



## Press Release

Luxembourg, 12 October 2017

### Involve citizens in audit planning, says head of Polish national audit office

National audit institutions should involve the public more at the planning stage of their audits, the head of the Polish national audit office has said while attending a conference in Luxembourg.

*“Citizens are likely to select audit subjects that are close to society’s concerns, real life issues which impact their everyday lives”, said Krzysztof Kwiatkowski, President of the Supreme Audit Office of Poland. “In our own audits, we address major problems that cause social frustration, and so build fresh public trust in our institution.”*

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

*“Only by auditing areas and activities which are important to citizens can we convince public opinion that we are not just part of the bureaucratic machine, but that we act to the benefit of society”, he said. “That is why each year in Poland we audit such issues as how long citizens need to wait for medical appointments and how the state counteracts smog.”*

*“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 greater involvement and engagement with our citizens 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

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