



## ISSUE N°16

### MEETING OF MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2015

15.00 - 18.30 public meeting

Room: Altiero Spinelli 1G3

## 1. AGENDA

The [draft agenda](#) (in EN) was emailed to Members on 13 October 2015 and is on the [CONT website](#).

## 2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman draws attention to the following points:

### Languages available

FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, DA, ES, FI, CS, HU, LT, PL, SK, SL, BG, 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2015

15.00 - 16.30 Public meeting



### 3. DISCHARGE 2014: EU GENERAL BUDGET - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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

- the follow-up to the discharge for the 2013 financial year (COM(2015)505 final),
- the Synthesis of the Commission's management achievements in 2014 (COM(2015)279 final),
- the Annual Report to the Discharge Authority on internal audits carried out in 2014 (Article 99(5) of the Financial Regulation), in the presence of the Commission's Internal Auditor, Philippe Taverne (COM(2015)441 final),
- the report on "Protection of the EU Budget to end 2014" (COM(2015)503 final), in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Lazaros Lazarou



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

Administrator: Philippe Godts and Christian Ehlers

According to the follow-up report to the discharge for the 2013 financial year, the Commission agrees to start new actions on 115 requests from the European Parliament (EP). It considers that for 168 requests from the EP, the required action has already been taken or is on-going, though in some cases the results of the actions will need to be assessed. Finally, for reasons related to the existing legal and budgetary framework or its institutional role or prerogatives, the Commission cannot accept 36 requests from the EP.

The Commission adopted the Synthesis Report on the basis of the assurances and reservations made by its Directors-General and Heads of Service in their Annual Activity Reports. The Commission is of the opinion that by doing so it takes overall political responsibility for management of the EU budget. In the report, the Commission also identified the key management issues to be addressed as a matter of priority and the action to be taken to address identified weaknesses.

The Annual Report to the Discharge Authority on internal audits, carried out in 2014, is based on the audit and consulting work done by the Internal Audit Services in 2014 in the Commission Directorates-General and executive agencies. It includes information on significant risk exposure, control issues and governance aspects.

This is the third year that the Commission has adopted a Communication on the protection of the European Union Budget. This communication was requested by the European Parliament in the context of the 2011 discharge procedure. It aims, in particular at illustrating in real terms how the EU budget is protected from expenditures incurred in breach of the law and how the Member States are involved and impacted.

The Synthesis Report was sent to Members on 9 June 2015.

The follow-up to the discharge for the 2013 financial year and the Communication on the protection of the European Union Budget to end 2014 were sent to Members on 10 October 2015

The Annual Report to the Discharge Authority on internal audits carried out in 2014 was sent to Members on 14 October 2015.

All four documents are available on the [Committee's website](#).

**MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2015**

16.30 - 18.30 Public meeting

**\*\*\* VOTING TIME \*\*\***

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN PROGRESS MICROFINANCE FACILITY**

##### **Adoption of draft opinion**

**Main committee: EMPL**



Rapporteur: [Inés Ayala Sender](#) (S&D)

Administrator: Tereza Pinto de Rezende

The draft opinion received 30 amendments and some compromise amendments were agreed. The amendments cover a broad range of topics from the relevance of the Facility to promote social economy enterprises to the need for a social assessment of the instrument.

The CONT opinion also asked for an improved information policy that will ensure that the Facility is known by all potential beneficiaries giving a particular focus to the handicapped regions.

The requested approach should be accompanied by mandatory survival rate information and a proper impact assessment, extended to the Facility's successor, to be made by the European Commission. Synergies between EU programmes and initiatives should be promoted. With regard to European Social Fund, the CONT opinion considers that it is expected to fulfil enlarged tasks. The impact of this instrument in job's creation and preservation can and should be improved in the new Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). There should be a better assessment on the reasons to reject applications for micro financing and the CONT opinion suggest new priority target groups, better information and a consistent reduction of red tape on the access to credit.

The EN version of the amendments was sent to Members on 9 October and other language versions are available [on eMeeting](#).

Event	Body	Date
Adoption in main committee	EMPL	10/11/2015
Adoption of draft opinion	Plenary	November



## \*\*\* END OF VOTING TIME \*\*\*

### 5. STUDY ON "THE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS UNDER THE COHESION POLICY 2007-2013: HOW THE MEMBER STATES AND THE SELECTED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS HAVE RESPECTED AND PRESERVED THE EU FINANCIAL INTERESTS"

#### Presentation of the study and exchange of views



Rapporteur: Georgi Pirinski (S&D)  
Administrator: Beata Grzebieluch

The study was commissioned at the request of CONT committee and it is to be followed by a hearing scheduled for 10 November.

After reopening of competition under the framework contract for the external expertise, the study was awarded to the European Policy Centre (EPC), cooperating on that project with experts from the European Policies Research Centre (EPRC), a research institute at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. The study will be presented by Mrs Fiona Wishlade, director at EPRC, and Mrs Claire Dhéret, senior policy analyst at EPC.

