

Status Outline of EU SAI Contact Committee Activities

October 2016

Working groups, networks and task forces

1. Working Group on Structural Funds VII

2. Working Group on Activities on Value Added Tax

3. Joint Working Group on Audit Activities (JWGAA)

4. Network on National SAI Reports on EU Financial Management

5. Network on Fiscal Policy Audit

6. Network on Europe 2020 Strategy Audit

7. Working Group on European Public Sector Accounting Standards (EPSAS)

**8. Task Force on the European Banking Union
(under the umbrella of the Network on Fiscal Policy Audit)**

9. Task force for assessing the Contact Committee co-operation framework

10. Expert network on the independent assessment of national public economic policies

11. Working group on preventing and combatting irregularities and fraud

Name of WG/Network/TF	1. Working Group on Structural Funds VII
Purpose/Mandate	In 2015, the Contact Committee mandated the Working Group on Structural Funds to continue its reviews and to carry out a parallel audit on “Contribution of the Structural Funds to the Europe 2020 Strategy in the areas of Employment and/or Education”
Status/Outcome/Results in 2016	The Working Group adopted the common audit plan in February. Subsequently, the members started their national audits. They agreed to complete the audits and submit their country reports to the Core Group by December.
Links to relevant WG/Network/TF reports/documents	http://www.eca.europa.eu/sites/cc/en/Pages/WorkingGrouponStructuralFunds.aspx
Activities this year (meetings etc.)	February 2016: Adoption of audit plan by written procedure 1/2 June 2016: Meeting of Working Group to discuss experiences and questions encountered during field work
WG/Network/TF members and observers	<u>Members:</u> SAIs of the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and the Slovak Republic <u>Observers:</u> SAI of Bulgaria and the ECA <u>Core Group:</u> SAIs of Germany (Chair), the Netherlands and Malta
Name of contact person/chair of WG/Network/TF	<u>Contact persons:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martina Hampel, Bundesrechnungshof (SAI of Germany), martina.hampel@brh.bund.de • Markus Dingendorf, Bundesrechnungshof (SAI of Germany), markus.dingendorf@brh.bund.de <u>Chair:</u> Michael Klostermann, Bundesrechnungshof (SAI of Germany)
Activity Plan for 2017	The Core Group aims to draft the composite report by March. The Working Group plans to approve and submit it to the Contact Committee by October 2017.

Name of WG/Network/TF	2. Working Group on Activities on Value-Added Tax
Purpose/Mandate	<p>Forum for exchanging experiences about how the EU VAT system works, with special emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring developments in the area of VAT; • administrative cooperation between Member States; • measuring VAT loss due to fraud and assessing the effectiveness of anti-fraud policies; • tackling intra-EU VAT Fraud; • promoting cooperation on VAT audit.
Status/Outcome/Results in 2016	<p>In September 2015, the Plenary meeting of the VAT WG was held in Rome with the participation of the SAIs of Italy (Chair), Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain and ECA as members and DG TAXUD as observer.</p> <p>During the Plenary, in a dedicated session, the WG had the opportunity to share the experiences about the analysis on VAT policy and its strengths and weaknesses, with TAXUD and Italian Tax Administrations.</p> <p><u>Core Group 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draft of a special report taking into account the results of the questionnaire on the Reverse Charge and further analysis with a view to an extension of the Mechanism in the near future; • the results of the questionnaire and of the analysis have been spread among VAT WG members; • organization of the next meeting of Core Group 1 in the second half (Autumn) of 2016. <p><u>Core Group 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of the coordinated audit on EUROFISC were presented by the SAIs of Austria, Germany and Hungary during the plenary meeting held in Rome in September 2015. • Joint report about the audit on EUROFISC was published in 2015. • A common concept for the audit of e-commerce was elaborated. • The concept was spread amongst participants of the plenary meeting. • Outcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – E-commerce is of interest for many SAIs. – A parallel audit to be carried out by the German and Czech SAIs is scheduled for 2017. – Creation of a platform for other SAIs which are interested is envisaged.
Links to relevant WG/Network/TF reports/documents	<p>http://www.eca.europa.eu/sites/cc/en/Pages/WorkingGrouponValueAddedtax.aspx</p> <p>CIRCABC</p>
Activities this year (meetings etc.)	<p>Consultation among the members of the WG about the Chair for next mandate (2017 – 2019).</p> <p><u>Core Group 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned meeting in November 2016

