



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgetary Control

PROGRAMME

Committee on Budgetary Control Interparliamentary Committee Meeting with National Parliaments

“Towards better spending – Models of parliamentary scrutiny of expenditure”

Thursday, 14 November 2013 - 9h00 - 12h30

European Parliament

Room: József Antall building (4Q2)

Brussels

8.00 - 9.00 Registration of participants from national Parliaments

9.00 - 9.10 Welcome and introductory remarks

Mr **Michael Theurer**, Chair, Committee on Budgetary Control,
European Parliament

Expenditure Scrutiny Models from around the EU

09.10 – 10.40 Keynote speaker: Ms **Jolita Vaickienė**, Chair, Committee on Audit, Seimas of
the Republic of Lithuania

Key questions for the debate

Budgetary scrutiny allows Parliaments to hold the executive accountable for the use of public resources and promote improvements in their management. This normally involves an examination of public sector accounts and an assessment of the extent to which they were used for the purpose indicated when the budget was adopted.

- How does your Parliament scrutinise expenditure?
- Are performance audits appropriate tools to provide for a sound financial management?
- Has the economic crisis triggered reforms on budgetary scrutiny in your country?

Debate between Members of national Parliaments and Members of the European Parliament

Best practice on rules for funds under shared management

10.40 - 12.20 Keynote speaker: Mr **Vitor Manuel da Silva Caldeira**, President of the European Court of Auditors

Key questions for the debate

About three quarters of the EU budget are spent under what is known as "shared management", with EU member states actually distributing funds and managing expenditure. This especially concerns EU regional policy and the common agricultural policy. EU funds spent by the Member States appear in the national accounts and an examination of the national budget will necessarily include an examination of such funds.

When implementing the budget under shared management, the European Commission and the Member States commit to respect the principles of sound financial management, transparency and non-discrimination and to fulfill their respective control and audit obligations in a proportional way.

- How can we ensure that EU funds deliver results on the ground?
- Do the current rules strike the right balance between budgetary control on the one hand, and the cutting of red tape and administrative burden on the other?
- Is the current audit strategy of the EU funds under shared management efficient?
- Are the reforms of EU regional policy and the common agricultural policy delivering on budgetary control and transparency aspects?

Debate between Members of national Parliaments and Members of the European Parliament

12.20 - 12.30 Conclusions: Mr **Michael Theurer**, Chair, Committee on Budgetary Control, European Parliament

12.30 Sandwich lunch