



ISSUE N°12

MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2015

9:00 - 12:30 and 15:00 - 18:30 (public meeting)

Room: József Antall 4Q1

1. AGENDA

The [draft agenda](#) (in EN) was emailed to Members on 10 June 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, DA, ES, HU, CS, PL, SL, RO

Webstreaming

The CONT meeting is web streamed 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](#):

- 23-24 March 2015,
- 26 March 2015,
- 13-14 April 2015,
- 4-5 May 2015,
- 5 May 2015.

Minutes were e-mailed to CONT Members on 9 June 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 24 March 2015, 14 April 2015 and 5 May 2015 are attached to the corresponding minutes and were endorsed by the Committee by written procedure.

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2015

9.00 - 9.50 Public meeting



4. APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS - BETTINA MICHELLE JAKOBSEN

Hearing of Bettina Michelle Jakobsen, candidate nominated by the Danish authorities



Rapporteur: [Igor Šoltes](#) (Verts/ALE)

Administrator: Mauro de Oliveira

Background

The Members of the 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 candidate has been proposed by Denmark: **Bettina Michelle Jakobsen**

Appointments to the ECA are submitted to Parliament's plenary on the basis of a report from CONT, which takes into account, among others circumstances, 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."

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."

I. Questionnaires and statements

In preparation for the hearing, the **candidate** has been asked to answer the **questionnaire** prepared by CONT. Following the coordinators' suggestions, the questions in the questionnaire were those used in the 2014 hearings.

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 (45 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, the committee shall vote by secret ballot. Members should indicate for each candidate whether they give a favourable opinion, a negative opinion or abstain.

In accordance with Rule 182 (4), between two and eight Members shall be chosen by lot to count the votes cast. The discussion and vote in plenary is scheduled to take place in the July session.

B. The reports

The format of opinions on candidates for membership of the Court of Auditors is defined as follows¹:

¹ Parliament's resolution of 4 February 2014

- a) "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) (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) (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 vitæ and the answers to CONT questionnaire shall be annexed to the report (or summary for candidates for reappointment). The draft report in EN was emailed to Members on 4 of June 2015. The report for plenary will state that Parliament delivers either a favourable or a negative opinion on the appointment of the candidate.

Draft timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Hearing of the candidate and adoption of the draft report	CONT	17/06/2015
Plenary vote	CONT	07/07/ 2015

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2015

9.50 - 10.00 In camera

5. EVALUATION, VOTES AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT REPORT

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2015

10.00 - 12.30 Public meeting

6. POSSIBLE EVOLUTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS OF THE CURRENT INSTITUTIONAL SET UP OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



Exchange of views with Guy Verhofstadt, AFCE Rapporteur for the INI report entitled "Possible evolutions and adjustments of the current institutional set up of the European Union"

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

Administrator: Tereza Pinto de Rezende

Main committee: AFCE

Guy Verhofstadt is the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCE) Rapporteur for a possible future revision of the Treaty (TFEU). The CONT committee invited him to have

an exchange of views on possible updates of the Treaty with regard to the discharge exercise foreseen in article 319 of TFEU, in order to ensure coherence with existing secondary legislation on the matter.

7. EUROPEAN FUND FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

Reporting by the rapporteur on the on-going interinstitutional negotiations



Rapporteur for the opinion: [Michael Theurer](#) (ALDE)

Administrator: Philippe Godts

Main committee: BUDG and ECON

After 9 trilogue meetings the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission found a political agreement on the above mentioned draft regulation.

The final version of the text has been circulated to CONT Members on 2 June 2015.

The main concerns expressed by CONT in its opinion had been taken on board in particular as regards the mandate of the European Court of Auditors and the application of the financial regulation.

8. FINANCIAL RULES APPLICABLE TO THE GENERAL BUDGET OF THE UNION

Reporting by the rapporteur on the on-going interinstitutional negotiations



Rapporteur for the opinion: [Tamás Deutsch](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Philippe Godts

Main committee: BUDG

3 trilogue meetings took place at political level as regards the abovementioned proposal. CONT concerns were initially declared out of scope by the Council. Nevertheless some progress has been noted recently.

9. GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016 - ALL SECTIONS

Consideration of draft opinion



Rapporteur for the opinion: [Ingeborg Gräßle](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Philippe Godts

Main committee: BUDG

In her draft opinion CONT Chair urges in particular the Commission to prepare and publish annually a long range cash flow forecast that would assist stakeholders in assessing future payment requirements and budgetary priorities. She asks the Commission that the budget of OLAF Supervisory Committee be specified in a separate line of the OLAF budget for 2016 and to report to the European Parliament on measures and achievements to combat youth unemployment implemented with

European financial means. She also asks the Commission to be more transparent as to the use of financial engineering instruments.

The draft opinion will be sent to CONT Members as soon as available.

Draft timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of the draft opinion	CONT	17/06/2015
Deadline for amendments	CONT	04/09/2015
Adoption of the draft opinion	CONT	22/09/2015

10. CONT DELEGATION TO GREECE (24-25 SEPTEMBER 2015)

Exchange of views on the preparation of the delegation



Head of the delegation: [Ingeborg Gräßle](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Michal Czaplicki

The Committee decided to organise a delegation to Greece in order to monitor the projects highlighted by the "Task Force for Greece" as problematic. Greece has a long history of EU-funded projects which were not fully completed within the given timeline and had to be either prolonged or paid back. The Committee's delegation aims at trying to better understand the source of the Greek problems.

