

MEETING

MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2015

15.00 - 18.30 public meeting

TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015

9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30 public meeting

Altiero Spinelli 1G3

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eMeeting

1. AGENDA

The [draft agenda](#) (in EN) was emailed to Members on 10 February 2015 and is in the [file for this meeting](#).

2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman draws attention to the following points:

LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, ES, FI, CS, HU, LT, LV, PL, SK, SL, BG, RO

WEBSTREAMING

The CONT meeting is webstreamed on the [Europarl web-site](#). 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 CONT MEETING:

The following minutes are published on the [CONT website](#):

- 8 January 2015, which was emailed to CONT Members on 17 February 2015,

Voting cards

The electronic voting system will be used for the vote scheduled during this meeting and Members are reminded to bring their electronic voting card.

- 19 January 2015, which was emailed to CONT Members on 5 February 2015 and
- 21-22 January 2015, which was emailed to CONT Members on 17 February 2015.

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

Please be aware that the summary of the recommendations concerning the CONT Coordinators' meeting held on 21 January 2015 is attached to the corresponding minutes and were endorsed by the Committee by written procedure

MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2015

15.00 – 16.00 public meeting

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

Administrator(s):
Philippe Godts, Christian Ehlers & Michal Czaplicki

Presentation of the Council recommendations by Jānis Reirs, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Latvia (Latvian Presidency of the EU), in the presence of the Member of the European Commission responsible for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas



The draft Council recommendations were endorsed by COREPER on 5 February and will be voted on by ECOFIN on 17 February. They were sent to Members on 18 February and are published on the CONT website.

The initial presentation of the Latvian Minister of Finance will be followed by an exchange of views with the Members of the committee.

Commission discharge

The Council recommends the European Parliament to give a discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013.

Nevertheless, the Council regrets that for an important part of the transactions under shared management affected by error, national authorities had sufficient information to detect and correct the errors concerned. It calls upon the Commission to continue executing in full its supervisory role in order to

ensure the maximum protection of the EU budget.

The Council is disappointed about the recurrent increase in the error rate for most policies directly managed by the Commission; it is also particularly disappointed about the low disbursement rate of Financial Engineering Instruments observed at the end of 2012, in a situation of a considerable shortage of appropriations in the annual EU budget and asks the Commission to analyse the reasons for the delays and to take appropriate corrective measures

As to the article TFEU 318 evaluation report, the Council considers that further progress needs to be made, particularly as regards reporting on the "Europe 2020" Strategy targets. The achievements of the EU policies should be presented clearly, including actions that did not yield the expected results.

European Development Fund (EDF)

With regards to activities funded by 8th, 9th and 10th EDFs for the financial year 2013, the Council notes that revenue and global commitments were free from material errors and that payments were materially affected by error with an increasing error rate compared to the previous years of 3.4%.

Furthermore, the Council takes note of the positive developments e.g. the increase of recovered interest for pre-financing payments as well as the decrease in number of budget support related errors from 2011 to 2013 and welcomes the refinements made by the Commission with regard to the residual risk error rate (RER). The Council also welcomes the adoption by DG DEVCO in May 2013 of an action plan to address weaknesses identified in the control systems although further work is still required in certain important areas such as endorsing compliance with procurement rules by beneficiaries, promoting better document management among implementing partners and beneficiaries, enhancing the quality of expenditure verifications done by external auditors, continued attention to budget support transactions and completing the development of the Common Relex Information System (CRIS) system, among other.

Lastly, the Commission is invited to continue regularly updating the Council in 2015 on the implementation of the Action Plan and to fully implement the Court of Auditors'

previous recommendations at the earliest opportunity.

Overall, the Council recommends that the European Parliament give the Commission a discharge in respect of the implementation of the operations funded by 8th, 9th and 10th EDFs for the financial year 2013.

Agencies

The Council, in its draft recommendations, recommends granting discharge for all of the 32 decentralised agencies. The draft recommendations contain, moreover, the accompanying comments for 20 agencies which focus on, inter alia, budgetary management and expenditure, procurement procedures as well as financial programming and monitoring of budget implementation.

