

THURSDAY, 21 MARCH 2019

09.00 - 12.30

Room: Altiero Spinelli (ASP) 5G-3, Brussels

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was e-mailed to Members on 14 March 2019 and is in the [file for the meeting](#).

The Chair draws attention to a **swap of item 7 with item 4** on the agenda points:

- the meeting will start with item 7 - Study on KPIs
- items 5 and 6 will follow - ECA SR on Organic products and Briefing Paper on 'disealgate'
- item 4 - Study on Cohesion Policy
- All the other items remain unchanged

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| • 8 November 2018 | PV – PE634.484v01-00 |
| • 15 November 2018 | PV – PE634.832v01-00 |
| • 19-20 November 2018 | PV – PE634.840v01-00 |
| • 26-27 November 2018 | PV – PE634.751v01-00 |
| • 3 December 2018 | PV – PE634.753v01-00 |
| • 13 December 2018 | PV – PE634.741v01-00 |

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PUBLIC MEETING

7. STUDY ON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR CONVERGENCE IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - HOW RELIABLE ARE THEY TO ENSURE TARGETED AND RESULT-ORIENTED SPENDING?

CONT/8/15810

Presentation of the study



Rapporteur: [Claudia Schmidt](#) (EPP)
Administrators: Kaare Barslev (Policy Department D),
Christian Ehlers (CONT Secretariat)

This Research Paper examines how reliable Cohesion Policy indicators are in helping to ensure targeted and result-oriented expenditure. Overall, substantial progress has been made in recent years in developing an effective system. However, the challenge remains to shift from a focus on financial absorption and outputs to assessing more meaningful results and impacts of interventions, and to improve data collection systems. The paper includes eleven recommendations to address these and other challenges ahead of the new 2020-27 period.

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

5. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 4/2019 (DISCHARGE 2018): THE CONTROL SYSTEM FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTS HAS IMPROVED, BUT SOME CHALLENGES REMAIN

CONT/8/15811

Presentation of the special report by responsible ECA member, Nikolaos Milionis



Rapporteur: [Karin Kadenbach](#) (S&D)
Administrator: Philippe Godts

Shadow Rapporteur: Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE)

In June 2012, the Court of Auditors published Special Report No 9/2012 on the control system governing the production, processing, distribution and import of organic products. To assess whether the Commission had remedied the weaknesses identified in this report, The Court has carried out a follow-up audit. In addition, the Court has covered the import regimes for organic products more extensively.

The main question posed by the ECA was "Can consumers now have greater confidence in the control systems for organic products?"

To answer this question, the Court asked, firstly, whether the control system for organic products produced in the EU now provides greater assurance to consumers. Secondly, the Court asked whether the control system for imported organic products into the EU now provides greater assurance to consumers. Thirdly, the Court of Auditors followed up on its 2012 report by carrying out a traceability exercise on organic food.

In general, the Court concluded that the control system had improved since its previous audit and that its recommendations had generally been implemented but that some challenges remained. In particular, the Court found that the use of enforcement measures had not yet been harmonised across the EU and that reporting in the Member States was sometimes slow and incomplete.

As to the imports of organic products the Court points out that the supervision of equivalent control bodies is challenging for the Commission. When the Commission identifies weaknesses, it can take a considerable time to solve them across different control bodies operating in the same country.

The Court found that the Commission relies on the reports of the accreditation bodies, but there are no formal cooperation agreements in place that set terms for a regular exchange of information or allow the Commission to coordinate supervision with accreditation bodies.

The Commission had only started to explore the possible synergies for supervising organic imports with the competent authorities of other significant import markets (United States, Canada, Chile, Switzerland, Japan and South Korea

As regards the traceability exercise, the results show an improvement with respect to the previous audit, particularly in the EU. Still, not all products could be traced back to the agricultural producer. The Court noted that most control bodies in the EU now have an online database of organic certificates for all their operators. However, these databases are not harmonised in terms of content and not practical if the control body of the operator is not known.

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.

