

MONDAY, 7 JANUARY 2019

15.00 - 18.30

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak (PHS) 3C050, Brussels

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was e-mailed to Members on 20 December 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, RO, DA, SV, LV, MT, HR and GA

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.

Voting cards

The electronic voting system will be used for the votes and Members are reminded to bring their electronic voting card.

MONDAY, 7 JANUARY 2019

15.00 - 18.30

PUBLIC MEETING

***** ELECTRONIC VOTING *****

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY PROVISIONS ON PARLIAMENT'S POWER OF POLITICAL CONTROL OVER THE COMMISSION

CONT/8/13389 - [2018/2113\(INI\)](#)



Adoption of draft opinion to AFCO

Rapporteur: [Tomáš Zdechovský](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Philippe Godts

Shadow Rapporteurs: Georgi Pirinski (S&D), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE), Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL)

In his opinion, the Rapporteur points out that the discharge procedure has proved to be a powerful tool which had an impact on:

- (i) the evolution of the EU's budgetary system;
- (ii) the EU financial management;
- (iii) the shaping of the agenda setting; and
- (iv) the way the EU policies are defined and implemented; whilst contributing to increasing the Parliament's political leverage.

CONT Members tabled 18 amendments and the voting list was circulated on Friday, 14 December 2018.

The draft opinion and amendments are available on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Adoption in main committee	AFCO	22/01/2019
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	February 2019

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL PROVISIONS AND THE JOINT STATEMENT ENSURING THE PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY OVER DECENTRALISED AGENCIES

CONT/8/13392 - [2018/2114\(INI\)](#)

Adoption of draft opinion to AFCO



Rapporteur: [Dennis De Jong](#) (GUE/NGL)

Administrator: Cecile Bourgault

Shadow Rapporteurs: Petri Sarvamaa (EPP), Karin Kadenbach (S&D), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE)

Following the implementation of the Joint Statement on the decentralised agencies and the outcome of the interinstitutional Working Group, some unresolved issues still need to be addressed.

Mr De Jong calls on the Commission to submit without delay an evaluation of multiple locations of agencies as well as proposals for possible mergers of agencies or transfers

of tasks to the Commission.

According to the Rapporteur, the provisions of the Joint Statement concerning the selection of a new seat for an agency should be revised in particular. Furthermore, Mr De Jong expresses concern about potential conflicts of interest that may arise for agencies which rely on fees.

The draft opinion and amendments are available on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Adoption in main committee	AFCO	22 or 29/01/2019 (tbc)
Adoption	Plenary	February 2019

*** END OF ELECTRONIC VOTING ***

5. FINANCING, MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

CONT/8/13441 - [2018/0217\(COD\)](#)

Consideration of draft opinion to AGRI



Rapporteur: [Claudia Schmidt](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Philippe Godts

Shadow Rapporteurs: Karin Kadenbach (S&D), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

The Commission proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027 sets the budgetary framework and main orientations for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). On this basis, the Commission presents a set of regulations laying down the legislative framework for the CAP in the period 2021-2027.

The Commission proposes to maintain the current structure of the CAP in two pillars with annual measures of general application. However, the new design of the CAP for post 2020 will aim for more subsidiarity so that Member States can better tailor implementing measures under both pillars to their realities and farmers' concrete circumstances. More subsidiarity means rebalancing the responsibilities in the management of the CAP and looking for a new relationship between the European Union, the Member States and the farmers. Built on this, the current CAP Horizontal Regulation is adapted to the new delivery model and reflects more flexibility for Member States and a shift to a performance-based policy.



The Committee on Budgetary Control welcomes the Commission's attempt to move from a compliance-based towards a performance-based delivery model of the CAP. However, the European Court of Auditors stated that "this move would not remove the need to check legality and regularity" (opinion 7/2018).

On the basis of the current proposal, the Commission would no longer be able to quantify the extent to which payments did not conform to rules. Also, the role of the certification bodies would be reduced which would in turn would make it more difficult to maintain a single audit approach.. The recent murders of investigative journalists remind us that the EU chain of controls on the financial transactions reaching the final beneficiaries must not be weakened.

