

THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2018

9.00 - 13.00

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak (4B001)

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was emailed to Members on 23 January 2018 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.

THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2018

9.00 - 11.00

PUBLIC MEETING

3. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE CONTROL OF THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE EIB FOR 2016

CONT/8/10965



Consideration of draft report

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

Administrators: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Andrey Novakov (EPP), Georgi Pirinksi (S&D), Raffaele Fitto (ECR), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL), Indrek Tarand (Greens/EFA), Barbara Kappel (ENF)

Following the presentation and exchange of views on the 2016 EIB annual report held in CONT on 18/01 in the presence of the Vice-President of the EIB Mr Stubb, the Committee on Budgetary Control is drafting this year an annual own-initiative report on 'Control of the financial activities of the EIB focusing on results' (2017/2190(INI)) for which Mr Valli was appointed rapporteur.

The draft report focus, *inter alia*, on the promotion of financially sustainable activities providing long-term impact from EIB investments, the deepening of the monitoring of added value and the mapping of the levers for change in the implementation of EU public policy goals, with a view to enhancing its performance scrutiny via the definition of additionality indicators.

As regards the achievements of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the Rapporteur draws attention on the need to identify truly additional and innovative future oriented sectors innovative and riskier projects with new counterparts, on the principle of additionality of the EFSI and insists on the widest geographical spread to be considered in the implementation of EFSI.

Finally, the Rapporteur calls for enhancing of EIB's corporate governance, transparency and accountability standards as a prerequisite for better governance to ensure genuine public scrutiny notably by getting a clear overview of the type of financial intermediaries and final beneficiaries.

The Committee on International Trade (INTA) will deliver an opinion on this CONT report.

The draft report was sent to Members on 31 January 2018 and is available on the [CONT website](#).

The deadline for tabling amendments is on 06 February 2018

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for amendments	CONT	6 February 2018
Adoption in CONT	CONT	27 February 2017
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	APRIL

Short presentation of the recently published ECA Special Report:

4. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 22/2017 (2017 DISCHARGE): ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS - EFFORTS MADE TO FOLLOW UP RECOMMENDATIONS BUT BETTER MONITORING NEEDED

CONT/8/11847



Presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Ville Itälä

Rapporteur: [José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Olivier Sautière

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

Election observation is an important tool for promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Well-managed elections can contribute to the peaceful transfer of political power. The European Union (EU) observes elections all over the world to these ends.

Without interfering in the organisation of the election itself, EU election observers collect and analyse facts concerning the election process and provide an independent assessment. Two months after Election Day, they issue a comprehensive report with recommendations on how to improve the framework for future elections. The recommendations cover issues ranging from voter registration to electoral violence. They are presented to the host country authorities, which are not formally committed to implementing them.

The ECA assessed whether the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission had provided enough support for host countries to implement the recommendations made by observation missions in Ghana, Jordan, Nigeria and Sri Lanka. They focused on elections observed after 2010.

The Court found that the EEAS and the Commission had made reasonable efforts to support the implementation of the recommendations. Presentation of the recommendations has improved in recent years, but more consultation is needed on the ground.

The EEAS and the Commission engaged in political dialogue and provided electoral assistance to support the implementation of the recommendations, but follow-up missions are not used as often as they could be. Lastly, there is no central overview of the recommendations, nor is there any systematic assessment of their implementation status.

The cost of observation missions varies significantly depending on the circumstances. However, based on the latest figures available, the average cost is €3.5 million euro. The budget for election observation between 2015 and 2017 amounted to an average of around €44 million per year.

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

As a follow-up, a succinct working document with the recommendations of the rapporteur will be sent to CONT Members. The rapporteur's conclusion will form part of the Commission's discharge report.

5. CONT MISSION TO CROATIA AND SERBIA (17-20 JULY 2017)

CONT/8/10251



Presentation of the mission report

Rapporteur: [Derek Vaughan](#) (S&D)

Administrator: Hrvoje Svetic

A delegation of the European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) visited the Republic of Serbia from 17 to 18 July 2017 and the Republic of Croatia from 19 to 20 July 2017, with the objective to observe how effectively the European Union funds are spent.

