



# MINUTES

Meeting of 21 November 2024, 9:00-12:30 and 15:00-18:00

BRUSSELS

*The meeting opened on Thursday 21 November 2024 at 9:11, with Niclas Herbst (Chair) presiding.*

**21 November 2024, 9:00 – 11:00**

**1. Adoption of agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted with the following changes:

Item 8 was postponed to an upcoming meeting.

**2. Chair's announcements**

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

**3. Adoption of minutes**

- 30 September 2024

PV – PE764.974v01-00

The minutes were approved.

- 10 October 2024

PV – PE765.102v01-00

The minutes were approved.

- 17 October 2024

PV – PE765.178v01-00

The minutes were approved.

#### 4. **2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - Commission**

CONT/10/00520

2024/2019(DEC) COM(2024)0272[01] – C10-0067/2024

Rapporteur:

Niclas Herbst (PPE)

Responsible:

CONT

- Hearing with Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner responsible for International Partnerships and Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner responsible for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, in the presence of ECA Members Marek Opiola (EDF) and Laima Liucija Andrikiene (Neighbourhood and World)

**The following spoke:** Niclas Herbst, Marek Opiola (ECA Member), Laima Liucija Andrikiene (ECA Member), Jutta Urpilainen (Commissioner responsible for International Partnerships), Olivér Várhelyi (Commissioner responsible for Neighbourhood and Enlargement), José Cepeda, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Erik Marquardt

*The meeting adjourned at 11:01 and resumed at 11:07.*

#### **21 November 2024, 11:00 – 12:00**

#### 5. **Partial renewal of Members of the Court of Auditors – BG nominee**

CONT/10/01143

2024/0804(NLE) 14116/2024 – C10-0123/2024

Rapporteur:

Csaba Molnár (S&D)

Responsible:

CONT

- Hearing of Iliana Ivanova, candidate nominated by Bulgaria

**The following spoke:** Niclas Herbst, Iliana Ivanova (candidate nominated by Bulgaria), Csaba Molnár, Tamás Deutsch, Tomáš Zdechovský, Dick Erixon, Gilles Boyer, Younous Omarjee, Șerban-Dimitrie Sturdza

#### **21 November 2024, 12:00 – 12:15**

#### 6. **Evaluation, vote and adoption of draft report**

The BG ECA candidate was approved with 21 votes in favour, 0 against, and 0 abstention

*The meeting adjourned at 12:01.*

\* \* \*

*The meeting resumed at 15:04*

**21 November 2024, 15:00 – 16:30**

**7. 2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - Commission**

CONT/10/00520

2024/2019(DEC) COM(2024)0272[01] – C10-0067/2024

Rapporteur:

Niclas Herbst (PPE)

Responsible:

CONT

- Hearing with Ylva Johansson, Commissioner responsible for Home Affairs, in the presence of ECA Member Marek Opiola

**The following spoke:** Niclas Herbst, Marek Opiola (ECA Member), Ylva Johansson (Commissioner responsible for Home Affairs), Beate Gminder (European Commission, DG HOME), Beatrix Lesiewicz (ECA), Dick Erixon, Daniel Freund

**21 November 2024, 16:30 – 18:00**

**8. 2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - European External Action Service**

CONT/10/00615

2024/2024(DEC) COM(2024)0272[06] – C10-0072/2024

Rapporteur:

Joachim Stanisław Brudziński (ECR)

Responsible:

CONT

- Hearing with Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in the presence of ECA Member for EU administrative expenditure Jan Gregor

Postponed

**9. Any other business**

**10. Date of next meeting**

4-5 December 2024 (Brussels)

9 December 2024 (Brussels)

*The meeting ended at 15:43.*

# INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

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### Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

6. Evaluation, vote and adoption of draft report on partial renewal of Members of the Court of Auditors – BG nominee

6.1. Final vote

<b>Date adopted</b>	21.11.2024
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 21 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Georgios Aftias, Gilles Boyer, Tamás Deutsch, Dick Erixon, Daniel Freund, Niclas Herbst, Marit Maij, Csaba Molnár, Jacek Protas, Carla Tavares, Pasquale Tridico, Tomáš Zdechovský
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Eero Heinäluoma, Younous Omarjee, Șerban-Dimitrie Sturdza
<b>Members under Rule 216(7) present for the final vote</b>	Hildegard Bentele, Marie Dauchy, Esther Herranz García, Emil Radev, Nacho Sánchez Amor, Tomas Tobé

