



*The Secretariat takes this opportunity to  
with you all the best for 2016.*

## **CONT NEWS - ISSUE N°1**

### **MEETING OF MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2016**

15:00 - 18:30

Room: Altiero Spinelli (3E-2)

## **1. AGENDA**

The draft agenda (in EN) was emailed to Members on 8 December 2015 and is in the [file for this meeting](#).

## **2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman draws attention to the following points:

New Year cocktail: A cocktail reception, offered by the CONT Chair, will take place in room ASP 06 (MEP's salon, in front of kiosk).

### **Languages available**

FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, DA, ES, FI, PL, 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 11 JANUARY 2016**

15.00 - 18.30

**PUBLIC MEETING**

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The following minutes will be e-mailed to Members on 22 December 2015 and are available on the [CONT website](#):

- 9-10 November 2015,
- 30 November - 1 December 2015,
- 3 December 2015,
- 7 December 2015.

If no objections are received before the end of the meeting, the minutes will be deemed to be approved.



#### 4. WORK PROGRAMME 2016 OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS



**Presentation of the Work Programme 2016 by Vitor Manuel da Silva Caldeira, President of the European Court of Auditors.**

At the first CONT meeting of 2016, the President Vítor Manuel da Silva Caldeira will present the 2016 Work Programme of the Court to Auditors to the CONT Members. An exchange of views will follow.

The document will be available as of 7 January 2016 on the website of the [European Court of Auditors](#) and on [CONT website](#).

#### 5. ECA SPECIAL REPORT N° 17/2015 (2014 DISCHARGE) ON "COMMISSION'S SUPPORT OF YOUTH ACTION TEAMS: REDIRECTION OF ESF FUNDING ACHIEVED, BUT INSUFFICIENT FOCUS ON RESULTS"



**Presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Iliana Ivanova, and consideration of a working document.**

Rapporteur: [Derek Vaughan](#) (S & D)  
Administrator: Tereza Pinto de Rezende

In this Special Report the Court of Auditors assessed whether the redirection of ESF funding benefitted from proposals developed in 2012 by the Youth Action Teams (YATs) on how to achieve faster and more effectively results for young unemployment people through ESF spending. The YATs initiative covered almost 10 billion euro of ESF funding still available for reprogramming in the eight Member States concerned by this audit (Ireland, Greece, Spain, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal and Slovakia).

The Court concluded that YATs set up for the eight Member States made limited specific proposals on how to achieve faster and more effective results for young unemployed people. The effectiveness of the advisory role of the Commission to the Member States in relation to the YATs was limited by the level and quality of information available to it on how existing ESF or national measures for young people work on the ground. While the YATs exercise led to the reprogramming and reallocation of ESF funds, the assessment of the Commission on Operational Programme amendments focused mainly on budgetary aspects rather than on the best use of ESF funds. In addition, there were shortcomings in how the Commission monitored and reported on the results of the YATs initiative until 2014.

Having these observations into consideration, the Court recommended that the Commission should, for future initiatives of this kind, take due account of the possibilities and constraints given by the political and legal context, its specific knowledge and expertise of the area and the availability of the required administrative and financial resources at EU and Member States level. For the 2014-2020 programme period, the Commission should ensure that future reprogramming requests from Member States are triggered by an expectation of achieving better results rather than mainly resolving difficulties in absorbing EU funds; approve the Member States' requests for Operational Programme (OP) amendments only if the additional results to be obtained through the proposed budgetary transfers can reasonably be achieved; require Member States to report in sufficient detail both extraordinary transfers within OP and changes within priorities in their annual implementation reports and present the results achieved; participate actively in OP Monitoring Committees and encourage Member States to take the appropriate steps where it is clear from its assessment of the annual implementation reports that the targets will not be met. The Commission should also ensure that minimum plausibility and reliability checks are systematically carried out when using data provided by Member States in its communications.

The rapporteur welcomes the Court's report and its recommendations, and is pleased the Commission has already taken these into account. Notes that youth unemployment is a serious issue across the EU and



appropriate resources should be dedicated to tackling it, but EU Member States must also commit to taking up available EU support.

When considering this report it is important to take into account that the Council's Directive to the Commission on YATs was to encourage National Governments to redirect funds to tackle youth unemployment, while at the same time not imposing additional costs or burden on the Member States and without allocating new funds. The rapporteur welcomes news from the Commission that the new ESF regulation 2014-2020 includes provisions for more reporting from Member States on results which will allow a more effective analysis of the success of such initiatives.

The working document will be sent to Members and will be 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.

**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 (Brussels)</b>

## 6. 2014 DISCHARGE TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS



**Exchange of views with the Secretary Generals of the EU Institutions, in the presence of the Member of the Court of Auditors responsible, Baudilio Tomé Muguruza.**

Co-Rapporteurs: [Ryszard Czarnecki](#) (ECR)  
[Monica Macovei](#) (ECR)  
[Anders Primdahl Vistisen](#) (ECR)  
Administrator: Tereza Pinto de Rezende

The 2014 discharge of the "Other institutions" is prepared by three ECR Rapporteurs and concern the following Institutions:

- European External Action Service (the exchange of views with the High Representative Federica Mogherini will take place on 21 January in Strasbourg) – Rapporteur Ryszard Czarnecki,
- Council and European Council – Rapporteur Ryszard Czarnecki,
- European Court of Justice – Rapporteur Anders Primdahl Vistisen,
- European Court of Auditors - Rapporteur Ryszard Czarnecki,
- European Economic and Social Committee - Rapporteur Anders Primdahl Vistisen,
- Committee of the Regions – Rapporteur Monica Luisa Macovei,
- European Ombudsman - Rapporteur Ryszard Czarnecki,
- European Data Protection Supervisor - Rapporteur Monica Luisa Macovei.

Those Institutions received the questions put by CONT Members with technical and specific matters on 25th November and their replies were emailed to Members on 21 December 2015.

The CONT committee invited the Secretary Generals of the "Other Institutions" to attend the exchange of views of 11 January. Their presence was confirmed except for the Council's Secretary General. In the exchange



of views MEP will assess the expenditure and the performance of those Institutions during the financial year of 2014.

According to the Court of Auditors, the expenditure in 2014 of the Other Institutions present at this CONT meeting was free of material error. No significant weaknesses were detected by the ECA in relation to the topics audited.

The exchange of views will proceed as follows:

- Introduction by Mr Tomé Muguruza, ECA Member responsible who will present the ECA findings concerning the respective Institutions in the Annual Report 2014
- Presentation by the Secretary Generals of the Institutions, starting by:
  - Court of Justice
  - Court of Auditors
  - European Economic and Social Committee
  - Committee of the Regions
  - European Ombudsman
  - European Data Protection Supervisor
- CONT Rapporteurs questions to the Secretary Generals
- Other Members questions
- Replies by the Institutions' Secretary Generals
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteurs

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## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

- **14 January 2016, 9.00 - 12.30 (Brussels)**
- **21 January 2016, 8.30-11.30 (Strasbourg)**
- **25 January 2016, 15.00-18.30 (Brussels)**
- **28 January 2016, 9.00-12.30 (Brussels)**

### **WATCH LIVE**

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

### **PAPERLESS PROGRAMME (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