

# 2020 Annual Report of the Parliamentary Control of the Administration

## Appendix to the 2020 Annual Report by the Federal Assembly Control Committees and Control Delegation

of 26 January 2021

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### The activities of the PCA in 2020 at a glance

*In the course of 2020, the Parliamentary Control of the Administration (PCA) concluded two investigations and launched three new evaluations. It also submitted proposals to the parliamentary control committees (CCs) for topics for the 2021 annual programme and supported the CCs in processing evaluations and follow-ups.*

#### Ongoing evaluations

*The PCA completed the following two investigations but as they are still being processed by the CCs, these have not yet been published:*

- ***Use of experts in the Federal Administration (brief evaluation as part of a follow-up investigation):** The PCA looked at how far the recommendations made by the Council of States Control Committee have been implemented on the recording of mandates in the Federal Administration's procurement controlling, on follow-up contracts without a competitive tendering procedure and on the end-of year spending rush to avoid budget cuts.*
- ***Case Assignment by the Federal Courts:** In order to guarantee the independence and impartiality of judicial proceedings, the federal courts are required to assign cases to judges according to objective and predefined criteria. In its evaluation, the PCA considered the compatibility of the courts' legal bases with the overarching legal framework as well as the adequacy of the procedures and instruments used.*

*Three evaluations were ongoing at the end of 2020:*

- ***Controlling of Offset Implementation:** When the Swiss Armed Forces procure armaments from a foreign supplier, the latter must undertake to enter into offset transactions with the Swiss economy. In its evaluation, the PCA is examining the expediency of the control mechanisms for these offset transactions.*
- ***Groundwater protection in Switzerland:** The federal government monitors the measures taken by the cantons to protect groundwater. The PCA evaluation is looking at how the Confederation conducts this monitoring and whether the interfaces with agricultural and spatial planning policy are appropriate.*

- ***Parliamentary involvement in the field of soft law:*** *The parliamentary committees must be informed and consulted on the main foreign policy soft law projects. The PCA is examining whether the Federal Administration assesses the materiality of soft law projects expediently and whether parliamentary involvement is appropriate and sufficient compared with other countries' legal systems.*

### ***New evaluations in 2021***

*When finalising their annual programme on 26 January 2021, the control committees charged the PCA with conducting three new evaluations. These concern the application of scientific findings by the Federal Office of Public Health and short-time work during the coronavirus crisis. The control committees also decided on an evaluation of the Extra-Parliamentary Administrative Commission, and selected measuring the impact of development cooperation as a back-up evaluation topic.*

The full annual report is available in French, German and Italian ([www.parliament.ch](http://www.parliament.ch)).