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final draft of the analysis about the Reverse Charge Mechanism <p><u>Core Group 2</u> 6-7 October 2016: Meeting of Core Group 2 in Brussels</p>
WG/Network/TF members and observers	<p><u>Members:</u> SAIs of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom and ECA.</p> <p><u>Observer:</u> SAI of Greece</p>
Name of contact person/chair of WG/Network/TF	<p>Giovanni Coppola (SAI of Italy) – <u>Chair of Working Group</u>, Liaison Officer and Head of the International Relations Office ufficio.relazioni.internazionali@corteconti.it</p> <p>Chairmanship of the Working Group is on a rotational basis. Since April 2015 the Chair of the Working Group is the SAI of Italy.</p>
Activity Plan for 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a strong interaction and synergy between the two Core Groups. Communication of the outcomes of the activity of the WG with concise but updated information both on CIRCABC and on Contact Committee website. Handover – Takeover meeting between the SAI of Italy and the new Chair of the WG. Plenary meeting of VAT WG hosted by the new Chair SAI (TBD). <p><u>Core Group 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update information on CIRCABC, after 2016 meeting (TBD) Consultation on new mandate after the Reverse Charge issue and Planning activities. <p><u>Core Group 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting in 2017 Identification of other audit areas linked with e-commerce

Name of WG/Network/TF	3. Joint Working Group on Audit Activities (JWGAA)
Purpose/Mandate	<p>Originally a Candidate Countries Working Group set up to promote and facilitate small-scale, practical, hands-on co-operation between Candidate Country and EU Member State SAIs, the (renamed) Joint Working Group on Audit Activities (JWGAA) was established in 2002.</p> <p>The 2004 Contact Committee confirmed the JWGAA as a key element of the post-May 2004 EU enlargement framework with a mandate to contribute to maintaining working links and co-operation between the SAIs of the Contact Committee and the Presidents' Network (accessing, candidate and potential candidate countries).</p> <p>JWGAA supports the Presidents' Network (PN) by providing professional, organisational and technical advice.</p>
Status/Outcome/ Results in 2016	<p>The Swedish NAO volunteered to become the new co-chair (January 2016).</p> <p>Building on the success of the PPA I (Parallel Performance Audit) a new project was initiated (PPA II).</p> <p>Workshops in Financial Auditing field were implemented.</p> <p>Support in preparing the Conference on SAI independence (held in September 2016).</p> <p>Joining the preparatory working group dedicated to the Conference on the relations between SAIs and Parliaments planned for November 2016.</p> <p><i>For a full list of events and activities supported by the JWGAA since the last meeting, see the <u>Activities</u> section below.</i></p>
Links to relevant WG/Network/TF reports/documents	<p>www.contactcommittee.eu</p> <p>CIRCABC</p>
Activities since last meeting (meetings etc.)	<p>Workshop on Audit materiality and sampling co-ordinated by the JWGAA with the support of the SAI Albania, Swedish NAO and the ECA (November 2015, Vlora).</p> <p>Meeting of the Liaison Officers of the Presidents' Network (February 2016, Sarajevo).</p> <p>Introductory Meeting on Parallel Performance Audit (PPA II) co-ordinated by the Swedish NAO and the ECA with the support of the JWGAA (February 2016, Luxembourg – ECA premises).</p> <p>Meeting of the Liaison Officers of the Presidents' Network (April 2016, Riga).</p> <p>Roundtable event on Audit opinions co-ordinated by the JWGAA with the support of the SAI Serbia, Swedish NAO and SIGMA (April 2016, Belgrade).</p> <p>First Workshop on Parallel Performance Audit II with the support of the Swedish NAO and the ECA (April 2016, Podgorica).</p>

