



**MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2016**

15.00 - 18.30

Room: Altiero Spinelli (1G-3)

## **1. AGENDA**

The draft agenda (in EN) was emailed to Members on 3 August 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,EL,ES,PT,CS,HU,LT,MT,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.

**MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2016**

15.00 - 17.00

**PUBLIC MEETING**

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF CONT MEETINGS**

The following minutes are published on the [CONT website](#):

- 4 July 2016;
- 13-14 July 2016.

If no objections are received before the end of the meeting, the minutes will be deemed to be approved.



## 4.-6. APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS



### Hearing of candidates

Rapporteur: [Igor Šoltes](#) (Greens/ALE)

Administrator: Mauro De Oliveira

15h00 to 15H30

- Hearing of **Lazaros S. Lazarou**

Candidate nominated by the Cypriot authorities (renewal mandate)

15h30 to 16H15

- Hearing of **Leo Brincat**

Candidate nominated by the Maltese authorities

16h15 to 17H00

- Hearing of **João Figueiredo**

Candidate nominated by the Portuguese authorities

### Background

The mandate of two Members of the Court of Auditors expired on 6 May 2016 and the Portuguese Member of the Court resigned. The Members of the Court of Auditors shall be appointed for a term of six years.

In accordance with Article 286(2) of the TFEU the Council, after consulting the European Parliament shall adopt the list of Members drawn up in accordance with the proposals made by each Member State.

The following candidates have been proposed by the Member States:

- Hearing of **Lazaros S. Lazarou**

- Hearing of **Leo Brincat**

- Hearing of **João Figueiredo**

Appointments or re-appointments to the ECA are submitted to Parliament's plenary on the basis of a report from CONT, which takes into account, among others circumstances, Article 286(1) of the TFEU: "the Members of the Court of Auditors shall be chosen from among persons who belong or have belonged in their respective States to external audit bodies or who are especially qualified for this office. Their independence must be beyond doubt."

### A. Procedure

According to Rule 121 (1) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, "candidates nominated as Members of the Court of Auditors shall be invited to make a statement before the committee responsible and answer questions put by members. The committee shall vote on each nomination separately by secret ballot."



### ***I. Questionnaires and statements***

In preparation for the hearings, the two new candidates have been asked to answer the questionnaire adopted by CONT.

The candidate for reappointment was invited to supply a summary of his experience as a Court Member and the objectives for a possible future mandate.

Each candidate's replies to the questionnaire or their summary of experiences as Court Members, in the case of reappointment, have been annexed to his draft report. The same applies to the CV of each candidate.

### ***II. The hearings***

The hearings will take place according to the timetable set out in the draft agenda.

As regards the new candidates, each candidate will have a separate hearing. The candidate will be invited to make an opening statement (5 minutes) and the remainder of his hearing will be devoted to replies to questions from Members (40 minutes).

As regards the candidate for reappointment, the hearing will take the form of a joint exchange of views. Members will have the possibility to put questions to the candidate.

### ***III. Evaluation, votes and adoption of draft reports***

Once all hearings have been completed, the committee will hold an evaluation of the candidates and then proceed to vote. Evaluation, votes and adoption of draft reports **will be in camera**. In accordance with Rule 181 the vote may be carried out by means of the electronic voting system.

According to Rule 121, the committee shall vote by secret ballot. Members should indicate for each candidate whether they give a favourable opinion, a negative opinion or abstain.

In accordance with Rule 182 (4), between two and eight Members shall be chosen by lot to count the votes cast unless an electronic vote is taken.

### ***B. The reports***

The format of opinions on candidates for membership of the Court of Auditors is defined as follows<sup>1</sup>:

- a) each recommendation on each nomination shall be submitted in the form of a report, to be adopted on the basis of a majority of the votes cast, with the report merely indicating the nomination;
- b) the report shall consist of:
  - i. citations summarising the circumstances of the referral to Parliament;
  - ii. recitals outlining the procedure to the competent committee;
  - iii. operative text which may only consist of a favourable opinion or an unfavourable opinion;
- c) citations and recitals shall not be put to the vote;"

These strict rules on procedures, before the Committee on Budgetary Control and in plenary sitting, adopted by Parliament **do not allow any amendments** to be tabled to the draft report.

