



CONT_PV(2024)1204_1

MINUTES

Meeting of 4 December 2024, 9:00-12:30 and 14:30-18:30,

and 5 December 2024, 9:00-12:30 and 14:30-18:30

BRUSSELS

The meeting opened on Wednesday 4 December 2024 at 9:00, with Niclas Herbst (Chair) presiding.

4 December 2024, 9:00 – 10:00

**** In camera ****

1. Coordinators' meeting

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 and resumed at 10:05.

4 December 2024, 10:00 – 11:00

2. Adoption of agenda

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

3. Chair's announcements

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

4. 2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Parliament

CONT/10/00539

2024/2020(DEC)

COM(2024)0272[02] – C10-0068/2024

Rapporteur:

Monika Hohlmeier (PPE)

Responsible:

CONT

Opinions:

AFCO

- Exchange of views with the following Directors-General:

1st exchange of views

- Directorate-General for the Presidency (DG PRES)

- Directorate-General for Finance (DG FINS)

The following spoke: Niclas Herbst, Monika Hohlmeier, Markus Winkler (DG PRES), Didier Klethi (DG FINS), Giuseppe Lupo, Tamás Deutsch, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Daniel Freund

4 December 2024, 11:00 – 12:30

5. 2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Parliament

CONT/10/00539

2024/2020(DEC)

COM(2024)0272[02] – C10-0068/2024

Rapporteur:

Monika Hohlmeier (PPE)

Responsible:

CONT

Opinions:

AFCO

- Hearing with Alessandro Chiochetti, Secretary- General of the European Parliament, in the context of the discharge to the European Parliament, in the presence of ECA Reporting Member Jan Gregor and with the participation of:

The following spoke: Niclas Herbst, Sabine Verheyen and Javi López, (EP, Vice-Presidents responsible for the EP Budget), Alessandro Chiochetti (EP Secretary- General), Francis Clergeaud (EP, Internal Auditor), Pascal Schonard (APPF, Director), Giuseppe Lupo, Pasquale Tridico

The meeting adjourned at 12:44.

* * *

The meeting resumed at 14:36.

4 December 2024, 14:30 – 16:00

6. 2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - Agencies

CONT/10/00682

2024/2030(DEC) COM(2024)0272[12] – C10-0078/2024

Rapporteur:

Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE)

Responsible:

CONT

Opinions:

EMPL, ENVI, TRAN, PECH, CULT, LIBE, FEMM

- 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 EIT Director, Martin Kern, in his capacity as Chair of the EU Agencies' network:
 - European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)
 - European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)
 - European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA)
 - European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)
 - European Medicines Agency (EMA)

The following spoke: François-Roger Cazala (ECA Member), Martin Kern (Chair of the EUAN), Marili Männik (Executive Director eu-Lisa), Emer Cooke (Executive Director EMA), Nina Gregori (Executive Director EUAA), Jürgen Ebner (Deputy Executive Director Europol), Uku Särekanno (Deputy Executive Director Frontex), Dirk Gotink, Marit Maij, Virginie Joron, Jonas Sjöstedt

4 December 2024, 16:00 – 17:30

7. 2023 discharge: General budget of the EU - Joint Undertakings

CONT/10/00694

2024/2031(DEC) COM(2024)0272[13] – C10-0079/2024

Rapporteur:

Michal Wiezik (Renew)

Responsible:

CONT

Opinions:

TRAN

- Hearing with the representatives of the following Joint Undertakings in the presence of the ECA reporting Member Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz:
 - Fusion for Energy (F4E)
 - European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU)

The following spoke: Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz (ECA Member), Marc Lachaise (Director of Fusion for Energy (F4E)), Anders Dam Jensen (Executive Director EHPC), Michal Wiezik, Ondřej Knotek, Terry Reintke

4 December 2024, 17:30 – 18:30

8. ECA Special report 05/2024: EU Transparency Register
CONT/10/01529

Rapporteur:

Monika Hohlmeier (PPE)

- Presentation of the special report by reporting ECA Member Jorg Kristijan Petrovič

The following spoke: Jorg Kristijan Petrovič (ECA Member), Tanya Verrier (European Commission, SG), Guillaume Edward McLaughlin (EP, DG PRES), Monika Hohlmeier

The meeting ended at 18:31.

* * *

The meeting opened at 9:06.

5 December 2024, 9:00 – 10:30

Jointly with Committee on Budgets (BUDG)

9. ECA Special report 22/2024: Double funding from the EU budget
CONT/10/01528

Rapporteur:

Jacek Protas (PPE)

- Presentation of the special report by reporting ECA Member Annemie Turtelboom

The following spoke: Niclas Herbst, Monika Hohlmeier, Annemie Turtelboom (ECA Member), Geraldine Mahieu (European Commission, DG ECFIN), Carla Tavares, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Adnan Dibrani

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 and resumed at 10:36.