	<p>Second Workshop on Parallel Performance Audit II with the support of the Swedish NAO and the ECA (June 2016, Pristina).</p> <p>Conference on SAIs independence with the support of SIGMA (September 2016, Sarajevo).</p> <p>Third Workshop on Parallel Performance Audit II with the support of the Swedish NAO and ECA (October 2016, Stockholm).</p>
WG/Network/TF members and observers	<p><u>Members:</u> All members of the Contact Committee and Presidents' Network.</p> <p><u>Observers:</u> N/A</p>
Name of contact person/chair of WG/Network/TF	<p><u>Contact persons and co-chairs:</u></p> <p>Dragos Budulac, Romanian Court of Accounts, dragos.budulac@rcc.ro</p> <p>Isabelle Berglund, Swedish NAO, isabelle.berglund@riksrevisionen.se</p>
Activity Plan for 2017	<p>Facilitating CC support to specific network meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops, projects or initiatives, in cooperation with the Swedish NAO, ECA and SIGMA as well as with other interested EU Member State SAIs</p> <p>(e.g. Series of <u>Workshops on Financial Auditing planned for the second half of the year 2017 or earlier if needed</u> as well as continuation of the workshop events in the context <u>of the parallel performance audit project – PPA II</u>).</p> <p>Report to the 2017 Contact Committee and EU SAI Liaison Officers, as well as to the Presidents' Network SAI Liaison Officers Meeting.</p>

Name of WG/Network/TF	4. Network on National SAI Reports on EU Financial Management
Purpose/Mandate	<p>The main purpose of the Network and its Working Group predecessor is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To stimulate and support national SAIs wishing to produce overall EU reports on EU financial management; 2. To develop common elements in these reports on the basis of country comparisons; 3. To exchange information on the situation in Member States in the field of EU financial management.
Status/Outcome/Results in 2016	<p>The viability and purposefulness of the continuation of the Network has been reassessed in 2016. Given that no suggestions and proposals for future activities of the Network have been brought forward, it is proposed that it be closed down at the 2016 CC meeting in Bratislava. New ideas and suggestions for new activities could be communicated via the Liaison Officers' network.</p>
Links to relevant WG/Network/TF reports/documents	<p>http://www.contactcommittee.eu</p>
Activities this year (meetings etc.)	<p>Aside from the viability assessment of the continuation of the Network no activities have been held in 2016.</p> <p><i>Short recapitulation of the main activities the Workgroup / Network (2004-2016)</i></p> <p>Following the first publication of the EU Trend Report by the Netherlands Court of Audit, the Contact Committee instituted the Working Group later to become Network at its 2003 Prague meeting. Over the past thirteen years this co-operation among EU SAIs has achieved a number of results. When it started in 2004 only three national SAIs were drafting overall reports on EU financial management (UK, DK and NL) and over the years new ones followed, culminating in some 15 national SAIs (also AT, CY, CZ, DE, EE, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, SI, SK) having published such a report since then. The numerous meetings, seminars, discussions and exchanges of information that have been conducted within the framework of the Working Group / Network have been instrumental in achieving this result. The activities of the Working Group / Network have also given EU SAIs insight into how other SAIs deal with EU financial management matters within their specific national context and in the process have strengthened bilateral and multilateral co-operation among SAIs. In the end 26 EU SAIs have participated in one or more activities of the Working Group / Network.</p>
WG/Network/TF members and observers	<p>The Network is in principle open to all EU SAIs. <u>The following SAIs have participated in its activities:</u> Netherlands (chair), Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, the UK and the European Court of Auditors.</p>

Name of contact person/chair of WG/Network/TF	<p><u>Contact person</u> for the network is Jan van den Bos – Netherlands Court of Audit (jmm.vandenbos@rekenkamer.nl).</p> <p>The chairmanship of the Network and its Working Group has been held by the NCA.</p>
Activity Plan for 2017	<p>The Contact Committee is requested to close down the Network at its 2016 meeting in Bratislava.</p> <p>Simultaneously it is called upon to continue giving structural attention to the accountability reporting on EU financial management at the Member State level and to fit new ways to co-operate in the field of EU financial management into its current reassessment of the CC co-operation framework.</p>

