

MEETING OF MONDAY 8 JUNE 2015

19:00 - 21:00 (public meeting)

Strasbourg - Room: Louise Weiss (N1.3)

1. AGENDA

The [draft agenda](#) (in EN) was emailed to Members on 19 May 2015 and is in the [file for this meeting](#).

2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman draws attention to the following points:

Languages available

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

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3. ECA SPECIAL REPORT NO 1/2015 (2014 DISCHARGE): INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT IN EUROPE: NO SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN MODAL SHARE AND NAVIGABILITY CONDITIONS SINCE 2001**Presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Iliana Ivanova, and consideration of a working document**

Rapporteur: [Andrej Novakov](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Tereza Pinto de Rezende

In the first Special Report of 2015, the Court of Auditors observed that the inland waterways transport in Europe had no significant improvements in modal share and navigability conditions since 2001.

There was no significant increase in the overall share of inland waterways freight transport (6,4% in 2001 and 6,7% in 2012), a limited number from the identified 47 bottlenecks in river transport were tackled, long-term strategies were missing in the audited projects, Member States administrative burden made implementation being delayed for sometimes more than one year and the EU strategies lacked comprehensive and robust analysis.



In order to improve the situation, the Court recommended the Member States to prioritise inland waterways projects and the Commission to be more selective when electing inland waterways projects for financing, to carry out in-depth analyses of potential benefits of the different projects, to focus, together with Member States, on eliminating bottlenecks on corridors in the framework of the Connecting Europe facility and to strengthen the legal base.

The Rapporteur produced a very complete and extensive working document with far-reaching recommendations stressing that the EU transport sector is crucial for Europe's economic growth and that the inland waterways require a significant uptake from the Commission and the Member States. He noticed that Member States have decreased the interest in investing in a community transport policy and the Commission have seen its strategic coordination role to be weakened. To achieve a sustainable policy outcome an intensive cooperation between the Member States and the Member States and the Commission is fundamental.

The Rapporteur recommends to focus the limited EU resources on the highest priority projects to ensure removal of bottlenecks and to establish an integrated EU-wide waterway network.

For that purpose, an in-depth strategic approach and planning should be put in place to synchronise the funding from ESIF, TEN-T and the Connecting Europe Facility. In addition, the Rapporteur proposes to establish intermodal transport centres and to reinforce the Commission's coordination role. The Commission is asked to provide intensive technical assistance and guidance to the Member States, to prioritise funding projects that use innovative solutions, to improve awareness among Member States and their regions about available funding instruments for supporting inland waterway transport. The Member States should make an effort of better coordination, including binding commitments and conditionalities, with specific and achievable actions to eliminate bottlenecks, having the Commission to improve the ex-ante evaluation of operations.

The working document was sent to Members on 15 April 2015 and is available on the [CONT website](#).

The Rapporteur's recommendations will form part of the Commission's discharge report for the financial year 2014. Amendments may be tabled in this context and the deadline will be the same as the Commission's discharge.

Please be informed that Members of TRAN Committee have been invited to this presentation.

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JOINT DEVE - CONT MEETING

WITH LINDA MCAVAN AND INGEBORG GRÄBLE (CO-CHAIRS) PRESIDING

4. ECA SPECIAL REPORT 18/2014 (2014 DISCHARGE): EUROPEAid's EVALUATION AND RESULTS ORIENTED MONITORING SYSTEMS



Presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Karel Pinxten, and consideration of a working document

Rapporteur: [Bart Staes](#) (Verts/ALE)

Administrator: Olivier Sautière

In the current economic and political context, there is an increased need for the Commission to ensure and demonstrate that EU funds are used in an economic, efficient and effective manner. The European Parliament and the Council have indicated a need for a clearer view of the results achieved with regard to the EU's main objectives. Information on results achieved can only be obtained with a results accountability framework comprising three elements: monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Within the Commission's decentralised organisational framework, the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid has set up its own results accountability framework which comprises the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of its activities. This report examines two of the key elements of this framework, namely evaluations and results oriented monitoring (ROM). As regards evaluations, two types of evaluations carried out by external contractors are (a) strategic evaluations and thematic evaluations and (b) programme evaluations of an intervention. ROM is a standardised external review, specific to external aid, designed to look at programmes' performance through on-site visits to programmes. In both cases, the main purpose of these two tools is to improve the implementation of ongoing programmes and the design of future programmes/policies through feedback and lessons learned, and to provide a basis for accountability.

The Court examined whether EuropeAid has reliable evaluation and ROM systems. The audit covered the evaluation and ROM systems in place in the period from 2007 to 2013 and focused on three main questions:

- Are EuropeAid's evaluation and ROM functions appropriately organised and resourced?
- Do EuropeAid's evaluation and ROM systems ensure the provision of relevant and robust findings?
- Do the evaluation and ROM systems ensure the maximum use of the findings made?

The findings of the auditors are mainly negative and point to weaknesses particularly with regard to programme evaluations. While the Court estimated that the evaluation and ROM functions are well organised, it nevertheless stated that there was a lack of overall supervision of programme evaluation activities and that more attention should be paid to the efficient use of resources. Likewise the systems reviewed by the Court do not provide enough information on the results achieved and fail to ensure a maximum use of the findings. Moreover, given the considerable sums involved, with annual development expenditure in the region of 8 billion euro, it is imperative that robust evaluation systems are implemented without delay.

The Rapporteur welcomes the observations of the special report and stresses its concern on the insufficient reliability of EuropeAid evaluation and ROM systems and on the inadequate level of supervision and monitoring of programme evaluations.

Furthermore, he highlights the insufficient attention provided to assess the appropriateness of staff level and financial resources to the different types of evaluation.

Equally, the Rapporteur also points out the utmost necessity to provide Parliament with a clear overview on the achievement of main Union's objectives while also considering the use of the results of various evaluations to be essential to the policy and political review process and correlative strategic political adjustment if need be.

The Rapporteur's working document (EN) is available on the [CONT website](#).

The Rapporteur's conclusions will form part of the Commission's discharge report for the financial year 2014. Amendments may be tabled in this context and the deadline will be the same as the Commission's discharge.



NEXT MEETINGS

17 June 2015, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)

See also the 2015 calendar of meetings for future meetings

PAPERLESS PROGRAMME (INTERNAL USERS ONLY)

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