Joint undertakings

The draft Council recommendations propose granting discharge to all of the seven joint undertakings. The Council observes that some deficiencies still persist as regards the joint undertakings' internal control systems and notes that more efforts are needed in upgrading and making more efficient various components of the joint undertakings' internal control systems. The Council is also of the opinion that grant-contract management, controls and verifications at different stages need to be further improved.

MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2015

16.00 – 18.30 public meeting

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

Administrator(s):
Philippe Godts, Christian Ehlers & Michal Czaplicki

**5. DISCHARGE 2013: EU GENERAL BUDGET -
EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**6. COURT OF AUDITORS SPECIAL REPORTS ON 2013
COMMISSION DISCHARGE**

Consideration of draft report, in the presence of the Member of the European Commission responsible for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas

CONT Timetable:

Deadline for amendments: 05/03/2015, 12.00

Adoption in CONT: 24/03/2015

Plenary vote: April II 2015



The Rapporteur stresses the lack of reliability of the first level checks performed by the Member States in shared management and of the data communicated by them. As a result, the credibility of the Annual Activity Reports of the Director Generals and the Synthesis Report adopted by the College could be undermined.

As a consequence of the reservations issued by the Director Generals of the DG AGRI and EMPL in their respective Annual Activity Reports, the rapporteur is of the opinion that the Parliament cannot politically ensure that the control procedures put in place by the Commission and the Member States give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of all underlying transactions neither in agriculture and rural development nor in regional and social policy, as the Commission and Member States have demonstrated over the years a lack of commitment to sound financial management.

These political reservations also indicate areas which require urgent and continuing attention with the view to obtaining lasting improvements.

In addition, the Rapporteur issues a reservation concerning the way Member States Gross National Income (GNI) contributions have been calculated due to the deficiencies as regards the Commission's verification of data. She also stresses that the excessive duration of the verification cycle of GNI data used for own resources can lead to budgetary uncertainty.

The English version of the 2013 Commission draft discharge report was sent to Members on 5 February. Other language versions will be available on the CONT website as soon as possible.

Rapporteur:
[Martina Dlabajová](#) (ALDE)

Administrator:
 Olivier Sautière

Consideration of draft report

CONT Timetable:

Deadline for amendments: 05/03/2015, 12.00

Adoption in CONT: 24/03/2015

Plenary vote: April II 2015

7. DISCHARGE 2013: EU GENERAL BUDGET - 8TH, 9TH AND 10TH EDFs



In the course of the preparation of the European Development Fund (EDF) discharge report for 2013, the Committee submitted written questions to the Member of the European Commission responsible for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, on 21 November 2014, and to the Director General of the European Investment Bank for Operations outside the European Union, Jean Christophe Laloux, on 21 November 2014.

CONT held an exchange of views with Commissioner Mimica on 11 December 2014, and with Mr Laloux on 2 December 2014.

The Rapporteur, Ms Dlabajová, recalled the need for EDF's actions to remain closely linked to strategic and political priorities and value for money principles particularly of economic and financial efficiency criteria and also emphasised the need to better identify activities where most errors and the highest level of vulnerability are.

As regards budget support, the Rapporteur insisted on the respect of strict eligibility conditions linked to the effective progress achieved by recipient countries while ensuring an appropriate policy dialogue and steady monitoring of reforms and programmes achieved by measuring real performance.

On the EIB Investment Facility, the Rapporteur considered the results measurement framework as a useful tool to evaluate not only EIB added value but also in contributing to increasing the effectiveness of projects and to ensure consistency with Union priorities.

The cooperation with international organisations is another key area for which a further level of approximation of oversight and governance systems has to be pursued. Separate chapters are also dedicated to blending activities where Parliament's scrutiny has to be reinforced and the Union support to Haiti wherein humanitarian and development aid have to be better articulated. The English draft report was sent to Members on 6 February 2015.

