



**MEETING OF TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2016**

9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30

Brussels

Room: Altiero Spinelli (5G-3)

**CORRIGENDUM**

**1. AGENDA**

The draft agenda (in EN) was emailed to Members on 9 March 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, LV, MT, PL, SK, SL, BG, RO

**Webstreaming**

The CONT meeting is webstreamed on the [Europarl website](#).

Please be aware that each time a speaker activates the microphone to make an intervention, the camera will be automatically directed to the speaker.

**TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2016**

9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 15.45

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**3.-8. APPOINTMENTS OF SIX MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS: HEARING OF THE CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP**



**Hearing of Candidates**

Rapporteurs: [Igor Šoltes](#) (Verts/ALE)

[Bart Staes](#) (Verts/ALE)

Administrator: Mauro De Oliveira

9h00 to 9h30

- Hearing of **Ladislav Balko (SK)**

Candidate nominated by the Slovak authorities



9h30 to 10h15

- Hearing of **Mihails Kozlovs (LV)**

Candidate nominated by Latvian authorities

10h15 to 11h00

- Hearing of **Jan Gregor**

Candidate nominated by the Czech authorities

11h00 to 11h45

- Hearing of **Janusz Wojciechowski (PL)**

Candidate nominated by the Polish authorities

11h45 to 12h30

- Hearing of **Anthony Abela (MT)**

Candidate nominated by the Maltese authorities

15h00 to 15h45

- Hearing of **Samo Jereb (SL)**

Candidate nominated by the Slovenian authorities

### **Background**

The mandate of six Members of the Court of Auditors expires on 6 May 2016. The Members of the Court of Auditors shall be appointed for a term of six years.

In accordance with Article 286(2) of the TFEU the Council, after consulting the European Parliament shall adopt the list of Members drawn up in accordance with the proposals made by each Member State.

The following candidates have been proposed by the Member States:

- Hearing of **Ladislav Balko (SK)** (renewal)
- Hearing of **Mihails Kozlovs (LV)**
- Hearing of **Jan Gregor (CZ)**
- Hearing of **Janusz Wojciechowski (PL)**
- Hearing of **Anthony Abela (MT)**
- Hearing of **Samo Jereb (SL)**

Appointments or re-appointments to the ECA are submitted to Parliament's plenary on the basis of a report from CONT, which takes into account, among others circumstances, Article 286(1) of the TFEU: "the Members of the Court of Auditors shall be chosen from among persons who belong or have belonged in their respective States to external audit bodies or who are especially qualified for this office. Their independence must be beyond doubt."

### **A. Procedure**

According to Rule 121 (1) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, "candidates nominated as Members of the Court of Auditors shall be invited to make a statement before the committee responsible and answer questions put by members. The committee shall vote on each nomination separately by secret ballot."

#### **I. Questionnaires and statements**

In preparation for the hearings, the five new candidates have been asked to answer the questionnaire adopted by CONT.



The candidate for reappointment was invited to supply a summary of his experience as a Court Member and the objectives for a possible future mandate.

Each candidate's replies to the questionnaire or their summary of experiences as Court Members, in the case of reappointment, have been annexed to his draft report. The same applies to the CV of each candidate.

## ***II. The hearings***

The hearings will take place according to the timetable set out in the draft agenda.

As regards the new candidates, each candidate will have a separate hearing. The candidate will be invited to make an opening statement (5 minutes) and the remainder of his hearing will be devoted to replies to questions from Members (40 minutes).

As regards the candidate for reappointment, the hearing will take the form of a joint exchange of views. Members will have the possibility to put questions to the candidate.

## ***III. Evaluation, votes and adoption of draft reports***

Once all hearings have been completed, the committee will hold an evaluation of the candidates and then proceed to vote. Evaluation, votes and adoption of draft reports will be in camera.

According to Rule 121, the committee shall vote by secret ballot separately on each nomination.

Members will receive a list of the six candidates and should indicate for each candidate whether they give a favourable opinion, a negative opinion or abstain.

In accordance with Rule 182 (4), between two and eight Members shall be chosen by lot to count the votes cast.

The discussion and vote in plenary is scheduled to take place in the April part-session in Strasbourg.

## ***B. The reports***

The format of opinions on candidates for membership of the Court of Auditors is defined as follows<sup>1</sup>:

- a) (a) each recommendation on each nomination shall be submitted in the form of a report, to be adopted on the basis of a majority of the votes cast, with the report merely indicating the nomination;
- b) (b) the report shall consist of:
  - i. citations summarising the circumstances of the referral to Parliament;
  - ii. recitals outlining the procedure to the competent committee;
  - iii. operative text which may only consist of a favourable opinion or an unfavourable opinion;
- c) (c) citations and recitals shall not be put to the vote;"

These strict rules on procedures, before the Committee on Budgetary Control and in plenary sitting, adopted by Parliament **do not allow any amendments** to be tabled to the draft report.