Name of WG/Network/TF	5. Network on Fiscal Policy Audit
Purpose/Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fiscal Policy Audit Network was founded in 2008 (Contact Committee Resolution CC-R-2008-4), based on a joint activity proposal presented by the SAIs of Finland and Sweden. The CC Resolution CC-R-2009-03 further recognized the Network. • The purpose of the Network is : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to improve methodologies and practices in auditing national fiscal policy, by making use of best practice and sharing of information between SAIs active in this subject area; – constitute a network of practitioners and sharing information with SAIs interested in the subject area. • The activities of the Network cover benchmarking (best practices, gathering data), information sharing and organising workshops and seminars to disseminate the available information on Fiscal Policy Audit related topics.
Status/Outcome/Results in 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Network’s focus is on developing best practices and information exchange. The Network serves as a forum for fiscal policy and public finance audit professionals, with the aim to share methodological questions and know-how. • The annual seminars have served as a fruitful meeting-point for practitioners from different SAIs. The seminars have covered a range of themes, from discussing audit methodology to presenting various audit results or audit topics. The participation in seminars has been very active and the number of participating countries has increased year to year. The deepening of economic governance in EU and the weakening of financial perspectives of governments have affected the discussions. • In 2016 the Network launched a parallel audit under the theme of Underlying Risks to the Sustainability of Public Finances. The related working group is chaired by Sweden and other participating countries include the Netherlands, Finland, Portugal, Latvia and Slovak Republic.
Links to relevant WG/Network/TF reports/documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to the network extranet: https://verify.poutapilvi.fi/vtv/http/www.vtv.fi/extranet <p>Extranet contains all the material, including presentations that have been distributed at the Network meetings.</p>
Activities this year (meetings etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Network’s Annual Seminar was hosted by the SAI of Slovenia in Brdo pri Kranju, on the 26th May 2016. • The main themes in the seminar were transparent and true and fair view of central government finances, covering various subjects also from accounting perspective, and the sustainability of public finances. Fiscal policy rules and experiences from national fiscal policy were also covered. • Results of ECA’s audit on the implementation of EDP by Commission were discussed and the importance of ensuring the quality of underlying fiscal data was addressed. • Through participants’ presentations, the seminar also covered the following theme: accountable and effective banking supervision (post SSM).

WG/Network/TF members and observers	<p><u>Members:</u> SAIs of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, France, Spain and the European Court of Auditors</p> <p><u>Observers:</u> Representatives of the SAIs of Estonia, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Slovak Republic and the UK have participated in network meetings.</p>
Name of contact person/chair of WG/Network/TF	<p><u>Contact person:</u> Ms Sini Salmi, National Audit Office of Finland, email sini.salmi@vtv.fi</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Mr Marko Männikkö, Deputy Director General, National Audit Office of Finland, email marko.mannikko@vtv.fi</p> <p><u>Vice Chair:</u> Mr Matti Okko, Director for Fiscal Policy Audit, National Audit Office of Finland, email matti.okko@vtv.fi</p>
Activity Plan for 2017	<p>The ongoing parallel audits on Underlying risks to the sustainability of public finances and on Banking supervision post SSM will be finalized in 2017.</p> <p>The following Fiscal Policy Audit Network seminar will take place in spring 2017 in Malta. Outcome of the two parallel audits will be then highlighted. Information-sharing on national activities and dissemination of methodological information will continue.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the network will continue to exchange information and improve methodologies and practices in auditing issues material to the overall situation of the public finances and material to fiscal policy and budgeting.</p> <p>The Network will be informed on the developments of the Banking Union and of EPSAS. The Network will discuss the following themes: sustainability of public finances, transparency of central government finances including contingent liabilities, the implementation of the European economic governance, and SAI activities linked to the audits of their national implementation.</p>