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<sup>1</sup> Parliament's resolution of 4 February 2014



The draft report will be finalised, according to the outcome of the evaluation and the vote in committee. The candidate's curriculum vitae and the answers to CONT questionnaire shall be annexed to the report (or summary for candidates for reappointment).

The draft reports in EN were emailed to Members on 27 May (Maltese), 19 July (Cypriot) and 18 August (Portuguese). The report for plenary will state that Parliament delivers either a favourable or a negative opinion on the appointment of the candidate. All languages of these draft reports are available on the [CONT website](#).

**CONT Timetable:**

Event	Body	Date
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	September

**MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2016**

17.00 - 17.15

**IN CAMERA**

**7. EVALUATION, VOTES AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT REPORT**

**MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2016**

17.15- 18.30

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**8. POSSIBLE EVOLUTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS OF THE CURRENT INSTITUTIONAL SET UP OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**



**Consideration of draft opinion**

Rapporteur: [Petri Sarvamaa](#) (PPE)

Administrator: Tereza Pinto de Rezende

The rapporteur will present his draft opinion that suggests updating of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) to ensure that all the EU institutions managing EU budget are subject to the Parliament's right of scrutiny of the EU budget and not only the Commission. This is a necessary modernisation to guarantee transparency and democratic accountability towards the EU citizens. All institutions must provide the Parliament with their annual activity reports and give

Parliament satisfactory answers to its questions during the discharge process in order to enable Parliament to take an informed decision on granting discharge. The Rapporteur also asks for the Financial Regulation to be updated in order to clarify the objectives of the discharge procedure and to define the sanctions to be imposed for not respecting the procedure.



Finally, the Rapporteur proposes that the appointment of the Members of the Court of Auditors is made by the Parliament and the Council on an equal footing. As a consequence, the Council will have to duly take into account the decisions taken by Parliament subsequent to hearings of candidates.

All languages of these draft opinion are available on the [CONT website](#).

**CONT Timetable:**

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for amendments	CONT	13/09/2016
Adoption in CONT	CONT	12/10/2016
Adoption in	AFCO	20/10/2016
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	21/11/2016

## 9. CONT MISSION TO JORDAN AND LEBANON (20-23 SEPTEMBER 2016)

CONT decided to organise a mission to Jordan and Lebanon which are the countries hosting the highest number of Palestinian refugees – over 2 million in Jordan and half a million in Lebanon. The Palestinian refugees are taken care of by UNRWA – United Nations Relief and Works Agency, to which the EU is contributing between 100 and 175 million euro annually (157 mln in 2013, 119 mln in 2014, 130 mln in 2015 and so far 92 mln in 2016). As this is a long lasting investment, CONT decided to monitor the effectiveness of spending of the EU funds.

The program includes visits to Palestinian refugee camps in both Lebanon and Jordan as well as meetings with high level UNRWA representatives responsible for Lebanon, Jordan and the West Bank. Meetings with representatives of Jordanian authorities are also foreseen.

The mission will include 8 Members including the Chair. The languages of the delegation will be English and Arabic (both active and passive). German and Italian passive interpretation should also be provided (TBC).

The part of the program in Lebanon will be conducted jointly with the delegation of the LIBE Committee.

The draft agenda and background documents are available on the [CONT website](#).

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## 11. NEXT MEETINGS

### NEXT MEETING

- **26 September 2016, 15.00 - 18.30 (Brussels)**
- **29 September 2016, 14.00 - 17.30 (Brussels)**

### WATCH LIVE

Watch the CONT committee meeting live on the [EP website](#) or on [Europarl TV](#)

### PAPERLESS PROGRAMME (INTERNAL USERS ONLY)

Access CONT committee meeting documents on [eMeeting](#) or any CONT committee information on [eCommittee](#)

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact the [CONT Secretariat](#) or visit the [website](#) of the CONT committee