



Press Release

Luxembourg, 12 October 2017

Audit work must be accessible to general public, warns head of French national audit office

The general public must be informed of national and EU auditors' work and their findings, and recommendations should be accessible and understandable by as many people as possible, the head of the French national audit office has said while attending a conference in Luxembourg.

"The Constitution entrusts us with the responsibility to contribute, through our work, to informing citizens of the quality and efficiency of public governance and policies," said Didier Migaud, the First President of the French Court of Auditors. "That is why we promote citizens' awareness and develop interaction with civil society through innovative and educational communication formats, such as promotional videos and social media networks".

Mr Migaud was speaking in Luxembourg at a high-level international conference of auditors marking the 40th anniversary of the European Court of Auditors.

"Citizens' trust in public finances can only be strengthened if they see that every euro spent at EU level brings clear added value. It is clear that communicating effectively will have to play a key role in that process," added Klaus-Heiner Lehne, the President of the European Court of Auditors. *"For our part, we are determined to remain an independent voice that metes out praise when things go well, but also highlights inconvenient truths."*

Notes to Editors

The European Court of Auditors was established by the Treaty of Brussels of 22 July 1975 and started work on 18 October 1977. Its Members held their first meeting on 25 October of the same year.

The Heads of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of the European Union and the European Court of Auditors meet annually to discuss matters of common interest – focused around EU policy and financial management issues – and to agree, as needed, on joint activities when these can achieve greater impact.

This year's meeting is being hosted by the European Court of Auditors in Luxembourg on 12-13 October 2017. The main focus of discussion is whether SAIs can contribute to restoring the trust of EU citizens. The meeting includes a review of the current state of the EU and the reasons for which citizens seem to be losing trust, followed by sessions on the role of SAIs in the EU, innovative audit products and forms of communication with stakeholders.

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