5 December 2024, 10:30 – 11:15

10. Briefing on "The Financial Transparency System"

CONT/10/01530

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

The following spoke: Niclas Herbst, Roderick Ackerman (Blomeyer & Sanz), Monika Hohlmeier, Daniel Freund, Ilona Loeser (European Commission, DG BUDG), Kinga Kollár

5 December 2024, 11:15 – 12:30

With Invited Members from the Committee on Development (DEVE)

11. ECA Special report 17/2024: The EU trust fund for Africa

CONT/10/01527

- Presentation of the special report by reporting ECA Member Bettina Jakobsen

The following spoke: Niclas Herbst, Bettina Jakobsen (ECA Member), Hildegard Bentele, Carla Tavares, Marc Jongen, Cecilia Strada, Pilar Palmero Vaquero (European Commission, DG INTPA), Michele Amedeo (European Commission, DG NEAR)

The meeting adjourned at 12:17.

* * *

The meeting resumed at 14:34.

5 December 2024, 14:30 – 16:00

12. Exchange of views with the Committees on Budget and on Anti-Corruption Policy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Ukrainian Parliament)

The following spoke: Niclas Herbst, Roksolana Pidlasa (Verkhovna Rada, connected remotely), Anastasiia Radina (Verkhovna Rada), Volodymyr Tsabal (Verkhovna Rada, connected remotely), Kyrylo Klymenko (Verkhovna Rada, connected remotely), Oleksii Zhmerenetskyi (Verkhovna Rada, connected remotely), Daniel Freund, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Jonas Sjöstedt

The meeting adjourned at 15:55 and resumed at 16:03.

5 December 2024, 16:00 – 17:00

13. 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 Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in the presence of ECA reporting Member Jan Gregor

The following spoke: Niclas Herbst, Jan Gregor (ECA Member), Kaja Kallas (High Representative/EC Vice-President), Stefano Sannino (EEAS Secretary-General), Gianmarco Di Vita (EEAS Director General), Andrey Kovatchev, Csaba Molnár

The meeting adjourned at 17:03 and resumed at 17:09.

5 December 2024, 17:00 – 18:00

14. Study on 'lessons learned from the implementation of crisis response tools inside the EU, from a budgetary control point of view'

CONT/10/01546

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

The following spoke: Eulalia Rubio (CEPS), Cinzia Alcidi (CEPS), Niclas Herbst, Monika Hohlmeier, Anna Wagner (European Commission, DG REGIO)

15. Any other business

16. Date of next meeting

- 9 December, 2024 (Brussels)
- 27 - 28 January, 2025 (Brussels)
- 17 - 18 February, 2025 (Brussels)

The meeting ended at 17:54.

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

<p>Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)</p>
Niclas Herbst
<p>Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Βουλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/ Nariai/Képviselek/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter</p>
<p>Georgios Aftias, Gilles Boyer, Joachim Stanisław Brudziński, Olivier Chastel, Tamás Deutsch, Dick Erixon, Daniel Freund, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Monika Hohlmeier, Virginie Joron, Alexander Jungbluth, Ondřej Knotek, Kinga Kollár, Giuseppe Lupo, Marit Maij, Csaba Molnár, Jacek Protas, Julien Sanchez, Jonas Sjöstedt, Carla Tavares, Pasquale Tridico, Tomáš Zdechovský</p>
<p>Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Pötagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter</p>
<p>Grzegorz Braun, Dirk Gotink, Eero Heinäluoma, Andrey Kovatchev, Erik Marquardt, Karlo Ressler, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Michal Wiezik</p>

216 (7)
222 (3)
<p>Hildegard Bentele, Udo Bullmann, Nina Carberry, Adnan Dibrani, Marc Jongen, Javi López, Bogdan Rzońca, Cecilia Strada, Marco Tarquinio, Sabine Verheyen</p>
<p>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 schůdze/Τοčka 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 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

Anastasiia Radina

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 (*)

Michele Amedeo, Ilona Loeser, Guillaume, Pilar Palmero Vaquero, Tanya Verrier, Anna Wagner

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	François-RogerCazala, Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz, Jan Gregor, Bettina Jakobsen, Jorg Kristijan Petrovič, Annemie Turtelboom
APPF	Pascal Schonard
EUAN	Martin Kern
Eu-Lisa	Marili Männik
EMA	Emer Cooke
EUAA	
Europol	Jürgen Ebner
Frontex	Uku Särekanno
ITER and F4E	Marc Lachaise

