



Brussels, 8 March 2019  
(OR. en)

7269/19

CMPT 5  
INST 70

#### 'I' ITEM NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee

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Subject: Partial renewal of the Members of the European Court of Auditors (2020)  
- Approval of a letter

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1. By letter dated 31 January 2019<sup>1</sup>, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) informed the Council of the end of the term of office of seven Members of the ECA:
  - end of the term of office on 1 January 2020:
    - Mr Henri GRETHEN (Luxembourg)
    - Mr Alex BRENNINKMEIJER (the Netherlands)
    - Ms Danièle LAMARQUE (France)
    - Mr Nikolaos MILIONIS (Greece)
    - Mr Phil Wynn OWEN (United Kingdom) and
  - end of the term of office on 1 March 2020:
    - Mr Klaus-Heiner LEHNE (Germany)
    - Mr Oskar HERICS (Austria).

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<sup>1</sup> 7264/19

2. Article 286(1) and (2), first subparagraph, (TFEU) states that:

*"1. The Members of the Court of Auditors shall be chosen from among persons who belong or have belonged in their respective States to external audit bodies or who are especially qualified for this office. Their independence must be beyond doubt.*

*2. The Members of the Court of Auditors shall be appointed for a term of six years. The Council, after consulting the European Parliament, shall adopt the list of Members drawn up in accordance with the proposals made by each Member State. The term of office of the Members of the Court of Auditors shall be renewable".*

3. In order to ensure the continuity of ECA's work, the new Members of the ECA should be appointed no later than the end of December 2019.

4. Member States concerned should therefore send their proposals to the General Secretariat no later than **31 August 2019**. To that effect the General Secretariat will send a letter to the Member States concerned.<sup>2</sup>

5. It is therefore suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee approve the attached reply letter to the European Court of Auditors, in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure (Article 19(7)(k)).

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<sup>2</sup> The Member of the ECA to be nominated by the United Kingdom will only discharge his or her duties if the United Kingdom is still a member of the European Union on 1 January 2020, for a term of office which shall end on 1 January 2026 or on the date on which that Member State withdraws from the EU, whichever comes first.

Draft reply

From: Council of the European Union

To: Secretary-General of the European Court of Auditors

Sir,

In reply to your letter of 31 January 2019 concerning the nomination of Members to replace seven Members of the European Court of Auditors whose mandates expire in January and March 2020, I inform you that the General Secretariat will request the Member States concerned to send their proposals no later than 31 August 2019.

In order to ensure the continuity of the European Court of Auditor's work, the Council Decisions appointing the Members of the Court should be adopted no later than the end of December 2019. To that end, the procedure for the appointment of the Members should start in sufficient time for the Council to allow for the consultation of the European Parliament in September 2019.

(Complimentary close)

Luminița Teodora ODOBESCU  
Chair of the  
Permanent Representatives Committee