The Rapporteur tables amendments pursuing the following objectives:

- the certification bodies should provide an opinion on all the expenditures paid to final beneficiaries for which reimbursement has been requested from the Commission;
- the respect of all eligibility conditions for individual beneficiaries including those laid down in the national strategic plans must be guaranteed by the paying agencies in conformity with the principle of the single audit scheme;
- the Commission must keep the possibility to check compliance with the eligibility conditions for individual beneficiaries.

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

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for tabling amendments	CONT	10/01/2019 at 14.00
Vote	CONT	28-29 January 2019
Adoption in main committee	AGRI	Mid-February 2019 (tbc)
Adoption	Plenary	TBC

6. ESTABLISHING RULES ON SUPPORT FOR STRATEGIC PLANS TO BE DRAWN UP BY MEMBER STATES UNDER THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP STRATEGIC PLANS) AND FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL GUARANTEE FUND (EAGF) AND BY THE EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD)

CONT/8/13433 - [2018/0216\(COD\)](#)



Consideration of draft opinion to AGRI

Rapporteur: [Joachim Zeller](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Philippe Godts

Shadow Rapporteurs: Karin Kadenbach (S&D), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

The Commission proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027 sets the budgetary framework and main orientations for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). On this basis, the Commission presents a set of regulations laying down the legislative framework for the CAP in the period 2021-2027.

The new design of the CAP for post 2020 will point to an increased subsidiarity so that Member States can better tailor implementing measures under both pillars to their realities and farmers' concrete circumstances.

The Member States will present their proposed interventions to achieve the EU specific objectives in a CAP Strategic Plan. The legislation lays down rules on the content of such a CAP Strategic Plan and the Commission will check the plans and approve them. The CAP Strategic Plans will combine most CAP Support instruments financed under the EAGF and EAFRD.

CONT Committee welcomes the Commission aims to move from a compliance-based towards a performance-based delivery model for the CAP. However, as pointed out by the European Court of Auditors in its Opinion 7/2018, "the proposal does not contain all the necessary elements of an effective performance system."

The absence of clear, specific and quantified EU objectives creates uncertainty about how the Commission would assess Member States CAP strategic plans. It also means that achievement of EU objectives cannot be measured" (ECA opinion 7/2018, paragraph 8).

Committee on Budgetary Control

The Rapporteur tables amendments aiming at establishing a consistent set of output, result and impact indicators obliging the Member States to compile reliable and comparable statistics on disposable farm income and consider income sources outside farming; but also with a view to making the capping provision more effective and to estimating in a more reliable way the contribution of direct payment support to mitigate climate change.

The draft opinion will soon be available on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for tabling amendments	CONT	10/01/2019 at 14.00
Vote	CONT	28-29 January 2019
Adoption in main committee	AGRI	Mid-February 2019 (tbc)
Adoption	Plenary	TBC

7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION'S INTERNAL AUDITOR

CONT/8/15211



Presentation by Manfred Kraff, Director-General of the Internal Audit Service

Administrator: Philippe Godts

CONT Members will have the opportunity to exchange views with the Head of the Internal Audit Service of the Commission as to the main conclusions of his annual report.

They may want to raise the following issues: the role of the internal audit progress committee of the Commission (Article 123 of the financial regulation), the conclusions of the internal audit regarding the cost effectiveness of the controls, (see pages 16 to 18 of the Staff working document accompanying the report), the main conclusions of the internal audit on the Governance at the European Commission, weaknesses identified in IT management processes, in the process and quality of statistics not produced by Eurostat but by the Commission services or weaknesses identified in strategic human resources management in DG Migration and Home affairs.



8. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 29/2018 (DISCHARGE 2018): EIOPA MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO SUPERVISION AND STABILITY IN THE INSURANCE SECTOR, BUT SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES REMAIN

CONT/8/15207

Presentation of the special report by ECA Member responsible, Rimantas Šadžius



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

Shadow Rapporteurs: José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra (EPP), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE)

EIOPA, as one of the three European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs), has the mission of supporting the stability of the financial system and protecting consumers in the fields of insurance and occupational pensions.