EHPC	Anders Dam Jensen
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Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/ Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Sekretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/ Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Segretarjat gruppi politiçi/Fractiesekretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Sekretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat poliitičnih skupin/Poliitisten ryhmien sihteeristö/ De politiska gruppernas sekretariat	
PPE S&D PflE ECR Renew Verts/ALE The Left 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 Preşedinte/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 generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/ Generalsekreterarens kansli	
Alessandro Chiocchetti, Francis Clergeaud	
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	Guillaume Edward McLaughlin Monika Strasser (Director), Evelyn Waldher (CONT Head of Unit) Markus Winkler Didier Klethi

- * (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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Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/UrządNIK/Funcionário/Funçionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/
Tjänsteman

CONT COORDINATORS' MEETING

Wednesday, 4 December 2024

9.00 - 10.00

Room: SPINELLI 3G3

Summary of recommendations

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Coordinators present:

EPP: Tomáš Zdechovský
S&D: Carla Tavares
PfE: Tamás Deutsch
ECR: Dick Erixon (deputy coordinator)
Renew: Olivier Chastel
Verts/ALE: Daniel Freund
The Left: Jonas Sjöstedt
ESN: absent

Items for decision

1. *New referrals*

1.1. Guidelines for the 2026 Budget - Section III

As part of the annual budgetary procedure, the European Parliament adopts guidelines for the budget of the following year. The BUDG Committee will be voting on the Guidelines for the 2026 Budget - Section III in early 2025 but the timetable for the procedure has still not been fixed.

Decision:

Coordinators decided that CONT should provide an opinion in the form of a letter and agreed to continue the standing practice to appoint the Commission discharge 2023 rapporteur as Budget 2026 Rapporteur for the price of 0.5 points.

1.2. Motion for a resolution B100069/2024 on the audit of green investments in light of Northvolt developments

The motion for Resolution B10-0069/2024 from Beatrice Timgren (ECR) on the audit of green investments in light of Northvolt developments has been referred to the CONT Committee for follow-up under Rule 149 of the RoP.

The motion for Resolution alleges that the company Northvolt received public subsidies and loans from the European Investment Bank, despite considerable financial difficulties, and urges a number of actions.

Decision:

Coordinators decided to handle the issue in the relevant 2023 discharge reports.

If required, further follow-up in the form of a study and/or an INI report might be decided at a later stage.

2. *CONT working methods concerning standing rapporteurs*

Decision:

The item was postponed to the next Coordinators meeting.

3. *Appointment of a substitute Member of the Gender mainstreaming network*

At their meeting of 5 November 2024 Coordinators discussed the appointment of a Member and substitute Member of the Gender mainstreaming network. As part of that discussion a majority of Coordinators approved that:

- Ms Terry Reintke (Greens) was appointed as Member of the gender mainstreaming network.

Decision:

A large majority of Coordinators decided to appoint Carla Tavares (S&D) as substitute Member for the Gender mainstreaming network.

4. *Appointment of substitute Member of the Petitions network*

At their meeting of 5 November 2024 Coordinators discussed the appointment of a Member and substitute member of the Petitions network. As part of that discussion a majority of Coordinators approved that:

- Mr Daniel Freund (Greens) was appointed as Member of the Petitions' network.

Decision:

A large majority of Coordinators decided to appoint Olivier Chastel (Renew) as substitute Member for the Petitions network.

5. *Nomination of a CONT Member & Substitute to the re-established EP network on policy coherence for development (PCD)*

By letter of 7 November, the Chair of DEVE wrote to the other Committee Chairs to inform them that the EP network on policy coherence for development (PCD) would be re-established for this term. The network was first established in 2023 as a follow-up on an EP-Resolution of 14 March 2023 concerning PCD.

Decision:

Coordinators decided not to appoint a member for the EP network on policy coherence for development (PCD).

6. *Proposals for own-initiative reports (INI) for the first half of the 10th term (January 2025-July 2027)*

According to the relevant provisions laying down the procedure for granting authorisation to draw up own-initiative reports, during the first half of a parliamentary term, each parliamentary committee may simultaneously draft up to six own-initiative reports. CONT has already received the authorisation to draw up the two traditional annual reports on the EIB (part of the quota) and the PIF-report (outside of the quota).

Decision:

Coordinators decided to request authorisation to initiate the following five INI reports for the first half of the parliamentary term:

- 1) Future of the Rule of Law Conditionality Regime (joint competence with BUDG committee)
- 2) Control, transparency and traceability of performance based instruments
- 3) Budget 2024: Assessing the implementation of the gender mainstreaming methodology in the EU Budget
- 4) Combating VAT fraud - the effectiveness of cross-border cooperation between Member State tax authorities, particularly in the digital domain
- 5) Which performance indicators relevant for audit and budgetary control should be implemented in the context of financing measures taken to support the implementation of a future European competitiveness (Draghi report)?

