured dialogue?

How will you ensure the full respect of the rule of law and Union values in the implementation of current and future EU funds? How will you avoid contradictions and ensure a coherent approach in the application of the existing tools, including the conditionality mechanism, the horizontal enabling conditions and the rule of law report to fulfil this objective? What working arrangements will you put in place to cooperate with the Commissioner for Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law?

Coordinators further approved the following question to the **Commissioner-designate for Democracy, Justice, and the Rule of Law**. The invitation of CONT to this hearing was decided by the CoP on 2 October.

*In your mission letter, the President tasks you to develop an EU approach to anti-corruption and to work with the Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration to ensure that EU funding can be dedicated to national measures fighting corruption.*

Could you elaborate on how you will cooperate with the Budget Commissioner on the concrete measures you envisage to take and could you also explain why Member States would need more money from the EU to fight corruption? Would it not be preferable to better equip the EPPO and to support Member States in other ways?

How will you incorporate the protection of the Single Market into the Union's Rule of Law framework? Which changes will the Commission implement to expedite infringement procedures against Member States for failing to protect the Single Market?

## ***2. System for allocation of ECA special reports and reviews for the 10th term***

### Selection of Special Reports for presentation in CONT

The CONT Committee is responsible for the consideration of all reports from the Court of Auditors (Annex VI, section V, point 6 RoP).

Over past years, ECA has increased the number of special reports and reviews about different aspects of the EU budget. These reports, also known as “*performance reports*” complement the traditional annual “*compliance reports*” concerning the legality and regularity of spending by the different institutions, agencies and bodies.

Coordinators were invited to discuss and decide on the system to apply for the selection of ECA special reports and reviews.

#### **Decision:**

Coordinators approved:

- the change to a forward looking selection system in regular intervals (two or three times per year) on the reports to be presented in CONT based on ECA's indicative timetable; this selection entails the discontinuation of screening fiches;
- to distribute the rapporteurships for ECA reports among groups based on the D'Hondt list.

### 3. *System for allocation of legislative and non-legislative reports and opinions during the 10th term*

During the last term, legislative and non-legislative reports and opinions were allocated according to a points system.

This system meant that groups got three points per Member and then paid for files according to a predefined "pricelist" for different types of reports. The points were reallocated at mid-term.

#### **Decision:**

Coordinators decided to maintain the points system for allocation of legislative and non-legislative reports and opinions during the 10th term with the double innovation of

- using an auction system in case more than one group declares an interest and
- renouncing on a redistribution of points at mid-term.

Groups are getting three points per Member and each type of report/opinion has a fixed starting price, as set out in Annex I to the Coordinators note.

### 4. *Appointing standing rapporteurs for scrutiny related files*

In the past, the CONT Committee has not appointed many standing rapporteurs except for the Members appointed to participate in different networks.

The main advantage of appointing standing rapporteurs consists in the building up of expertise in a given area, often requiring profound studying and analysis. A further advantage lies in the swift reaction capacity if the CONT Committee deals with files attributed to a standing rapporteur. Standing rapporteurs further help to ensure consistency in the committee's work and they can more easily exchange information and cooperate with rapporteurs from other committees. In a culture of cooperation of committees, standing rapporteurs can also improve the overall performance of the European Parliament in the institutional triangle.

Some of the areas where standing rapporteurs could be appointed are:

- The monitoring of the application of the Rule of Law conditionality Regulation
- The anti-fraud architecture: OLAF, EPPO and Europol/Eurojust
- The implementation of the RRE
- The monitoring of the financial assistance to Ukraine and relations with the budget committee of the Verkhovna Rada

**Decision:**

Coordinators approved:

- to appoint standing rapporteurs for the four areas mentioned above;
- to set a deadline on 18 October (CoB) whereby groups should indicate their interest in a rapporteurship to the Secretariat;
- by the same deadline groups should also indicate if they would support the appointment of a standing rapporteur for the Western Balkans;

At their meeting on 4-5 November Coordinators should decide on how to distribute the standing rapporteurships (based on a d'Hondt list or by using the points system with a potential auction if more than one group is interested in a given rapporteurship).

**5. New referrals**

**5.1. Opinion to the BUDG INI report on “A revamped long-term budget for the Union in a changing world”**

BUDG asked for authorisation of an own-initiative report in preparation of the next MFF on “A revamped long-term budget for the Union in a changing world”. By written procedure a large majority of Coordinators agreed with the Secretariat's recommendation to request an opinion under Rule 57 RoP to this own-initiative report.