All language versions of the draft report and the reference

documents can be consulted on the [CONT website](#).

Rapporteur:
[Gilles Pargneaux](#) (S&D)

Administrator:
Mauro de Oliveira

Consideration of draft report

CONT Timetable:

Deadline for amendments: 05/03/2015, 12.00

Adoption in CONT: 24/03/2015

Plenary vote: April II 2015

8. DISCHARGE 2013: EU GENERAL BUDGET - EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



The European Parliament draft discharge report for the financial year 2013 is based on a wide range of information, which is available on the [CONT website](#):

- Parliament's accounts for the financial year 2013,
- the report on budgetary and financial management,
- the Secretary-General's Statement of Assurance,
- the Annual Activity Reports by the Authorising Officers,
- the European Court of Auditors' Annual Report 2013,
- the follow-up report drawn up by the Administration in response to the previous year's discharge resolution,
- the questionnaire with the Secretary-General's replies emailed to Members on 21 January 2015, and
- the exchange of views in CONT on 26 January with the Vice-Presidents responsible for budgetary affairs, the Secretary General, the Court of Auditors and the Internal Auditor of the European Parliament.

The Rapporteur, Mr Pargneaux, will present his draft report on the Parliament's management during 2013. His draft report contains comments and recommendations based, inter alia, on the Court of Auditors' and the Internal Auditors' findings, as well as, the result of the extensive discussion process held with the Parliament's Authorising Officers.

He commends that the Court of Auditors did not identify any serious weaknesses in respect of the topics audited for Parliament, but calls on the Court of Auditor's to further concentrate its analysis on the areas most prone to errors, namely non-compliance with procurement procedures, building related expenditure and the implementation of contracts.

He emphasises that an external ex-post evaluation report of the communication strategy for the 2014 elections is expected by June 2015, and expresses doubt as to whether the multi-annual grants programme 2012 to 2014 represents Parliament's core competences and the tasks which stem from its legislative, budgetary and discharge prerogatives.

The Rapporteur also voices concern in relation to the

reimbursement of costs to visitor groups, highlighting that in 2013 73 % of the subsidies were paid in cash and only 27 % by bank transfer.

He requests that the recent elected Bureau revisit the rules in force in order to abolish the option to make cash payments to visitor groups and to apply effective internal controls that mitigate the risk of possible overpayment.

All language versions of the draft report will be available on the [CONT website](#).

TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015

9.00 – 11.00 public meeting

***** VOTING TIME *****

Rapporteur:

[Georgi Pirinski](#) (S&D)

Administrator:

Michal Czaplicki

Adoption of draft report

Vote in plenary: March I

9. ANNUAL REPORT 2013 ON THE PROTECTION OF THE EU'S FINANCIAL INTERESTS - FIGHT AGAINST FRAUD



On Monday 17 November 2014, CONT discussed the draft report on the Protection of the European Union's financial interests.

The Rapporteur, Mr Pirinski, welcomed the Commission's report in which it outlined a broad range of legal and administrative measures taken since 2011 shaping a new landscape for the further enhancement of the policy for the protection of the financial interests of the Union. The Rapporteur believed that effective action against corruption is possible if criminal law measures are complemented by other measures such as better transparency and accountability. He insisted, therefore, that Member States demonstrate firm political will in countering corruption.

The Rapporteur welcomed the establishment of anti-fraud coordination services (AFCOS) in Member States as bodies which facilitate effective cooperation and the exchange of information with OLAF, and welcomed the successful outcomes of numerous joint customs operations (JCO's) involving the cooperation of OLAF and Member States with various third-country services.

The Rapporteur urged the Commission to revert to interruptions and suspensions of payments only as a last resort for preventing irregularities since such measures increase the risk of errors due to the reduced time frames required for the proper absorption of EU funds. He requested that the Commission report on the actual contribution from interruptions and suspensions of payments in reducing irregularities and errors.

89 amendments were received by the deadline of 28 November 2014. Two Committees - LIBE and REGI have issued opinions to be incorporated in the report. The draft report and the amendment are available in all languages on the CONT website.

