

MONDAY, 9 JANUARY 2017

15.00 - 17.30

Room: József Antall (4Q1)



1. AGENDA

The draft agenda was emailed to Members on 15 December 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, PT, FI, CS, ET, HU, LT, PL, 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 votes and Members are reminded to bring their electronic voting card.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- 28-29 November 2016

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

MONDAY, 9 JANUARY 2017

15.00 - 17.30

PUBLIC MEETING

*** ELECTRONIC VOTING ***

4. CONTROL OF THE REGISTER AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION'S EXPERT GROUPS



Adoption of draft report

Rapporteur: [Dennis de Jong](#) (GUE/NGL)

Administrators: Philippe Godts

Rapporteurs for the opinion: Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Committee on legal Affairs (associated committee under Rule 54 of Rules of Procedure), Helga Trüffel, Committee on the budget

Shadow Rapporteurs: Ingeborg Gräßle (EPP); Derek Vaughan (S&D), Martina Djabajová (ALDE), Marco Valli (EFDD)

In light of the findings of a study commissioned by CONT and BUDG in 2015 and the need for an adequate follow-up of this issue the Conference of Committee Chairs approved on 26 November 2015 the CONT-proposal for the elaboration of an own-initiative report on the register and composition of the Commission's expert groups.

On 1 March 2016, the Rapporteur published a working document for CONT, outlining his main concerns with the existing horizontal rules and register.

The Commission adopted on 30 May 2016 its Decision establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups.

In his initiative report the rapporteur addresses inter alia the following issues: the public nature of the deliberations in expert groups, their minutes, as well as to the assurance of a balanced composition in specific cases. In addition, the discussions concentrated on the enforcement of the revised rules and the reimbursement of costs of interest representatives, other than those relating to travel and accommodation.

On 27 April 2016 BUDG committee adopted its opinion on the expert groups.

On 29 November JURI adopted its opinion on the same issue.

57 amendments were tabled by CONT Members and are available on [CONT website](#).

Two compromise amendments were tabled by the rapporteur concerning respectively the Commission expert groups covered by the new rules and about the transparency principle regarding the minutes of the meetings of the experts groups.

The final voting was circulated to Members on 20 December.

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	FEBRUARY II

5. THE ROLE OF WHISTLEBLOWERS IN THE PROTECTION OF EU'S FINANCIAL INTERESTS



Adoption of draft report

Rapporteur: [Dennis de Jong](#) (GUE/NGL)
 Administrators: Hrvoje Svetic

Shadow Rapporteurs: Julia Pitera (EPP), Cătălin Sorin Ivan (S&D), Michael Theurer (ALDE),
 Benedek Jávor (Greens/EFA), Marco Valli (EFDD)

Funds mismanagement and misallocations are frequently related to corruption, conflict of interest or other types of unethical behaviour. In this context, the effectiveness of whistle-blowers is linked to the existence of an organised and integrated system allowing people (both internal and external to the EU institutions) to report any type of funds mismanagement on condition that an effective and efficient whistleblowing policy exists.

In his draft initiative report, Dennis De Jong emphasises that a legislative instrument is needed in addition to an independent European institution with sufficient budgetary resources protecting both external and internal whistle-blowers, in order to protect the financial interests of the European Union. In addition, whistle-blowers are important to address irregularities in a broader sense, including those not immediately affecting the financial interests of the Union. The draft report notes that the protection of whistle-blowers should be addressed more broadly.

The English version of the draft report was sent to Members on 12 September 2016 and was published on the CONT website.

The English version of the 103 amendments was circulated on 25 October 2016 and published with other language versions on the [CONT website](#). AFCO adopted its opinion on 21 October 2016.

Three compromise amendments were tabled by the Rapporteur concerning the establishment of an EU body and a unit in the Parliament to help whistle-blowers to disclose their information on possible irregularities affecting the financial interests of the Union, and concerning the establishment of procedures for receiving and protecting whistle-blowers in OLAF and EPPO.

