



**COUNCIL OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 8 March 2011

7350/11

**CMPT 8
PE 105
INST 128
FIN 152**

NOTE

from :	General Secretariat of the Council
to :	Delegations
Subject:	Summary of the meeting of the European Parliament Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) , held in Brussels on 3 March 2011

The meeting was chaired by Mr DE MAGISTRIS (ALDE, IT)

1. Announcements by the Chair

Mr DE MAGISTRIS reported that the exchange of views with *Maarten Engwirda*, former Member of the European Court of Auditors, had been postponed until the next meeting of the Committee.

- 1. Appointment of a Member of the European Court of Auditors
Hearing of Harald Wögerbauer
Candidate nominated by the Austrian authorities
CONT/7/05013
Rapporteur: Ms AYALA SENDER (S&D, ES)
- Evaluation, votes and adoption of draft reports (*in camera*)**

Mr Wögerbauer, the candidate nominated by the Austrian authorities for appointment as a member of the European Court of Auditors (CoA), introduced himself, and was then questioned by Ms AYALA SENDER (S&D, ES) as regards his experience in discharge issues and his political independence, given his role as Director working for the Austrian People's Party group in the Austrian Parliament. Mr Wögerbauer underlined that his role was purely administrative. He also stressed the fact that, after acting as member of staff of the Austrian Court of Auditors from 1974 to 1979, he had never in fact resigned from that post so as to preserve his independence, and he stated that he would leave his task as a Director upon appointment as a member of the Court of Auditors. After Mr GEIER (S&D, DE) raised concerns regarding decisions taken under his responsibility by the Austrian data protection council, Mr Wögerbauer clarified his management policy within that council. He agreed with Ms KÖSTINGER (EPP, AT) that cooperation between the EP and the Court of Auditors should be enhanced, and reassured Mr EHRENHAUSER (NA, AT) that he would stick to the European Court of Justice ruling concerning disclosure of subsidy recipient names in agriculture. He told Mr CHATZIMARKAKIS (ALDE, DE) that he was fully aware of the need to obtain more data from Member States, but also acknowledged that this would entail extra costs. Mr Wögerbauer considered, in general, that the European Court of Auditors should focus more on efficiency of spending, rather than on declarations of assurance.

The CONT Committee gave a favourable opinion with 13 votes in favour, 4 against and 6 abstentions.

***** Voting time *****

2. The efficiency and effectiveness of EU funding in the area of decommissioning nuclear power plants in the new Member States

CONT/7/03329, 2010/2104(INI)

Rapporteur: Mr MARINESCU (PPE, RO)

Responsible: CONT

The Committee voted on 81 amendments, 7 compromise amendments by the rapporteur and 3 oral amendments. The draft report was adopted, as amended, with 22 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

***** End of electronic vote *****

6. The future of EU budget support to developing countries

CONT/7/04801, 2010/2300(INI)

Responsible: DEVE – Mr GOERENS (ALDE, LU)

Mr STAES (Verts/ALE, BE), rapporteur for the opinion, presented his draft opinion for the Committee on Development as well as five amendments which he had tabled. He considered that budget support was increasingly seen as a good tool to be used in developing countries, as it enhanced ownership in the recipient countries and helped partnerships. Nevertheless, Mr STAES highlighted the fact that budget support should not be seen as a panacea. He insisted in particular that it needed to be complementary in nature and to be part of other forms of aid. He called upon the Commission to formulate objectives and evaluate the absorption potential of the recipient country.

Mr NOACK supported his suggestions.

The Commission representative emphasised that work towards a coordinated approach for budget support, as suggested by the rapporteur, had already been started and that reporting and monitoring would be improved considerably.

