



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

CONT NEWS -ISSUE N°2

MEETING OF THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2016

09:00 - 12:30

Room: József Antall (4Q1)

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:

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.

THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2016

09.00 - 12.00

PUBLIC MEETING

3. DISCHARGE 2014: EU GENERAL BUDGET - EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Exchange of views with the Member of the European Commission responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan, in the presence of the Members of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Kersti Kaljulaid and Augustyn Kubik.

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

Administrators: Christian Ehlers and Philippe Godts

The transactions subject to audit by the ECA in chapter 7 "Natural resources" of its annual report 2014 represent EUR 57, 5 Billion:

- European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF): market related expenditure and direct payments: EUR 44.3 billion;
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD): EUR 11.2 billion;

- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and others EUR 1.1. billion

The European Court of Auditors estimate the level of error for "Natural resources" as a whole to be 3.6% (market and direct support: 2.9%, rural development: 6.2 %).

For the first time as part of a pilot-exercise the Court checked some performance issues and detected deficiencies in targeting and selecting projects in rural development and insufficient evidence that costs are reasonable.

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, 2 and 7.
- The Commission's follow-up report COM (2015)505 final and SWD (2015) 194 and 195
- The respective Annual Activity Report of the Director General.

These documents are available on the [CONT website](#). In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions for this meeting were sent to the Commission on 18 December 2015 and e-mailed to Members on the same day. The answers from the Commission will be received on 11 January 2016 and will be emailed to Members on the same day.

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commissioner Hogan shall proceed as follows:

- Introduction by the Members of the European Court of Auditors, who will present the findings of the respective chapters of the Annual Report 2014,
- Commissioner Hogan 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 (Brussels)

4. DISCHARGE 2014: EU GENERAL BUDGET - EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Exchange of views with the Secretary General of the European Commission, alexander Italianer, in the presence of the Members of the European Court of Auditors responsables, Baudilio Tomé Muguruza and Lazaros Lazarou.

Rapporteur: [Martina Dlabajová](#) (ALDE)
Administrators: Christian Ehlers and Philippe Godts

The Secretariat-General of the Commission is the President's department, at the service of the President, the College and the other Commission departments. It manages the collegial decision-making process and ensures the alignment of EU policies with the political priorities of the Commission. In agreement with the President, the SG provides support to the Vice-Presidents in the performance of their role.

According to its annual activity report for 2014 the Secretariat-General continued to play a coordinating role in implementing the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and job, preparing for its mid-term review. The Secretariat-General also coordinated work on the European semester of economic governance, in particular the country-specific recommendations for 2014.



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 and 3.
- The Commission's follow-up report COM (2015)505 final and SWD (2015) 194 and 195
- The respective Annual Activity Report of the Director General.

These documents are available on the [CONT website](#). In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions for this meeting were sent to the Commission on 18 December 2015 and e-mailed to Members on the same day. The answers from the Commission will be received on 11 January 2016 and will be emailed to Members on the same day.

It is proposed that the hearing with the Commissioners 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,
- The Secretary General will reply to this introduction,
- CONT Rapporteur will put questions to the Commission and the Court,
- Other Members will question the Commission and/or the Court,
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

CONT Timetable:

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THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2016

12.00 - 12.30

IN CAMERA

5. COORDINATORS' MEETING



Meeting held in camera

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS



CONT
Budgetary Control

NEXT MEETINGS

- **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