The final voting list has been sent to Members on 18 February 2015.

Rapporteur for the opinion:
[Julia Pitera](#) (EPP)

Administrator:
 Philippe Godts

Adoption of draft opinion
Main committee: AGRI

CONT Timetable:
Adoption in AGRI: 24/03/2015

10. THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SECTOR SINCE THE 2007 REFORM



Producer organisations became the cornerstone of the European Union regime for the fruit and vegetables sector in the 1996 reform. The 2007 reform aimed at strengthening producer organisations further; a wider range of tools was made available to enable them to prevent and manage market crises.

In the opinion, Julia Pitera regrets in particular that the organisation rate remains low in several Member States, is worried that operational programmes appear to be contributing little or nothing to certain key objectives of the reform, deplores weaknesses in the setting up of national strategies, regrets that the Commission avoided reporting on the weaknesses in the control systems regarding producer organisations and operational programmes and points out that the Russian embargo and the programme for emergency market measures for perishable fruit and vegetables adopted by the Commission in the August/September 2014 crisis, confirm that the improvement of instruments for prevention and management of crisis is absolutely needed.

The deadline for amendments was 27 January 2014. 26

amendments were tabled. The draft opinion and the amendments are available in all languages on the [CONT website](#).

The voting list has been sent to Members on 19 February 2015.

Rapporteur for the opinion:
[Petri Sarvamaa](#) (EPP)

Administrator:
Philippe Godts

Adoption of draft opinion

CONT Timetable:
Adoption in AGRI: 05/05/2015

11. PROSPECTS FOR THE EU DAIRY SECTOR - REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DAIRY PACKAGE



Article 225(b) of Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 provides that the Commission shall present a report to the European Parliament and to the Council by 30 June 2014 on the development of the market situation in the milk and milk products sector, assessing in particular the effects on milk producers and milk production in disadvantaged regions and

covering potential incentives to encourage farmers to enter into joint production agreements, together with appropriate proposals.

In the opinion, Petri Sarvamaa, stresses in particular that the price volatility issue is the main challenge faced by milk farmers; he notes in this regard that the recent Russian embargo on agricultural products has demonstrated that the regulatory framework for dealing with episodes of extreme market volatility should be reinforced and recommends that, in order to prevent further market instability, previous decisions on milk quotas should be maintained and the milk quota system should not be adjusted during the final year of the system.

The deadline for amendments was 27 January 2014. 16 amendments were tabled. The draft opinion and the amendments are available in all languages on the [CONT website](#).

The voting list has been sent to Members on 19 February 2015.

***** END OF VOTING TIME *****

DISCHARGE 2013 - OTHER INSTITUTIONS (ITEMS 12 TO 19)

Rapporteur:
[Ryszard Czarnecki](#) (ECR)

Administrator:
Tereza Pinto de Rezende

Consideration of draft reports

CONT Timetable:

Deadline for amendments: 05/03/2015, 12.00

Adoption in CONT: 23/03/2015

Plenary vote: April II 2015

12. COUNCIL AND EUROPEAN COUNCIL

13. EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

14. COURT OF JUSTICE

15. COURT OF AUDITORS

16. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

17. COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

18. EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN

19. EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION SUPERVISOR

The Other Institutions submitted documents with regard to the budget execution of the financial year 2013. The CONT Members submitted questions on 25 November to the Court of Justice, Court of Auditors, the European Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions, European Ombudsman and the European Data Protection Supervisor. Replies to the questionnaires were emailed on 19 December to CONT Members.

The Committee held an exchange of views with the Secretary Generals (or the Representatives) of the Institutions (except the Council) on the 8 January 2015.

Replies to the 94 questions submitted to the EEAS were emailed to CONT Members on 22 December 2014.

The exchange of views with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms Federica Mogherini, was held on 26 January 2015.

This meeting provided an opportunity to address a range of matters relating to the effectiveness of the EEAS, the reshuffle of top management, the regime of the Union special representatives and the development of instruments in the areas of human resources, administration as well as building management and logistics.