The draft report will be finalised, according to the outcome of the evaluation and the vote in committee. The candidate's curriculum vitae and the answers to CONT questionnaire shall be annexed to the report (or summary for candidates for reappointment).

The draft reports in EN were emailed to Members on 10 and 23 February 2016. The report for plenary will state that Parliament delivers either a favourable or a negative opinion on the appointment of the candidate. All languages of these draft reports are available on the [CONT website](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Parliament's resolution of 4 February 2014



**CONT Timetable:**

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft report	CONT	15/03/2016
Adoption in CONT	CONT	15/03/2016
Adoption in Plenary	Plenary	APRIL I 2016

**TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2016**

15.45 - 16.30

**(IN CAMERA)**

**9. EVALUATION, VOTES AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT REPORTS**

**TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2016**

16.30 - 18.30

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**10. CONTROL OF THE REGISTER AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION'S EXPERT GROUPS**



**Consideration of working document**

Rapporteur: [Dennis de Jong](#) (GUE)

Administrator: Philippe Godts

**1. Introduction**

On 5 October 2015, the CONT Co-ordinators approved the elaboration of an own-initiative report on the Commission's Expert Groups, based on the following description:

"The own-initiative report would contain concrete recommendations for the European Commission to improve the balanced composition and transparency of its expert groups. The report could thus become the basis for the resumed informal dialogue with the Commission.

The report would elaborate on the investigations and recommendations of the European Ombudsman as well as on the findings of the BUDG/CONT study on the Composition of the Commission's expert groups and the status of the register of expert groups".

On 26 November 2015, the Conference of Committee Chairs agreed with the CONT proposal for an own-initiative report on expert groups, with the BUDG and JURI committees submitting opinions to CONT (under rule 54 for JURI committee).

On 9 February 2016, Helga Trüpel, rapporteur for BUDG Committee, submitted her draft opinion to the BUDG committee.

So far, the JURI Committee has not started yet to draft its opinion.

On 24 February 2016, the Rapporteur met informally with both a representative of the cabinet of Vice-President Timmermans, as well as representatives of the Commission's services. During that meeting, it was agreed that the Rapporteur would write a working document for CONT, spelling out his main concerns with the existing horizontal rules and his recommendations for improving those.

In his working document the Rapporteur has identified a series of concerns and recommendations regarding:

- Public calls for applications for the selection of expert group members who are not public authorities;
- How to ensure representation of all relevant interests;
- Conflicts of interest;
- Transparency of the expert groups;
- Staffing resources.

The working document is available on the [CONT website](#).

## 11. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONT MISSION TO UKRAINE

On 10 March 2016 the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament authorised a mission of the CONT Committee to Ukraine. The mission will take place during week 20 (16-20 May 2016) and should focus on the use of EU funds sent to Ukraine (including the Micro-financial Assistance) after the Maidan revolution in 2014. The mission will also try to verify whether Ukraine has shown progress in its fight against corruption.

In the light of the preparations for this mission, CONT is organising a first preliminary exchange of views with the representatives of the Commission, the EEAS and the EP Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Joint Parliamentary Committee.

## 12. ASSESSMENT OF THE EU YOUTH STRATEGY 2013-2015



### Consideration of draft opinion

Rapporteur: Derek Vaughan (S&D)  
Administrator: Tereza Pinto de Rezende  
Main Committee: CULT

The Rapporteur will present his draft opinion focusing on the results of the youth programmes existing under the programming period 2007-2013 – Lifelong learning, Youth in Action, Culture and Media - and the impact of these programmes, that were merged into the Erasmus+ programme and the Creative Europe, in the new programming period 2014-2020. The Rapporteur also presents the figures allocated to the youth unemployment through the European Social

Fund and the Youth Guarantee in the period between 2013-2015 and stresses the importance of the Youth Employment Initiative in effectively combating youth unemployment.

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

### CONT Timetable:

Event	Body	Date
Consideration of draft opinion	CONT	15/03/2016
Deadline for amendments	CONT	22/03/2016
Consideration of amendments	CONT	07/04/2016
Adoption in CONT	CONT	20/04/2016
Adoption in CULT	CULT	30/05/2016



### **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **14. NEXT MEETINGS**

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

- **22 March 2016, 15.00 - 18.30 (Brussels)**
- **23 March 2016, 9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30 (Brussels)**
- **7 April 2016, 9.00 - 12.30 (Brussels)**

#### **WATCH LIVE**

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#### **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