**Decision:**

Following the auction, the opinion was attributed to the EPP for 1.5 points.

**5.2. Motion for resolution from MEP Tomasz Froelich (ESN)**

MEP Tomasz Froelich (ESN) tabled a motion for resolution (B10-0012/2024) which was referred to CONT.

Rule 149 (5) ROP sets out the different possibilities how to deal with such a motion for resolution:

*“5. The committee responsible shall decide what procedure is to be followed, which may include the combination of the motion for a resolution with other motions for a resolution or with reports; the adoption of an opinion, which may take the form of a letter; or the drawing up of a report under Rule 55. The committee responsible may also decide not to follow up the motion for a resolution.”*

**Decision:**

Coordinators decided not to proceed to a specific follow up on the motion for resolution, but to deal with the matter in the framework of the annual discharge procedure.

## 6. *CONT working methods - based on the outcome of the IPOL business plan*

### **Decision:**

Coordinators approved the working methods of the CONT Committee. The working methods will be published on the CONT intranet webpage.

## 7. *EP Discharge 2023 - questionnaire and EoV with EP Directors-General*

As agreed by CONT Coordinators in the Practical arrangements for the 2023 Parliament's discharge, CONT Members have had the possibility to propose questions related to the implementation of the Parliament's budget for the Financial Year 2023.

On the basis of the proposals received, the Parliament's discharge Rapporteur, in agreement with the CONT Chair, has made a selection of questions for the written questionnaire. In principle, the selection is based on the question's data-driven and performance-based nature, their link to the expenditure and revenue for the year under scrutiny, and their focus on elements with a clear budgetary relevance, to ensure the accountability of the administration for a sound and efficient management of Parliament's budget.

Questions not included in the CONT written questionnaire and other questions, which due to their topic or relevance might be considered, can form part of the basis for the hearings of the Parliament's administration held in committee, at the level of individual Directors-General.

CONT Coordinators should further decide on the DGs to be invited on a proposal from the Parliament's discharge rapporteur in agreement with the CONT Chair taking into account external (such as ECA) and internal sources (including the Internal Auditor & annual activity reports of the Directors-General), the level of related expenditure and the questionnaire.

### **Decision:**

Coordinators approved:

- the proposal for a written questionnaire for the Parliament's discharge.
- the proposal to invite the Directors-General of the following six Directorates-General: Communication (DG COMM), Personnel (DG PERS), Infrastructure and Logistics (DG INLO), Finance (DG FINS), Innovation and Technological Support (DG ITEC) and Presidency (DG PRES).

## 8. *Procedure for appointment of the next Director-General for OLAF*

Upon completion of his non-renewable seven-year term of office, the mandate of the current Director-General of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) will expire on 31 July 2025. Art 17 of the OLAF Regulation stipulates that OLAF Director-General shall be appointed by the Commission from a shortlist of three candidates agreed upon in due time by the European Parliament and the Council, according to Article 17.2 OLAF Regulation.

By letter of 5 September 2024, the Commission Secretary-General asked for comments and observations on the draft of the vacancy notice.

### **Decision:**

Coordinators approved

- the draft comments on the vacancy notice and authorised the Chair to send them to the Commission;

- the draft letter from the Chair to the President asking the Conference of Presidents to give a mandate to CONT to act on behalf of the institution in the process for the appointment of the OLAF Director-General subject to final approval by the Conference of Presidents.

### ***9. Appointment of a Member of the Gender mainstreaming network***

On 26 July, the Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality wrote to the Chairs of the other EP committees asking them to appoint Members responsible for gender mainstreaming.

#### **Decision:**

Coordinators decided to postpone the agenda item and treat it together with the other standing rapporteurs (see point 4) and with the same deadlines and procedures.

### ***10. Appointment of Member of the Petitions network***

On 5 September 2024, the Chair of the Committee on Petitions wrote to the Chairs of the other EP committees asking them to appoint at least one full Member and one substitute Member responsible for petitions.

#### **Decision:**

Coordinators decided to postpone the agenda item and treat it together with the other standing rapporteurs (see point 4) and with the same deadlines and procedures.

### ***11. Linguistic profile of CONT committee meetings***

On 24 July 2024 CONT Coordinators endorsed the linguistic profile of committee meetings for rooms with 12 and 14 interpretation booths.