**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/  
JELENĹĒTI ĪV/REGĪSTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/  
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNĂ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LĂSNĂOLOLISTA/NĂRVAROLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezidium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Niclas Herbst (P)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Βουλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/ Nariai/Képviselek/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Georgios Aftias, Gilles Boyer, José Cepeda, Tamás Deutsch, Dick Erixon, Daniel Freund, Marit Majj, Csaba Molnár, Jacek Protas, Carla Tavares, Pasquale Tridico, Tomáš Zdechovský
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Pötagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Eero Heinäluoma, Erik Marquardt, Younous Omarjee, Bert-Jan Ruissen. Șerban-Dimitrie Sturdza

216 (7)
Hildegard Bentele, Marie Dauchy, Esther Herranz García, Emil Radev, Nacho Sánchez Amor, Tomas Tobé
222 (3)
Fabrice Leggeri
57 (8) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/ Päevakorra punkt/Σημείο της ημερήσιας διάταξης/Agenda item/Point OJ/Τοčka dnevnoĝ reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)

<p>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 predsednika/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/ Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan</p>
<p>Liana Ivanova</p>

<p>Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nðukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/ Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)</p>		
<p>Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/ Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)</p>		
<p>Beate Gminder, Ylva Johansson, Jutta Urpilainen, Olivér Várhelyi</p>		
<p>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</p>		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>ECA</td> <td>Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Beatrix Lesiewicz, Marek Opiola</td> </tr> </table>	ECA	Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Beatrix Lesiewicz, Marek Opiola
ECA	Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Beatrix Lesiewicz, Marek Opiola	

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppenes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Segretarjat gruppi politiçi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat	
PPE	H. Cercel,, I. Mateos Buendia, V. Dila
S&D	R. Breederveld
PfE	
ECR	E. Frolova
Renew	S. Antoine-Jacquemard
Verts/ALE	F. Bihari
The Left	E. Reschini
ESN	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinet des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantseleri/Γραφείο του Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Ured predsednika/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/Kabinet 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 generálneho tajomníka/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/Direktorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES	
DG IPOL	
DG EXPO	
DG EPRS	
DG COMM	
DG PART	
DG PERS	
DG INLO	
DG TRAD	
DG LINC	
DG FINS	
DG ITEC	
DG SAFE	
Legal Service	



- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/  
Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/  
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- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem/Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Βουλευτής/Member/Membre/Član/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/  
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Tjänsteman

# NEWSLETTER

**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2024**  
**9:00 – 12:30 AND 15:00 – 18:00**  
BRUSSELS, SPINELLI (1G-3)

*Thursday, 21 November 2024, 9:00 – 11:00*

## **1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

## **2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair draws attention to the following points:

Interpretation was requested in the following languages:

**DE EN FR IT NL EL ES PT SV CS HU PL RO and BG (9.00-12.30 only).**

Members are kindly reminded to bring their voting cards for the vote.

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

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

A summary of Coordinators' recommendations from the CONT Coordinators' meeting of 5 November 2024 was circulated to Members on 14 November 2024.

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

### 3. 2023 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU – EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Hearing on MFF Heading 6 with Commissioner [Jutta Urpilainen](#), Commissioner responsible for International Partnerships, and [Olivér Várhelyi](#), Commissioner responsible for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, in the presence of ECA reporting Members [Marek Opiola](#) (EDF) and [Laima Liucija Andrikienė](#) (Neighbourhood and World)*

CONT/10/00520

[2024/2019\(DEC\)](#)



**Rapporteur:** [Niclas Herbst](#) (EPP)

**Shadow Rapporteurs:** [José Cepeda](#) (S&D), [Tamás Deutsch](#) (P/E), [Joachim Stanisław Brudziński](#) (ECR), [Olivier Chastel](#) (Renew), [Daniel Freund](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pasquale Tridico](#) (The Left)

**Administrators:** Benoît Lefort, Kaare Barslev, Hans Stander, Anna Zsoldos

The CONT Committee will hold a hearing with Commissioners Jutta Urpilainen, and Olivér Várhelyi, both responsible for MFF Heading 6 – ‘Neighbourhood and World’.

In its 2023 Annual Activity Report, DG INTPA reported that the implementation of its main financing instrument, the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe), was in full speed, with a good level of implementation of the

geographic and thematic Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIPs) and the signature of the first guarantee agreement under the EFSD+ open architecture scheme.