2009 Discharge: Agencies

- 7. - **2009 discharge: performance, financial management and control of the agencies**
CONT/7/04566 2010/2271(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union**
CONT/7/04044 2010/2172(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)**
CONT/7/04032 2010/2166(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Police College**
CONT/7/04061 2010/2181(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: Community Fisheries Control Agency**
CONT/7/04067 2010/2184(DEC)

- **2009 discharge: European Aviation Safety Agency**
CONT/7/04053 2010/2177(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control**
CONT/7/04057 2010/2179(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Chemicals Agency**
CONT/7/04069 2010/2185(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Environment Agency**
CONT/7/04040 2010/2170(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Food Safety Authority**
CONT/7/04055 2010/2178(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Medicines Agency**
CONT/7/04045 2010/2173(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction**
CONT/7/04038 2010/2169(DEC)
- . **2009 discharge: European Maritime Safety Agency**
CONT/7/04051 2010/2176(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)**
CONT/7/04077 2010/2192(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Railway Agency**
CONT/7/04059 2010/2180(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Training Foundation**
CONT/7/04049 2010/2175(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work**
CONT/7/04042 2010/2171(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: Euratom Supply Agency**
CONT/7/04071 2010/2186(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions**
CONT/7/04034 2010/2167(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: EUROJUST**
CONT/7/04047 2010/2174(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**
CONT/7/04036 2010/2168(DEC)

- **2009 discharge: European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (FRONTEX)**
CONT/7/04064 2010/2182(DEC)
- **2009 discharge: The European GNSS Supervisory Authority**
CONT/7/04066 2010/2183(DEC)

<i>2009 Discharge: Joint Undertakings</i>
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- **Artemis Joint Undertaking**
 CONT/7/04081 2010/2190(DEC) SEC(2010)0963[35] – C7-0250/2010
 Rapporteur: Georgios Stavrakakis (S&D) PR – PE450.709v01-00
 Responsible: CONT –

Consideration of the draft report, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, ***Harald Noack***.

Deadline for tabling amendments: 7 March 2011, 12.00

- **Clean Sky Joint Undertaking**
CONT/7/04079 2010/2189(DEC)
- **IMI Joint Undertaking**
CONT/7/04083 2010/2191(DEC)
- **European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy**
CONT/7/04073 2010/2187(DEC)
- **SESAR Joint Undertaking**
CONT/7/04075 2010/2188(DEC)

The rapporteur, Mr STAVRAKAKIS (S&D, EL), outlined the main elements of his horizontal report on agencies and Joint Undertakings, notably his concerns regarding their financial management, their human resources procedures, the management of potential conflicts of interest, the agencies' internal control systems, and their reporting, performance monitoring and governance. He proposed that a discharge should be granted to all agencies and Joint Undertakings, with the exception of the Euratom Supply Agency, the European Medicines Agency and the European Police College on which he raised concerns and proposed the postponement of the discharge decision.

Mr GERBRANDY (ALDE, NL) criticised the significant amounts carried over by the agencies to the following year. He suggested that the interinstitutional working group on agencies should investigate their efficiency and reflect on the possible benefits which could result from merging agencies. This proposal was supported by Ms ČEŠKOVÁ (ECR, CZ) and by Ms MACOVEI (EPP, RO) who considered the merging of agencies' governing boards as an intermediate solution.

Mr CHATZIMARKAKIS wondered whether the agencies and their management boards always acted in full independence, and which "code of conduct" former senior staff had to respect, after leaving an agency, when taking up new tasks in the private sector.

Mr GEIER called on the agencies' governing boards to assume more responsibility, notably in the supervision of the agencies' budget execution. Ms MATHIEU (EPP, FR) supported this idea and asked, in addition, for more internal audit results on agencies to be made publicly available.

Mr O'SHEA, Member of the Court of Auditors, confirmed the need to strengthen and further improve the agencies' working methods and procedures. He informed that a report on the benchmarking of the agencies' administrative costs and their governance would be issued in mid-2011. He emphasised that the status of the Euratom Supply Agency needed to be regularised urgently.

Mr NOACK expressed his positive opinion on the functioning of the Joint Understandings.

Deadline for tabling amendments: 7 March 2011, 12.00

3 March 2011, 12.00 – 12.30 (*In camera*)

9. **Coordinators' meeting**

10. **Any other business**

11. **Date of next meetings**

- 17 March 2011, 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)
- 22 March 2011, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)