Thereafter, CONT substitute Member Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR, NL) requested to add Dutch interpretation to the existing profile. As a consequence of adding an extra language, CONT would not be able to meet in smaller meeting rooms with only 12 interpretation booths. This might consequently limit the possibilities to organise meetings in the desired slots due to unavailability of bigger rooms (with 14 and more booths) already assigned to bigger committees.

The Secretariat would propose the following compromise: in case of unavailability of a meeting room with 13 and more interpretation booths, the Secretariat will occasionally cancel one of the least used languages in order to have the possibility to hold a meeting in a smaller room with twelve booths.

The Secretariat would further propose to Coordinators to remove a language from the language profile if one of the existing 13 languages is not used due to repeated non-attendance of the respective Member(s).

#### **Decision:**

Coordinators approved the modified linguistic profile with 13 languages (including Dutch) and endorsed the Secretariat's proposals for occasional cancellation of one language if required in order to get a meeting room.



## **Items for information**

### **12. *Provision and planning of expertise by the Policy Department D***

The presentation by the Policy Department was postponed to the next Coordinator's meeting. The Secretariat will launch the procedure for identification of new proposals for expertise in autumn.

### **13. *A possible way forward in the deadlock on the Council's discharge***

The point will be put on the agenda of the next Coordinators meeting.

### **14. *Discharge Calendar 2023***

Coordinators will find in the *Annex XI* an updated version of the Discharge calendar 2023 including the names of Commissioners for the EC hearings and deadlines for written questions as well as the names of ECA reporting Members. Upon his request the hearing of the HRVP is rescheduled to 5 November 2024.

### **15. *Provisional Calendar meetings 2025***

*Annex XII* contains provisional dates that were requested by the CONT secretariat, pending confirmation by the calendar unit.

### **16. *Outcome of written procedures***

- In response to the written procedure of 12 September 2024, a large majority of Coordinators agreed with the Secretariat's recommendation to send a letter to the CCC requesting authorisation to draw up an opinion to the BUDG own-initiative report on the long term budget for the Union.

### **17. *Documents received for information***

### **18. *State of play of appointments on CONT files***

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

### **19. *Any other business***

### **20. *Date of next Coordinators' meeting***

- 4-5 November 2024 (tbc)

# NEWSLETTER

## COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

15:00 - 16:00 Coordinators' meeting  
and 16:00 - 18:30 (committee meeting)

Brussels, SPAAK, 5B001

**Monday 30 September 2024, 15:00 – 16:00**

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

### 1. COORDINATORS' MEETING

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

**Monday 30 September 2024, 16:00 – 17:15**

### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

### 3. 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, SV, CS, HU, PL and RO.

The meeting will be web-streamed and can be followed [live](#).

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

A summary of Coordinators recommendation from the CONT Coordinators' meeting on 4 September 2024, was circulated to Members on 11 September 2024.

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

## 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 23 July 2024

PV – PE763.048v02-00

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

CONT/10/00941

### *Exchange of views with the Secretary-General of the European Parliament, **Alessandro Chiocchetti** on the follow-up of the 2022 discharge*



**Rapporteur for the 2022 discharge:**

[Monika Hohlmeir](#) (EPP)

**Shadow Rapporteurs for the 2023 Discharge:**

**Giuseppe Lupo** (S&D), **Tamás Deutsch** (PfE), **Jonas Sjöstedt** (The Left)

**Administrator:** Fernando Gallego Osuna

In accordance with the resolution of 11 April 2024 accompanying the decision on discharge for the financial year 2022, the Secretary-General will briefly summarise the replies and follow-up on the European Parliament's administration to the various questions of the 2022 European Parliament discharge resolution before proceeding with the exchange of views.

The Secretary-General's written replies were sent to Members by email of 24 September 2024, and have been published on the [CONT website](#). The discussion will be structured according to the order of interventions:

- Brief presentation of the replies and follow-up of the administration of the previous discharge exercise by the Secretary-General;
- questions by the Rapporteur for the 2023 discharge and by other Members;
- replies by the Secretary-General and closing remarks by the Rapporteur for the follow-up of the 2022 discharge.

Members are reminded that there will be another exchange of views with the Secretary-General to focus on the current discharge later in December, and that the current exchange focuses on the 2022 discharge exercise.