Coordinators agreed to add two more proposals on the reserve list:

- From ECR: assessing green investments.
- From The Greens/EFA: making Ukraine's anti-corruption framework fit for EU accession.

Coordinators will get back to the question of which group takes the responsibility for each of the reports once the working methods for standing rapporteurs will have been decided.

7. *Discharge 2023 calendar*

Decision:

Coordinators approved the updated 2023 discharge calendar.

8. *Input to the 2026+ ECA work programme*

The CCC Chair invited committees to provide their audit suggestions for the 2026+ ECA Work Programme to the CCC Secretariat by Wednesday 21 February 2025. An exchange of views with ECA President Tony Murphy is foreseen for the February CCC meeting.

Decision:

Coordinators agreed to send their audit suggestions for the 2026+ ECA Work Programme to the Secretariat **by Friday 17 January 2025 (cob)** with a view to take a decision at the Coordinators' meeting on 27-28 January.

9. *CONT visit to OLAF on 14 January 2025*

By letter of 11 November 2024, the OLAF Director-General invited the CONT Chair and CONT Members to a visit in OLAF's premises in Brussels on 14 January 2025.

The visit should give CONT Members the possibility to get to know more about OLAF, its mission and its working procedures. The agenda would include a general introduction to OLAF's activities as well as more detailed information regarding the investigation processes. The final agenda is not yet established. Coordinators are welcome to suggest further topics they would like to discuss.

Decision:

Coordinators approved the date of 14 January 2025 in the afternoon for a visit to OLAF (3-6 pm).

They agreed to indicate the names of participants and eventual further topics for discussion by 13 December 2024 and to request OLAF to provide interpretation.

Items for information**10. *Petitions received for information***

The Chair of the Committee on Petitions, has sent the following petitions to the CONT committee for information:

- **Petition No 0689/2024** by F. G. (French), on behalf of Porte du Ried Nature, on alleged inappropriate use of the European agricultural funds for rural development for a project in France
- **Petition No 0713/2024** by F. G. (French), on behalf of Porte du Ried Nature, on the successive use of EAFRD and ERDF aiming at splitting a project into two phases

11. *Mandatory training for MEPs*

CONT Members were encouraged to follow the mandatory training by 16 January 2025.

12. *Summary of the kick-off meeting of the Discharge network at political level on 18 November 2024***13. *Outcome of written procedures***

14. *State of play of appointments on CONT files*

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

15. *Any other business - Missions in 2025*

Coordinators were invited to send **by Friday, 17 January 2025 (cob)** their proposals for missions for 2025. Weeks 22 (26-30 May 2025) and 38 (15-19 September 2025) appear to be most suitable.

16. *Date of next Coordinators' meeting*

- 27-28 January 2025

NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2024

9:00 – 10:00 (Coordinators' meeting) and **10:00 – 12:30**

and **14:30 – 18:30**

THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2024

9:00 – 12:30 and **14:30 – 18:00**

BRUSSELS, SPINELLI (3G-3)

Wednesday, 4 December 2024, 9:00 – 10:00

**** In camera ****

1. COORDINATORS' MEETING

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

Wednesday, 4 December 2024, 10:00 – 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 UK (partially from 14.30-16.30 on 5 December).

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

The meeting documents will be available shortly on the [CONT website](#).

4. 2023 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU – EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

CONT/10/00539

[2024/2020\(DEC\)](#)

Exchange of views with the following Directors-General:

Director-General for the Presidency (DG PRES)

Director-General for Finance (DG FINS)



Rapporteur: [Monika Hohlmeier](#) (EPP)

Shadow Rapporteurs: **Giuseppe Lupo** (S&D), **Tamás Deutsch** (PfE), **Dick Erixon** (ECR), **Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy** (Renew), **Damian Boeselager** (Greens), **Jonas Sjöstedt** (The Left), **Alexander Jungbluth** (ESN)

Administrator: Fernando Gallego Osuna

In the context of the European Parliament's discharge for the financial year 2023, a written questionnaire was sent to the Parliament's administration, after having received proposals from the CONT Coordinators and focusing on strategic and priority discharge issues related to 2023 and of direct budgetary relevance, in line with the working arrangements. Written replies were received and circulated to CONT Members by Monday, 28 November. In parallel, it was decided to organise this exchange of views with the Directors-General of several key Directorates-General, to discuss their subject areas. They are expected to focus on major topics or concerns having clear budgetary relevance to the concrete year in question (or related to that year), or, possibly, on a selection of key priority topics, avoiding repetition of old cases/questions over several years. This exchange of views is a continuation of that held previously on 4 November with DG COMM, DG PERS, DG INLO and DG ITEC.

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, the Annual Activity Reports of the Directorates-General, and the replies and follow-up to last year's discharge resolution, on the [CONT 2023 budget discharge website](#).

