

#### **Committee on Budgetary Control**

ISSUE N° 13

WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY 2017 9.00 - 12.30 and 14.30 - 18.30 THURSDAY, 13 JULY 2017

9.00 - 12.30

Room: József Antall (4Q1)

#### 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was emailed to Members on 6 July 2017 and is in the file for the meeting.

#### 2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair draws attention to the following points:

#### Languages available

FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, EL, ES, FI, CS, ET, HU, LT, PL, SL, BG, RO, SK, PT.

#### Webstreaming

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### **WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY 2017** 9.00 - 12.30

#### **PUBLIC MEETING**

# 3. ECA Special Report N° 6/2017 (2016 Discharge) on "EU response to the refugee crisis: the 'hotspot' approach" CONT/8/09828





Presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, *Hans Gustaf Wessberg*, and consideration of a working document

Co-Rapporteurs: Caterina Chinnici (S&D) and Dennis de Jong

(GUE/NGL)

Administrator: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Claudia Schmidt (EPP)

Migration to Europe saw a sudden increase in the total number of arrivals, first in 2014 and even more so in 2015, when over 1 million people made the perilous journey across the Mediterranean/Balkan route to Europe. These migratory flows at the EU's external borders generally consisted of a mixture of asylum seekers, economic migrants and children and unaccompanied minors in need of particular attention and care.

Responsibility for border control and asylum processing lies primarily with the EU Member States. The European Commission introduced the so-called "hotspot" approach, one of the key operational measures and response proposed in the Agenda for managing the large inflow of migrants, to help Greece and Italy cope with the sudden dramatic increase in migration. It provides support aimed at ensuring irregular migrants are identified, registered and fingerprinted on arrival and then moved on to the relevant follow-up procedures (i.e. a national asylum application, relocation to another Member State (where appropriate) or return to the country of origin (or transit).

The funding framework for the establishment and functioning of the hotspots is provided from many different sources including the EU, EU Agencies, national authorities, international organisations and NGOs through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) covering the period from 2014 to 2020. It is also available through the AMIF and ISF emergency assistance. For Greece, the Commission reported that over 352 mio euros were awarded in emergency funding (AMIF/ISF) since 2015, 192 mio euros in humanitarian support for the Greek mainland and almost 100 mio euros to support activities in the islands and hotspots. As regards Italy, the spending reported amounted 1,6 mio euros under AMIF and ISF in 2015, the data for 2016 at the time of the audit were not available. For the emergency assistance, Italy received 62,8 mio euros in 2016. Indirect funding was also provided by Frontex (almost 35 million euros for hotspots are already committed) and EASO (EU funding granted to EASO in 2016 amounting to 63.5 mio euros).

The Court found that the approach had helped improve migration management in Italy and Greece under very challenging and constantly changing circumstances. Although setting up the hotspots took longer than planned, they increased the two countries' capacity to receive migrants, improved registration procedures and strengthened coordination among the various agencies involved. Nevertheless, the Court still considered that reception facilities in both countries were not adequate to properly receive (Italy) or accommodate (Greece) the number of migrants



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arriving. The hotspot approach further requires that migrants be channelled into appropriate follow-up procedures, i.e. a national asylum application, relocation to another Member State (where appropriate) or return to the country of origin (or transit) which were qualified as often slow and subject to bottlenecks within the Member States. The Court also added that another major concern for both countries is a shortage of adequate facilities to accommodate and process unaccompanied minors, of whom there were an estimated 2,500 in Greece and more than 20,000 in Italy by the end of September 2016.