The voting list was circulated to Members on 19 December.

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	FEBRUARY II

6. EU FUNDS FOR GENDER EQUALITY



Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur: [Luke Ming Flanagan](#) (GUE/NGL)
 Administrator: Tereza Pinto de Rezende
 Main Committee: FEMM

Shadow Rapporteurs: Patricija Šulin (EPP), Inés Ayala Sender (S&D)

The draft opinion received 49 amendments, some tabled by the Rapporteur to clarify and bring some precision to the initial drafting, some others adding new elements to the draft text and few others bringing different perspectives to the funding of gender equality. The Rapporteur will present briefly the amendments and the vote will follow.

The draft amendments are available on [CONT website](#).

The final voting list will be sent to Members as soon as possible.

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Adoption in FEMM	FEMM	25 January 2017
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	MARCH II

***** END OF ELECTRONIC VOTING *****

7. 2015 DISCHARGE TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS



Hearings with Secretary Generals or Directors of the Other Institutions (except EEAS), in the context of the discharge to Other Institutions

Rapporteurs: [Bart Staes](#) (Greens/EFA) for the European Council, The European Data Protection Supervisor, the Committee of Regions and the Economic and Social Committee
[Benedek Jávor](#) (Greens/EFA) for the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors and the Ombudsman

Administrator: Tereza Pinto De Rezende

Shadow Rapporteurs: Marian-Jean Marinescu (EPP), Cătălin Sorin Ivan (S&D), Monica Macovei & Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Michael Theurer (ALDE), Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL), Marco Valli (EFDD), Louis Aliot (ENF)

The 2015 discharge of the "Other institutions" is under the responsibility of two Rapporteurs from the Greens/EFA group and concern the following Institutions:

Committee on Budgetary Control

- Council and European Council;
- European Court of Justice;
- European Court of Auditors;
- European Economic and Social Committee;
- Committee of the Regions;
- European Ombudsman;
- European Data Protection Supervisor.

Those Institutions received the questions put by CONT Members with technical and specific matters on 21st November. Their replies were emailed to Members on 20 December 2016.

According to the Court of Auditors, the expenditure in 2015 of the Other Institutions was free of material error. No significant weaknesses were detected by the ECA in relation to the topics audited.

CONT committee invited the Secretary Generals of the "Other Institutions" to attend the exchange of views of 9 January. Their presence was confirmed except for the Council's Secretary General. In the exchange of views the Members will assess the management of the expenditure and the performance of those Institutions during the financial year of 2015.

The exchange of views will proceed as follows:

- Introduction by Mr Tomé Muguruza, ECA Member responsible who will present the ECA findings concerning the respective Institutions in the Annual Report 2015
- Presentation by the Secretary Generals of the Institutions, starting by:
 - Court of Justice
 - Court of Auditors
 - European Economic and Social Committee
 - Committee of the Regions
 - European Ombudsman
 - European Data Protection Supervisor
- CONT Rapporteurs questions to the Secretary Generals
- Other Members questions
- Replies by the Institutions' Secretary Generals
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteurs

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	27-28 February 2017
Deadline for amendments	CONT	6 March 2017
Adoption in CONT	CONT	23 March 2017
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	APRIL II

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The CONT meeting will be followed on the same day by the **CONT-BUDG-JURI joint exchange of views with Commissioner Oettinger from 18.00 to 20.30** in meeting room Paul Henri Spaak **(PHS) 3C50**.

Interpretation will be provided in FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, DA, EL, ES, PT, FI, SV, CS, ET, HU, MT, PL, SK, BG, RO, LT, SL.

9. NEXT MEETINGS

- 23 January, 15.00 to 18.30 (Brussels)
- 24 January, 09.00 to 12.30 and 15.00 to 18.30 (Brussels)
- 30 January, 15.00 - 18.30 (Brussels)
- 31 January, 09.00 to 12.30 and 15.00 to 18.30 (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