



Plenary sitting

A8-0258/2016

8.9.2016

REPORT

on the nomination of Lazaros Stavrou Lazarou as a Member of the Court of Auditors

(C8-0190/2016 – 2016/0807(NLE))

Committee on Budgetary Control

Rapporteur: Igor Šoltes

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PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DECISION

on the nomination of Lazaros Stavrou Lazarou as a Member of the Court of Auditors (C8-0190/2016 – 2016/0807(NLE))

(Consultation)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 286(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C8-0190/2016),
 - having regard to Rule 121 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control (A8-0258/2016),
- A. whereas Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control proceeded to evaluate the credentials of the nominee, in particular in view of the requirements laid down in Article 286(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
- B. whereas at its meeting of 5 September 2016 the Committee on Budgetary Control heard the Council's nominee for membership of the Court of Auditors;
1. Delivers a favourable opinion on the Council's nomination of Lazaros Stavrou Lazarou as a Member of the Court of Auditors;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Council and, for information, the Court of Auditors, the other institutions of the European Union and the audit institutions of the Member States.

ANNEX 1: CURRICULUM VITÆ OF LAZAROS STAVROU LAZAROU

Born in Liopetri - Famagusta, Cyprus in 1958.

Professional Qualifications

Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) since 1987.

Member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus since 1988.

Academic Qualifications

Master's degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 1996.

International Tax Program Certificate from Harvard Law School, 1996.

Bachelor of Science in Economics from Hull University, U.K., 1982.

Professional Career

From 2 November 2010: Member of the European Court of Auditors.

From 06/2016: Dean of Chamber V "Financing and administering the Union" and Member for the Annual Report.

02/2014 - 05/2016: Permanent Member of the CEAD Chamber "Coordination, Evaluation, Assurance and Development" and Member responsible for the statement of assurance.

01/2011 - 02/2014: Non-permanent Member of the CEAD Chamber, representing at first Chamber I and subsequently Chamber II.

05/2012 - 02/2014: Member of Chamber II "Structural policies, transport and energy".

11/2010 – 04/2012: Member of Chamber I "Preservation and management of natural resources".

From January 2000 to October 2010: Accountant General of the Republic of Cyprus and, in this capacity, head of the Certifying Authority for EU funds, head of the Competent Authority on public procurement and Member of the Internal Audit Board of the Republic of Cyprus.

From September 1989 to December 1999: Officer of the Inland Revenue Department of the Republic of Cyprus, reaching the post of Chief Revenue Officer.

From February 1988 to August 1989: Audit Manager with an audit firm in Cyprus.

From September 1982 to January 1988: Trained and worked as a professional accountant/auditor with audit firms in the United Kingdom.

From 2004 to 2013: Elected Member of the ACCA governing Council.

ANNEX 2: SUMMARY BY LAZAROS STAVROU LAZAROU OF EXPERIENCE AS A COURT MEMBER AND OBJECTIVES FOR A FUTURE MANDATE

Experience as Member of the European Court of Auditors

From my appointment in November 2010 to April 2012, I served in Chamber I "Preservation and management of natural resources", reporting Member for the following performance audit special reports:

- SR 5/2010 - Implementation of the LEADER approach for rural development.
- SR 12/2011 - Have EU measures contributed to adapting the capacity of the fishing fleets to available fishing opportunities?
- SR 9/2012 - Audit of the control system governing the production, processing, distribution and imports of organic products (completed by another Member).

From May 2012 to January 2014, I served in Chamber II "Structural policies, transport and energy", reporting Member for the following performance audit special reports:

- SR 3/2012 - Structural funds: Did the Commission successfully deal with deficiencies identified in the Members States' management and control systems?
- SR 25/2012 - Are tools in place to monitor the effectiveness of European Social Fund spending on older workers?
- SR 6/2014 - Cohesion policy funds support to renewable energy generation - has it achieved good results? (completed by another Member).
- SR 12/2014 - Is the ERDF effective in funding projects that directly promote biodiversity under the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020? (completed by another Member), and from September 2013 to January 2014, reporting Member for the 2013 annual report chapter 5 on regional policy, transport and energy.