The questionnaire addressed to the Council was replied to by an email from a Council official on behalf of the Secretary General, stating that the European Parliament voted on 23 October 2014 on a resolution on the 2012 discharge where it pointed out that "Parliament and Council could make some progress setting up together a "modus vivendi" procedure with a list of documents to be exchanged in order to fulfil their respective roles in the discharge process." It also stated that the Council had suggested in the past the same procedure and the General Secretariat of Council actively

supports a solution on those lines which respects the prerogatives of each institution under Article 319 of the Treaty. The Council's questionnaire on the financial year 2013 thus remained unanswered.

The Rapporteur prepared his draft reports based on the documents submitted, the exchange of views in Committee and the replies given by all the institutions – except the Council – to the questionnaires. As the Council continues not to reply to the questions submitted, the Rapporteur for the Council's discharge proposes again in the draft to postpone the discharge.

Members received the original language version of the draft reports on 6 February 2015. Other language versions are available on the [CONT website](#).

The debate will take place in the order in which the institutions appear on the agenda.

TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015

11.00 - 12.30 Coordinators' meeting in camera Coordinators' meeting in



20. COORDINATORS' MEETING

Meeting held in camera

TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015

15.00 - 18.30 Public meeting

DISCHARGE 2013 - AGENCIES (ITEMS 21 TO 53)

Rapporteur:
[Ryszard Czarnecki](#) (ECR)

21. REPORT ON DISCHARGE IN RESPECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCIES FOR THE FINANCIAL



Administrator:
Hrvoje Svetic

Consideration of draft reports

CONT Timetable:

Deadline for amendments: 05/03/2015, 12.00

Adoption in CONT: 23/03/2015

Plenary vote: April II 2015

**YEAR 2013: PERFORMANCE, FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL**

**22. EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR COOPERATION OF ENERGY
REGULATORS**

**23. BODY OF EUROPEAN REGULATORS FOR
ELECTRONICS COMMUNICATIONS (BEREC)**

**24. TRANSLATION CENTRE FOR THE BODIES OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION**

**25. EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
VOCATIONAL TRAINING (CEDEFOP)**

26. EUROPEAN POLICE COLLEGE

27. EUROPEAN AVIATION SAFETY AGENCY

28. EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE

29. EUROPEAN BANKING AUTHORITY

**30. EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND
CONTROL**

31. EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

32. EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

33. EUROPEAN FISHERIES CONTROL AGENCY

34. EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

35. EUROPEAN INSTITUTION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

**36. EUROPEAN INSURANCE AND OCCUPATIONAL
PENSIONS AUTHORITY**

**37. EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY**

38. EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY

**39. EUROPEAN MONITORING CENTRE FOR DRUGS AND
DRUG ADDICTION**

40. EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY

**41. EUROPEAN NETWORK AND INFORMATION SECURITY
AGENCY**

- 42. RAILWAY AGENCY**
- 43. EUROPEAN SECURITIES AND MARKETS AUTHORITY**
- 44. EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION**
- 45. EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR THE OPERATIONAL
MANAGEMENT OF LARGE-SCALE IT SYSTEM IN THE
AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE**
- 46. EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT
WORK**
- 47. EURATOM SUPPLY AGENCY**
- 48. EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS**
- 49. EUROJUST**
- 50. EUROPEAN POLICE OFFICE EUROPOL**
- 51. EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL
RIGHTS**
- 52. FRONTEX**

53. EUROPEAN GNSS SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY



The number of decentralised agencies being subject to discharge has reached 32 for the financial year 2013. In addition to the draft reports on the decentralised agencies, the Rapporteur, Mr Ryszard Czarnecki, will present the draft report containing horizontal observations on the agencies. The draft reports are based on the European Court of Auditors' Annual Reports on the agencies, and the following documents containing information on the agencies' financial management for the 2013 financial year:

Reports on the follow-up of the previous year's discharge resolutions,
Reports on 2013 budgetary and financial management,
2013 internal audit summaries,
2013 annual activity reports,
Agencies' answers to the written questions by the CONT Committee (sent to CONT Members on 15 January 2015), and
Oral replies provided in the course of the CONT hearing of 20

January 2014.

