ISSUE N°18

MONDAY 4 JULY 2016

20.00 - 22.00

Room: Louise Weiss (N1.3)

1. AGENDA

The draft agenda (in EN) was emailed to Members on 30 June 2016 and is in the file for the meeting.

2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman draws attention to the following points:

Languages available
FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, DA, ES, FI, CS, HU, LT, PL, SL, BG, RO

Webstreaming
The CONT meeting is webstreamed on the Europarl web-site.
Please be aware that each time a speaker activates the microphone to make an intervention, the camera will be automatically directed to the speaker.

Voting cards
The electronic voting system will be used for the vote and Members are reminded to bring their electronic voting card.

As regard to the hearing and vote on the appointment of the candidate proposed by the Maltese Government as a Member of the ECA:

On the 20 of May 2016, the Council notified the Parliament on the appointment of the candidate proposed by the Maltese Government.

In accordance with Rule 121 (3) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, "The vote in plenary shall take place within two months of receipt of the nomination unless Parliament, at the request of the committee responsible, a political group or at least 40 Members, decides otherwise."
The hearing, scheduled in the CONT meeting of 27 June 2016, was postponed due to the extraordinary plenary session devoted to the result of the British referendum.

The EP President, with the agreement of all the groups, will announce at the start of the part-session on Monday 4 July, as part of the order of business, that the deadline is prolonged and the vote in plenary on the candidate will be postponed to the September part-session.

MONDAY 4 JULY 2016

20.00 - 22.00
PUBLIC MEETING

*** ELECTRONIC VOTING ***

3.   TOWARDS A DEFINITIVE VAT SYSTEM AND FIGHTING VAT FRAUD

Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur: Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE)
Administrator: Olivier Sautière
Main Committee: ECON - Werner Langen (PPE)

The Rapporteur Mr Ali welcomed the new VAT action plan concurring to the implementation of the political priority 'A deeper and fairer internal market' through the EU Digital Single Market Strategy and the Single EU VAT Area while including further steps forward towards a more sustainable and fraud-proof definitive VAT tax system.

However, he stated that the VAT system had to be simplified especially for the benefit of the SMEs and adapted to the needs of the digital environment. He welcomed the application of the 'country of destination' of the goods as underlying principle of the definitive VAT system that will contribute to the reduction of cross-border VAT fraud.

While highlighting the need to refine the estimation of the size of intra-EU VAT fraud and to have reliable data on VAT carousel fraud, he also called for a better coordination of Eurofisc with OLAF and Eurojust, new models for sharing information and intelligence between Member States and a strengthened cooperation with non-EU countries.

Deadline for tabling amendments was 30 May 2016. 62 amendments were tabled. The draft opinion and the amendments are available on the CONT website.

The voting list, including the rapporteur's recommendations will also be circulated as soon as possible.

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of the draft opinion	CONT	23/05/2016
Deadline for amendments	CONT	30/05/2016
Adoption in CONT	CONT	04/07/2016
Adoption in ECON	ECON	13/07/2016
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	OCTOBER I

*** END OF ELECTRONIC VOTING ***

4. POSITION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE FUSION FOR ENERGY JOINT UNDERTAKING ON THE ITER PROJECT PROGRESS IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT ITER COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

Exchange of views in the presence of *Gerassimos Thomas*, Deputy Director General of DG ENER (European Commission) and *Johannes Schwemmer*, Director of Fusion for Energy Joint Undertaking

Rapporteur: Marian-Jean Marinescu (PPE)
Administrator: Michal Czaplicki

The construction of the ITER fusion machine by the ITER international consortium proves to be much more challenging than initially expected. The Budgetary Control Committee has been monitoring this project for years and voicing its concerns, as it is responsible for the annual discharge of the Fusion for Energy Joint Undertaking (F4E JU) – a body created to funnel European contributions to ITER. This year the Committee decided postpone the discharge for the year 2014. A second discharge report is currently being drafted by the CONT rapporteur.

Since 2014 however significant changes have been made in the ITER project. New management has been chosen both in ITER and in F4E JU and a new action plan has been drafted and presented. In November 2015 the ITER Council, the highest body governing the ITER project, of which the Commission is a member, decided to conduct an independent review of the overall schedule and associated resources and to consider possible additional measures for expediting the schedule and reducing costs. In June 2016 the ITER Council endorsed the updated Integrated Schedule for the ITER Project, which identifies the date of First Plasma as December 2025. The Council stated that the updated Schedule is challenging but technically achievable, duly validated with a thorough and comprehensive review by the independent ITER Council Review Group. A sharp focus on the core elements through First Plasma will effectively reduce project risks. The evidence of increased effectiveness of decision-making, improved understanding of risks, and rigour in adhering to commitments provided a renewed basis for confidence that the project will maintain its current positive momentum.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6. NEXT MEETINGS

NEXT MEETINGS
– **13 July 2016, 9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30 (Brussels)**
– **14 July 2016, 9.00 - 12.30 (Brussels)**

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