During the visit the delegation will monitor six projects:

- the construction of the Thessaloniki metro (1200 mln EUR of EU funds),
- the rehabilitation of the Karla Lake (42 mln EUR),
- the construction of Central Greece (E65) motorway - part Xiniada-Trikala (900 mln EUR),
- the completion of the new double high-speed railway line Tithorea-Lianokladi-Domokos (930 mln EUR),
- the e-ticket system in Attica (35 mln EUR),
- the Greek cadastre (28 mln EUR) and national register (42 mln EUR).

The delegation will consist of 12 Members (4 EPP, 3 S-D, 2 ECR, 1 MEP of each of the other political groups). The languages of the delegation will be English, German and Greek (TBC).

A technical meeting of the Members travelling to Greece is planned to take place on 3 September 2015.

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

Reporting by the rapporteur on the on-going interinstitutional negotiations



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

Administrator: Tereza Pinto de Rezende

A trilogue meeting took place on Tuesday 2 June to discuss the outstanding core issues of the Directive. Those issues are the inclusion of VAT fraud in the scope of the directive (article 2), a specific provision on public procurement fraud (article 4, 1), the sanctions for natural persons, thresholds for the damages or advantages and the organised crime as an aggravating circumstance (articles 7 and 8) and the prescription periods for the PIF offences. No agreement was found on any of those particular matters.

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WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2015

15.00 - 15.45 In camera

12. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2013 DISCHARGE TO THE COMMISSION

Exchange of views with the Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Budget and Human Resources, **Kristalina Georgieva**

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2015

15.45 - 17.15 Public meeting

13. 2013 DISCHARGE - EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (EIT)

Exchange of views with **Martin Kern, Director of EIT**, and **Adam Rottenbacher, responsible EIT staff member for external audit coordination and discharge preparation**



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

Administrator: Hrvoje Svetic

Following the recommendation made by CONT in its first report, the European Parliament postponed on 29 April 2015 its decision on granting the discharge to the Director of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) for the financial year 2013. In its resolution accompanying the decision of postponement Parliament set out the reasons for postponement and called for a report on steps taken in order to redress the identified shortcomings. In particular, the Parliament has noted, inter alia,

the combined error rate regarding the audit issues and material procurement errors between 2% and 3% of total 2013 expenditure, which is above the materiality threshold of 2%, the insufficient quality of ex ante and ex post verifications as well as irregular public procurement procedures.

To allow the Parliament to take an informed decision, the Rapporteur has invited the EIT's director to the hearing in order to present the state of play on the steps taken in order to remedy the issues identified by the Parliament.

It is proposed that the hearing shall proceed as follows:

- Introduction by the European Court of Auditors,
- EIT's Director, Mr Martin Kern, will reply to this introduction,
- The CONT Rapporteur, Ryszard Czarnecki, will put questions to Mr Kern and the Court, followed by the questions from the Shadow Rapporteurs and other Members,
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

14. 2013 DISCHARGE - ARTEMIS AND ENIAC JOINT UNDERTAKINGS

Exchange of views with Andreas Wild, Executive Director of ECSEL Joint Undertaking



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

Administrator: Michal Czaplicki

Following the recommendation made by CONT in its first report, the European Parliament postponed on 29 April 2015 its decision on granting the discharge to the Directors of the ARTEMIS and ENIAC Joint Undertaking for the financial year 2013. In its resolution accompanying the decision of postponement Parliament set out the reasons for postponement and called for a report on steps taken in order to redress the identified shortcomings. In particular, the Parliament has noted, inter alia, that the Court for the third consecutive year issued a qualified opinion questioning the ex post audit strategy with respect to the legality and regularity of the transactions of the ENIAC JU. ARTEMIS JU on the other hand failed to respect the 2014 recommendations of the discharge authority and did not adopt a comprehensive policy for the prevention and management of conflicts of interests.

To allow the Parliament to take an informed decision, the Rapporteur has invited the ECSEL's director (in 2014 ARTEMIS and ENIAC have been merged and are now part of ECSEL JU) to the hearing in order to present the state of play on the steps taken in order to remedy the issues identified by the Parliament.

It is proposed that the hearing shall proceed as follows:

- Introduction by the European Court of Auditors,
- ECSEL's Director, Mr Andreas Wild, will reply to this introduction,
- The CONT Rapporteur, Ryszard Czarnecki, will put questions to Mr Wild and the Court, followed by the questions from the Shadow Rapporteurs and other Members,
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

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WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2015

17.15 - 18.30 In camera

15. COORDINATORS' MEETING

NEXT MEETINGS

13 July 2015, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)

14 July 2015, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)

See also the [2015 calendar of meetings](#) for future meetings

WATCH LIVE

Watch the CONT committee meeting live on the [EP web site](#) or on [Europarl TV](#)

PAPERLESS PROGRAMME

Meeting documents: In light of the European Parliament's paperless project please bear in mind that only a very limited number of paper dossiers will be available in the meeting room.

(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