Out of the 32 decentralised agencies subject to the discharge procedure, the draft reports for two agencies, the European Institute for innovation and Technology (EIT) and the European Agency for the Management of Operation Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (FRONTEX), notes that a qualified opinion was issued by the European Court of Auditors.

The main issues identified at the EIT were the insufficient quality of ex ante and ex post verifications as well as irregular public procurement procedures.

FRONTEX had issues with their ex ante verifications as well, but have introduced a new comprehensive ex ante verification system in June 2013. Since the majority of FRONTEX's 2013 transactions resulted from grant agreements signed before June 2013 the newly introduced verification system could not be audited.

The draft reports for other agencies focus, inter alia, on issues related to the reliability of accounts, the legality and regularity of transactions, internal controls and budget implementation. A high level of carry-overs is one of the most frequent issues identified as it is usually considered to be at odds with the budgetary principle of annuality. The reports note, however, that those issues often resulted, from events which were, completely or partly, beyond the agencies' control, or were justified by the multi-annual nature of operations, procurement procedures or projects.

With regard to the closer coordination between agencies, the draft reports note that the internal administrative processes were examined in line with the previous recommendations from the European Parliament. The agencies are making an effort in seeking synergies, exchange best practices and share services for their efficient operation and in order to make the most of their resources. The cooperation amongst agencies will intensify further in the coming years and enable them to continue to deliver on their objectives.

The draft reports, the Court of Auditors' reports and other relevant information (including annual reports, final accounts etc.) can be found on the [CONT website](#).

The draft reports in English were emailed to CONT Members on 6 February 2015. All language versions of the draft reports will be available on the [CONT website](#).

Co-Rapporteurs:

[Ryszard Czarnecki](#) (ECR)

[Anders Primdahl Vistisen](#) (ECR)

Administrator:

Hrvoje Svetic

Consideration of draft reports

CONT Timetable:

Deadline for amendments: 05/03/2015, 12.00

Adoption in CONT: 23/03/2015

Plenary vote: April II 2015

54. ARTEMIS - EMBEDDED COMPUTING SYSTEMS

55. CLEAN SKY - AERONAUTICS AND ENVIRONMENT

**56. EUROPEAN NANOELECTRONICS INITIATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL - ENIAC**

57. FCH - FUEL CELLS AND HYDROGEN

58. IMI - INNOVATIVE MEDICINES

59. ITER - FUSION FO

60. ETY



Ryszard Czarnecki
Co-rapporteur



Anders Primdahl Vistisen
Co-rapporteur

For the financial year 2013, the seven Joint Undertakings (JUs) subject to the discharge procedure by the Parliament are the following: IMI, ARTEMIS, ENIAC, CLEAN SKY, FCH and ITER-F4E. The Co-rapporteurs, Mr Czarnecki and Mr Vistisen, will present the draft reports which focus mostly on the issues identified during the financial year 2013.

As noted in the draft reports, three JUs received a qualified opinion from the Court of Auditors, namely ARTEMIS and ENIAC which in 2014 merged together to form the new ECSEL JU, as well as IMI JU.

The main issues identified as regards the ARTEMIS and ENIAC JUs related to their respective ex-post audit strategies not presenting sufficient assurance with respect to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions. However, the new ECSEL JU resulting from the merger of ARTEMIS and ENIAC implemented in 2014 an action plan which aims to remedy the identified deficiencies. The basis for the qualified opinion of the IMI JU was the detected error rate being above the materiality threshold of 2 %, however the JU has taken specific measures to mitigate the risk of future errors.

Moreover, reports drew attention, inter alia, to the risks to which the ITER-F4E JU was exposed, such as the risk of increase in relation to the contribution to the construction phase of the ITER project as well as the potential budget shortfall above the previously approved figure.

