



**MEETING OF THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2015**

09:00 - 12:30

Room: Altiero Spinelli 5G3

## 1. AGENDA

The draft agenda (in EN) was emailed to Members on 23 November 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, 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.

## THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2015

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### PUBLIC MEETING

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



**Exchange of views with the Member of the European Commission responsible for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Alex Brenninkmeijer.**

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

Administrator: Christian Ehlers and Philippe Godts

On 10 November 2015, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) presented its Annual Report 2014. In chapter 5 (competitiveness for growth and jobs), the ECA examined 166 transactions. The ECA estimates the most likely error rate in the area in question to be 5,6%. The most common errors relate to incorrectly calculated personnel costs, ineligible direct costs, non-compliance with public procurement rules and ineligible subcontracting rules.

It is noteworthy that if the Commission and national authorities had used the information available to them (for example, from the final beneficiaries, their auditors or from the national authorities' own checks) to prevent, detect and correct the errors before declaring the expenditure to the Commission the most likely error estimated for this chapter would have been 2,8 percentage points lower.

The documents of particular relevance for the exchange of views as regards the 2014 Commission discharge are:

- The ECA's 2014 Annual Report - Chapters 1-3 and 5.
- The Commission's follow-up report COM (2015)505 final and SWD (2015) 194 and 195,
- The Synthesis Report about the Commission's management achievements in 2014,
- The evaluation of the Union's finances based on the results achieved
- The Annual Activity Reports of the respective Directors General.

These documents are available on the [CONT website](#).

Members submitted 39 written questions that, in accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, were sent to the Commission on 23 November 2015 and e-mailed to Members on the same day.

The answers from the Commission should arrive on 30 November and will be emailed to Members immediately.

It is proposed that today's hearing with the Commissioner shall proceed as follows:

- Introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2014,
- Commissioner in charge will reply to this introduction,
- CONT Rapporteur will put questions to the Commissioner and the Court,
- Other Members will question the Commissioner and/or the Court,
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

#### CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration draft report	CONT	<b>23/02/2016</b>
Deadline for amendments	CONT	<b>04/03/2016</b>
Adoption in CONT	CONT	<b>22/03/2016</b>
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	<b>April II (Strasbourg)</b>

## 4. CONT MISSION TO GREECE (24-25 SEPTEMBER 2015)



#### Presentation of the report on the Mission to Greece.

Head of the Mission: [Ingeborg GRÄSSLE](#) (PPE)

Administrators responsible: Michal Czaplicki and Hrvoje Svetic

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 Budgetary Control Committee decided to send a delegation to Greece in order to try to better understand the source of the Greek problems.

The Committee analysed the 181 priority projects highlighted by the "Task Force for Greece" of the European Commission as problematic. After a careful selection procedure seven out of them were chosen for in-field examination. They were:

- 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)
- the Greek national register (42 mln EUR).



After the mission the delegation is presenting a mission report to be adopted by the Committee. It includes a detailed description of each of the project visited, an analysis of the general situation of Greece and its absorption of EU funds and recommendations of the delegation to improve the situation in the country.

CONT Members will have an exchange of views on the mission report and its recommendations.

### **5. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE FOR BETTER REGULATION, INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS, THE RULE OF LAW AND THE CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, FRANS TIMMERMANS.**



**Exchange of views on transparency (in the wide sense), better regulation and simplification, and the internal audit service (independence, restructuring).**

CONT members will have an exchange views with the 1st Vice President of the European Commission on how transparency, simplification and better regulation may contribute to better financial management.

### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

**7 December 2015, 15.00 - 18.30 (Brussels)**

**22 December 2015, 9.00 - 12.30 & 15h00 - 18.30 (Brussels) (to be confirmed)**

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