

MONDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2018

15.00 - 19.00

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak (PHS) 5B001

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was e-mailed to Members on 18 July 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 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.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- 20-21 June 2018 PV – PE623.828v01-00
- 25 June 2018 PV – PE623.924v01-00

MONDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2018

15.00 - 18.20

PUBLIC MEETING

4. 2017 DISCHARGE: EU GENERAL BUDGET - COMMISSION

CONT/8/14079



Exchange of views the Commission Directors General

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

Administrator: Christian Ehlers / Philippe Godts

Shadow Rapporteurs: Ingeborg Gräßle (EPP), Martina Dlabajová (S&D), Bart Staes (Verts/ALE), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL), Marco Valli (EFDD), Jean-François Jalkh (ENF)

Exchange of views on the annual activity reports, and in particular on the reservations issued in those reports by the Commission Directorates general with:

- **Mr Jean-Eric Paquet**, Director-General of DG Research and Innovation,
- **Mr Jerzy Bogdan Plewa**, Director-General of DG Agriculture and Rural Development,
- **Mr Marc Lemaître**, Director-General of DG Regional and Urban Policy,
- **Ms Paraskevi Michou**, Director-General of DG Migration and Home Affairs,
- **Mr Christian Danielsson**, Director-General of DG European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations,
- **Mr Koen Doens**, Deputy Director-General of DG International Cooperation and Development

In its resolution accompanying the Commission discharge for 2015, the Parliament is of the opinion that the reservations issued by several Directors-Generals demonstrate that the control procedures put in place in the Commission and the Member States can give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of all the underlying transactions in the corresponding policy areas; if necessary correction procedures are implemented successfully.

In their annual activity reports for 2017, the Directors Generals who are Authorising Officers by Delegation, identified the main reasons for their reservations and set out remedial actions to address them.

According to the Annual Management and Performance report for the EU budget in 2017 (COM 2018) 457 final, 30 Authorising Officers by Delegation declared unqualified assurance, while 20 declarations were qualified with a total of 38 reservations for 2017. These reservations affect each of the six expenditure areas but only the Traditional Own Resources segment of revenue.

When comparing the 38 reservations for 2017 to the 37 in 2016, 34 reservations are recurrent. However, half of them concern the 'legacy' generation of the 2007-2013 programme. Three previous reservations were lifted and four reservations are newly introduced. In addition, four recurrent reservations are maintained but have been reduced in scope and/or exposure. The Commission's overall exposure in terms of amount at risk at reporting for the 2017 expenditure under reservations is estimated at EUR 1.1 billion. The decrease compared to 2016 (EUR 1.6 billion and 1.3 Billion in 2015) is mainly due to lower exposure from the Agricultural and Cohesion funds.

Committee on Budgetary Control

In follow-up of the 2016 Commission discharge procedure, CONT Committee invited the Commission Directors General of DG RESEARCH, DG AGRI, DG REGIO, DG HOME, DG DEVCO, and DG NEAR to exchange views on their annual activity reports and, in particular, on the ways and reasons for which they have issued reservations in 2017.

The Annual Activity reports 2017 are available on the [CONT website](#). These reports as well as the Management Plans are also available on the [Commission website](#).

5. CONT MISSION TO ROMANIA (17-19 SEPTEMBER 2018)

CONT/8/14080



Exchange of views in preparation for the committee mission

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

Administrator: Michal Czaplicki

The European Commission has warned Romania on numerous occasions about the sound financial management of EU funds, even temporarily interrupting payments in 2015. The European Commission has allotted Romania over EUR 30 billion to spend in the 2014-2020 period but the country has not yet been able to effectively draw on this funding due to organisational and administrative backlog.

The Committee will visit Romania from 17 to 19 September in order to verify on the spot the situation in the country. Meetings with the ministers responsible for EU funds, parliamentary committees dealing with fraud and corruption and the national audit chamber are foreseen. The delegation will also visit some projects outside the capital.

The EMPL Committee will visit Romania as well on the same days; therefore, some of the elements of the programme are organised jointly by both Committees.

6. PROTECTION OF THE EU'S FINANCIAL INTERESTS - RECOVERY OF MONEY AND ASSETS FROM THIRD-COUNTRIES IN FRAUD CASES

CONT/8/12077

Consideration of draft report



Rapporteur: [Cătălin Sorin Ivan](#) (S&D)

Administrator: Michal Czaplicki

Shadow Rapporteurs: Julia Pitera (EPP), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE), Benedek Javor (Verts/ALE), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL), Jean-François Jalkh (ENF)

The aim of the report is to highlight the problem of EU funds lost due to fraudulent cases in which funds are transferred to third countries. The Rapporteur underlines that currently the EU has concluded agreements on mutual legal assistance with only a few third States, such as Japan, the United States, Norway and Lichtenstein. However, Mr Ivan regrets that many Member States must rely on bilateral agreements, as there is no EU approach to this issue.