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for Opinion-giving Committees	AFET	30 January 2025
Consideration in Committee	CONT	27-28 January 2025
Deadline for Amendments	CONT	4 February 2025, 14:00
Vote in Committee	CONT	17-18 March 2025
Vote	Plenary	May 2025

Wednesday, 4 December 2024, 11:00 – 12:30

5. 2023 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU – EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Discharge hearing with [Alessandro Chiochetti](#), Secretary-General of the European Parliament, in the context of the discharge to the European Parliament, with the participation of:

- **Sabine Verheyen** and **Javi López**, Vice-Presidents responsible for the Budget of the European Parliament,
- **Francis Clergeaud**, Internal Auditor, Secretariat-General of the European Parliament,
- **Pascal Schonard**, Director of the Authority for European Political Parties and European Political foundations

CONT/10/00539

[2024/2020\(DEC\)](#)



Rapporteur: [Monika Hohlmeier](#) (EPP)

Shadow Rapporteurs: **Giuseppe Lupo** (S&D), **Tamás Deutsch** (PfE), **Dick Erixon** (ECR), **Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy** (Renew), **Damian Boeselager** (Greens), **Jonas Sjöstedt** (The Left), **Alexander Jungbluth** (ESN)

Administrator: Fernando Gallego Osuna

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 of the political groups, the report on compliance with payment time limits, the report on contracts awarded, the Annual Activity Reports of the Directorates-General, and replies to the questions raised by Members in 2023, on the [CONT 2023 budget discharge website](#).

Written questions

Following the established procedure for the adoption of the EP discharge questionnaire, Members were asked to submit questions related to the 2023 budget implementation to the rapporteur through their Coordinators, who endorsed the draft questionnaire proposed by the Chair and the rapporteur. The questionnaire was finalised and submitted to the Secretary-General, and the written replies were circulated to CONT Members on 27 November.

Structure of the hearing

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

- short presentation by the Secretary-General of the answers to the written questions;
- presentation by the Internal Auditor of the European Parliament of his 2023 annual report;
- presentation by the Director of the Authority for European Political Parties and Foundations of its 2023 annual activity report;
- statement and oral questions by the Rapporteur;
- Q&A session with shadow rapporteurs and other Members;
- closing remarks by the Rapporteur.

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for Opinion-giving Committees	AFET	30 January 2025
Consideration in Committee	CONT	27-28 January 2025
Deadline for Amendments	CONT	4 February 2025, 14:00

Vote in Committee	CONT	17-18 March 2025
Vote	Plenary	May 2025

Wednesday, 4 December 2024, 14:30 – 16:00

6. 2023 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU: AGENCIES

Discharge hearing in the presence of [François-Roger Cazala](#), Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, and the Director of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology's, [Martin Kern](#), in his capacity as Chair of the EU Agencies network:

- **European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)**
- **European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)**
- **European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (EU-LISA)**
- **European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)**
- **European Medicines Agency (EMA)**

CONT/10/00682

[2024/2030\(DEC\)](#)



Rapporteur:
(Greens)

[Erik Marquardt](#)

Shadow Rapporteur:

Marit Maij (S&D), **Tamás Deutsch** (Pfe), **Joachim Stanisław Brudziński** (ECR), **Gilles Boyer** (Renew), **Jonas Sjöstedt** (The Left), **Alexander Jungbluth** (ESN)

Dirk Gotink (EPP),

Administrators:

Nogueira, Susana Delmas Costa

Ana Maria

The European Union (EU) agencies, located in 23 Member States, are responsible for handling technical, scientific, regulatory, and operational tasks, as well as implementing spending programmes. The majority of these agencies are funded almost entirely by the EU budget, while others receive partial or full financing through fees and charges from public and private entities that benefit from their activities.

François-Roger Cazala, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) Member responsible for the audit of EU agencies for the financial year 2023, noted that *'The financial management of the EU agencies is generally good, but we keep finding public procurement errors'*.

In preparation for the hearing on the 2023 discharge for EU agencies, relevant documents include the ECA's 2023 Annual Report on EU agencies, responses from EU agencies to the questions posed by the CONT Committee, including the standard questionnaire, individual, and horizontal written questions, Annual Activity Reports, and follow-up reports to last year's discharge resolutions, all of which are available on the [CONT Discharge webpage](#).

Mr Cazala will present the findings and conclusions of the ECA's annual report on EU agencies for the 2023 financial year. This year's audit included an in-depth analysis of the financing models of 12 EU agencies that generate their own revenue, either in addition to EU budget subsidies or as their sole source of funding.

The EP Rapporteur for the 2023 discharge to EU agencies has invited the following agencies to the hearing:

1. European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)
2. European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)

3. European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security, and Justice (EU-LISA)

4. European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)

5. European Medicines Agency (EMA)

These invited agencies, which account for 53% of the total revenue of agencies under resolution, face a diverse range of challenges that need to be addressed.

