

# Budgetary Control Committee: EU Must Strengthen Fight Against Fraud



Thomas Wahl

## News

On 19 February 2020, the EP's Budgetary Control Committee (CONT) voted on the [discharge report](#) prepared by MEP *Monika Hohlmeier* (EPP, DE). By a 20 to 4 vote, the committee members [voted in favour of granting discharge](#) of the Commission's accounts for 2018 (corresponding to 97% of the entire EU budget). However, MEPs recommend a number of measures to fight fraud and avoid conflicts of interest:

- The Commission should introduce subsidy ceilings, so that EU financial support is distributed more fairly; it should be made impossible to receive subsidies amounting to hundreds of millions of Euros in one MFF-period;
- The Commission should create rules that allow disclosure of the end beneficiaries of agricultural funds;
- The EU must establish a complaint mechanism enabling farmers to inform the Commission of organized crime or other malpractices (e.g., land-grabbing, forced labour, etc.);
- Future guidelines must tackle conflicts of interest with regard to high-profile politicians;
- The newly created European Public Prosecutor's Office is underfinanced and not fully operational in conjunction with current budget planning; based on an estimated caseload of 3000 cases per year, the EPPO needs at least 76 additional posts and €8 million in funding;
- MEPs insist on the adoption of the regulation enabling the EU to restrict EU money for rule-of-law violations in a Member State (this regulation is [currently blocked in the Council](#)).

### AUTHOR

**Thomas Wahl**

Senior Researcher  
Max Planck Institute for the  
Study of Crime, Security and  
Law

---

ISSN: 1862-6947  
<https://eucrim.eu>

---



The CONT report comes in preparation for the [EP's discharge decision](#). The discharge is one of the most important rights of the EP.

---

## About eucrim

eucrim is the leading journal which regularly informs about current developments in European criminal and "criministrative" law.

All news items are freely accessible at: <https://eucrim.eu/news/>

Stay informed by emailing to [eucrim-subscribe@csl.mpg.de](mailto:eucrim-subscribe@csl.mpg.de) to receive alerts for new releases of issues.

The project is co-financed by the [Union Anti-Fraud Programme \(UAFP\)](#), managed by the [European Anti-Fraud Office \(OLAF\)](#).



Co-funded by  
the European Union