

THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2018

08.30 - 12.30

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak P4B001, Brussels

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was e-mailed to Members on 12 October 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.

THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2018

08.30 - 12.30

PUBLIC MEETING

3. ESTABLISHING, AS PART OF THE INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT FUND, THE INSTRUMENT FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CUSTOMS CONTROL EQUIPMENT

CONT/8/13762 - [2018/0258](#)(COD)

Consideration of draft opinion to IMCO



Rapporteur: [Nedzhmi Ali](#) (ALDE)
Administrator: Michal Czaplicki

Shadow Rapporteurs: Claudia Schmidt (EPP), Caterina Chinnici (S&D), Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL)

The new proposed instrument for Customs Control Equipment aims at improving equivalence in the performance of customs controls throughout Member States to avoid the diversion of flows of goods towards the weakest points. A dedicated Union intervention for customs control equipment will support the purchase, maintenance and upgrade of eligible detection equipment for customs controls in the wider sense. The instrument should also cover detection equipment that is used for control purposes not only related to Customs but also other areas such as law enforcement, procurement, audit trail, etc. Third countries are not eligible to take part of this instrument.

In his opinion, the Rapporteur believes that the new Customs Control Equipment instrument must be consistent with and exploit any synergies with other EU action programmes and funds with similar objectives in related fields, especially the Customs Program. Mr Ali proposes 13 amendments in that regard.

The draft opinion is available on the [CONT website](#)

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for tabling amendments	CONT	31/10/2018 at 14.00
Vote	CONT	20/11/2018
Adoption in main committee	IMCO	06/12/2018
Adoption	Plenary	January 2019 tbc



4. ESTABLISHING THE 'CUSTOMS' PROGRAMME FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CUSTOMS

CONT/8/13985 - [2018/0232](#)(COD)



Consideration of draft opinion to IMCO

Rapporteur : [Wolf Klinz](#) (ALDE)
Administrator: Michal Czaplicki

Shadow Rapporteurs: Claudia Schmidt (EPP), Arndt Kohn (S&D), Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL)

Customs Programme have a non-quantifiable impact on the revenue on the Union and Member States. Hence, the Customs Programme should facilitate and streamline the work done by Customs authorities for the collection of customs duties, as well as of VAT and excise duties at import. By increasing the quality of work through cooperation, IT and human capacity building, customs administrations, the Program will be more efficient in protecting the financial interests of the Union and of Member States.

The proposal allows for third countries, especially candidate countries, to take part in this Customs Programme, but they are required to contribute financially as this is not part of the Pre-accession aid.

This opinion is linked to the ECA presentation on Customs of 11 October 2018. ECA Member responsible, Ms Eva Lindström, highlighted the huge delays of 15 major IT programs needed to have the Customs System modernised. This unfortunately will not be possible before 2020 (in one case in 2025). So the Commission is asking for a higher budget of EUR 9.6 million annually.

The Rapporteur is of the opinion that the new Customs Programme must be coherent with other EU action programmes and funds in related fields such as the Fiscalis Programme, the EU anti-fraud Programme and Single Market Programme, as well as with the Internal Security fund and Instrument for Border Management and Visa, the Reform Support Programme, the Digital Europe Programme, the Connecting Europe Facility and the Own Resources decision, implementing regulations and measures. Mr Klinz proposes 13 amendments in that regard.

The draft opinion is available on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for tabling amendments	CONT	31/10/2018 at 14.00
Vote	CONT	20/11/2018
Adoption in main committee	IMCO	06/12/2018
Adoption	Plenary	January 2019 tbc

5. DISCHARGE 2017: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CONT/8/14083



Discharge Hearing with *Johannes Hahn*, Commissioner responsible for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations in the presence of ECA Member *Juhan Parts*

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

Administrators: Christian Ehlers and Philippe Godts

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

The transactions subject to audit by the European Court of Auditors in the section concerning European neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiation of Chapter 9 "Global Europe" of its Annual Report 2017 represent EUR 1.6 billion, or a little bit more than 1% of the EU budget.

Most of the expenditure for neighbourhood policy and enlargement is from two funds: the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA).

The documents of particular relevance for the exchange of views as regards the 2017 Commission discharge are:

- The ECA's 2017 Annual Report, Chapters 1, 2 and 9;
- The Commission's follow-up report COM (2018) 545 final and;
- The respective Annual Activity Report of the Director General.

These documents are available on the [CONT website](#).

In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions for this meeting were sent to the Commission on 8 October 2018 and emailed to Members on the same day. Questions concern in particular the annual activity report of DG NEAR, the state of play regarding refugees in Turkey, macro financial assistance, the External Assistance Management Reports and the external dimension of migration. The answers from the Commission were received on 15 October 2018 and emailed to Members on the same day.

