

**MONDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2017**

15.00 - 18.30

Room: Altiero Spinelli (3E-2)

## 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was emailed to Members on 29 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, ES, CS, ET, HU, PL, BG, and 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.

### Adoption of Coordinators' recommendations

The summary of coordinators' recommendations from the last CONT coordinators' meeting that took place on 21 November 2017 was circulated to the Members on 29 November.

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

MONDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2017

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PUBLIC MEETING

### 3. 2016 DISCHARGE TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS

CONT/8/11682



**Exchange of views with the Secretary Generals of the following Other Institutions and Bodies, in the presence of the Member of the Court of Auditors responsible, *Pietro Russo***

Rapporteur: [Marco Valli](#) (EFDD)

Administrators: Tereza Pinto De Rezende

Shadow Rapporteurs: José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra (EPP), Arndt Kohn (S&D), Ryszard Czarnecki & Monica Macovei (ECR), Hannu Takkula (ALDE), Dennis de Jong (GUE), Benedek Javor (Greens/EFA), Jean-François Jalkh (ENF)

The 2016 discharge of the "Other institutions" is under the responsibility of the Rapporteur Marco Valli from the EFDD group and concerns the following Institutions:

- 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 and bodies received the questions put by CONT Members with technical and specific matters on 26th October. Their replies were emailed to Members on 27 November 2017 and are available on the [CONT website](#).

According to the Court of Auditors, the expenditure in 2016 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 4 December. 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 2016.

## Committee on Budgetary Control

The exchange of views will proceed as follows:

- Introduction by Mr **Pietro Russo**, ECA Member responsible who will present the ECA findings concerning the respective Institutions in the Annual Report 2016
- 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 Rapporteur questions to the Secretary Generals
- Other Members questions
- Replies by the Institutions' Secretary Generals
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur

### CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	19-20 February 2018
Deadline for amendments	CONT	1 March 2018
Adoption in CONT	CONT	20 March 2018
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	April 2018

## 4. TRUST FUNDS: HOW TO MANAGE TRANSPARENCY?

CONT/8/11683



**Exchange of views with *Stefano Manservigi*, Director-General, DG DEVCO and *Christian Danielsson*, Director-General, DG NEAR**

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

EU Trust Funds (EUTF) are recent instruments in the field of EU external actions. The legal basis of the EUTFs is set out in Article 187 of the Financial Regulation of the EU budgets and in the 11th EDF Internal Agreement.

The current Trust Funds are:

- EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa)
- EU Trust Fund for Central African Republic (or 'Bekou Trust Fund')

- EU Regional Trust fund for in response to the Syria crisis (or 'Madad fund' )
- EU Trust Fund for Colombia

While trust funds have been developed as part of ad hoc and timely responses to certain major crises, they however do raise a number of operational challenges. This exchange of views is both an opportunity to discuss ways to enhance the transparency of the EUTFs and to ensure a better political scrutiny from Parliament on their implementation and management.

*Joint item with the Committee on Regional Development (REGI)*

## 5. STRUCTURAL FUNDS: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 181 PRIORITY PROJECTS IN GREECE - A FIRST ASSESSMENT

CONT/8/11687



### Exchange of views with Normunds Popens, Deputy Director-General, DG REGIO

Rapporteur: [Ingeborg Gräßle](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Christian Ehlers

During the CONT meeting on 13 July 2017 DG REGIO committed itself to providing CONT with an update on the implementation of the 181 priority projects in Greece. The secretariat received the updated project information from DG REGIO and forwarded it to CONT Members on 30 November 2017.

The assessment of this initiative also covers projects, which CONT visited in 2015

The "priority projects" list (PPL) was established at the end of 2011 at the initiative of Commissioner Hahn with the aim of identifying important and emblematic projects for re-launching the crisis-stricken Greek economy. It came to include 181 items, of which 166 co-financed by ERDF/CF and 15 by the ESF, from a wide range of sectors. While most of them are individual projects, several cover a group of actions: for example, several items cover entire state aid schemes or financial instruments (therefore not the single intervention to a business).

Positive highlights:

- Four highway concessions (Athens-Thessaloniki, Korinthos-Tripoli-Kalamata, Korinthos-Patras and Patras-Ioannina; between them more than 1,000 km) are operational and very much appreciated by users.
- The programme "energy savings in households" (combination of European Investment Fund with grants) improved energy efficiency in 46,000 households and created 6,000 jobs; demand was so high that under 2014-2020 a successor programme was immediately created.
- Financial instruments, notably JEREMIE, allowed creating or maintaining more than 20,000 jobs.
- The e-prescription for medicines project manages monthly more than 5.5 million electronic prescriptions and 2.4 million diagnostic referrals, with the involvement of 13,000 pharmacies and 50,000 doctors. This has led to considerable cost savings to the Greek public health budget.

## Committee on Budgetary Control

### Negative highlights:

- The metro projects in Athens (line 3 extension to Piraeus) and Thessaloniki (base line) have incurred serious delays which necessitated their phasing into 2014-2020.
- Some key projects in the railway, digital and energy sectors were cancelled or are delayed; as a consequence they have been phased or transferred in their entirety to 2014-2020.
- A large part of the waste water and solid waste management infrastructures remain to be completed.

The co-financed budget of the priority list amounted to EUR € 11.5 billion, equivalent to about 55 % of the total 2007-2013 ERDF/CF/ESF allocation to Greece.

The assessment of this initiative also covers projects, which CONT visited in 2015 during its official delegation to Greece. Back then, the CONT delegation has seen the construction site of the Thessaloniki metro, the rehabilitation of the Karla Lake, construction of the E65 highway, the high speed Tithorea-Lianokladi railway, the Greek cadastre and national registry and e-ticket for Attica. A follow up of this mission is foreseen in February 2018.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## 7. NEXT MEETING

- 7 December 2017, 15.00 – 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

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**CONT** Workshop on “Investments in the EU: where are we? European Fund for Strategic Investments, European Structural Investment Funds and Financial Investments” - **23 January 2018 - 10h30-12h30 - PHS5B001**

#### ANNUAL MEETING BETWEEN CONT COMMITTEE AND ECA MEMBERS

Coordinators have decided to invite the **Court of Auditors** to the European Parliament’s premises in **Brussels to a CONT meeting - 1st February 2018 - 11:00 - 13:00 - Room Tbc**

#### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY WEEK - BUDG/ECON/EMPL

**19 February 2018** - Discussion on **Post-2020 MFF** and **Own Resources - Hemicycle**

### POLICY DEPARTMENT D PUBLICATIONS

#### *Recent publications*

#### **BUDG**

In-Depth Analysis - [The next MFF and its Duration](#)

In-Depth Analysis - [The next MFF, its Structure and the Own Resources](#)

In-Depth Analysis - [The next MFF and its Flexibility](#)

In-Depth Analysis - [The next MFF and the Unity of EU Budget](#)

Study - [Financial Instruments: defining the rationale for triggering their use](#)

#### **CONT**

Study -on “Transitional Allowances for former EU office holders - too few conditions” **Study Presentation on 28 November 2017** - *Publication not available online - Electronic version can be sent under request*

#### *Forthcoming publications*

#### **CONT**

Study on “10 years cooperation and verification Mechanism (Bulgaria and Romania) - Analyse of the Reports: evaluation and achievements” - **Study Presentation 29 January 2018 PM**

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