The first part of the program took place in Serbia - in Belgrade and Obrenovac, where the CONT delegation, with the assistance of the EU delegation to Serbia, took a closer look at different projects, financed under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), the efficiency and effectiveness of implemented controls as well as Serbia's plans to increase administrative capacity and to support SME development.

The second part of the mission took place in Croatia - in Zagreb and Karlovac, where the delegation met the representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Labour and Pension System, the ARPA Agency (Agency for the audit of EU programmes), the SAFU agency (Central finance and contracting agency), the Croatian Parliament European Affairs Committee, and the Croatian Employment Service. The delegation visited five projects in Zagreb and Karlovac, in the area of regional competitiveness, research, employment and education.

After the mission the delegation is presenting a mission report to be considered by the Committee. It includes an analysis of the general situation, as well as a description of the issues encountered during the meetings with national, regional and local authorities as well as during the visits to the projects.

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

6. CONT MISSION TO EUROPOL (19-20 SEPTEMBER 2017)

CONT/8/10253



Presentation of the mission report

Rapporteur: [Caterina Chinnici](#) (S&D)
Administrator: Hrvoje Svetic

Since the entry into force of the new Europol Regulation on 1 May 2017, the Europol agency has been provided with a stronger mandate as well as a new governance and accountability framework. In addition, Europol is subject to the discharge procedure, together with other decentralised agencies and joint undertakings. Considering that the agencies' discharge is under the direct responsibility of the CONT Committee, a CONT delegation was organised within the scope of the Article 2(4) of the *"Bureau decision on the Committee Missions outside the three places of work"* and was authorised by the Conference of Presidents on 11 May 2017. The delegation's main objective was to focus on the governance and compliance, as well as on financial and administrative management in Europol. In addition, the delegation was briefed on the Europol's operational activities in the field of migrant smuggling, counter-terrorism and cybercrime.

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

THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2018

11.00 - 13.00

IN CAMERA

7. ANNUAL CONT MEETING WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

CONT/8/12103



EUROPEAN
COURT
OF AUDITORS

Exchange of Views held in camera

Administrator: Olivier Sautière

To ensure a regular exchange of views on topics of mutual interest, CONT Members will meet with the Members of the Court of Auditors. This exchange of views will be held in camera.

The meeting will be immediately followed by a standing lunch reception offered by the ECA at the Press Bar (PHS 00A).

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETINGS

- 19 February 2018, 15.00 - 18.30 (Brussels)
- 20 February 2018, 9.00 - 12.30 and 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

NEWS FROM POLICY DEPARTMENT - BUDGETARY AFFAIRS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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 - PHS4B001**

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY WEEK - BUDG/ECON/EMPL

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

JOINT BUDG/ECON Workshop on "A fiscal capacity to strengthen and enlarge the euro area" - **21 March 2018 - 14h30 - 17h00 - PHS3C050**

CONT Workshop on "Has the Single European Sky initiative provided more efficiency for European Air traffic Management - is SESAR delivering results" - **April 2018 - Room TBC**

CONT Workshop on "Efficient use of EU funding in the Baltic Sea: State of play in the combat against eutrophication" - **15 May 2018 - Room TBC**

JOINT HEARING BUDG/CONT/LIBE - Assessing the flow of EU Migration funding within the Union - **16 May 2018 - Room TBC**

CONT Workshop on "How to better combat the fraud? Follow up of the Commission's anti-corruption sharing programme" - **20 June 2018 am - Room TBC**

POLICY DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS

Recent publications

CONT

Study - [Transitional Allowances for former EU office holders - too few conditions?](#)

CONT

Study "10 years cooperation and verification Mechanism (Bulgaria and Romania) - Analyse of the Reports: evaluation and achievements - *Publication not available online*

Forthcoming publications:

CONT

Study "Oversight and Management of the EU Trust Funds" - **Study Presentation 27 February 2018**

CONTACTS

Email: poldep-budg@ep.europa.eu

Webpage: http://www.poldepnet.ep.parl.union.eu/poldept/cms/cache/offonce/poldepnet/poldep_d/poldepd_presentation

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