EIOPA has made an important contribution to a common supervisory culture and financial stability in the insurance sector. However, a number of significant challenges still need to be addressed by the Authority itself, by national supervisors and by legislators. These include more robust oversight of cross-border insurance businesses, supervision of the internal models used by insurance companies and EIOPA's own governance.

Along with other ESAs, EIOPA's institutional framework and mandate are currently subject to a comprehensive review by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council.

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.

9. ECA LANDSCAPE REVIEW ON "TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL TRANSPORT SECTOR IN THE EU: CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED"

CONT/8/15204

Presentation of the landscape review by ECA Member responsible, Ladislav Balko



Rapporteur: [Claudia Schmidt](#) (EPP)
Administrator: Michal Czaplicki

Shadow Rapporteurs: Inés Ayala Sender (S&D), Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

The objectives of the transport policy of the European Union are set in white papers issued by the Commission each ten years (last one dating from 2011). Since that year, the European Court of Auditors has published 13 Special Reports regarding transport policy, involving road, rail, air, inland waterways and maritime. The review presents the main challenges facing this policy.

One of them is that transport produces negative externalities such as pollution, congestion, accidents and noise. Their effect was quantified as circa 4 % of the Gross Domestic Product of the Union in 2011. Another challenge is that decisions on construction of infrastructure lies within the Member States, therefore national needs are prioritised over Union needs, leaving the Commission with little enforcing power.

Finally, the sector has to address some issues anticipated in the future, such as new trends in transport (autonomous driving, shared mobility and digitalisation) or intelligent transport management.



Ambitious projects like the Single Sky Air Traffic Management Research, the River Information Services or the Global Navigation Satellite System have been undertaken in this regard.

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

10. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 30/2018 (DISCHARGE 2018): EU PASSENGER RIGHTS ARE COMPREHENSIVE BUT PASSENGERS STILL NEED TO FIGHT FOR THEM

CONT/8/14965

Presentation of the special report by ECA Member responsible, George Pufan



Rapporteur: [Claudia Schmidt](#) (EPP)
Administrator: Tereza Pinto de Rezende

Shadow Rapporteur: Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE)

The European Commission has established a set of core EU passenger rights common to the four modes of public transport - air, rail, waterborne and bus. The rights are guaranteed for each transport mode, although the extent of coverage and specific rules differ from one regulation to another.

To examine whether passenger rights are effectively protected, the Court of Auditors visited the Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Finland and conducted two passenger surveys. The Court found that the extent of passenger rights makes the EU framework unique globally. However, many passengers are not sufficiently aware of their rights and frequently do not assert them due to problems with enforcement. In addition, while the core rights are meant to protect all passengers, the extent of protection depends on the mode of transport used.

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According to the Court, the EU system of passenger rights is well developed, but passengers need to fight hard in order to benefit from them. Passengers are often not aware of their rights and lack practical information on how to force them through. The Court makes a number of recommendations for improvement, including automatic compensation for delays in certain situations, so that passengers do not have to claim for themselves. The Court also provides ten tips to help make all passengers' travel experiences better.

The ECA review 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.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. NEXT MEETINGS

- 21 January 2019, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 22 January 2019, 9.00 - 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 28 January 2019, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 29 January 2019, 9.00 - 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30 (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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CONT

Workshop on "EU Member States declaration" - 2019

POLICY DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS

Recent publications

CONT

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](#)"

Proceedings of the Workshop on "[The revision of OLAF Regulation in light of the future cooperation with EPPO](#)"

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

Study "Ex Ante Conditionality in ESI funds state of play and their potential impact on the Financial Implementation of the Funds" - not online yet

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](#)"

Study "[Financial Implementation of European Structural and Investment Funds](#)"

Forthcoming publications

CONT

Study "Good examples of aligning the budget with the 'performance based budgeting' principles in 3 most progressive Member States" - 2019

Study "Transparency of funding for NGOs financed from the EU Budget (update)" - **January 2019**

Study "Key performance indicators for convergence in regional development - how reliable are they to ensure targeted and result-oriented spending?" - **March 2019**

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/poldepd_presentation

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