



Brussels, 2nd December 2019

Dear Commissioner Hahn,

Allow me to first congratulate you on your appointment and to wish you all the success in the new Commission. Based on your experiences gained while already serving 2 mandates as Commissioner I'm sure that, based on a good cooperation with the Budgetary Control (CONT) Committee in the European Parliament, we can all contribute to the streamlining of a Performance-Based EU Budget and the sound financial management of the EU.

Having said this, I'm sure you will have remembered the many discussions, hearings with different Commissioners and the presentation by the Director General of DG BUDG in CONT on the issue of the new Financial Regulation, its provisions on conflict of interests and a possible breach of those provisions in the case of the Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis and the Agrofert conglomerate.

DG AGRI and DG REGIO, after months of calls for urgent action by the CONT Committee in the European Parliament, started their own Audits in the early months of 2019, and in early June 2019 the Draft Audit Report by DG REGIO was leaked. With due respect to the International Audit Standards, the text of audit reports are to remain confidential until the Audit institution publishes the Final Audit Report, however, the media, the Czech authorities and general public are already commenting on what they claim are the findings of the Final Audit Report. Indeed, according to information given by the Commission spokesperson at the midday press briefing of 4th November, the deadline for the finalisation of the Audit report was today, 2nd December 2019.

With the sole aim of ensuring that the work of the Members of the Budgetary Control Committee is based on up-to-date information and on the basis of official documents rather than information published in the press; which is of utmost importance when the control of the EU money is concerned, I'd kindly and urgently ask you, dear Commissioner, to answer my following Questions:

1. What is the current status of the above mentioned Audit Reports?
2. When does the Commission plan to publish the Final Audit Report concerning the use of Regional Development Funds? What are the plans for the publication of the ongoing Audit into the use of the Common Agricultural Policy funds?
3. What are the main causes of the latest delays – having in mind that the Draft Audit Reports were sent to the auditee in late May and September 2019?
4. How does the European Commission plan to act to ensure a swift follow-up of the findings of the aforementioned Audit reports?

These answers, I believe, are not important only to myself, but to the whole CONT committee since none of us should base our understanding on the regularity and compliance of the EU's financial operations on assumptions but rather on the official documents and audit findings. We therefore believe that it is of utmost importance that any final Audit reports be published by the European Commission immediately. We stand ready to assist you in your work to ensure the sound financial management of the European Union budget, to avoid any fraud or abuse of EU funding in the future.

With a sincere hope of a quick response to this urgent question,

Yours sincerely,

Mikulas Peksa, Greens/EFA CONT Co-coordinator, MEP