The co-Rapporteurs acknowledge the importance of implementing the European Agenda on migration, stress the need to continue developing the short-term measures, as well as the long term ones to better manage borders and address the root causes of illegal migration and therefore call the European Commission, EASO, Europol, FRONTEX (in light of its new mandate as European Border and Coast Guards), Member States, National Authorities and other International Organizations to continue increasing their cooperation to the Hotspots. They welcome the results of the ECA audit on the situation of migrant minors in the hotspots while stressing the importance of developing an integrated approach for their reception taking always in consideration their best interest. Similarly, they call on the Commission and the Council to step up their efforts for supporting the hotspots through more effective relocation and, if there are no grounds for admission, return procedures and to continue as well its efforts in fighting illegal migration, trafficking in human beings and the fight against criminal organizations involved. The co-Rapporteurs further consider that the persisting lack of experts should be remedied by support from EASO and Member States without further delay with a plan agreed by the Commission and Council to make such additional capacity readily available upon request from Italy and Greece. Finally, the co-Rapporteurs recommend that the Court considers a quick follow-up report on the functioning of the hotspots, adopting a broader scope by including also an analysis of the follow-up procedures, i.e. the asylum, relocation and return procedures.

The Rapporteur's working document is available on the **CONT** website.

The Rapporteur's conclusions will form part of the Commission's discharge report for the financial year 2016.

### 4. ESTABLISHING THE BIO-BASED INDUSTRIES JOINT UNDERTAKING

CONT/8/10074



Rapporteur: <u>Luke Ming Flanagan</u> (GUE/NGL) Administrators: Michal Czaplicki

Main Committee: ITRE

Shadow Rapporteurs: Miroslave Poche (S&D)

The Bio-based Industries Undertaking (BBI JU) has been established in 2014 for 10 years for the implementation of the Joint Technology Initiative on Bio-based Industries.

In accordance with Article 12 of the BBI Statutes, the financial contribution to the operational costs of at least EUR 182.5 million should be delivered by the BIC by 31 December 2024. Unfortunately the JU has found difficulties with the delivery mode, as for many of the BIC members, making a financial contribution at programme level is commercially unviable. Thus, BIC has proposed an alternative mode for delivering the financial contribution: the possibility for its members to deliver the financial contribution directly, at project level. The European Commission assessed the proposal made by the BIC and decided to adopt a pro-active attitude and concluded that in order to implement it, a formal modification of the legal framework was needed. The modification proposed by the Commission is reflecting the existing provisions foreseen in the statutes of IMI2 JU.



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The rapporteur in his opinion to the ITRE Committee supports the position of the Commission and asks the ITRE Committee to approve it as well.

The Rapporteur's draft opinion is available on the **CONT** website.

#### **CONT Timetable:**

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for amendments	CONT	13 July 14.00
Adoption in CONT	CONT	4 September
Adoption in ITRE	ITRE	2 October
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	OCTOBER II

### 5. THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PERSONNEL SELECTION ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE EUROPEAN PERSONNEL SELECTION OFFICE

CONT/8/10309



Exchange of views with Nicholas David Bearfield, Director of EPSO

Administrators: Hrvoje Svetic

In its special report 9/2009 the European Court of Auditors undertook an audit aimed at determining whether the personnel selection activities managed by The European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) were efficient and effective.

The Court found that EPSO had successfully managed the increase in the number of competitions required for the enlargement of the EU. However, it also identified a number of shortcomings affecting EPSO's efficiency and effectiveness and made a number of recommendations to correct them.

In this exchange of views Mr Nicholas David Bearfield, the Director of EPSO, will present to CONT Members the developments and improvements EPSO carried out since the Court's last audit.

### Joint items with the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) (item 6 and 7)

### 6. TRACK AND TRACE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS CONT/8/10338

Exchange of views in the presence of DG SANTE, OLAF, Ms Florence *Berteletti Kemp*, Director of Smoke Free Partnership and *Eric Lequenne*, Center of Competence Track and Trace

Administrators: Philippe Godts (CONT), Emilia Romano (ENVI)

At the occasion of this exchange of views CONT Members, together with the members of ENVI Committee, will have the opportunity to debate on the implementation of the tobacco directive and, in particular, on the provisions regarding how tracking and tracing the tobacco products.



