

MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2017

15.00 - 18.00

TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2017

09.00 - 12.30 and 14.30 to 18.00

Room: Altiero Spinelli (3G-3)

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was emailed to Members on 15 November 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, and RO.

FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, EL, ES, FI, CS, ET, HU, LT, PL, BG, RO and pos. PT on Tuesday, 21 November pm.

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.

MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2017

15.00 - 18.00

PUBLIC MEETING

*** ELECTRONIC VOTING ***

3. THE NEXT MFF: PREPARING THE PARLIAMENT'S POSITION ON THE MFF POST-2020

CONT/8/09705



Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur: [Petri Sarvamaa](#) (EPP)
Administrators: Philippe Godts
Main Committee: BUDG

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

The draft opinion had been presented by the rapporteur during the CONT meeting of 11 October 2017.

The XM version of the 109 amendments tabled by CONT Members was circulated on 6 November 2017 and a first draft voting list on 9 November 2017. The other languages versions are available on [CONT website](#), the final version of the voting list will be available as soon as possible.

BUDG will adopt the report on 22 February 2018 and it is planned for the Strasbourg plenary in March 2018.

4. REFORM OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S SYSTEM OF OWN RESOURCES

CONT/8/09717



Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur: [Nedzhmi Ali](#) (ALDE)
Administrators: Tereza Pinto De Rezende
Main Committee: BUDG

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

The draft opinion had been presented by the rapporteur during the CONT meeting of 13 July 2017.

52 amendments were tabled and the Rapporteur organised a shadows meeting to find compromises mainly on the resources part which was not sufficiently tackled in the draft opinion. Four compromises were agreed on the reform of the own resources, the protection of financial interests of the Union, tax-based own resources, and new sources of own resources. Seventeen amendments are covered by those compromise texts.

BUDG will adopt the report on 22 February 2018 and it is planned for the Strasbourg plenary in March 2018.

The Rapporteur's draft opinion and the proposed amendments are available on the [CONT website](#).

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

5. 2016 DISCHARGE: EU GENERAL BUDGET - COMMISSION

CONT/8/10601



Exchange of views with the EU Commissioner responsible for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Iliana Ivanova

Rapporteur: [Joachim Zeller](#) (EPP)

Administrators: Christian Ehlers and Philippe Godts

Shadow Rapporteurs: Inés Ayala Sender (S&D), Martina Dlabajova (ALDE), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL), Indrek Tarand (Greens/EFA), Marco Valli (EFDD), Jean-François Jalkh (ENF)

Regional policy is part of chapter 6 in the European Court of Auditors' Annual Report entitled "Economic, social and territorial cohesion". The main policy instrument is the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). In 2015 payments reached EUR 29 billion. The Court examined 180 transactions, of which 92 concerned ERDF projects. For all policy areas of chapter 6 together the Court has quantified the estimated level of error at 4,8%.

The documents of particular relevance for the exchange of views with Commissioner Crețu are:

- The ECA's 2016 Annual Report, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 6;
- The Commission's follow-up report COM (2017)379 final and;
- The respective Annual Activity Report of the Director General.

These documents are available on the [CONT website](#).

In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions for this meeting were sent to the Commission on 9 November 2017 and emailed to Members on the same day.

The answers from the Commission were received on 16 November 2017 and emailed to Members on the same day.

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commissioner Crețu shall proceed as follows:

- Introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2016;
- Commissioner Crețu will briefly reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur will put questions to the Commissioner and/or the Court;
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the Court;
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

CONT Timetable:

| Event | Body | Date |
|-------------------------------|---------|------------------|
| Consideration of draft report | CONT | 19 February 2018 |
| Deadline for amendments | CONT | 1 March 2018 |
| Adoption in CONT | CONT | 19 March 2018 |
| Adoption in Plenary | Plenary | April 2018 |

6. EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS (ECA) - ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2018

CONT/8/11514



EUROPEAN
COURT
OF AUDITORS

Presentation by *Klaus-Heiner Lehne*, President of the European Court of Auditors

The ECA President, Klaus-Heiner Lehne, will present the 2018 Work Programme of the Court to CONT Members. An exchange of views will follow.

The document in EN, FR and DE is available on the website of the [European Court of Auditors](#) and on [CONT website](#).

TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2017

09.00 - 11.30

PUBLIC MEETING

7. THE MANAGEMENT OF EU FUNDS IN THIRD COUNTRIES - ANALYSIS OF THE REPORTING AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs) RESULTS WITH REGARD TO 2016 EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS (EAMR)

CONT/8/11515



Exchange of views with representatives of the European Commission (DG DEVCO, DG NEAR)

Chair: [Ingeborg Gräßle](#) (EPP)
Administrator: Olivier Sautière

According to the requirement of Article 67(3) Financial Regulation, the Heads of Union Delegations, acting as authorising officers by sub-delegation, shall report to their authorising officer by delegation so that the latter can integrate their reports in the annual activity report.

For this purpose, the Heads of Union Delegations prepare and sign External Assistance Management Reports (EAMR) including information (key performance indicators) on the efficiency and effectiveness of internal controls system in place in the Union delegations as well as on the management of operations sub delegated to them. Those reports constitute therefore an important instrument for the declaration of assurance to be issued by the Commission and for the performance management of funds and operations carried out by Union delegations.

DG DEVCO and DG NEAR representatives (Luc Bagur, Director of DG DEVCO - Resources and Mark Johnston, Director of DG NEAR - Resources) will make a presentation of the results achieved in their respective fields of intervention for 2016, which will be followed by an exchange of views with Members.