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for Opinion-giving Committees	EMPL, ENVI, TRAN, PECH, CULT, LIBE, FEMM	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

Wednesday, 4 December 2024, 16:00 – 17:30

7. 2023 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU: JOINT UNDERTAKINGS

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

– Fusion for Energy (F4E)

– European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU)

CONT/10/00694

[2024/2031\(DEC\)](#)



Rapporteur:
(Renew)

[Michal Wiezik](#)

Shadow Rapporteurs:
Lázara (EPP), **Claudiu Manda** (S&D), **Tamás Deutsch** (PFE), **Joachim Stanisław Brudziński** (ECR) **Terry Reintke** (Greens), **Younous Omarjee** (The Left), **Alexander Jungbluth** (ESN)

Adrián Vázquez

Administrator:

Lucas Maton

In the context of the discharge procedure, the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) will hold a public hearing of a selection of joint undertakings. The joint undertakings are public-private partnerships, which are co-financed by the EU to support research and innovation activities in the areas of transport, energy, health, circular bio-based industries, key electronic components, supercomputing, and network

systems.

Each year, the Court of Auditors publishes an annual report dedicated to the joint undertakings. For the financial year 2023, the [report](#) welcomes the overall sound financial management of the joint undertakings but underlines a series of issues, such as difficulties in meeting the contribution targets of private members, shortcomings in cash planning which result in excessive cash surpluses or problems in the management of human resources. Along with other documents published annually, this report is the main basis on which CONT Members decide whether to grant discharge to the joint undertakings.

This year, after assessing the findings of the annual report, the Rapporteur Michal Wiezik (Renew) has decided to hear Marc Lachaise, the Director of the European joint undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (F4E) as well as Anders Dam Jensen, the Executive Director of the European High Performance Computing joint undertaking (EuroHPC) in CONT. The Reporting Member of the Court of Auditors Ms Gáll-Pelcz will also be present and will open the meeting with a presentation of the main findings of the annual report on EU joint undertakings for the financial year 2023, with a special focus on these two.



Members will find the relevant documents for the discharge of the joint undertakings, such as the Reports on Budgetary and Financial Management, the annual accounts, the Annual Activity Reports and the follow-up reports to last year's discharge resolutions, on the CONT [Discharge 2023 website](#).

CONT Timetable

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	Committee	27-28 January 2025
Vote	Committee	17-18 March 2025
Vote	Plenary	May 2025

Wednesday, 4 December 2024, 17:30 – 18:30

8. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 05/2024: TRANSPARENCY REGISTER

Presentation of the Special Report by ECA reporting Member Jorg Kristijan Petrovič

CONT/10/01529



Rapporteur: [Monika Hohlmeier](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Susana Delmas Costa

Lobbying is a recognised democratic tool allowing organisations and individuals to provide input into policy and decision-making. However, if it is not sufficiently transparent, it can lead to undue influence, unfair competition, or even corruption.

The special report of the ECA on the EU Transparency Register (EUTR) assesses the efficacy of the EUTR, which provides information on lobbying activities within EU institutions. The EUTR was set up by the European Parliament and the European Commission in 2011 to make lobbying activities within EU policy and decision-making transparent. In 2021, a new agreement was signed when the Council joined as a third signatory institution. The 2021 IIA introduced the principle of conditionality, which stated that registration is a precondition for certain lobbying activities. However, the Court found that the institutions had different approaches to this principle, and that it covered only certain activities and only top-ranking staff.

The main objective of the audit was to assess whether the EUTR is a useful means of providing transparency on the lobbying activities in EU policy and decision-making. The audit focused on the period 2019-2022. The report covers its background, strengths, limitations, and potential improvements. More specifically, it was assessed whether the 2021 IIA is consistent with internationally recognised principles of transparency and integrity in lobbying, whether the signatory institutions make meaningful use of EUTR registration as a precondition for lobbying activities, whether the EUTR Secretariat's working arrangements are conducive to good data quality on lobbying activities and whether the EUTR's public website provides relevant content and is user-friendly.

The main conclusions of the report are that the EUTR aligns with international principles and provides useful information to allow citizens to follow lobbying practices, but weaknesses and gaps reduce the transparency of lobbying activities taking place in the three signatory institutions. Key issues include inconsistent application of EUTR registration requirements among institutions, limited enforcement options, coordination issues within the EUTR Secretariat, and data quality concerns, including duplicate or missing information.



To address these challenges, the Court suggests stronger enforcement mechanisms, publication of additional lobbying meetings, enhanced data quality checks, and improvements to the EUTR website's user-friendliness.

Representatives of all three institutions participating in the EUTR have been invited to discuss the Court's recommendations.

