

EN

E-000846/2025

Answer given by Mr Serafin
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.4.2025)

The Honourable Member refers to the request made by the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) on reviewing contracts awarded by Commission, in the framework of the annual discharge procedure. The Commission is committed to a smooth discharge process, which ensures democratic oversight of the implementation of the EU budget in compliance with the regulatory requirements and sound financial management principles.

In line with Article 319(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union¹ and Article 267(3) of the Financial Regulation (FR)², the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament any information the latter deems necessary in the context of the discharge procedure for the financial year concerned.

In the context of the ongoing discharge procedure for year 2023, on 8 October 2024, the CONT committee requested the transmission of 31 grant agreements. Afterwards, on 4 February 2025, CONT made another request – to receive lists of all grant agreements concluded between selected Commission departments and all beneficiaries, which were in force in 2023. The CONT committee then selected a sample of 28 agreements for further review, based on these lists. The Commission provided all requested information, within the time limits set by the CONT committee, not only under the current discharge procedure, but also in January 2024, under the previous legislature.

This transmission was not subject to budgetary constraints and was in line with the provisions of the Annex II to the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission³. Annex II obliges both institutions to ensure the adequate protection of personal data, or data relevant to business secrecy or commercial interests contained in the agreements. The Commission is not obliged to publish its grant agreements, as they do not fall under the scope of Article 38 of the FR⁴.

In light of the above, Commission considers that it has duly fulfilled its responsibility in the context of the discharge procedure, and it will continue the constructive cooperation in this regard.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT>

² Regulation 2024/2509 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union; ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>

³ http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinstit/2010/1120/oj

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/eu-financial-regulation_en