The study assesses the implementation of financial instruments (FIs) in Cohesion Policy during the 2007-13 period. It takes stock of existing knowledge on the operation of FIs as reflected in the academic literature and policy documents. A comparative analysis of eight case studies, focusing on the different stages in the lifecycle of FIs, provides the basis on which to draw lessons from the implementation of FIs in 2007-13, highlighting implications for 2014-20.

### 6. CONT DELEGATION TO GERMANY (3 TO 5 NOVEMBER 2015)

#### Exchange of views on the preparation of the delegation



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

On 24 March 2015 CONT decided to send a delegation to Berlin, Schwerin and Hamburg with the view to gain a better understanding of the calculation, collection and management of own resources and also of the implementation of structural funds. The mission will take place from 3 to 5 November 2015.

The programme foresees meetings with Members of the German Bundestag, the Federal Ministry of Finance (responsible for own resources), the management authorities for structural funds in Berlin, Schwerin and Hamburg and also the federal fiscal authority office of North Germany, and the customs criminal investigation office. The delegation will visit the technology park "Adlershof" near to Berlin, an ESF project in Schwerin and the Hamburg harbour.



### 7. PROTOCOL TO ELIMINATE ILLICIT TRADE IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO THE WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL, IN SO FAR AS THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROTOCOL WHICH FALL UNDER TITLE V OF PART III OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ARE CONCERNED

#### Consideration of draft opinion

Main committee: LIBE



Rapporteur for the opinion: [Monica Macovei](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Philippe Godts

The World Health Assembly adopted in 2003 the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) which aims at reducing tobacco-related deaths and diseases around the world in a comprehensive manner. The EU concluded the FCTC by Council Decision 2004/513 EC of 2 June 2004.

Article 15 of the FCTC recognises that the elimination of illicit trade in tobacco products, including smuggling, illicit manufacturing and counterfeiting, is an essential component of tobacco control and obliges Parties to adopt and implement effective measures to eliminate illicit trade; On the other hand, Article 33 of the FCTC provides for the possibility for the Conference of the Parties to adopt protocols to the Convention.

On the basis of those articles a protocol to Eliminate Illicit trade in Tobacco Products has been negotiated and adopted on 12 November 2012.

The EU has signed the FCTC protocol on 20 December 2013. In accordance with Article 218 1 point 6 a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union: "the Council shall adopt the decision concluding the agreement after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament".

In her draft opinion for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, the Rapporteur welcomes the abovementioned proposal and suggests that the Parliament gives its consent. She stresses that in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol the obligations assigned to a party shall not be performed or delegated to the tobacco industry and that each party shall ensure that its competent authorities, in participating in the tracking and tracing regime, interact with the tobacco industry only to the extent strictly necessary for the implementation of the tracking and tracing provision.

She recalls that the Parliament asked the Commission to issue a global evaluation of the efficiency of the tobacco agreements concluded with the "Big Four Companies", regrets that the management of those agreements is not transparent, may create situations of conflict of interest and is not subject to real democratic control. She asks the Commission not to renew the so called "tobacco agreements".

The English version of the draft opinion has been circulated to CONT Members on 14 October 2015.

**CONT Timetable:**

Event	Body	Date
Deadline for amendments	CONT	28/10/2015
Adoption of the report	CONT	01/12/2015

## 8. FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND FOLLOW UP OF THE CRIM RESOLUTION

### Exchange of views

Main committee: LIBE



Rapporteur for the opinion: [Monica Macovei](#) (EPP)

Administrator: Tereza Pinto de Rezende

The Special Committee on Organised Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering (CRIM) was set up in March 2012 further to the adoption, on 25 October 2011, of the European Parliament Resolution on organised crime. It is foreseen for 18 months with the purpose of studying and analysing the criminal activities and to draw up a comprehensive, structured plan to combat them at EU level.

In the final report adopted by CRIM on 23 October 2013, the European Parliament made several recommendations on actions and initiatives to be taken at political and institutional level and instructed the LIBE committee to ensure the follow up of those actions.

The CONT committee is particularly concerned by the aspects of corruption and fraud as well as the protection of the financial interests of the Union. The Rapporteur would like to have an exchange of views with CONT Members in order to tackle these issues in her future draft opinion and ensuring the actions to be implemented in these fields are being duly taken as proposed in the CRIM resolution.

The LIBE committee is currently foreseeing the adoption of the report in May 2016.

**CONT Timetable:**

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft opinion	CONT	7/12/2015
Deadline for amendments	CONT	14/12/2015
Adoption of the report	CONT	29/02/2016



## NEXT MEETINGS

**26 October 2015, 19.00 – 21.00 (Strasbourg)**

**9 November 2015, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)**

**10 November 2015, 9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)**

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

## WATCH LIVE

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## 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)

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## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact the [CONT Secretariat](#) or visit the [website](#) of the CONT committee