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commissioner Avramopoulos shall proceed as follows:

- Introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2017;
- Commissioner Hahn will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur will put questions to the Commissioner and the Court;
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the Court;
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

6. DISCHARGE 2017: GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EU - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CONT/8/14083



Discharge Hearing with *Dimitris Avramopoulos*, Commissioner responsible for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship in the presence of ECA Member *Juhan Parts*

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

Administrators: Christian Ehlers and Philippe Godts

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

The transactions subject to audit by the European Court of Auditors in the section concerning migration and security of Chapter 8 "Security and Citizenship" of its Annual Report 2017 represent EUR 1.3 billion excluding decentralised agencies, or approximately 1% of the EU budget.

Most of the expenditure for migration and security is from two funds: the Asylum Migration and Integration fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF). In 2014, AMIF and ISF replaced the previous SOLID programmes (Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows). Like the SOLID programme, the management of most AMIF and ISF funds is shared between the Member States and the Commission.

The documents of particular relevance for the exchange of views as regards the 2017 Commission discharge are:

- The ECA's 2017 Annual Report, Chapters 1, 2 and 8;
- The Commission's follow-up report COM (2018) 545 final and;
- The respective Annual Activity Report of the Director General.

These documents are available on the [CONT website](#).

In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions for this meeting were sent to the Commission on 8 October 2018 and emailed to Members on the same day. Questions concern in particular the annual activity report of DG HOME, the situation in Greece, the resettlement and relocation schemes, the management of the AMIF and the external dimension of migration. The answers from the Commission were received on 15 October 2018 and emailed to Members on the same day.

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commissioner Avramopoulos shall proceed as follows:

- Introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2017;
- Commissioner Avramopoulos will reply to this introduction;
- CONT Rapporteur will put questions to the Commissioner and the Court;
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the Court;
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

7. PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON ESTABLISHING THE SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE – THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

CONT/8/13984 - [2018/0225](#)(COD)



Consideration of draft opinion to ITRE

Rapporteur: [Martina Dlabajová](#) (ALDE)

Administrator: Charlotte Kutzenberger

Shadow Rapporteurs: Andrey Novakov (EPP), Inés Ayala Sender (S&D), Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

The purpose of the regulation is to strengthen the Union's scientific and technological bases in order to help deliver on the Union's strategic priorities and support the development and implementation of Union policies.

The Rapporteur supports the Commission proposal in general, but proposes eight amendments. Ms Dlabajová's opinion in form of amendments aims to stress the importance of a transparent recruitment process by taking into account the need for balance in expertise, gender, age and geographical distribution in all EU institutions and advisory bodies. It also amends the proposal in order to ensure that the Commission shall establish a code of conduct to address the issue of avoidance of conflict of interest for the ERC Scientific Council, whereby the Members of the ERC Scientific Council and the President of the ERC are expected to accept the code of conduct upon assuming office.

The Rapporteur underlines further the importance of compliance with the Financial Regulation with her amendments.

The draft opinion is available on the [CONT website](#)

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for tabling amendments	CONT	24/10/2018 at 14.00 (tbc)
Vote	CONT	15/11/2018
Adoption in main committee	ITRE	21/11/2018
Adoption	Plenary	December (tbc)



8. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING HORIZON EUROPE – THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, LAYING DOWN ITS RULES FOR PARTICIPATION AND DISSEMINATION

CONT/8/13991 - [2018/0224](#)(COD)



Consideration of draft opinion to ITRE

Rapporteur: [Martina Dlabajová](#) (ALDE)

Administrator: Charlotte Kutzenberger

Shadow Rapporteurs: Inés Ayala Sender (S&D), Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

The Rapporteur supports the Commission proposal for the period 2021 to 2027 on the Horizon Europe recommending an approach which can make great contributions to sustainable growth and jobs with its core focus on excellence, transnational competition and collaboration.

Ms Dlabajová's opinion in form of 15 amendments underlines the ongoing importance of an in-depth analysis of approaches available in the fight against fraud, the need of transparent procedures for any appointments and public procurement, the protection of the financial interests of the Union and the conformity to the Financial Regulation.

The Rapporteur proposes to amend the proposal in order to ensure the protection of whistle blowers.

In relation to the research guarantee, which protects the EU budget from default of participants, Ms Dlabajová suggests to lower the threshold proposed by the Commission for the financial capacity verification.

In her opinion, the fact that certificates on financial statements are only issued at the end of the project is not useful and risks weakening the control system; therefore, Ms Dlabajová suggests to amend the proposal also to be applicable to interim payments. The simplification is achieved through the establishment of a threshold. These are only some examples of amendments suggested by the Rapporteur.

The draft opinion is available on the [CONT website](#)



CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for tabling amendments	CONT	24/10/2018 at 14.00 (tbc)
Vote	CONT	15/11/2018
Adoption in main committee	ITRE	21/11/2018
Adoption	Plenary	December (tbc)

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETINGS

-) 25 October 2018, 8.30 – 10.00 (Strasbourg)
-) 8 November 2018, 09.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)

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

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"

CONTACTS

Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs - poldep-budg@ep.europa.eu

Policy Department Webpage:

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

Disclaimer

The items contained herein are drafted by the secretariat of the European Parliament and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. This document may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organizations. The secretariat does not necessarily endorse the view(s) expressed on.