



**MEETING OF THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2016**

**08:30 - 11:30**

Strasbourg

Room: Louise Weiss (N1.3)

**1. AGENDA**

The draft agenda (in EN) was emailed to Members on 12 January 2016 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 21 JANUARY 2016**

**08.30 - 10.00**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**3. DISCHARGE 2014: EU GENERAL BUDGET - EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE**



**Exchange of views with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, in the presence of Baudilio Tomé Muguruza and Szabolcs Fazakas, Members of the European Court of Auditors responsible.**

Rapporteur: [Ryszard Czarnecki](#) (ECR)

Administrator: Olivier Sautière

**As Mrs Mogherini will have to leave at 10, we would kindly thank you in advance for your attendance as of 8.30.**

The European External Action Service (EEAS) is a functionally autonomous body of the European Union, treated as an institution for the purposes of the Financial Regulation (FR) and therefore subject to the procedure of discharge provided for in Article 319 of the TFEU.

According to Article 167 of the Financial Regulation *"the EEAS shall be subject to the procedure provided for in Article 319 TFEU and in Articles 164, 165 and 166 of this Regulation. The EEAS shall fully cooperate with the institutions involved in the discharge procedure and provide, as appropriate, any additional necessary information, including through attendance at meeting of the relevant bodies"*.

The EEAS is placed under the authority of the High Representative / Vice President (HRVP) of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy who is invited to the CONT meeting for an exchange of views with Members on the implementation of EEAS budget and activities during the financial year 2014.

In accordance with the timetable for the discharge procedure, the written questions addressed to the EEAS were sent on 26 November 2015. The answers received from the EEAS were e-mailed to the CONT Members on 21 December 2015.

According to the findings of the ECA, the most likely error rate was 0.5%. Areas for improvement concern (i) the calculation of staff costs and (ii) the monitoring system for the timely updating of the personal situation of staff members having an impact on the calculation of family allowances.

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

- Introduction by the Member of the European Court of Auditors, Mr Baudilio Tomé Muguruza, who will present the findings of the ECA Annual Report 2014,
- High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini will briefly reply to this introduction,
- The CONT Rapporteur Ryszard Czarnecki and other Members will question the HR/VP and/or the Court,
- Closing remarks by the CONT Rapporteur.

#### **CONT Timetable:**

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

**THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2016**

10.00 - 10.45

**PUBLIC MEETING**

#### **4. ECA SPECIAL REPORT N° 16/2015 (2014 DISCHARGE) ON "IMPROVING THE SECURITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY BY DEVELOPING THE INTERNAL ENERGY MARKET: MORE EFFORTS NEEDED"**



**Presentation of the Special Report by the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Phil Wynn Owen, and consideration of a working document.**

Rapporteur: [Brian Hayes](#) (PPE)

Administrator: Michal Czaplicki

Security of energy supply has become a major issue in the EU over the past decade. In response the EU has adopted a range of legislation to support the development of an

internal energy market. It provided a budget of 3.7 billion euro of financing for energy infrastructure between 2007 and 2013, with a further approximately 7.4 billion euro to be provided between 2014 and 2020.

The aim of the ECA audit was to determine whether implementation of internal energy market policy measures and EU spending on energy infrastructure have provided security of energy supply benefits effectively.

The ECA arrived at the conclusion that the EU's objective of completing the internal energy market by 2014 was not reached. Problems remain with the implementation of the EU legal framework for the internal energy market.

The ECA recommended that the Member States should make sure that their National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) are independent and not face restrictions to the scope of their role. Additionally the ECA recommended that the Commission should consider establishing electricity interconnection objectives based on market needs rather than on fixed national production capacity.

The Rapporteur believes that in order to achieve a proper and continuous functioning of the internal energy market, Member States must co-ordinate their investments to energy infrastructure and the way they regulate their energy markets, in order to ensure optimum value for EU money. Energy Market reforms must start at a Member State level. Implementing the jointly agreed energy packages, especially the Third Energy Package would create conditions for the realisation of the internal energy market. Strengthening and improving interconnections with neighbouring Member States be seen as a priority.

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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10.45 - 11.30

**IN CAMERA**

## **5. COORDINATORS' MEETING**



**Meeting held in camera**

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**



**CONT**  
Budgetary Control

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

- **Monday, 25 January 2016, 15.00-18.30 (Brussels)**
- **Thursday, 28 January 2016, 9.00-12.30 (Brussels)**

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