

**MONDAY, 8 APRIL 2019**

**15.00 - 19.00**

**Room: József Antall (JAN) 4Q1, Brussels**

## **1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The draft agenda was e-mailed to Members on 27 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, DA, ES, CS, ET, HU, LT, PL, SL, BG, RO and HR

### **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**

- 7 January 2019 PV – PE634.853v01-00
- 21-22 January 2019 PV – PE634.487v01-00
- 29 January 2019 PV – PE634.739v01-00
- 20 February 2019 PV – PE636.387v01-00
- 11 March 2019 PV – PE636.390v01-00
- 21 March 2019 PV – PE637.309v01-00

MONDAY, 8 APRIL 2019

15.00 - 18.30

PUBLIC MEETING

*Joint item with the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)*

## 4. PUBLIC HEARING ON COMBATTING CUSTOMS FRAUD

CONT/8/15873

### Joint Public Hearing



Co-Rapporteur: [Arndt Kohn](#) (S&D)  
[Wolf Klinz](#) (ALDE)

Administrators: Michal Czaplicki (CONT) and  
Carlos Mur (IMCO)  
Alexandre Mathis (PolDep D)

The joint IMCO-CONT hearing on combatting customs fraud is based on a study on protection of EU financial interests on customs and VAT. The study will be presented in the first part of the public hearing.

This will be followed by three panels. The **first panel** will focus on the current challenges of the fight against fraud. It will reply to questions on the scale of customs fraud, on best practices in fighting fraud and on challenges still remaining. The **second panel** will focus on policy developments and best practices. The panellists will reply to questions on the relevant policy developments at EU and international level, possible guidelines for national authorities to fight fraud and challenges. The **third panel** will specialise in field experience in fight against customs fraud. The speakers will answer questions on what customs equipment is needed to combat customs fraud, what are the relevant technological developments and what do law enforcement officers need. A short discussion among the Members and experts is envisaged afterwards, followed by a summary done by both co-rapporteurs.

The Customs Union is fully within the EU competence, but the national customs authorities are responsible for duty collection and tackling any fraud schemes. Therefore, any shortcomings of duties or VAT-based share, including losses caused by fraud, need to be compensated by the national GNI based contributions, in effect affecting Member States' contributions to the EU budget.

The study and the public hearing aim to describe the current levels of fraud and map and analyse the effectiveness of the EU cooperation measures in tackling fraud. They will focus specifically on customs fraud and custom related VAT fraud and respective cooperation channels.

One of the anticipated conclusion of the debate is that the lack of methodology for measuring customs gap or its elements, such as losses from customs fraud, prevents tailored risk based policy responses. Another supposition is that current cooperation channels are underused. However, recent developments have been positive and new proposals are expected to strengthen the joint fight against fraud.

Amongst other recommendations, the analysis suggests increasing incentives to national customs authorities in tackling customs and customs related VAT fraud, prioritising customs gap measurement and giving further powers to OLAF to monitor national recovery effort.

See separate draft programme and the study are on the [CONT website](#).

## 5. & 6. PARTIAL RENEWAL OF MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS

CONT/8/15598/15750

### Hearing of candidates



Rapporteur: [Indrek Tarand](#) (Greens/EFA)  
Administrator: Olivier Sautière

Shadow Rapporteurs: Petri Sarvamaa (EPP), Inés Ayala Sender (S&D), Martina Dlabajová (ALDE), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL)

**The Chair reminds the Members to bring their electronic voting card, as there will be an electronic vote at the end of this session.**

17h00-17h45

Hearing of **Viorel ȘTEFAN**

Candidate nominated by Romania (new mandate)

17h45 - 18h30

Hearing of **Ivana MALETIĆ**

Candidate nominated by Croatia (new mandate)

### Background

The Members of the European Court of Auditors shall be appointed for a term of six years. In accordance with Article 286(2) of the TFEU, the Council, after consulting the European Parliament, shall adopt the list of Members drawn up in accordance with the proposals made by each Member State.

The following candidates have been proposed by the Member States:

- **Viorel ȘTEFAN**, candidate nominated by Romania
- **Ivana MALETIĆ**, Candidate nominated by Croatia

Appointments to the ECA are submitted to Parliament's plenary on the basis of a report from CONT, which takes into account the primary law requirement of Article 286(1) of the TFEU: "*the Members of the Court of Auditors shall be chosen from among persons who belong or have belonged in their respective States to external audit bodies or who are especially qualified for this office. Their independence must be beyond doubt.*", as well as other considerations.

### A. Procedure

According to Rule 121 (1) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, "*candidates nominated as Members of the Court of Auditors shall be invited to make a statement before the committee responsible and answer questions put by members. The committee shall vote on each nomination separately by secret ballot.*"

## Committee on Budgetary Control

### *I. Questionnaires and statements*

In preparation for the hearing, each **candidate** has been asked to answer the **questionnaire** prepared by CONT.

### *II. The hearing*

The hearing will take place according to the timetable set out in the draft agenda. The candidate will be invited to make an opening statement (5 minutes) and the remainder of his hearing will be devoted to replies to questions from Members (40 minutes).

### *III. Evaluation, votes and adoption of draft report*

Once the hearing has been completed, the committee will hold an evaluation of the candidate and then proceed to vote on the appointment of the candidate in question. Evaluation, votes and adoption of draft report **will be in camera**.

According to Rule 121 (1), the committee shall vote by secret ballot. The vote may be carried out by means of the electronic voting system in accordance with Rule 181 (1). Members should indicate for each candidate whether they give a favourable opinion, a negative opinion or abstain.

## **B. The report**

The format of opinions on candidates for membership of the Court of Auditors is defined as follows<sup>1</sup>:

- a) each recommendation on each nomination shall be submitted in the form of a report, to be adopted on the basis of a majority of the votes cast, with the report merely indicating the nomination;
- b) the report shall consist of:
  - i. citations summarising the circumstances of the referral to Parliament;
  - ii. recitals outlining the procedure to the competent committee;
  - iii. operative text which may only consist of a favourable opinion or an unfavourable opinion;
- c) citations and recitals shall not be put to the vote;"

These strict rules on procedures, before the Committee on Budgetary Control and in plenary sitting, adopted by Parliament **do not allow any amendments** to be tabled to the draft report.

The draft report will be finalised, according to the outcome of the evaluation and the vote in committee. The candidate's curriculum vitae and the answers to CONT questionnaire or summary shall be annexed to the report.

The report for plenary will state that Parliament delivers either a favourable or a negative opinion on the appointment of the candidate.

The draft reports were circulated to Members respectively on 8 March and 20 March 2019 and are available on the [CONT website](#).

### **CONT Timetable:**

Event	Body	Date
Adoption	Plenary	April II

<sup>1</sup> Parliament's resolution of 4 February 2014

**MONDAY, 8 APRIL 2019**

**18.30 - 19.00**

**IN CAMERA**

## **7. ECA HEARINGS - EVALUATION, VOTES AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT REPORTS**

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

## **9. NEXT MEETINGS**

- 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](#)"

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 "Appointment procedures in the EU Institutions" - 15 April 2019 (Strasbourg)

### CONTACTS

Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs - [poldep-budg@ep.europa.eu](mailto:poldep-budg@ep.europa.eu)

Policy Department Webpage:

[http://www.poldepnet.ep.parl.union.eu/poldept/cms/cache/offonce/poldepnet/poldep\\_d/poldepd\\_presentation](http://www.poldepnet.ep.parl.union.eu/poldept/cms/cache/offonce/poldepnet/poldep_d/poldepd_presentation)

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