

Committee on Budgetary Control  
The Chair

**To the Chairperson(s) of the Committee(s) concerned in the national Parliaments in Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Greece**

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that the European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control will organise an interparliamentary Conference on **“Sound management of EU funds: the EP budgetary control powers”** on **11 July 2018, from 14.30-16.30**, in the European Parliament in Brussels; which will be followed by a Hearing on **“Performance and visibility of EU funded projects in the Western Balkans with a special focus on the cross-border cooperation”** on the same day, **from 16.30 to 18.30**.

1. Interparliamentary Conference on **“Sound management of EU funds: the EP budgetary control powers”**

The aim of this conference is to share the experience of the European Parliament, and of the Budgetary Control Committee in particular, on the budgetary control powers of the European Parliament. Members of the Committee will give short presentations about different aspects of the discharge procedure, which will be followed by a discussion.

2. Hearing on **“Performance and visibility of EU funded projects in the Western Balkans with a special focus on the cross-border cooperation”**

The hearing will focus on the use of EU funds in the wider Balkan region with a particular focus on regional cooperation, both within the Western Balkan countries which have a candidate status to the EU, as well as between these countries and their EU neighbours. The European Commission and academic experts will present their papers and statements, which will then allow Members of national parliaments and the European Parliament to debate about various aspects of this cooperation.

I am therefore pleased to invite up to four Members of the competent committee(s) of each national Parliament (two from each Chamber in the case of bicameral Parliaments) to attend this meeting.

I am convinced that the cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Parliament is the key to a better protection of the European Union budget. The outcome of our exchange of views could be reflected in the report on the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2017. The rapporteur will be Inés Ayala Sender.

Should you or representatives of your Parliament be unable to attend, I would welcome a written contribution, which will be distributed to the Members of our committee and other participants.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to accept my invitation, and I am looking forward to welcoming you to the European Parliament on 11 July 2018.

Practical details concerning the organisation of both events will be communicated to you by the secretariat of the Budgetary Control Committee. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the administrator responsible for both events, Mr Michal Czaplicki ([michal.czaplicki@ep.europa.eu](mailto:michal.czaplicki@ep.europa.eu)).

Yours sincerely,



Dr Inge Gräßle

Enclosure:

- draft program of the Interparliamentary Conference on “Sound management of EU funds: the EP budgetary control powers”
- draft program of the hearing on “Performance and visibility of EU funded projects in the EU’s Neighbourhood Policy with a special focus on the cross-border cooperation between Western Balkan countries”



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# DRAFT PROGRAMME

**Interparliamentary Conference on**

***"Sound management of EU funds: the EP budgetary control powers"***

**11 July 2018 (14.30-16.30)**

**Brussels**

14.30 - 14.35	<b>Opening remarks and introduction by Chair</b>
14.35 - 14.55	<b>Presentation of the activities of the Budgetary Control Committee of the European Parliament and the role of the discharge in sound audit of public institutions</b> <u>Speaker: Ms Inge Graessle</u>
14.55 - 15.20	<b>Discharge procedure of the European Commission</b> <u>Speakers: Mr Joachim Zeller, Ms Ines Ayala Sender</u>
15.20 - 15.40	<b>Discharge procedure of the European Parliament</b> <u>Speaker: Ms Claudia Schmidt</u>

15.40 - 16.00	<p><b>Discharge procedure of other EU institutions, agencies and joint undertakings</b></p> <p><u>Speakers on other EU institutions: Mr Petri Sarvamaa (tbc), Mr Arndt Kohn</u></p> <p><u>Speakers on EU agencies: Ms Claudia Schmidt, Mr Marco Valli</u></p> <p><u>Speakers on Joint Undertakings: Mr Bryan Hayes (tbc), Ms Martina Dlabajova</u></p>
16:00-16:25	<p><b>Cooperation with the European Court of Auditors, OLAF, national audit chambers, national parliaments</b></p> <p><u>Speaker: Ms Inge Graessle</u></p>
16.25 - 16.30	<p><b>Closing remarks by the Chair</b></p>



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## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### Hearing on

***"Performance and visibility of EU funded projects in the Western Balkans with a special focus on the cross-border cooperation".***

11 July 2018 (16.30-18.30)

Brussels

16.30 - 16.35	<b>Opening remarks and introduction by Chair</b>
16.35 - 16.55	<p><b>I - National versus regional approach of EU funds in Western Balkans</b></p> <p><i>Comparison between the national oriented projects in Western Balkans and the regional oriented;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Which are more effective?</i></li> <li>• <i>Where should the EU focus more?</i></li> <li>• <i>Which projects bring better value for money?</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Speakers:</u> Presentation by Mr Blomeyer, Blomeyer and Sanz, director DG BUDG, EC (tbc)</p>
16.55 - 17.30	Questions, replies, debate

17.30 - 17.50	<p><b>II - Cross-border project cooperation in Western Balkans and their visibility to the citizens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Which projects have higher visibility - national or regional?</i></li> <li>• <i>Do the Western Balkan countries cooperate well with each other in international EU funded projects? Where do the problems lie?</i></li> <li>• <i>Is the cooperation with neighbouring EU Member States effective? If not - then why?</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Speakers:</u> Presentation by Mr Blomeyer, Blomeyer and Sanz., director DG NEAR, EC (tbc)</p>
17.50 - 18.25	Questions, replies, debate
18.25 - 18.30	Closing remarks by Chair