### **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 2023 budget discharge website](#).



CONT Timetable

| Event                         | Body | Date               |
|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|
| Consideration of draft report | CONT | 27-28 January 2025 |

|                         |         |                        |
|-------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| Deadline for amendments | CONT    | 4 February 2025, 14:00 |
| Vote                    | CONT    | 17-18 March 2025       |
| Adoption of report      | Plenary | May 2025               |

**Monday 30 September 2024, 17:15 - 17:30**

## 6. 2022 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND COUNCIL

CONT/10/00445 [2023/2131\(DEC\)](#)

### Adoption of draft second report



PR – PE761.252v01-00

AM – PE763.112v01-00

**Rapporteur** [Jonas Sjöstedt](#) (The Left)

**Administrator:** Kaare Barslev

**Shadow Rapporteurs:** [Tomáš Zdechovský](#) (EPP), [Csaba Molnár](#) (S&D)

On 23 April 2024, the Plenary decided again to postpone discharge for the Council in the light of the regrettable lack of information and refusal to cooperate with the Parliament and thereby preventing Parliament from taking an informed decision on the granting of discharge.

In the second stage, Members will have to decide on whether to refuse or to grant discharge for the financial year 2022. The second draft report has deliberately been kept short and focuses on the regulatory background and the well-established practice of the European Parliament concerning granting discharge to all the European Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies for their administrative expenditure. As a stark contrast, Council continues to refuse to cooperate with Parliament concerning the discharge procedure, thereby making it impossible for Parliament to grant discharge.

The voting session will include votes on the 5 amendments, which have been tabled and a vote on the discharge decision.

CONT Timetable

| Event | Body    | Date              |
|-------|---------|-------------------|
| Vote  | CONT    | 30 September 2024 |
| Vote  | Plenary | October II 2024   |

**Monday 30 September 2024, 17:30 – 18:30**

## 7. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 07/2024 - THE COMMISSION'S SYSTEMS FOR RECOVERING IRREGULAR EU EXPENDITURE

CONT/10/00942

**Presentation of the Special Report by reporting ECA Member [Jorg Kristijan Petrovič](#)**



**Administrator:** Diego Rasetti

Recovery is one of the measures protecting the Union's financial interests from irregular expenditure and allowing a correct implementation of EU policies. It is an essential component of a sound financial management of Union's resources. Its importance is clearer where consideration is given to the fact that, in 2014-2022, the reported irregular expenditure has been EUR 14 billion and that such expenditure, not compliant with the funding requirements, is expected to be refunded via the recovery measures and procedures.

ECA Member Jorg Kristijan Petrovič presents the audit that assessed, whether the Commission's systems for managing and recovering irregular expenditure incurred by beneficiaries of EU funds were effective to protect the EU budget and to deter from future irregular activities. ECA activities covered the programmes implemented between 2014 and 2021.

This special report follows, and it is complementary to, previous special reports on linked matters where the Court already pointed out weaknesses of the existing recovery system. Additionally, the problem of a suboptimal functioning of the recovery system has been discussed also in some recent resolution of the European Parliament presented by CONT, such as the resolution of 18 January 2024 on the protection of the European Union's financial interests (INI on PIF Report).

The complexity of the scenario follows the different procedures for recovering irregular expenditure from beneficiaries, which depend on the type of management (direct, indirect or shared) and on the policy area of the EU budget (external or internal, cohesion or agriculture, etc). Accordingly, the results reported by the Court change depending on the budget-implementing mode and area: under direct and indirect management, the Commission ensures the accurate and prompt recording of irregular expenditure, but it takes too long to recover it. Under shared management, where Member States have primary responsibility for recording and recovering irregular expenditure, recovery rates are generally low, and in particular for agriculture the Commission should consider incentives for Member States to improve recovery rates.

The Court makes a number of relevant remarks on the different situations assessed: underlines that for external actions there is room for improvement, having noted lower recovery rates, higher outstanding debts and a lengthy full adversarial procedure which is on average five to nine months longer than for internal policies and results in substantial reduction of the disclosed irregular expenditure by 35-38% on average; additionally, for external actions, the Commission does not follow up potentially systemic irregular expenditure in the same way as it does for internal policies. In this regard enhanced audit planning is needed. The Special Report points out that the internal policies benefitted from the creation of the Common Audit Service (CAS), which provided faster handling of the cases, as well as the area of agriculture greatly benefitted from the 50/50 rule, which however, was suppressed in the new CAP 2023-2027. In the area of cohesion, instead, as per 2021-2027, the Commission switched from recovery to withdrawing, just by excluding irregular expenditure at detection, irrespective of its recovery.

Overall, the Court remarks that the Commission does not always publish complete data on irregular expenditure and corrective measures and that there is neither a clear link between detection and correction/remedies, nor a link between the year of establishment of the irregularities and the year of adoption of the corrective measures. Moreover, it acknowledges that the available tools pursue different goals and have different nature. There are inconsistencies in the values of recoveries reported in PIF Report, in the AMPR and the AARs for the areas interested by the audit.