In parallel, from January 2011 to January 2014, I served as a non-permanent Member of the horizontal CEAD Chamber "Coordination, Evaluation, Assurance and Development", representing at first Chamber I and subsequently Chamber II.

In February 2014, at the request of the President of the Court and my colleagues, I took over as Member responsible for the statement of assurance on the accounts of the European Union, henceforth a permanent Member of CEAD Chamber. I am responsible to coordinate the tasks related to our annual report and to ensure the consistency and adherence to the Court's audit methodology of the underlying work for the statement of assurance - reporting Member for the following tasks:

- Annual report 2013 - chapter 1 on the statement of assurance and supporting information.
- Annual report 2014 and 2015 - chapter 1 on the statement of assurance and supporting information and chapter 2 on budgetary and financial management (previously part of chapter 1).
- Agriculture and cohesion: overview of EU spending 2007-2013, published in November 2014, as an initiative (together with the frequency of detected errors by Member State in chapter 1) on country specific information or geographical insight.
- Annual report 2014+: Reform of the 2014 annual report and beyond, adopted by the Court in April 2015. Taking into consideration stakeholders' interests and concerns, this is a gradual process to develop the annual report into a more value-added tool for

our stakeholders. I chaired an internal working group for this task and I had a series of exchange of views with CONT and Council.

- Opinion 4/2015, published in March 2015, on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and amending Regulations (EU) No 1291/2013 and (EU) No 1316/2013.
- Special report on the governance arrangements at the European Commission, expected to be published in autumn 2016.

In addition, in cooperation with the European Commission, I led in:

- Reaching a common understanding on public procurement error quantification in March 2015.
- Setting an earlier publication date for our annual report and in monitoring progress towards this goal. The 2015 annual report will be published on 13 October 2016, about one month earlier than previously.

Following the reform of the Court to a task-based organisation, at the beginning of June 2016, CEAD Chamber became Chamber V taking over parts of the work of CEAD and Chamber IV "Revenue, research and internal policies, and Institutions and bodies of the EU". The principal thematic focus of Chamber V, for which I was elected Dean and in this capacity Member of the Administrative Committee, is the "Financing and administering the Union". It is also the coordinating Chamber for the annual report and, by Court decision, I continue with the same duties as Member for the Annual Report, reporting Member for chapter 1 on the statement of assurance and supporting information.

Personal objectives for a future mandate as Member of the European Court of Auditors

If I am honoured to serve for a second mandate, my personal objectives are to continue to contribute constructively to the Court's work and to further improving our products into more value-added tools for our stakeholders, taking into consideration their interests and concerns. More specifically:

- As Dean of Chamber V, prepare and chair meetings, allocate and coordinate tasks and ensure that the Chamber functions smoothly and effectively.
- As Member of the Administrative Committee and in Court, contribute to the implementation of our 2013-2017 strategy, setting our annual work programme priorities and the development and implementation of our 2018-2022 strategy.
- As Member for the Annual Report, contribute to the next steps in developing our annual report. To this end, I will continue the regular exchange of views and the constructive working relationship with the European Parliament (through CONT) and other stakeholders. I will also continue to encourage the European Commission for more focus on performance and for more reliable information on compliance so that it can be made possible to use its work in our annual report.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Title	Partial renewal of members of the Court of Auditors - CY nominee
References	09186/2016 – C8-0190/2016 – 2016/0807(NLE)
Date of consultation / request for consent	25.5.2016
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	CONT 6.6.2016
Rapporteurs Date appointed	Igor Šoltes 2.6.2016
Date adopted	5.9.2016
Result of final vote	+: 19 –: 1 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Nedzhmi Ali, Inés Ayala Sender, Zigmantas Balčytis, Martina Dlabajová, Luke Ming Flanagan, Dan Nica, Georgi Pirinski, Petri Sarvamaa, Claudia Schmidt, Igor Šoltes, Bart Staes, Marco Valli, Derek Vaughan, Joachim Zeller
Substitutes present for the final vote	Brian Hayes, Karin Kadenbach, Julia Pitera, Miroslav Poche, Patricija Šulin
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Anne Sander, Alfred Sant
Date tabled	8.9.2016