

MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2019

19.00 - 21.30

Room: Louise Weiss (LOW) N1.3, Strasbourg

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was e-mailed to Members on 4 March 2019 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 and BG.

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.

Adoption of Coordinators' recommendations

The summary of Coordinators' recommendations from the written procedure of 13 February 2019 was circulated to the Members on 19 February 2019.

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

MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2019

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PUBLIC MEETING

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

3. INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE (OLAF) AS REGARDS COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OLAF INVESTIGATIONS

CONT/8/13248 - [2018/0170\(COD\)](#)



Adoption of draft report

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

Administrator: Christian Ehlers

Shadow Rapporteurs: Arndt Kohn (S&D), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Wolf Klinz (ALDE), Benedek Jávor (Verts/ALE), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

On 23 May 2018, the Commission adopted the proposal (COM(2018)338 final) for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) as regards cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the effectiveness of OLAF investigations.

At an early stage the Rapporteur consulted the coordinators of the political groups on the question whether to limit the revision of the regulation to the amendments proposed by the Commission, or to pursue a more comprehensive approach. Given the weaknesses in the functioning of OLAF, coordinators favoured a more comprehensive approach.

On 12 July 2018, Ms Gräßle presented her working document summarising the questions at stake. The presentation was followed up by a workshop on the subject on 11 October 2018. The OLAF Supervisory Committee sent its observations with regard to the Commission proposal to CONT on 21 November 2018. The European Court of Auditors commented on the Commission proposal in its Opinion 8/2018 published on 22 November 2018. The Court's opinion was presented in CONT committee on 13 December 2018.

Members tabled 87 additional amendments to the draft report. Furthermore, JURI drafted 49 and LIBE 58 amendments. The Rapporteur met with the shadows on 27 February to discuss possible compromises. An additional meeting at technical level took place on 5 March 2019. Subsequently, the rapporteur's voting list was made available. The draft report, amendments and opinions are available on the [CONT website](#).

***** END OF ELECTRONIC VOTING *****

4. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 3/2019 (DISCHARGE 2018): EUROPEAN FUND FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS: ACTION NEEDED TO MAKE EFSI A FULL SUCCESS

CONT/8/15434

Presentation of the special report by *Leo Brincat*, ECA Member responsible, in the presence of EIB representatives



Rapporteur: [Marco Valli](#) (EFDD)
Administrator: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Brian Hayes (EPP), Inés Ayala Sender (S&D), Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE), Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) was set up in 2015 as part of the “Investment Plan for Europe” designed to tackle the investment gap that emerged following the financial and economic crisis, which began in 2008, with the goal of mobilising an additional €315 billion, by July 2018, of strategic investments in infrastructure and SMEs, covering most EU policy areas and all Member States.

The Court assessed whether EFSI was effective in raising finance to support additional investment within the whole EU, the audit covering the EFSI operations from its launch in 2015 until July 2018. According to the ECA's assessment of the EFSI's performance, EFSI has been effective in raising finance to support additional strategic investments in the EU. However, the reported estimate of investment mobilised does not take account of the fact that some EFSI operations replaced other EIB operations and EU financial instruments and the fact that a part of the EFSI support went to projects that could have been financed from other sources of public or private finance.

The Court further considered that the methodology used to estimate the investment mobilised overstated, in some cases, the extent to which EFSI support actually induced additional investment in the real economy. The lack of comparable performance and monitoring indicators for all EU financial instruments and budgetary guarantees diminishes transparency and the ability to assess results.

In addition, the Court stated that action needs to be taken to improve the geographic spread of EFSI supported investment. The EFSI portfolio at the end of 2017 was within the indicative limits set for investing in specific policy sectors. However, the geographic concentration of EFSI signed financing operations was not sufficiently balanced, mostly ending up in a few of the larger EU 15 Member States. The countries with the highest EFSI uptake were those with the most developed and active National Promotional Banks and Institutions.

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 conclusions will be part of the discharge report.

5. BRIEFING PAPER ON GAPS AND ERRORS IN THE TED DATABASE

CONT/8/15656



Presentation of the briefing paper and exchange of views with DG REGIO representatives

Rapporteur: [Ingeborg Gräßle](#) (EPP)
Administrators: Vera Milicevic (Policy Department D),
Tereza Pinto de Rezende (CONT Secretariat)

The Committee on Budgetary Control will hold an exchange of views with DG REGIO on the discrepancy between DG REGIO public procurement data and the data contained in the study on the EU-funded large-scale infrastructure and the public procurement procedures presented at the CONT meeting on 26 November 2018.

The study showed that the TED database suffers from deficiencies. Much of the data is missing and the data that is present in the database include significant errors.

Following the study findings CONT Members asked for the briefing on the gaps and errors in the TED database to be commissioned and presented at the exchange of views. The briefing will look at the deficiencies of the current TED database and it will propose recommendations on how to make the TED database a useful and reliable tool for analysis.

The study and briefing paper are available on the [CONT website](#).

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7. NEXT MEETINGS

-) Thursday, 21 March 2019, 09:00 - 12:30 (Brussels) *(PM session was modified for AM session!)*
-) Monday, 8 April 2019, 15:00 - 19:30 (Brussels)
-) Thursday, 11 April 2019, 15:00 - 18:30 (Brussels)
-) Monday, 15 April 2019, 19.00 - 22.00 (Strasbourg)

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CONT

Workshop "Integrated territorial investments as an effective tool of Cohesion Policy" - 11 April 2019

Workshop "EU Member States declaration" - 11 April 2019

POLICY DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS

Recent publications

CONT

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

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](#)"

Study "[EU-funded large-scale infrastructure: deficient project preparation and procurement processes?](#)"

Study "[Ex Ante Conditionality in ESI funds state of play and their potential impact on the Financial Implementation of the Funds](#)"

Study "[Review of status of the Commission's register of expert groups and their composition](#)"

Study "[Democratic accountability and budgetary control of non-governmental organisations financed from the EU budget - Update](#)"

BUDG

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

At a Glance "[The next MFF and Own Resources](#)"

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 presentations

CONT

Study "Key performance indicators for convergence in regional development - how reliable are they to ensure targeted and result-oriented spending?" - 21 March 2019

Study "Added value in cohesion policy - deepening of EU integration" - 21 March 2019

Study "Appointment procedures in the EU Institutions" - 15 April 2019

Study "Cooperation of national tax and customs authorities to prevent customs and VAT fraud for the protection of EU financial interests" - 08 April 2019

Study "Shaky starting point for the European Public Prosecutor's Office - how will the EPPO overcome its structural challenge" - 08 April 2019 (tbc)

BUDG

Study "Mainstreaming innovation funding in the EU budget" - 1st April 2019

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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