In 2023, the Commission and the EU Member States further worked on the operationalisation of the Global Gateway strategy by endorsing the first two lists of Global Gateway flagship projects with a total of 225 projects for 2023 and 2024.

For the 2021-2027 MFF, development cooperation with ACP countries has been incorporated into the EU general budget. In 2023, the Commission considered the risk at payment for the 'Neighbourhood and the World' heading to be 0.85 %, well below the 2 % materiality threshold. The ECA does not estimate an error rate for this heading, but for the EDF, the Court estimates an error rate of 8.9 %.

The DG NEAR 2023 Annual Activity Report (AAR) highlighted that a major deficiency stems from external restrictions to control financial programmes due to uncertainties and impacts created by, most notably, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the Syrian civil war, the Libyan crisis, and the conflict triggered by Hamas' terrorist attacks of 7 October 2023 against Israel. These constraints led to a reservation in the context of DG NEAR's 2023 AAR.

Written questions were submitted to the Commission for the hearing, answers to which were received and shared with CONT Members on 15 November 2024.

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for Opinion-giving Committees	FEMM, DEVE, CULT, AFET, AGRI, ENVI, EMPL, JURI, LIBE, TRAN, REGI	28 February 2025
Consideration in Committee	CONT	17-18 February 2025
Deadline for Amendments	CONT	21 February 2025, 12:00
Vote in Committee	CONT	7-8 April 2025
Vote	Plenary	May 2025

**Thursday, 21 November 2024, 11:00 – 12:00**

### 4. PARTIAL RENEWAL OF MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS – BG NOMINEE

**Hearing of Iliana Ivanova, candidate nominated by Bulgaria****Rapporteur:**[Csaba Molnár](#) (S&D)

PR – PE765.106v02-00

**Shadow Rapporteur:****Monika Hohlmeier**(EPP), **Tamás Deutsch** (P/E), **Joachim Stanisław Brudziński** (ECR), **Gilles Boyer** (Renew), **Jonas Sjöstedt** (The Left),**Administrator:** Christelle Courtade

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, is to 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 133 of the Rules of Procedure (RoP). In particular, Rule 129(1) provides that "*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 133(1) RoP, the committee is to vote by secret ballot. Members are to 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 to 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 November session. The draft report is available on the CONT website.

## CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Vote	CONT	21 November 2024
Vote	Plenary	25-28 November 2024

Thursday, 21 November 2024, 12:00 – 12:15

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

## 5. VOTE ON THE PARTIAL RENEWAL OF MEMBER OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS – BG

### NOMINEE

CONT/10/01143

[2024/0804\(NLE\)](#)

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

Thursday, 21 November 2024, 15:00 – 16:30

## 6. 2023 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU – EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Hearing with [Ylva Johansson](#), Commissioner responsible for Home Affairs, in the presence of ECA reporting Member [Marek Opiola](#)*

CONT/10/00520

[2024/2019\(DEC\)](#)



**Rapporteur:** [Niclas Herbst](#) (EPP)

**Shadow Rapporteurs:** [José Cepeda](#) (S&D), [Tamás Deutsch](#) (Pfe), [Joachim Stanisław Brudziński](#) (ECR), [Olivier Chastel](#) (Renew), [Daniel Freund](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pasquale Tridico](#) (The Left)

**Administrators:** Kaare Barslev, Benoît Lefort, Hans Stander, Anna Zsoldos

The CONT Committee will hold a hearing with Commissioner Johansson on the implementation of expenditure under Heading 4 of the MFF – ‘Migration and border management’ in the financial year 2023. Reporting Member of the European Court of Auditors Marek Opiola will represent the Court and present the main findings of the Annual Report 2023 regarding the related MFF heading.

Expenditure under MFF Heading 4 amounted to EUR 2.7 billion in 2023, equivalent to 1.4 % of the EU budget. The largest share (46.5 %) of this expenditure went to decentralised agencies (EUR 1.2 billion), followed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) (38.6 %, EUR 1 billion), and the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF) (14.9 %, EUR 0.4 billion). The ECA did not audit sufficient transactions to estimate the level of error for Heading 4, but given the number of transactions under Heading 4 and 5 affected by error (7 out of 23 transactions), the ECA considers expenditure under Heading 4 (as well as Heading 5) to be high risk.