Thursday, 5 December 2024, 9:00 – 10:30

9. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 22/2024: DOUBLE FUNDING FROM THE EU BUDGET

Presentation of the Special Report by ECA reporting Member Annemie Turtelboom

CONT/10/01528

Administrator: Kaare Barslev

In this Special Report, the Court has assessed whether the Commission and the Member States have established systems, which allow them to detect and correct situations where projects receive double

funding from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), cohesion policy funds and Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) funds.

Overall, the audit shows that the risk of double funding has increased with the introduction of instruments based on “*financing not linked to costs*” (FNLTC), which have greatly increased in volume with the RRF. Risk also increases when different EU funding programmes with different delivery models, rules and governance and accountability frameworks can finance measures and actions during the same timeframe.

The Court considers that the assurance that the Commission is able to provide on the absence of double funding for the different instruments is limited and they conclude that the systems set up and implemented by the Commission and the Member States are not yet sufficient to adequately mitigate the increased risk of double funding between the RRF, cohesion and the Connecting Europe Facility.



The Court also observed several practices which helped Member States to mitigate the risk of double funding including clear demarcation between which types of funds finance which types of project and more centralised IT systems. Where such principles and systems are not in place, the risk of double funding increases.

The Court has issued six recommendations with some sub-recommendations to the Commission in order to improve the situation. The Commission has only accepted a limited number of these recommendations.

Thursday, 5 December 2024, 10:30 – 11:15

10. BRIEFING ON THE FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY SYSTEM

CONT/10/01530

Presentation of the briefing by the author followed by an exchange of views

Administrators: Christelle Courtade, Vera Milicevic

The briefing on the “*Financial Transparency System – how to improve its functioning and reliability*” was commissioned by the CONT Committee as a follow-up to the CONT study on “*Transparency and accountability of EU funding for NGOs active in EU policy areas within EU territory*” published in September 2023. It was prepared by one of Parliament’s contractors for external studies, Mr Roderick ACKERMANN, Blomeyer & Sanz.

The Financial Transparency System (FTS) is an EC tool that provides publicly accessible financial data on grants and contracts funded from the European Union (EU) budget and implemented under direct management by the EC, EU delegations to non-EU countries, and other EU bodies, such as executive agencies. It also covers funding under indirect management by partner organisations or other authorities inside or outside the EU. In the recent CONT studies, several shortcomings in the functioning of the FTS and opportunities for improvement were identified. In this briefing, 16 recommendations on improving the functionality and user-friendliness of the FTS are addressed to the European Commission. Furthermore, 3 recommendations are addressed to the European Parliament as legislator and budgetary and discharge authority.

The full text of the briefing is available on the [CONT website](#).

Thursday, 5 December 2024, 11:15 – 12:30

11. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 17/2024: EU TRUST FUND FOR AFRICA

*Presentation of the Special Report by ECA reporting Member **Bettina Jakobsen**, jointly with Members of the Committee on Development (DEVE)*

CONT/10/01527

Administrator: Fernando Gallego Osuna

The EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) aims to support all aspects of stability, and contribute to better migration management in Africa. The priorities include anti-trafficking measures, regional stabilisation efforts, and the protection of vulnerable migrants. The Fund has received more than EUR 5 billion in contributions, and supported 27 African countries. Most contributions (EUR 4.4 billion, or 88 % of the total of EUR 5 billion) came from the European Development Fund and the EU budget. By December 2023, EUR 4 508 million had been paid out. Following a decline during the COVID-19 pandemic, the figures for irregular migration to Europe have steadily increased again. The European Court of Auditors took a closer look at a few countries from the different regions covered: Ethiopia, Gambia, Mauritania, Libya and Tunisia.



According to Special Report 17/2024 by the European Court of Auditors, the EUR 5 billion EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) does not concentrate enough on priorities to tackle the root causes of instability, irregular migration, and displacement on the African continent. Despite the auditors' previous call in 2018 to focus EUTF support, the special funding to deal with migration continues to be spread too thinly on the ground as it finances too broad a range of actions in the areas of development, humanitarian aid, and security. In addition, the reported results lack accuracy, and human rights risks are not properly addressed.

The Court makes several recommendations, and asks the Commission to address them quickly in order to improve the Fund's final stage which is coming to an end in 2025, and for future development funding with similar aims. In particular, the EU executive should increase evidence-based targeting of geographical areas and recipients, as well as identify human rights risks better and take mitigating action. The Commission accepts the recommendations of the Court, and remarks that considering the situation of extreme fragility and volatility of the countries where the EUTF projects are implemented, the sustainability of the actions is highly dependent on their nature (humanitarian or development) and on many external factors.

The reporting Member of the Court of Auditors, as well as representatives of the Commission, will discuss and be available to answer questions from the Members.

