

MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2019

19.00 - 22.00

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

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was e-mailed to Members on 4 April 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, 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.

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IN CAMERA

3. THE IMPLEMENTATION BY THE COMMISSION OF ARTICLE 61 OF THE NEW FINANCIAL REGULATION ON CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS IN MEMBER STATES

CONT/8/14959



Exchange of views with *Commissioner Oettinger*, responsible for Budget and Human Resources

CONT Administrators: Philippe Godts and Christian Ehlers

Article 61(1) of the Union's Financial Regulation (FR) stipulates: "Financial actors [...] and other persons, including national authorities at any level, involved in budget implementation under direct, indirect and shared management, including acts preparatory thereto, audit or control, shall not take any action which may bring their own interests into conflict with those of the Union. They shall also take appropriate measures to prevent a conflict of interests from arising in the functions under their responsibility and to address situations which may objectively be perceived as a conflict of interests." Furthermore Article 61(3) explains: "For the

purposes of paragraph 1, a conflict of interests exists where the impartial and objective exercise of the functions of a financial actor or other person, as referred to in paragraph 1, is compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect personal interest."

Parliament noted with regret in its 2017 Commission discharge report¹: "40. [...] that, despite multiple warnings from the European Parliament, the Commission has reacted to the issue of the conflict of interest of the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic (the Czech PM) only after Transparency International Czech Republic filed a complaint against him in June 2018; is deeply worried that a Union legal document, dated 19 November 2018, pointed out that the situation of the Czech PM qualifies as a conflict of interest, because he could influence decisions on the use of Union funds from which companies linked to him² have benefited; [...]"

Hence, the Commission services have asked the Czech national authority responsible for the coordination of Union Funds (Ministry of Regional Development) to provide the necessary information with respect to funding to enterprises that are owned by the Czech Prime Minister's holding company.

In the meantime, the Commission has received answers from the Czech authorities and the Commissioner has been asked to share the information with CONT. The meeting has to take place in camera for legal reasons in order to respect the confidentiality of the ongoing audit procedures.

¹ P8_TA-PROV(2019)0242, Discharge 2017: EU general budget - Commission and executive agencies

1. European Parliament decision of 26 March 2019 on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2017, Section III – Commission and executive agencies (2018/2166(DEC))

2 The Agrofert Holding is the single biggest group in Czech agriculture and food industry, second largest in chemistry and plays a significant role also in forestry, is an owner of the MAFRA Publishing Company, publishing some of the most popular printed and online media, such as MF DNES, Lidové noviny, iDnes.

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PUBLIC MEETING

Joint item with the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI)

4. APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES IN THE EU INSTITUTIONS

CONT/8/15925



Presentation of the study followed by exchange of views with Commissioner Oettinger, HR Director-General of the EP, Staff Committee representatives of the EP and Commission

Rapporteur: [Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE)

Administrator: Niels Fischer (Policy Dept D) and Philippe Godts

CONT requested a study on the appointment procedures in the EU institutions. The contract was awarded to Blomeyer & Sanz Ltd. This analytical study focuses on the legal and practical/ethical dimensions of the appointment of senior-level officials in the European Union (EU) institutions, and in a selection of Member States and in different European/international organisations. Focusing on the four instances of maladministration identified by the European Ombudsman with regard to the appointment of the new Secretary-General (SG) of the European Commission (EC), the contractor makes a number of recommendations on how the appointment procedures could be further improved.

On the basis of the recommendations of the study, CONT Members will exchange views with Commissioner Günther Oettinger, the Chairs of the European Parliament's and of the European Commission's Staff Committees and the European Parliament's Director-General for Human Resources

The study, a documentation prepared by Policy Department on the Selmayr-case and a separate draft programme are available on the [CONT website](#).

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PAPERLESS PROGRAMME (INTERNAL USERS ONLY)

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

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