Name of WG/Network/TF	6. Network on Europe 2020 Strategy Audit
Purpose/Mandate	Forum for sharing experience and knowledge in the audit of Europe 2020 Strategy related topics and a useful tool in the articulation of the activity of SAI's - CC Resolution 2012.
Status/Outcome/Results in 2016	During 2016 several SAIs started performing work in the field of the Europe 2020 Strategy both in a coordinated way and at a national level: i) 11 SAIs are conducting a coordinated audit within the Working Group on Structural Funds on the "Contribution of the Structural Funds to the Europe 2020 Strategy in the areas of Employment and/or Education"; ii) 3 SAIs are conducting a coordinated audit on "Revealing the good practices of graduate career tracking systems", and iii) 2 SAIs have ongoing work arising from Network inspiration for audit themes - "Effectiveness of EU regional policy" and "Investment in vocational education and training and the labour market needs". The Network's Annual Seminar was hosted by the SAI of Finland in Helsinki on the 3rd June 2016; the Seminar's conclusions acknowledge the Network as an important forum to exchange and stimulate SAI's work to give particular attention to the developing of tools for auditing the quality of Europe 2020 Strategy indicators and targets.
Links to relevant WG/Network/TF reports/documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish National Audit website (www.vtv.fi) • Portuguese Court of Auditors website (www.tcontas.pt or more directly http://www.fpan-europa2020.tcontas.pt/default.aspx)
Activities this year (meetings etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A representative of the Network Chair participated in the meetings of the two coordinated audits - "Revealing the good practices of graduate career tracking systems" on the 3rd November 2015 in Budapest, and of the audit within the Working Group on Structural Funds on the 18th and 19th November 2015 in Luxembourg – in order to maximize the articulation on the audit works concerning Europe 2020 Strategy as well as the information sharing among the Network members. • The Network's Annual Seminar was held in Helsinki on the 3rd June 2016 with the aim to continue stimulating SAIs work at a national level and in a parallel manner by sharing methodologies and good practices.
WG/Network/TF members and observers	<u>Members:</u> The activities of the Network are open to all EU SAIs. 16 SAIs participated in the 2016 joint seminar: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Sweden, and also the European Court of Auditors.
Name of contact person/chair of WG/Network/TF	<u>Contact person:</u> Ana Furtado (Director) - anafurtado@tcontas.pt <u>Chair:</u> José Luis Pinto Almeida (Member of the Portuguese Court of Auditors) - (pinto.almeida@tcontas.pt)
Activity Plan for 2017	Network activities should continue promoting SAI auditing on the extent to which national measures will contribute to the achievement of Europe 2020 Strategy targets. In this context, the Network chair in 2017 will conduct a survey in order to

	collect information on audits carried out by SAIs since 2012 on Europe 2020 Strategy related topics. The annual seminar is planned for June 2017.
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Name of WG/Network/TF	7. Task Force on EPSAS (European Public Sector Accounting Standards)
Purpose/Mandate	In 2013, the Contact Committee decided to set up a Task Force of interested SAIs. The aim was to monitor the process launched by the European Commission to develop European Public Sector Accounting Standards, to take a role in the working groups of the COM and to report to the CC.
Status/Outcome/Results in 2016	The reporting SAIs of France and Germany have continuously monitored ongoing developments. In particular, they have reported on activities undertaken both by the EPSAS Working Group (since September 2015) and by their sub-working groups (“cells”). Since the Commission did not publish a Communication on EPSAS, it was not possible to plan any further activities of the Task Force on EPSAS based on such policy document.
Links to relevant WG/Network/TF reports/documents	http://www.eca.europa.eu/sites/cc/en/Pages/EPSAS-Task-force.aspx
Activities in 2016 (meetings etc.)	No meeting.
WG/Network/TF members and observers	<u>Members:</u> SAIs of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, European Court of Auditors, Finland, France (chair), Germany (chair), Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK
Name of contact person/chair of WG/Network/TF	<u>Chair:</u> Dominique Pannier (SAI of France) Christine Rabenschlag (SAI of Germany) <u>Contact person:</u> SAI of Germany: Ralf Olheide, Ralf.Olheide@brh.bund.de SAI of France: Lionel Vareille, LVareille@ccomptes.fr
Activity Plan for 2017	The reporting SAIs of France and Germany will continue monitoring current developments and will report on these accordingly. The SAIs are requested to specify questions still open, to raise awareness among their national parliaments, governments and finance ministries, and to play a more active role in the EPSAS process. The Chair will suggest to the Task Force on EPSAS to hold a meeting in 2017 in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • get an overview on the situation in the individual Member States; • urge for a Commission Communication to answer open questions related to the EPSAS process;