Thursday, 5 December 2024, 14:30 – 16:00

12. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE COMMITTEES ON BUDGET AND ON ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE (UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT)

Administrators: Susana Delmas Costa, Lucas Maton

The upcoming joint meeting between the CONT Committee, and the Committees on Budget and on Anti-Corruption Policy of the Ukrainian Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, demonstrates the CONT Committee's ongoing commitment to strengthening its partnership with the Rada. This meeting marks the fourth joint gathering and the first in the new mandate.

Meeting Agenda: The meeting will address three topics:

Ukraine's Budgetary Situation: Ms Roksolana Pidlasa, Chair of the Committee on Budget of the Verkhovna Rada, will present an update on Ukraine's current budgetary situation.

Presentation of the draft law on the Accounting Chamber (ACU): Ms Pidlasa will debrief CONT members on the latest developments on the Law of Ukraine “On the Accounting Chamber” (ACU). This law is an important stage in the development of the institution, with the goal of strengthening its independence and expanding its powers.

The approved law is also designed to improve the assessment of Ukraine’s fulfilment of European integration obligations and is one of the structural benchmarks of the International Monetary Fund.

Committee on Anti-Corruption Policy – Promoting Cooperation and Legislative Progress:

Anastasiya Radina, Chair of the Committee on Anti-corruption Policy, will present recent legislative developments and the state of play in the cooperation between anti-corruption authorities in Ukraine and in the EU.



Following the presentations, members of the CONT Committee and of the two Ukrainian committees will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments, fostering a constructive dialogue and further strengthening EU-Ukraine cooperation.

Thursday, 5 December 2024, 16:00 – 17:00

13. 2023 DISCHARGE: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU – EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

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



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

Shadow Rapporteurs: **Andrey Kovatchev** (EPP) **Csaba Molnár** (S&D), **Virginie Joron** (Pfe), **Vlad Voiculescu** (Renew), **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 purposes 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), Ms Kaja Kallas 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 Kaja Kallas on the work and achievements of the EEAS in 2023;
- The CONT Rapporteur and shadows will ask the EEAS 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

Thursday, 5 December 2024, 17:00 – 18:00

14. PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY ON “LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION

OF CRISIS RESPONSE TOOLS AT EU LEVEL”

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

CONT/10/01546

Administrator: Hans Stander, Eleanor James, Francisco Padilla Olivares

More and more often money from the EU budget is used to help when crises happen. But the EU budget is not primarily meant for fast and flexible crisis fighting; its current main focus is on stable, long-term investments.

The question that this study answers is how the EU budget can be used to fight crises in the future. How can we make sure the money is well spent? And how do we know that there was no abuse? What can we learn from past experience with crises?

This study is very timely and relevant, as Parliament is currently working on the so-called RESTORE proposal. The Commission proposed this financial instrument to help Member States affected by natural disasters, such as floods, wildfires and earthquakes.

The researchers looked at the crisis response tools used to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. These tools were called the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and CRII+ (for its younger sibling), and Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe (REACT-EU). Though different instruments, they have in common that they made the rules to spend money from existing investment funds more flexible.

What are the lessons learned as regards budgetary control and how should they be applied to using the EU budget for crisis response?

1. More flexible rules to spend money in times of crises should be allowed, but the decision in what cases this can be done should be taken at EU level, and not left to the Member States alone.
2. In crisis situations speed is of the essence, and making money available quickly, when it is needed most, is very important. This should be done through increased pre-financing, and not through 100% EU financing, not requiring Member States to make money available too.
3. More flexible rules could increase abuse. EU and national authorities should address this risk by adapting their fraud prevention strategies for emergency situations.
4. To make payments, the EU should not use so-called ‘financing not linked to costs’, which is used for modern performance-based instruments such as the RRF, as there is not enough time to elaborate the right definitions of outputs and results that are needed to justify payments.

The study further identifies four options to use the EU budget, and more specifically the cohesion policy funds, for future crises. These recommendations are very relevant for the negotiations on new Multi-annual Financial Framework that will start in 2025.

A last point addressed in the study is related to SURE, the Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency, the loan-based funding made available to Member States to address unemployment following the COVID-19 lockdowns. This instrument, introduced in 2020, was a great success in many ways. The researchers, however, caution that the unique circumstances in 2020 make it less likely that the instrument can be re-used. They propose concrete alternatives for a future-proof SURE as a permanent feature supported by the EU budget.

More information about the study can be found [here](#).

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 9 December 2024 (Brussels)
- 27-28 January 2025 (Brussels)
- 17-18 February 2025 (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

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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”](#)
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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

Study [“EU contingent financial liabilities”](#)
At a Glance [“EU contingent financial liabilities”](#)
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”](#)
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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”

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

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

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