In general, the reports focused on issues and efforts made by the JUs regarding monitoring and reporting, internal control systems as well as the implementation of the relevant parts of the new Financial Regulation into their respective financial rules.

The draft reports, the Court of Auditors' reports and other relevant information (including annual reports, final accounts etc.) can be found on the CONT website.

The draft reports in English were emailed to CONT Members on 6 February 2015.

All language versions of the draft report will be available on the [CONT website](#).

Administrator:
Philippe Godts

Exchange of views

CONT Timetable:

Consideration of draft opinion: 23/03/2015

Deadline for amendments: 24/03/2015

Adoption in CONT: 13/04/2015

Adoption in main committees ECON and BUDG:
20/04/2015

Plenary vote: June I 2015

61. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE EUROPEAN FUND FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS AND AMENDING REGULATIONS (EU) No 1291/2013 AND (EU) No 1316/2013

As a consequence of the economic and financial crisis, the level of investment in the EU has dropped by about 15% since its peak in 2007. In the absence of action, projections point towards an only partial rebound over the coming years. Economic recovery, job creation, long term growth and competitiveness are being hampered as a result. The President of the Commission identified this issue as a key policy challenge, as did the European Council on 18 December 2014 and the Group of Twenty Leader's Summit on 15-16 November 2014.

The above-mentioned proposal creates the necessary legal framework and provides the budgetary allocations to mobilise 315 billion euro in additional investment over the next three years and to target initiatives to make sure that this extra investment meets the needs of the real economy.

At a meeting of the Conference of Committee Chairs of the European Parliament on 10 February 2015 the lead Committees ECON and BUDG agreed, in addition to the association of the ITRE and TRAN Committees under Rule 54,

to associate under the so-called Rule 53 + the Committees whose remit is affected by certain provisions of the proposal, in particular CONT. The reinforced Rule 53 status will allow CONT to, notably, attend shadows meetings and trilogues organised by the Rapporteurs of the opinion-giving Committees as regards the negotiations relating to Article 14 of the Regulation.

On this occasion of a first exchange of views, CONT Members will debate on the content and the procedural aspects of the proposal.

Exchange of views in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Lazaros S. Lazarou and Peter Welch, Director of CEAD-B

62. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON "BEHIND THE MOST LIKELY ERROR RATE - STATISTICAL METHODS APPLIED FOR THE ECA STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE", IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS RESPONSIBLE: LAZAROS S. LAZAROU



The presentation will cover the ECA's use of statistical approaches to sampling. It will focus on transaction testing, will go behind the most likely error rate and will cover statistical methods applied for the ECA statement of assurance.

Rapporteur:
[Petri Sarvamaa](#) (EPP)

Administrator:
 Philippe Godts

Exchange of views

63. PROTECTING THE EUROPEAN UNION'S FINANCIAL INTERESTS: TOWARDS PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTROLS OF COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

On this occasion of a first exchange of views, the Rapporteur will develop the main issues that he will address in his report, gather the views of his colleagues and explain the procedure and time schedule.



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

Administrator:
Tereza Pinto de Rezende

**Reporting by the rapporteur on the on-going
interinstitutional negotiations**

64. FIGHT AGAINST FRAUD TO THE UNION'S FINANCIAL INTERESTS BY MEANS OF CRIMINAL LAW - 2012/0193(COD)



Following the Italian Presidency which impulse this file, Latvia has taken over the Council Presidency at the beginning of 2015 and continues to negotiation with the Parliament. Despite the supposed Council's lack of engagement with the file, the Commission and the Parliament maintain their interest in reaching an agreement which will tackle the remaining opened points such as the inclusion of VAT (Article 2), minimum/ maximum sanctions (Articles 7 and 8) and reporting (Article 18).



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NEXT MEETINGS (BRUSSELS)

- **23 March 2015, 15.00 – 18.30 and**
- **24 March 2015, 9.00 – 12.30 and
15.00 – 18.30**