6. ECA BRIEFING PAPER ON THE EU'S RESPONSE TO THE "DIESELGATE" SCANDAL

CONT/8/15812

Presentation of the briefing paper by ECA member responsible, *Samo Jereb*



Rapporteur: [Tomáš Zdechovský](#) (EPP)
Administrator: Cecile Bourgault

Shadow Rapporteur: Inés Ayala Sender (S&D)

In September 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency revealed that Volkswagen manipulated their vehicle emissions systems in their diesel engines in order to produce lower emissions during official tests than during usual driving. This problem stimulated the EU to accelerate initiatives already underway and to take new actions. The European Parliament set up an enquiry committee into emissions measurements to examine the issue. This Court's briefing paper sets out the actions taken.

Among other measures, new tests have been introduced; more powers have been given to the Commission and new surveillance responsibilities to the Member States and the Commission; steps towards transparency and standardisation of data on car testing have been undertaken; and a proposal to strengthen and harmonise consumers' rights throughout the Union (collective redress system) has been presented. However, the Court acknowledges that for the legislative changes introduced, it will still take some time for improvements to become apparent and their effective implementation depends on different factors.

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

4. STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF COHESION POLICY: LEARNING FROM THE PROGRAMME CHARACTERISTICS THAT PRODUCE THE BEST RESULTS

CONT/8/15807

Presentation of the study



Rapporteur: [Wolf Klinz](#) (ALDE)
Administrators: Kaare Barslev (Policy Department D),
Christian Ehlers (CONT Secretariat)

This study analyses project characteristics that can contribute to successful outcomes among cohesion policy-supported projects, using a literature survey, an econometric analysis and interviews with stakeholders. About two-dozen project characteristics are considered and their association with economic growth is studied with a novel methodology. Based on the findings, the study concludes with recommendations for the reform.

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

8. STUDY ON THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: STRATEGIES FOR COPING WITH COMPLEXITY

CONT/8/15797

Presentation of the study



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

The European Public Prosecutor's Office is a new body of the European Union in which 22 Member States participate in the framework of an enhanced cooperation launched in 2017. Article 86 TFEU serves as legal basis for the creation of the EPPO, which was made possible through Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939.

The key function of the EPPO is the investigation and prosecution of crimes against the EU's financial interests, as defined by the Directive on the Protection of Financial Interests of the Union (PIF Directive), revised in 2017.

Through its Delegated European Prosecutors at the national level, the EPPO will be inserted in, and interact with, national criminal justice systems. Prosecuted by the EPPO, PIF crimes will be judged and adjudicated by national judges. This study analyses challenges related to the functioning of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), from the interdisciplinary perspective of European law, public policy, public administration, criminal procedure and financial accountability. The study also suggests possible solutions and delivers comparative insights based on a selection of participating and non-participating Member States.

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

9. ECA BRIEFING PAPER ON CHALLENGES TO EFFECTIVE EU CYBERSECURITY POLICY

CONT/8/15845

Presentation of the briefing paper by ECA member responsible, *Baudilio Tomé Muguruza*



Rapporteur: [Julia Pitera](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteur: Arndt Kohn (S&D)

Technology is opening up a completely new world of opportunities, with new products and services becoming integral parts of our daily lives. In turn, the risk of falling victim to cybercrime or a cyberattack is increasing, the societal and economic impact of which continues to mount.

The EU and Member States' recent drive since 2017 to accelerate efforts to strengthen cybersecurity, cyber resilience and its digital autonomy come therefore at a critical time. The current challenges posed by cyber threats facing the EU and the broader global environment require continued commitment and an ongoing steadfast adherence to the EU's core values.

The overall objective of this briefing paper, which is not an audit report as such but a review based on publicly available information, is to provide an overview of a complex and uneven policy landscape, and to identify the main challenges to effective policy delivery.

The scope of the briefing covers EU cybersecurity policy, as well as cybercrime and cyber defence, and encompasses efforts to combat disinformation.

The Court identified the following challenges that can be grouped into four broad clusters:

- (i) the policy and legislative framework;
- (ii) funding and spending;
- (iii) building cyber-resilience;
- (iv) responding effectively to cyber incidents.

Each chapter includes some reflection points on the challenges presented. The ECA briefing paper is available on the [CONT website](#).

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. NEXT MEETINGS

- **Tuesday, 2 April 2019, 11:15 - 12:30 (Brussels) - CONT/BUDG Joint Meeting (BUDG slot)**
- 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

NEWS FROM POLICY DEPARTMENT - BUDGETARY AFFAIRS

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](#)"

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](#)"

Forthcoming presentations

CONT

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

BUDG

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

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

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