Committee on Budgetary Control

The Rapporteur calls therefore for a more unified approach. He requests the Commission to generalise the practice of adding anti-fraud clauses to agreements signed by the EU with third countries and to establish a standardised data collection method to enable detection of transfer of fraudulent assets to third countries, which will be identical for all Member States aiming to create a central European data base in the future.

The draft report is available in all languages on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration draft report	CONT	3 September 2018
Deadline Amendments	CONT	5 September 2018 at 14:00
Adoption in CONT	CONT	27 September 2018
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	January 2019

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18.20 - 18.40

IN CAMERA

7. DISCHARGE 2016 AGENCIES - 2ND REPORT ON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE (EASO)

CONT/8/13572



CONT hearing with the Executive Director ad-interim of EASO, Mr. Jamil Addou; open to LIBE Members - *In camera*

CONT Rapporteur: [Bart Staes](#) (Verts/EFA)
Administrator: Cécile Bourgault

CONT Shadow Rapporteurs: Petri Sarvamaa (EPP), Bogusław Liberadzki (S&D), Monica Macovei, Raffaella Fitto, Notis Marias (ECR), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE), Dennis de Jong (GUE/GNL), Marco Valli (EFDD), Barbara Kappel (ENF)

The Committee will hold a hearing - open to LIBE Members - with the Executive Director ad-interim of EASO, Mr. Jamil Addou, to discuss the EASO roadmap for moving forward.

First, the Executive Director ad-interim will make an introductory statement. Afterwards, the Rapporteur and Shadow rapporteurs will be able to raise questions, the floor will then be given to the LIBE Rapporteur.

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PUBLIC MEETING

8. DISCHARGE 2016 AGENCIES - 2ND REPORT ON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE (EASO)

CONT/8/13572



Consideration of the second draft report on the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

CONT Rapporteur:
Administrator:

[Bart Staes](#) (Verts/EFA)
Cécile Bourgault

CONT Shadow
Rapporteurs:

Petri Sarvamaa (EPP), Bogusław Liberadzki (S&D), Monica Macovei, Rafaelle Fitto, Notis Marias (ECR), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE), Dennis de Jong (GUE/GNL), Marco Valli (EFDD), Barbara Kappel (ENF)

EASO is the only decentralised agency for which the European Court of Auditors issued a qualified opinion on the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the accounts. The main issues identified were related to two public procurement procedures where compliance with public procurement principles was inadequate.

Furthermore, Members agreed with the proposal from the Rapporteur to postpone the 2016 discharge in order to wait for the outcome of the OLAF investigation on the EASO's operations.

Based on the follow-up received from EASO, and the outcome of the OLAF investigation, the Rapporteur, Mr Bart Staes, will present the second draft report on Agencies' 2016 discharge for EASO.

The draft report and other relevant information can be found on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of the second draft report	CONT	3 September
Deadline for amendments	CONT	10 September at 14:00
Adoption in CONT	CONT	27 September
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	October

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Joint item with the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EPPO - CURRENT STATE OF PLAY AND FURTHER TIMING

Exchange of views with Commission representatives to take place in LIBE slot on 6 September 2018 from 09:00 to 9:30 in meeting room PHS3C50(TBC)

On 12 October 2017, the regulation establishing the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) was adopted by those Member States which are part of the EPPO enhanced cooperation. The EPPO will be in charge of investigating, prosecuting and bringing to justice the perpetrators of offences against the Union's financial interests. It will bring together European and national law-enforcement efforts to counter EU fraud. EPPO will become operational, at the earliest, three years after the regulation entered into force.

Following a joint meeting earlier this year, CONT and LIBE Chairs decided the two committees should meet every six months to hear about progress made in setting up the EPPO and the cooperation with the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). Both bodies will have exclusive competences but will also depend on an efficient and effective cooperation between them.

10. NEXT MEETINGS

- 10 September 2018, 19.00-20.30 (Strasbourg)
- 27 September 2018, 09.00-12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 10 October 2018, 09.00-12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 11 October 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

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” - **10 October 2018 – TBC**

Workshop on “the Revision of OLAF regulation in light of the future cooperation with EPPO” - **11 October from 10.30 to 12.30**

POLICY DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS:

Recent publications

CONT

Proceedings of the Workshop on “[How to better combat fraud? Follow up of the Commission’s anticorruption sharing programme](#)”

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 \(ESF, Youth Guarantee, Globalisation Fund\)?](#)”

In-Depth Analysis “The effectiveness and visibility of EU funding in the Western Balkan countries with a special focus on the cross-border cooperation” - not available online yet.

CONT/BUDG

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

BUDG

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

Study “[EU funds for migration, asylum and integration policies](#)”

Study “Potential revenue from the extension of charging fees by EU Agencies” - not yet available online

Study “Financial Implementation of European Structural and Investment Funds” - not yet available online

Forthcoming publications

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**

CONTACTS

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Policy Department Webpage:

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

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