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop a coordinated stance of the Contact Committee vis-à-vis the Commission and European Parliament. |
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Name of WG/Network/TF	8. Task Force on the European Banking Union (under the umbrella of the Network on Fiscal Policy Audit)
Purpose/Mandate	The Contact Committee (CC) decided in October 2014 to set up a Task Force on the European Banking Union. The mandate of the Task Force is to prepare a collaborative audit on banking supervision and to conduct a comprehensive mapping survey on the EU SAIs' national mandates in auditing banking supervision.
Status/Outcome/Results in 2016	All participating SAIs reported that they are on track with their audit so that the parallel audit can be finalised in time for the Contact Committee (CC) meeting in 2017. The Task Force identified three audit gaps regarding the audit of the prudential supervision and reported them to the European Commission (Attachment 1). The Task Force strongly requests the European Commission to take the audit gaps into account in its Art. 32 review of the SSM-regulation. Furthermore, the Task Force encourages the European Commission to propose a strengthening of the ECA's mandate concerning the audit of the ECB's single supervisory mechanism, including clarifying the scope of Art. 20(7) SSM regulation, and/or changing Art. 20(7) SSM regulation and Art. 27(2) ESCB and ECB Statute, if necessary.
Links to relevant WG/Network/TF reports/document	Not yet available
Activities this year (meetings etc.)	The Task Force on European Banking Supervision met on 22-24 June 2016 in Bonn, Germany. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress on the parallel audit of banking supervision of less significant institutions (LSIs) as well as to exchange experiences. The Core Group will meet in October 2016 to draft and circulate a template for the country reports to be completed by participating SAIs no later than 31 January 2017.
WG/Network/TF members and observers	<u>Members:</u> SAIs of Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Malta, the Netherlands, Sweden and the European Court of Auditors. The French SAI informed the TF in June 2016 that it is undertaking similar audit activities starting September 2016 (tbc); the results may also be included in the TF's report to the CC in 2017. <u>Observers:</u> SAIs of Finland, Hungary, and Romania. <u>Core Group:</u> SAIs of Germany, the Netherlands, and the European Court of Auditors
Name of contact person/chair of WG/Network/TF	<u>Contact persons:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uwe Schreiner, Bundesrechnungshof (SAI of Germany), uwe.schreiner@brh.bund.de • Peter van Roozendaal, Algemene Rekenkamer (SAI of the Netherlands), P.vanRoozendaal@rekenkamer.nl

	<u>Chair:</u> The Netherlands Court of Audit and the German SAI
Activity Plan for 2017	The Task Force (CG and other audit participants) is expected to meet again in January 2017 and May 2017 (tbc) to discuss audit results and draft the final report.

Name of WG/Network/TF	9. Task force for assessing the Contact Committee co-operation framework
Purpose/Mandate	<p>The purpose of the task force is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review and assess the strengths and weaknesses of Contact Committee cooperation, focusing on the last five years; • assess where the challenges lie for making the Contact Committee cooperation most effective; and • make proposals for meeting those challenges and determining the next steps.
Status/Outcome/Results in 2016	The task force (TF) has accomplished its mandate. At their meeting in Riga (7 April 2016), the liaison officers approved the TF report and recommendations, which will be submitted to the CC 2016 for approval.
Links to relevant WG/Network/TF reports/documents	http://www.contactcommittee.eu CIRCABC
Activities this year (meetings etc.)	<p>In March 2016, the TF met in Luxembourg, at the premises of the European Court of Auditors, to discuss the survey findings and the draft version of the TF report.</p> <p>The TF issued:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a summary of the replies to the survey, categorizing, summarizing and aggregating the comments made by the responding SAIs; 2) the TF report, including a review and assessment of CC strengths, weaknesses and challenges, as well as corresponding recommendations to enhance and improve CC co-operation; and 3) a proposed revision of the CC Mission Statement.
WG/Network/TF members and observers	<p><u>Members:</u> SAIs of Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the European Court of Auditors (chair)</p>
Name of contact person/chair of WG/Network/TF	<p><u>Contact person:</u> Elisabeth Franco, Head of Unit, Liaison Office and Protocol, European Court of Auditors, liaison.officer@eca.europa.eu</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Geoffrey Simpson, Liaison Officer, European Court of Auditors, liaison.officer@eca.europa.eu</p>
Activity Plan for 2017	-

