

MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2018

15.00 - 18.30

Room: József Antall (6Q2)

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was e-mailed to Members on 21 February 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, EL, ES, FI, CS, ET, HU, LT, PL, SL, BG, RO, SK, and PT.

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.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- 11 January 2018
- 18 January 2018

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

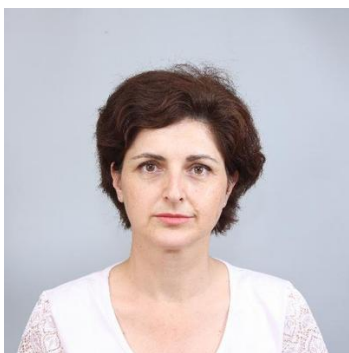
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PUBLIC MEETING

4. 2016 DISCHARGE: PRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS BY MARINELA PETROVA, BULGARIAN DEPUTY-MINISTER OF FINANCE

CONT/8/12299



On 9 February 2018 the Council adopted its recommendations on the discharge to be given to the Commission, the executive agencies, the Agencies and Joint undertakings for 2016. They were sent to Members on 20 February 2018 and are published on the [CONT website](#).

The initial presentation by Marinela Petrova, Bulgarian Deputy Finance Minister will be followed by an exchange of views with the Members of the Committee.

The Council recommends to the European Parliament to give discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016 and in respect of the implementation of the operations funded by 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th EDFs for the financial year 2016.

The Council welcomes the gradual reduction of the overall estimated error rate reported by the Court and the fact that the Court gives a qualified opinion rather than an adverse one on the legality and regularity of payments underlying the accounts based on the material but not pervasive estimated level of error.

The Council recommends the European Parliament to give discharge to all of the decentralised agencies and joint undertakings for the implementation of their budgets for the financial year 2016.

By letter of 20 February 2018 the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union has transmitted to the European Parliament a joint statement from Sweden and the Netherlands on the discharge of the 2016 general budget of the European Union. Sweden and The Netherlands regret, in particular, that for years, the implementation of the EU budget is not according to standards agreed upon. They cannot applaud marginal improvements in the overall error rate, while around half of the EU budget remains prone to high levels of errors.

5. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 16/2017 (DISCHARGE 2017): RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING: LESS COMPLEXITY AND MORE FOCUS ON RESULTS NEEDED

CONT/8/11535



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

Rapporteur: [Karin Kadenbach](#) (S&D)

Administrator: Philippe Godts

Shadow Rapporteurs: Andrey Novakov (EPP), 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](#).

The working document drafted by the rapporteur was circulated to CONT Members on 25 January 2018

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

6. NEXT MEETINGS

- 19 March 2018, 15.00 - 18.30 (Brussels)
- 20 March 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

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

BUDG Hearing "The EU budget and the Paris climate agreement" - **23/24 April 2018 - Room TBC**

CONT Workshop on "Has the Single European Sky initiative provided more efficiency for European Air traffic Management - is SESAR delivering results" - **26 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?

Study "10 years cooperation and verification Mechanism (Bulgaria and Romania) - Analyse of the Reports: evaluation and achievements"

Forthcoming publications:

CONT/BUDG

Study "Oversight and Management of the EU Trust Funds" - **Study Presentation 20 March 2018**

BUDG

- Study "Potential revenue from the extension of charging fees by EU Agencies" - **April 2018 - TBC**

CONTACTS

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