

MONDAY, 25 JUNE 2018

15.00 - 18.30

Room: József Antall building (JAN) 4Q1

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was e-mailed to Members on 21 June 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.

*Please note that the interpreters are on **notice of strike**. Work stoppages of one to two hours are possible in all parliamentary meetings. In concrete terms, if a meeting is affected by a walkout, an interpreter will contact the committee secretariat before the start of the meeting to inform the time and duration of the strike. The interpreters will stop and resume the works exactly at the scheduled time. No overshoot beyond the scheduled end time for the meeting will be granted. CONT Chair will announce at the beginning of each session if the meeting is affected.*

Webstreaming

The CONT meeting is webstreamed on the [Europarl website](#).

Please be aware that each time a speaker activates the microphone to make an intervention, the camera will be automatically directed to the speaker.

MONDAY, 25 JUNE 2018

15.00 - 18.30

PUBLIC MEETING

3. PUBLIC HEARING ON “STATE AID AND EU FUNDING - ARE THEY COMPATIBLE?”

CONT/8/13642



Rapporteur: [Inés Ayala Sender](#) (S&D)
Administrator: Cecile Bourgault

In preparation of this public hearing on “State Aid and EU funding - Are they compatible?” an external expert, Prof. Phedon Nicolaides, prepared an [in-depth analysis](#), which was presented in CONT on 14 May 2018.

It explains how EU subsidies under national management become subject to the EU rules on state aid. On the other hand, EU subsidies under central EU management do not fall under these rules but the Commission or other EU body is obliged to avoid any distortion of competition in the internal market.

The purpose of the hearing is to allow a thorough discussion, at EU and Member States levels, on key-issues related to compatibility between state aid and EU funding. The hearing will allow Members to assess best practices in terms of coordination and to formulate proposals on how to better control projects which receive double funding. In the context of simplification, proposals could also be made to facilitate steps for project beneficiaries.

The draft programme and briefing paper are available on the [CONT website](#). Presentations will be uploaded after the hearing.



4. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 14/2018 (2017 DISCHARGE): *THE EU CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE: MORE PROGRESS NEEDED*

CONT/8/13800

Short Presentation of the Special Report by the ECA member responsible, Bettina Jakobsen



Rapporteur: [Zigmantas Balčytis](#) (S&D)
Administrator: Christian Ehlers

Shadow Rapporteurs: Martina Dlabajova (ALDE), Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL)

Since 2010, the EU has sought to mitigate chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risks from beyond its borders through the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative (“the Initiative”). It is the EU’s largest civilian external security programme and is financed through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace with a budget of

€130 million for the years 2014-2020. The Initiative is one of the main tools to mitigate CBRN threats and risks from outside the EU.

The Initiative's main objective is to strengthen the long-term capacity of, and to foster long lasting cooperation among the national and regional authorities, and administrative bodies responsible for tackling CBRN threats. The Initiative mainly finances capacity-building projects but the benefits are not limited to projects. Its main feature is to establish and consolidate CBRN networks (or Centres of Excellence) of cooperation between and within partner countries. The network is organised around regional secretariats where knowledge and expertise is shared.

This report follows up the findings of the Special Report 17/2014. According to the Court the Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) have fully implemented three out of six of the recommendations and partially implemented two of them.

In this report the auditors recommend that the Commission and the EEAS:

- prioritise activities on the basis of a systemic risk assessment;
- strengthen the Initiative's regional dimension;
- further strengthen the EU delegations' role in the Initiative;
- identify potential synergies and other available funding sources;
- increase accountability and visibility of activities and results through improved monitoring and evaluation;
- overhaul the CBRN web portal to allow easy access.

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. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 15/2018 (2017 DISCHARGE): *STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES IN NIGER AND MALI: ONLY LIMITED AND SLOW PROGRESS*

CONT/8/13799



Short Presentation of the Special Report by the ECA member responsible, *Bettina Jakobsen*

Rapporteur: [Gilles Pargneaux](#) (S&D)
Administrator: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Joachim Zeller (EPP), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)

Insecurity in the Sahel region in West Africa has a negative impact on both the development of its countries, and the interests of the European Union (EU). The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is an EU instrument intended to meet challenges stemming from armed conflict, political instability, terrorism, organised crime and illegal migration. Under the CSDP, the EU runs civilian Missions in Niger and Mali that provide training, advice and equipment in order to strengthen the capacity of the national forces responsible for internal security.

In that context, the European External Action Service (EEAS) has set up EU Capacity Building (EUCAP) Sahel Missions in Niger (2012) and Mali (2014) on behalf of the EU Member States and plans and manages their operations, whereas

Committee on Budgetary Control

the Commission manages their budgets (€69.46 million for Niger for the period 2012 to 2017 and €66.48 million for Mali for the period 2014 to 2017).

The Court assessed how the EUCAP Sahel Missions were set up and managed, how they operated, and whether they succeeded in strengthening the capacity of the forces responsible for internal security in Niger and Mali.

The Court concluded that the Missions contributed towards strengthening the capacity of the forces responsible for internal security but that progress was slowed by the challenging context in which they worked and by operational inefficiencies. These shortcomings were due to a combination of two-year mandates and annual budgets, which do not encourage medium or long-term planning, as well as a high number of staff vacancies for both missions. Even though the Missions are not intended to be permanent, there is no clear exit strategy.

The Court found that the Missions did address sustainability, but with little success. This was partly due to lack of ownership by the host countries, and partly because the Missions did not devote adequate resources to ensuring sustainability and following up on the training given and the equipment supplied.

The Court also observed that the Missions suffered from weak performance indicators and did not adequately monitor and evaluate the achievement of tasks; EEAS impact assessments were not linked to monitoring and evaluation.

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.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7. NEXT MEETINGS

- 11 July 2018, 09.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30 (Brussels)
- 12 July 2018, 09.00 - 12.30 (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

CONT Hearing "Performance and visibility of EU funded projects in the EU's Neighbourhood Policy with a special focus on the cross-border cooperation between Western Balkan Countries" - **11 July 2018 - Room TBC**

CONT Workshop on "How can we better communicate the results of the EU budgetary control process to citizens? Addressing the challenges of populist discourse on EU spending" - **11 October 2018 – TBC**

POLICY DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS:

Recent publications

CONT

In-Depth Analysis "[State Aid and EU funding: are they compatible?](#)"

Study "[Ensuring high quality job creation from EU funding programmes: how can the best practice of Horizon 2020 be better integrated into other programmes \(ESF, Youth Guarantee, Globalisation Fund\)?](#)"

CONT/BUDG

Study "[Oversight and Management of the EU Trust Funds](#)"

BUDG

In-Depth Analysis "[The EU spending on fight against climate change](#)"

Forthcoming publications

BUDG

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

CONT

- Study "Public procurement in EU: few winners for main large-scale infrastructure projects; Overview on the criteria selection, the monitoring and the control system" - **11 October 2018, TBC**

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

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