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# 7. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 33/2016 (2016 DISCHARGE): UNION CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM: THE COORDINATION OF RESPONSES TO DISASTERS OUTSIDE THE EU HAS BEEN BROADLY EFFECTIVE CONT/8/09058

Presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, *Hans Gustaf Wessberg*, and consideration of working document

Rapporteur: <u>Karin Kadenbach</u> (S&D) Administrators: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra (EPP), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE)

The European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) was established to promote swift and effective operational cooperation between national civil protection services. It has two main objectives: strengthening the cooperation between the Union and the UCPM's Participating States (Member States plus six non-EU countries) and facilitating coordination in the field of civil protection in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters. The UCPM can be activated through requests for assistance from affected countries or from the United Nations (UN).

Around 50 million euro per year was allocated to the operation of the mechanism in the 2014-2016 period, of which about one third was dedicated to response interventions in third countries. Three international disasters where the UCPM had been activated were selected for detailed analysis: these were the floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014), the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa (2014-2016) and the Nepal earthquake (2015).

The Court assessed whether the Commission had been effective in facilitating the coordination of the responses to disasters outside the Union since the establishment of the UCPM in 2014. The Court reported the following findings:

- the Commission made a timely use of the coordination structures in place for responding to emergencies but some tools could have been exploited further;
- the selection process of the EU civil protection (EUCP) teams/experts and their reporting from the field should be improved;
- the Court considered that potential synergies were not fully exploited as the audit revealed that the EUCP teams cooperated with the ECHO experts, but civil protection could make a quicker and greater use of the humanitarian aid partner network for assessments;
- while the Commission respected the leading role of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Court observed that the degree of integration of the UCPM in the UN system varied for the three examined disasters (in the case of Nepal and Bosnia and Herzegovina, it was difficult to clearly identify the EU contribution to the overall coordination efforts and its added value);
- > the Court reported that the Commission established a framework for collecting and exchanging information among stakeholders and for issuing updates on emergencies; however the Court pointed out that Commission's reporting did not make full use of the information at its disposal to report on both its own and the UCPM's overall performance.

The Rapporteur welcomes the special report concerning the coordination of the responses to disasters outside the European Union through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and stresses the high significance of a prompt and coherent reaction to natural and man-made disasters in order to minimise their human, environmental and economic impact. Although there is an overall satisfaction with the Commission's way of handling the process of disaster response, the Commission is however encouraged to further enhance its resource, including budgetary, mobilisation and expert



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selection procedures so that the affected countries are provided with an immediate, needs based delivery of EU assistance. The Rapporteur also welcomes the launch of the 'European Medical Corps' in 2016 that substantially expanded the EU Civil Protection Mechanism's 'voluntary pool' with a 'reserve' of medical and public health. This approach, of having a reserve of medical teams and other specialised assessment and support teams, must be continued and further improved. In addition, the Rapporteur highlights the importance of information exchange and cooperation between the Commission, other EU bodies and the United Nations in facilitating a structured response in the case of emergency and urges to keep exploiting potential synergies with the other involved actors and instruments, in particular with humanitarian and development aid, and to avoid a duplication of actions that have already been undertaken.

The Rapporteur's working document is available on the **CONT** website.

The Rapporteur's conclusions will form part of the Commission's discharge report for the financial year 2016.

#### WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY 2017

14.30 - 15.00 (without interpretation)

#### **PUBLIC MEETING**

### 8. THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE'S MANAGEMENT OF ITS BUILDINGS AROUND THE WORLD

CONT/8/10337



Exchange of views with *Gianmarco Di Vita*, Director General for Budget and Administration in the EEAS

Administrators: Olivier Sautière

A first exchange of views was held in CONT committee on 13 June 2016 on the Special report n° 7/2016 on *'The European External Action Service's management of its buildings around the world'* and this issue was included in the <u>discharge 2015</u>.

The overall audit objective was to examine whether delegation buildings meet the needs of the EEAS and provide value for money. It examined whether the EEAS has effective procedures for selecting the right buildings, monitoring the suitability of buildings and planning necessary changes.