Name of WG/Network/TF	10. Expert network on the independent assessment of national public economic policies
Purpose/Mandate	Enhancement of cooperation among SAIs with reference to the independent assessments in the reports presented to national Parliaments. Realize a framework based on the experiences related to reporting on and evaluating the national economic policy at all levels of Government in order to exchange the "best practices" with the interest to examine the methodologies followed as well as the relationships among the most important national economic institutions.
Status/Outcome/Results in 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaire spread among EU SAIs • Replies of the questionnaire collected, synthesized and shared with member SAIs in view to discuss the document in a Seminar to be held on October 2016.
Links to relevant WG/Network/TF reports/documents	http://www.eca.europa.eu/sites/cc/en/Pages/Expert-network-on-the-independent-assessment-of-national-public-economic-policies.aspx
Activities this year (meetings etc.)	A kick-off meeting, including a Seminar session, was held in Rome on 5-7 October 2016. The SAIs of Italy, Croatia, France, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Slovakia attended the meeting. The meeting provided the possibility for SAIs to establish a common basis for analysing the variety of models for assessing national public economic policies in the countries represented in the expert network while showing the SAIs' differing views on the assessment of public policies by the Fiscal Councils. The meeting also addressed the need for SAIs to find a balance between their obligations related to auditing budgetary discipline and those related to the evaluation of services provided to citizens. One of the conclusions was that SAIs should organise trainings to strengthen relevant methodologies and techniques and that other CC SAIs are welcome to join and contribute to the activities of the network.
WG/Network/TF members and observers	<u>Members:</u> the SAIs of Italy (Chair), Croatia, France, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Slovak Republic <u>Observers:</u> Slovenia
Name of contact person/chair of WG/Network/TF	Giovanni Coppola (SAI of Italy) – <u>Chair of Working Group</u> , Liaison Officer and Head of the International Relations Office ufficio.relazioni.internazionali@cor.teconti.it
Activity Plan for 2017	To be defined after the meeting held in Rome in October 2016 (a report on the results of the meeting was presented at the 2016 CC meeting).

Name of WG/Network/TF	11. Working group on preventing and combatting irregularities and fraud
Purpose/Mandate	Enhancement of cooperation among SAIs with reference to the prevention and fight against irregularities and fraud aimed at protecting EU revenues. Promotion of common monitoring actions in the different Member States, formulate ameliorating proposals to improve the current European Regulations and develop best practices in order to reach a comprehensive harmonization of the activities concerning the prevention and fight against irregularities and fraud.
Status/Outcome/ Results in 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the results emerged in the context of the Hercule Programme 1 and 2 and of the Seminar on “Prevention and fight against irregularities and fraud aimed at protecting EU revenues: profiles of harmonization and coordination within the activity of the SAIs” held in September 2014 at the Corte dei conti, under the Italian Presidency of the EU, and organized together with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Department of European Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. • Individuation of the perspective instruments of cooperation, in particular: the supply of an international data base for SAIs on the basis of the experience developed for the national and OLAF databases. • Planning a meeting to be held in the first months of 2017.
Links to relevant WG/Network/TF reports/documents	http://www.eca.europa.eu/sites/cc/en/Pages/Working-group-on-preventing-and-combatting-irregularities-and-fraud.aspx
Activities this year (meetings etc.)	See above.
WG/Network/TF members and observers	<u>Members:</u> the SAIs of Italy (Chair), Belgium, Croatia, France, Latvia, Portugal, Romania, ECA <u>Observers:</u> Lithuania
Name of contact person/chair of WG/Network/TF	Giovanni Coppola (SAI of Italy) – <u>Chair of Working Group</u> , Liaison Officer and Head of the International Relations Office ufficio.relazioni.internazionali@corteconti.it
Activity Plan for 2017	Planned meeting for the first months of 2017.