



MEETING OF THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2016

09:00 - 11:30

Strasbourg

Room: Louise Weiss (N1.3)

1. AGENDA

The draft agenda (in EN) was emailed to Members on 27 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 4 FEBRUARY 2016

09.00 - 10.30

PUBLIC MEETING

3. DISCHARGE 2014: EU GENERAL BUDGET - EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Exchange of views with the Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament with responsibility for the budget, David-Maria Sassoli and Rainer Wieland, the Secretary-General, Klaus Welle and the Internal Auditor of the European Parliament, Robert Galvin, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Baudilio Tomé Muguruza.

Rapporteur: [Markus Pieper](#) (PPE)

Administrator: Mauro de Oliveira

Relevant documents

Members will find the relevant documents for the European Parliament discharge such as the report on budgetary and financial management, the annual accounts of the political groups, the report on compliance with payment time limits, the report on contracts awarded, Director-Generals' Annual Activity Reports and the



replies and follow-up to last year's discharge resolution on the CONT 2014 budget discharge [CONT 2014 budget discharge website](#).

Written questions

Following the established procedure for the adoption of the EP discharge questionnaire, Members were asked to submit questions related to the 2014 budget implementation to their Coordinators by 31 October 2015. The Rapporteur together with the Shadow Rapporteurs consolidated and finalised the questionnaire and submitted it to the Secretary-General on 25 November 2015.

The Secretary-General's written replies were received and made available to Members on 19 January 2016.

Structure of the hearing

It is proposed that the discussion will take the following structure:

- statement by the Court of Auditors,
- short presentation by the Vice-President(s), responsible for budgetary affairs,
- brief presentation by the Secretary-General of the answers to the written questions mentioned,
- presentation by the Internal Auditor of the European Parliament of his 2014 annual report,
- statement and oral questions by the Rapporteur,
- Q&A session with other Members,
- closing remarks by the Rapporteur.

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration draft report	CONT	29/02/2016
Deadline for amendments	CONT	11/03/2016
Adoption in CONT	CONT	04/04/2016
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	April II (Brussels)

THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2016

10.30 - 11.00

PUBLIC MEETING

4. IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION BUILDING ON THE POTENTIAL OF THE LISBON TREATY



Consideration of draft opinion.

Rapporteur: [Petri Sarvamaa](#) (PPE)

Administrator: Mauro de Oliveira

CONT committee is providing an opinion to the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO) on its initiative report: Improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty.

Elmar Brok and Mercedes Bresso are the (AFCO) Rapporteurs.

Mr Sarvamaa points out that the Institutions of the Union and the Member States should cooperate fully in order to maximise the potential of the Lisbon Treaty when it comes to implementing and effectively protecting the budget of the European Union.



He considers fundamental to observe budgetary discipline and use available EU funds efficiently and effectively and notes that the existing Structural Funds should be used more effectively to foster competitiveness and social cohesion, with stringent supervision of their proper implementation.

The Rapporteur recalls that despite some progress, the evaluation report as provided for in Article 318 TFEU is not yet a useful contribution to the evidence available when Parliament, in its power as discharge authority, grants discharge to the Commission.

He considers also that effective supervision of the Union's budget implementation requires cooperation between Parliament, the European Council and the Council in order to enhance the transparency of financial management and improve democratic accountability towards EU taxpayers. The sustained lack of cooperation by the Council has a persistent negative effect on citizens' perceptions on the credibility of the EU institutions.

Mr Sarvamaa recommends that the European Court of Auditors be strengthened and expects the Court to remain committed to independence, integrity and impartiality. The Rapporteur calls for closer cooperation between the Court and national supreme audit institutions and considers that the Parliament and the Council should be on an equal footing when appointing Members of the Court of Auditors.

The draft opinion is available in all languages on the [CONT website](#).

CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration draft report	CONT	04/02/2016
Deadline for amendments	CONT	09/02/2016
Adoption in CONT	CONT	29/02/2016
Adoption in AFCD	AFCD	14/03/2016
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	April II (Brussels)

THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2016

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IN CAMERA

5. COORDINATORS' MEETING



Meeting held in camera



CONT
Budgetary Control

NEXT MEETING

- **16 February 2016, 09.00-12.30 (Brussels)**
- **22 February 2016, 15.00-18.30 (Brussels)**
- **23 February 2016, 09.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30 (Brussels)**
- **29 February 2016, 15.00-18.30 (Brussels)**

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