The Court found that delegation buildings, whether office buildings, residences of heads of delegation or staff accommodation, generally meet the needs of delegations i.e. to ensure security, functionality, stability, visibility and best value for money. However, in some cases, buildings do not provide best value for money when (a) space in most office buildings and some residences, exceeds the ceilings in the building policy, (b) when the EEAS owns buildings which it no longer uses and (c) when some charges to hosted organisations do not recover full costs where delegations share their office premises.

Weaknesses were also found in the procedure for selecting delegation buildings. The Court pointed out too that the information on the suitability of buildings is not reliable and is not used for planning, which is too short term and particularly weak for owned properties.

This follow-up meeting is the opportunity to see what kind of improvement has been achieved by the EEAS so far.



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### **WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY 2017** 15.00 - 18.30

Public Meeting

9. HEARING ON "THE CAUSES OF THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS OF ABSORPTION OF FUNDS IN DIFFERENT MEMBER STATES, AND ENVISAGED SOLUTIONS IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE COMMISSION'S ROLE IN ASSISTING MEMBER STATES AND PRE-ACCESSION COUNTRIES IN CORRECT ABSORPTION OF EU FUNDS"

CONT/8/10310



Rapporteur: <u>Georgi Pirinski</u> (S&D) Administrators: Christian Ehlers

CONT observed that during the past programming period some Member States had more problems than others absorbing the financial assistance made available to them under the structural funds. Therefore, CONT decided to look at the different causes with the view to establishing best practice. Coordinators chose to look at three countries of different sizes and with different administrative set-ups: Denmark, Italy and Romania. These Member States will be represented by their management authority. Furthermore, Members will also have the

opportunity to exchange views with Commission experts and the European Court of Auditors. Finally, an academic expert will share his analysis with the committee.

The full programme and the background information can be found on the **CONT** website.



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### THURSDAY, 13 JULY 2017 9.00 - 12.30

#### **PUBLIC MEETING**

#### Short presentation of the recently published ECA Special Reports: (Item 10, 11, 12):

# 10. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 8/2017 (DISCHARGE 2016): EU FISHERIES CONTROLS: MORE EFFORTS NEEDED CONT/8/10225

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Presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, *Janusz Wojciechowski* 

Rapporteur: <u>Joachim Zeller</u> (EPP) Administrators: Philippe Godts

Shadow Rapporteurs: Louis-Joseph Manscour (S&D), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

The Common Fisheries Policy requires an effective control system in place in order to be successful in ensuring that fish stocks and the fishing sector are sustainable in the long term.

The EU framework of fisheries controls was last revised in 2009 by Council regulation, to address known weaknesses at the time which were identified by the Court's Special Report No 7/2007. It provides the principles and rules to control fishing activities, fisheries management measures, data requirements, and inspections and sanctions.

The objective of the audit was to answer the question "Has the EU an effective fisheries control system in place?"

The Court focused on the adequacy of the main requirements of the fisheries control regulation and their implementation by the Member States visited.

The ECA Special report is available on the **CONT website**.



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### 11. ECA Special Report 9/2017 (2016 Discharge): EU support to fight human trafficking in South/South-East Asia

CONT/8/10339



Presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, *Bettina Jakobsen* 

Rapporteur: <u>José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra</u> (EPP)

Administrators: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Caterina Chinnici (S&D), Indrek Takkula (ALDE), Dennis de Jong

(GUE/NGL)

Trafficking in human beings is a gross violation of human rights and a global security threat. It involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of exploitation. The most prevalent types worldwide are forced labour and sexual exploitation. Other forms include child labour, organ removal and forced marriage.

Human trafficking is a highly profitable crime. The European Police Office (Europol) estimates that annual proceeds from human trafficking exceed 29 billion euro. While a lack of reliable statistics makes it difficult to ascertain the extent of human trafficking, it is estimated that 46 million people are trapped in situations of modern slavery. Asia, the most populous region in the world, has an estimated two thirds of the total number of people living in modern slavery. Asia is also a significant region of origin for victims of transregional trafficking.

The Court examined whether EU support for the fight against human trafficking in South/South-East Asia has been effective, with a total funding of 31 million euro. For this purpose, the audit assessed the comprehensiveness of the EU's approach to fighting human trafficking in relation to these regions and whether EU human trafficking projects in South/South-East Asia during the 2009-2015 period contributed effectively to the fight against human trafficking.