8. COMMISSION'S BUILDING POLICY IN LUXEMBOURG, NOTABLY JEAN MONNET BUILDING CONT/8/11520



Exchange of views with BUDG Rapporteur, *Monika Hohlmeier*, in the framework of the 2016 discharge exercise

Rapporteur: [Monika Hohlmeier](#) (EPP)
Administrator: Christian Ehlers

CONT has decided to look into the sound financial management of a building project presented by the European Commission for the rental of workshop and storage space following the departure from the Jean Monnet building in Luxembourg. The historical background of the building situation surrounding the Jean Monnet building can be found in the BUDG opinion on the [CONT website](#).

The rental of additional space became necessary due to the delayed delivery of the "Jean Monnet 2" building. The annual rent for the additional space is EUR 8 698 816,86. Refurbishing costs amount to EUR 1 851 499. The "Jean Monnet 2" building is supposed to be delivered in two stages in 2020 and 2024.

9. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 10/2017 (DISCHARGE 2016): 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)

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.

Committee on Budgetary Control

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 Rapporteur's working document and the ECA Special report are available on the [CONT website](#).

TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2017

11.30 - 12.30

IN CAMERA

10. COORDINATORS' MEETING



Meeting held in Camera

TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2017

14.30 - 18.00

PUBLIC MEETING

Short presentation of the recently published ECA Special Report:

11. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 13/2017 (DISCHARGE 2016): A SINGLE EUROPEAN RAIL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: WILL THE POLITICAL CHOICE EVER BECOME REALITY?

CONT/8/11220



Presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, *Ladislav Balko*

Rapporteur: [Claudia Schmidt](#) (EPP)

Administrators: Tereza Pinto De Rezende

Shadow Rapporteurs: Inés Ayala Sender (S&D), Martina Dlabajová (ALDE), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

The European Rail Traffic Management System is designed to replace the diverse railway signalling systems around Europe with a single system that enables trains to travel uninterrupted across different countries and facilitates rail competitiveness. To help the Member States deploy the system, approximately €1.2 billion was allocated from the EU budget between 2007 and 2013.

The Court launched a performance audit to assess whether the system had been properly planned, deployed and managed, and whether there was an individual business case. The conclusion was that the deployment of an EU-wide railway signalling system is at a low level so far and represents a patchwork. There is a reluctance by many infrastructure managers and railway undertakings to invest in the necessary equipment due to the expense entailed and the lack of an individual business case for many of them. EU funding, even if better managed and targeted, can only cover a limited amount of the overall cost of deployment.

The ECA Special report is available on the [CONT website](#).

12. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 16/2017 (DISCHARGE 2016): RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

CONT/8/11535



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: Andrey Novakov (EPP), Hannu Takkula (ALDE), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

The EU's rural development policy aims to make agriculture more competitive, ensure the sustainable management of natural resources and achieve balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities.

The EU plans to spend on rural development policy nearly 100 billion euro for the period 2014-2020 through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

The Court has looked at the programming procedure for the 2014-2020 rural development policy to check whether it was conducted in such a way as to start the implementation of the programmes earlier than in the previous periods and therefore avoid the negative consequences linked with the delayed start. The Court found that despite Commission's efforts, the execution of planned spending began more slowly than in the previous period.

The report makes recommendations aiming to facilitate and improve the next programming process.

The ECA Special report is available on the [CONT website](#).

13. EVALUATION REPORT ON THE EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE (OLAF) REGULATION 883/2013

CONT/8/11536



Presentation of the evaluation report by Commissioner Günter Oettinger, responsible for Budget and Human resources, followed by the opinion of the OLAF Supervisory Committee

Administrator: Christian Ehlers

On 3 October 2017, the Commission submitted an evaluation report about the application of regulation 883/2013 (OLAF Regulation) pursuant to Article 19 of the latter. The evaluation focused on four key areas: effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance. The EU added value was not covered by the evaluation as OLAF ensures the protection of the EU financial interests, in the framework of Articles 317 and 325 TFEU, by performing specific tasks at EU level which cannot be performed at national level. Aspects related to the future outlook of the Regulation to accomplish its objectives, and in the context of evolving anti-fraud policies and fraud trends, have also been addressed.

On this occasion Commissioner Oettinger will present the main findings of the evaluation report.

Afterwards the Supervisory Committee of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF-SC) will explain its reading of the evaluation report, which was published as OLAF-SC Opinion 2/2017.

The presentations will be followed by an exchange of views.

The relevant documents can be found on the [CONT website](#).

It should be noted that both documents also serve as reference for the Inter-institutional exchange of views on OLAF matters, which will take place on 23 November 2017 in the European Parliament

14. THE OLAF SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

CONT/8/10198

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE



Exchange of views to follow-up on the presentation of the 2016 annual activity report (21 June 2017)

Administrator: Christian Ehlers

In June not all aspects of the 2016 OLAF-SC annual activity report could be discussed. That is why it was agreed to hold a second debate.

It should be noted that the 2016 annual report will also be discussed at the Inter-institutional exchange of views on OLAF matters, which will take place on 23 November 2017 in the European Parliament

The 2016 annual report can be found here on the [CONT website](#).

15. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 8/2017 (DISCHARGE 2016): EU FISHERIES CONTROLS: MORE EFFORTS NEEDED

CONT/8/10225



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

Rapporteur: [Joachim Zeller](#) (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 Rapporteur's working document and the ECA Special report are available on the [CONT website](#).

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17. NEXT MEETINGS

- 27 November 2017, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 28 November 2017, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 4 December 2017, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 7 December 2017, 14.00 – 17.30 (Brussels)

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PAPERLESS PROGRAMME (INTERNAL USERS ONLY)

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