Commission will participate in the exchange of views and will be represented by DG BUDG.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## 9. NEXT MEETINGS

- 10 October 2024 (Strasbourg)
- 17 October 2024 (Brussels)

## 10. NEWS FROM THE EU AGENCIES NETWORK

The EU Agencies Network (EUAN) is organising a Networking event in the European Parliament.

The EUAN counts 51 decentralised EU Agencies and Joint Undertakings among its members. EU Agencies and Joint Undertakings deliver tangible results for EU citizens. At the start of the new mandate, the network has gathered information about who those agencies are and how they can support the EU and can assist in particular the European Parliament.

The attendees will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge on how the Agencies and Joint Undertakings work and deliver EU policies.

If you want to find out more about the work of these important EU bodies and their role in implementing EU policies, meet them at the **EU Agencies Network Exhibition**.

### When and where:

**1 – 3 October 2024**, European Parliament, Yehudi Menuhin Exhibition Area

**1 October 2024, 18.00 Opening Reception**, Yehudi Menuhin Exhibition Area

For more please visit [euagencies.eu](https://euagencies.eu) or contact the EUAN Shared Support Office at [coordination@uan.europa.eu](mailto:coordination@uan.europa.eu)

### PAPERLESS PROGRAMME (INTERNAL USERS ONLY)

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

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

## NEWS FROM POLICY DEPARTMENT - BUDGETARY AFFAIRS

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Publications Catalogue 2019 - 2024](#)

## CONT

Study [“EU anti-fraud architecture - the role of EU-level players, how they cooperate and the challenges they face”](#)

Briefing [“Cohesion Policy Calendar \(2021-2027 and 2014-2020 Programming Periods\)”](#)  
[July 2024 update](#)

Briefing [“Analysis of the 100 largest recipients of RRF funds per Member State”](#)

Briefing [“EU assistance to Ukraine and scrutiny of the EU financing provided”](#)

Study [“Lessons learned from the implementation of crisis response tools at EU level”](#) (Part 1)

Study [“The future of digitalisation of budgetary control”](#)

At a Glance [“Nomination for a Member of the European Court of Auditors: Italy”](#)

Workshop Proceedings [“Preventing EU funds from reaching sanctioned individuals or entities”](#)

Study [“Due Diligence in EU Institutions' Own-Account Procurement: Rules and Practices”](#)

Workshop Proceedings [“Sponsorships of EU Presidencies: Stocktaking and Perspectives”](#)

Briefing [“Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors: Sweden and Portugal”](#)

Briefing [“EU assistance to Ukraine and scrutiny of the EU financing provided”](#)

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

In-Depth Analysis [“The EU Emissions Trading System: Method and Effects of Free Allowance Allocation”](#)

Briefing [“Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors: Belgium and Finland”](#)

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

Briefing [“Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors: Denmark, Spain and Ireland”](#)

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

## BUDG

Study [“The history of the EU budget”](#) (Update)     [Other language versions](#)

Briefing [“The European Parliament and the CFSP Budget - The case of the Rapid Deployment Capacity”](#)

Study [“Performance framework for the EU budget - Concepts and practices”](#) (Part 1)

Study [“The impacts of recent inflation developments on the EU finances”](#) (Part 1)

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”](#)

Briefing [“Financial impact of the war in Ukraine: current and future challenges for the EU budget”](#)

## FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

### BUDG

Study “The impacts of recent inflation developments on the EU finances” (Part 2)

Study “Performance framework for the EU budget” (Part 2)

Study “Mapping the current structure and discovering the potential of ‘other revenue’ ”

Study “Adapting the EU budget to make it fit for purpose for future enlargements”

Study “Contingent liabilities for the EU budget: an updated appraisal”

### CONT

Study “The Financial Transparency System - How to improve liability”

Study “Lessons learned from the implementation of crisis response tools at EU level” (Part 2)

Study “Performance based Instruments: possible improvements in their design”

Study “Methods in the European Court of Auditors and the Commission: the estimated level of error vs estimated risk at payment/risk at closure”

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### BUDG

Workshop “Some key themes for the post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework” (6-7 November 2024)

### CONT

Workshop “EU anti-fraud architecture - the role of EU-level players, how they cooperate and the challenges they face”

(January 2025 tbc)

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

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

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