The ECA also analysed the available performance information on Heading 4 (Chapter 3 of Annual Report 2023), focusing on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), and the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF). The Court concluded that there is an improved performance reporting framework for 2021-2027 but after two years of implementation, little performance information is available for AMIF and the IBMF for the current programming period. The Court found that the majority of performance indicators for AMIF and the IBMF for the 2014-2020 period show good progress towards achieving their targets, but these indicators do not necessarily show the extent to which the funded actions have addressed needs. The Commission recognised that there was a need to strengthen the quality of performance monitoring with more regular and reliable data for result indicators.

For the 2023 financial year, the Court also reviewed the Annual Activity Report of DG HOME. The auditors analysed DG HOME’s estimates for risks at payment and at closure, and found that they were calculated and

reported in the Annual Management and Performance Report (AMPR) in accordance with the Commission's methodology. Of the total expenditure in 2023 (EUR 3 046 million), DG HOME estimated the total amount at risk at the time of payment to be EUR 34 million (1.1 %), and it estimated a figure of EUR 3 million for corrections resulting from its checks in future years. The Acting Director-General of DG HOME issued two reservations on her declaration of assurance:

1) Shared management – Reservation concerning AMIF and ISF 2014-2020 in several Member States: with non-quantifiable reservations for six countries (Finland for AMIF/ISF, Estonia for AMIF/ISF, Germany for ISF, Ireland for ISF, Bulgaria for ISF, France for AMIF/ISF) and a quantifiable reservation for Iceland's ISF programme.

2) Shared management – Reservation concerning BMVI 2021-2027 in one Member State: this concerns Finland (financial impact estimated as EUR 637 900.84).

As the number of transactions the Court checked concerned only a small proportion of the transactions under DG HOME's responsibility, the Court could not verify DG HOME's declaration of assurance against the results of their audit work.

In preparation for the hearing, the Members of the CONT Committee submitted to the Commission 25 written questions, answers to which were received and shared with CONT Members on 15 November 2024. All relevant documents can be found on the [CONT website](#).

**Thursday, 21 November 2024, 16:30 – 18:00**

## **7. 2023 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU – EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE**

**Hearing with [Josep Borrell](#), High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in the presence of ECA reporting Member [Jan Gregor](#)**

CONT/10/00615

[2024/2024\(DEC\)](#)



**Rapporteur:** [Joachim Stanisław Brudziński](#) (ECR)

**Shadow Rapporteurs:** **Andrey Kovatchev** (EPP) **Csaba Molnár** (S&D), **Vlad Voiculescu** (Renew), **Virginie Joron** (Pfe), **Damian Boeselager** (Greens), **Pasquale Tridico** (The Left)

**Administrator:** Christelle Courtade

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 considered an institution for the purpose of the discharge procedure in accordance with Article 319 of the TFEU and Article 269 of the Financial Regulation.

The EEAS is placed under the authority of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP), Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles, who is invited to the CONT meeting for a discharge hearing with Members on the implementation of the budget and activities of the EEAS during the financial year 2023.

The written questions addressed to the EEAS by the Rapporteur on 20 September 2024 and the replies provided by the EEAS on 4 October 2024 are available on the CONT website. The questionnaire touches upon a variety of topics relevant for the budgetary discharge such as 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, the environment and sustainability, interinstitutional cooperation and communication.

The documents of particular relevance for the hearing include:

- \* The ECA 2023 Annual Report, Chapter 10;
- \* The EEAS 2023 Annual Activity Report and annual accounts;
- \* The EEAS follow-up report to the discharge for the financial year 2022.

The discharge hearing is expected to proceed as follows:

- \* Introduction by the reporting Member of the European Court of Auditors, Mr Jan Gregor, who will present the findings of the ECA Annual Report 2023;
- \* Introductory statement by HR/VP Josep Borrell Fontelles on the work and achievements of the EEAS in 2023;
- \* The CONT Rapporteur and shadows will ask EEAS staff and/or the ECA questions using the ping-pong system.

All the relevant documents can be found on the [CONT 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
Vote	Plenary	May 2025

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 4-5 December 2024 (Brussels)
- 9 December 2024 (Brussels)

### 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

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



[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”](#)

## **BUDG**

[Briefing Mainstreaming in the post-2027 MFF](#)  
[Briefing Performance-based Programmes under the post-2027 MFF](#)  
[Briefing European public goods and the 2028-2034 MFF](#)  
[Briefing Revamping the EU's budgetary flexibility](#)  
[Briefing Management of debt liabilities in the EU budget under the post-2027 MFF](#)  
[Briefing EU Enlargement and the post-2027 MFF](#)  
[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 its functioning and reliability”

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

### CONT

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