



EUROPEAN
COURT
OF AUDITORS

Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz

Member of the European Court of Auditors

Survey - Audit on Authorised Economic Operators (AEO)

Dear Mr/Mrs,

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) is conducting an independent audit to assess whether the EU AEO programme facilitates legitimate trade and enhances international supply chain security. In particular, the auditors will examine the design and implementation of the AEO programme in the EU.

Why do we need your contribution? The audit includes a targeted questionnaire to all AEOs in the EU in order to collect information on their experiences and opinions. This will allow us to conclude on potential challenges, opportunities and risks concerning the EU AEO programme.

Your replies are of great importance to us in assessing whether the current AEO framework within the EU is providing the expected results, in terms of effectiveness. Your replies will be treated in confidentially and will only be used for the purpose of this audit.

For more information on the collection and processing of personal data, please consult the [privacy statement](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us at ECA-AEOteam@eca.europa.eu if you have any questions.

The deadline for replying to the questionnaire is 3 October 2022.

To complete the questionnaire follow the link below or forward it to a person you consider most competent to reply.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/AEO>

(in all EU official languages)

About the ECA:

The ECA is mandated by *the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union* to carry out the Union's external audit with a dual aim to improve its financial management and to report to the citizens of Europe on the use made of public funds by the authorities responsible for their management. As the independent guardian of the financial interests of the citizens of the Union, the ECA promotes accountability and transparency.

The ECA's main products are:

- o Annual reports contain the results of financial and compliance audit work on the European Union budget and European Development Funds. They comprise the annual statements of assurance and cover budgetary management and performance aspects.
- o Special reports present the results of selected performance and compliance audits of specific spending or policy areas, or budgetary or management issues.
- o Reviews and opinions on policy areas and laws with a significant impact on EU financial management.

The Special Report on the EU AEO programme will be published in 2023 and will provide an independent and comprehensive insight into the design and implementation of the programme within the EU. The resulting recommendations will aim to improve the legal framework in place and address any weaknesses in the programme implementation.

Thank you very much for your valuable time and cooperation with this audit.