The ECA Special report is available on the **CONT website**.

# 12. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 10/2017 (2016 DISCHARGE): EU SUPPORT TO YOUNG FARMERS SHOULD BE BETTER TARGETED TO FOSTER EFFECTIVE GENERATIONAL RENEWAL CONT/8/10340



Presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, *Janusz Wojciechowski* 

Rapporteur: Karin Kadenbach (S&D)

Administrators: Philippe Godts

Shadow Rapporteurs: Claudia Schmidt (EPP), Indrek Takkula (ALDE) Luke Ming Flanagan

(GUE/NGL)



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EU agriculture is facing a decreasing farming population. As the reduction affected all age groups, the percentage of young farmers in the farming population remained relatively stable, slightly above 20 %. However, significant differences exist between Member States.

The audit aimed to answer the following question: "Is the EU support to young farmers well designed to contribute effectively towards improved generational renewal?"

The Court focused on the measures supporting directly young farmers in the 2007-2020 period.

The ECA Special report is available on the **CONT website**.

### 13. THE NEXT MFF: PREPARING THE PARLIAMENT'S POSITION ON THE MFF POST-2020 CONT/8/09705



Rapporteur: <u>Petri Sarvamaa</u> (EPP) Administrators: Philippe Godts Main Committee: BUDG

Shadow Rapporteurs: Boguslaw Liberadzki (S&D), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)

On the occasion of this first exchange of views, the rapporteur may raise different issues addressed by CONT in the preceding discharge procedures and, in particular: the need to align

financial and political programming periods; how to manage a more flexible budgetary procedure; how to put an end to the RAL. It will also be the opportunity to discuss the time line of the adoption of the INI report on the MFF, bearing in mind the negotiations on the Brexit.

#### **CONT Timetable:**

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for amendments	CONT	30 October (TBC)
Adoption in CONT	CONT	21-22 November (TBC)

#### 14. REFORM OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S SYSTEM OF OWN RESOURCES

CONT/8/09717



**Consideration of draft opinion** 

Rapporteur: Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE)
Administrators: Philippe Godts
Main Committee: BUDG

Shadow Rapporteurs: Tomáš Zdechovský (EPP), Gerogi Pirinski (S&D), Luke Ming Flanagan

(GUE/NGL)



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CONT is giving an opinion to BUDG INI on reform of the European Union's systems of own resources, following the launch of the final report and recommendations of the High Level Group on Own Resources, also known as the Monti report.

The Rapporteur considers that it is very important to ensure EU own resources are spent efficiently and effectively addressing issues of concern to citizens and ensuring its redistributive functions between Member States. EU own resources should focus on projects that can generate the highest European added value (EAV) and focus on areas for which EU funding is fundamental, such as research and development, internal and external security. He regrets the reduced EU investment in climate change projects where EAV is quite high. He believes a long term strategy (post 2020 MFF) is needed to ensure feasibility of the long term projects. Also, the Rapporteur asks for simpler and clearer rules on the allocation of resources and an update of the current system of budget balance. A new method for measuring the value of projects should be developed as well as streamlined reporting. He concludes by reiterating the urgency of allocating EU own resources to projects that generate the highest EAV.

The Rapporteur's draft opinion is available on the **CONT website**.

#### **CONT Timetable:**

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for amendments	CONT	7 September at 14:00
Adoption in CONT	CONT	11 October

# 15. STRUCTURAL FUNDS IMPLEMENTATION 2007-2013: ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY BUILDING AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY PROJECTS IN GREECE CONT/8/10347

#### Exchange of views with Marc Lemaître, Director General of DG REGIO

In mid-2015, Greece applied for and was granted a stability support programme under the European Stability Mechanism (ESM). In parallel, following a suggestion from the European Commission, the Euro Summit on 12/13 July 2015 mandated it to work closely with the Greek authorities to boost investment in support of jobs and growth through the use of EU Funds. The Commission proposed a set of measures to mobilise up to EUR 35 billion under various EU funding programmes for the period 2014-2020, which is the current multiannual programming period of the EU budget. To this end, the Commission adopted on 15 July 2015 a Communication on "A new start for jobs and growth in Greece" with the view to helping Greece:

- > to ensure that the EU Funds still available under the 2007-2013 programming period are used in time before the end of the eligibility period at the end of 2015;
- > to meet the necessary requirements to access all the EU funds available in the current programming period of 2014-2020:
- to implement reforms and make best use of the EU Funds by making use of technical support provided and coordinated by the Commission's Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS).

As of 10 June 2017, nearly two years since the jobs and growth plan for Greece started, Greece has received almost EUR 11 billion from a large pool of EU funds.



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Greece accelerated the finalisation of some projects under the 2007-2013 period, for example:

- the development of a Waste Treatment Project in West Macedonia, which contributes to the compliance with the EU environmental acquis;
- the upgrading of a Liquefied Natural Gas terminal in Revithoussa, which is a project of strategic importance, as it contributes to the flexibility, stability and security of energy supply for the Greek Natural Gas transmission system;
- the completion of five motorways concessions, which help to build a modern motorway network on the mainland, connecting its regions with fast and safe motorways to the benefit of the citizens and businesses;
- > the regeneration of the Thessaloniki's seafront, which makes the city "greener" and more attractive to both citizens and tourists;
- > the construction of schools, through a successful co-financed Jessica Public Private Partnership scheme, which provide new and modern learning environments to Greek children.

In addition, the Commission provides technical support for building administrative capacity for the design and implementation of reforms of importance for the use of EU funds and for the success of the stability support programme. This was done through the Commission's Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS) and with the help of other Commission services, international organisations and Member States' experts.

With regard to administrative capacity building on a wider scale, the Commission continued with the implementation of specific actions in the framework of a public procurement action plan (including publication of Public Procurement Guidance for Practitioners on the avoidance of errors in ESI- funded projects, stock-taking of good practices in MS) and a state aid action plan (including identification and dissemination of good practice, country-specific and thematic seminars, customised assistance to Member States not fulfilling the ex-ante conditionalities on state aid). Both action plans are implemented in close cooperation with other Commission services. In addition, the Commission started rolling out the Lagging Regions Initiative, which will identify and tackle key bottlenecks so as to make cohesion policy work more effectively in lagging/underperforming regions and to deliver better results.

#### 16. EU AGENCY FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE COOPERATION (EUROJUST)

CONT/8/00211



**Consideration of draft opinion** 

Rapporteur: Ingeborg Gräßle (EPP) Administrators:Terez Pinto de Rezende

Main Committee: LIBE

Shadow Rapporteurs: Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL), Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE)

The European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) was set up by Council Decision 2002/187/JHA to reinforce the fight against serious organised crime in the European Union

On 17 July 2013 the European Commission submitted a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Parliament the Commission proposed wide-ranging measures aimed at the creation of a European Public Prosecutor's Office (EEPO). A reform of Eurojust was needed, since Article 86(1) TFEU lays down that the EPPO shall be established 'from Eurojust'. The proposal for a regulation on Eurojust accordingly contains provisions to improve the coordination between the two bodies.



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In the draft opinion, the Rapporteur proposes to amend the regulation in order to improve transparency in the functioning of the Agency, to prevent more effectively conflict of interests, to ensure the protection of whistle-blowers, to protect the financial interests of the Union against fraud and corruption and to clarify the discharge procedure.

This file was suddenly back to the agenda because of the developments in the EPPO file. Therefore the CONT calendar will have to comply with the LIBE committee one which foresees the vote on 28 September.

The Rapporteur's draft opinion is available on the **CONT** website.

#### **CONT Timetable:**

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for amendments	CONT	17 July, noon
Adoption in CONT	CONT	4 September

#### 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### 18. NEXT MEETINGS

- 4 September 2017, 15.00 18.30 (Brussels)
- 7 September 2017, 15.00 18.30 (Brussels)

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