



MEETING OF MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2015

15:00 - 18:30

Room: József Antall 6Q2

1. AGENDA

The draft agenda modified (in EN) was emailed to Members on 3 December 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 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.

MONDAY 7 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 Regional Policy, Corina Crețu, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Ladislav Balko

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 CONT. In chapter 6 (Economic, social and territorial cohesion) the ECA examined 331 transactions, of which a sample of 163 transactions in the area of regional and urban policy. The ECA estimates the most likely error rate in the area in question to be 6,1%. The most common errors relate to the infringement of public procurement rules, inclusion of ineligible expenditure, infringement of state-aid rules and selection of wholly ineligible projects.

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 considerably 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 6.
- 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](#).

For this meeting, Members submitted 51 written questions. In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions were sent to the Commission on 26 November 2015 and e-mailed to Members on the same day.

The answers from the Commission should arrive on 3 December 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	23/02/2016
Deadline for amendments	CONT	04/03/2016
Adoption in CONT	CONT	22/03/2016
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	April II (Strasbourg)

4. FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND FOLLOW UP OF THE CRIM RESOLUTION



Exchange of views

Rapporteur: [Julia PITERA](#) (PPE)

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 last 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 report adopted on 23 October 2013, the Parliament has 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 and the Rapporteur intends to tackle these issues in the draft opinion ensuring the actions to be implemented in these fields are being duly taken.

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration draft opinion	CONT	23/02/2016
Deadline for amendments	CONT	29/02/2016
Adoption in CONT	CONT	22/03/2016
Adoption in LIBE Committee	Plenary	May 2016

5. ECA SPECIAL REPORT N° 15/2015 (2014 DISCHARGE) ON "EU ENERGY FACILITY SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN EAST AFRICA"



Presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Klaus-Heiner Lehne, and consideration of a working document.

Rapporteur: [Benedek Jávor](#) (Verts/ALE)

Administrator: Olivier Sautière

As highlighted during the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002 in Johannesburg and in other international development debates, access to energy services is key for progress towards development objectives. In 2004 nearly two billion people, mainly living in rural and peri-urban areas of developing countries, did not have access to adequate, affordable and sustainable energy services.

In June 2005, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers approved the creation of the ACP-EU Energy Facility (EF) with the main objective to promote the access for the poor in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas to modern energy services with a strong geographical focus on Sub-Saharan-Africa. The EF also aimed at supporting improved governance in the energy sector and to increase the attractiveness to investors, facilitate large scale investments in cross border energy infrastructure and promote renewable energy.

The EF was allocated 475 million euro under the 9th and 10th European Development Funds for the period 2006-2013, most of which was for providing grants to projects selected through calls for proposals.

The Court examined whether the Commission successfully used the Energy Facility to increase access to renewable energy for the poor in Eastern Africa and structured the audit on the three following question (i) did the Commission allocate EF support for renewable energy to well prioritised and designed projects? (ii) did the Commission monitor the projects properly? and (iii) did the projects achieve their objectives?

The Court found that the Commission was mostly successful but could have done better in using the EF to increase access to renewable energy for the poor in Eastern Africa. The Court's review showed that the Commission allocated support for renewable energy to well-prioritised projects but insufficient rigour in the selection process meant that a quarter of the projects examined were awarded a grant despite significant design weaknesses identified. With regard to monitoring, the Court considered that the Commission did not monitor all projects properly insofar reports submitted by the implementing partners were of uneven quality. The Court reported that the Commission did not make sufficient use of on-site visits to projects and results-oriented-monitoring reviews, particularly when projects encountered serious difficulties. Furthermore one quarter of the projects examined by the Court failed to deliver the majority of their expected results, due mainly to both design weaknesses that were not addressed and inadequate monitoring by the Commission.

The Rapporteur emphasizes the need to base the preliminary feasibility analysis on realistic scenarios in order to improve local ownership and to better define the link between feasibility of projects and the social economic and environmental sustainability. He requests to the Commission to take swift mitigation measures to adapt the selection and implementation process in particular in cases of potential corruption or fraud by the

implementing partners and to avoid unnecessary additional administrative burden in the projects. The Rapporteur then puts great importance to the fact that the local stakeholders still continue to benefit of a support after the funding period expires in order to ensure the sustainability of projects.

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: 4 March 2016.

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Consideration draft report	CONT	23/02/2016
Deadline for amendments	CONT	04/03/2016
Adoption in CONT	CONT	22/03/2016
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	April II (Strasbourg)

6. 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.



7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETINGS

- 11 January 2016, 15.00 - 18.30 (Brussels)
- 14 January 2016, 9.00 - 12.30 (Brussels)

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