



Improving National Accountability of EU funds

List of participants



Interparliamentary Conference
The Hague, 28-29 January 2010



INTRODUCTION

The Interparliamentary Conference ‘Improving National Accountability of EU funds’ on 28 and 29 January 2010 is hosted by the Public Expenditure Committee together with the committee on European Affairs of the House of Representatives, in cooperation with the committee on Finance of the Senate.

Chair of the Public Expenditure Committee is Mr. Charlie B. Aptrout. The meeting will be chaired by Mr. Stef Blok, member of the Public Expenditure Committee.

During the morning session “Accountability in Europe” introductions will be made by Mr. De Magistris, chair of the Budget Control Committee of the European Parliament and by Prof. Bonnici, member of the European Court of Auditors. Also Mr. De Nerée tot Babberich, member of the Dutch Parliament will give an introduction.

The afternoon session will focus on the Member State perspectives, an introduction will be made by Mr. De Vries, member of the Dutch Court of Audit.

SPEAKERS



Luigi de Magistris

Luigi de Magistris, born in Naples on 20 June 1967, is a member of the European Parliament since June 2009 (elected by 415,646 votes) in the political group Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe. Before becoming a member of the European Parliament he was a prosecutor in Italy (from 1996 till 2008).

At this moment Mr. De Magistris is Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control of the European Parliament. He is also a member of the Conference of the Committee Chairs and of the delegation of relations with the Mashreq countries.

Mr. De Magistris is a substitute member of the Committee on Regional Development, of the delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council and of the delegation to the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly.

Mr. De Magistris went to High School at liceo classico “Pansini”, Naples (humanistic subjects). Now he holds a bachelor Law, Università Federico II, Naples.



Josef Bonnici

Josef Bonnici was born in Birzebbuga (Malta) in 1953.

Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Arts from Simon Fraser University, Canada. Doctor of Humanities Honoris Causa, Rikkyo University, Japan. Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economics, University of Malta. Professor of Economics.

Josef Bonnici lectured at Deakin University, Australia, from 1980 until 1988, and at the University of Malta from 1988 to 2004. Between 1988 and 1992 he held the post of Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malta in the field of economic Policy, including income tax reform. From 1994 until 1995 Josef Bonnici was Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. His duties were related to Economic Policy.

From 1995 to 1996 and from 1998 to 2003 Josef Bonnici served as Minister for Economic Services. His responsibilities included economic development policy, the national statistics office, competition policy and government investments including the electricity, water and telecom companies, the national airline, Malta Shipyards, Malta International Airport and the Freeport.

In 1992, and then in 1996, 1998 and 2003 Josef Bonnici was elected a Member of the House of Representatives of Malta. He was a Member of the Public Accounts Committee, Foreign and European Affairs Committee and the Malta-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee. He also represented Malta in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (1992-1995).

In addition, from 2003 to May 2004, Josef Bonnici was an Observer Member of the European Parliament, where he took part in the meetings of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee as well as of the Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism Committee.

Josef Bonnici is member of the European Court of Auditors since 7 May 2004, he was one of the Members responsible for Audit Group II “Structural policies, transport, research and energy” until 8 March 2006.

On 9 March 2006, Josef Bonnici became the Member responsible for the Court’s Statement of Assurance (DAS) in the CEAD Group (Coordination, communication, evaluation, assurance, development) and since February 2008 he has been Dean of the Group.



Gijs de Vries

Gijs de Vries, born in New York on 22 February 1956, became Vice-President of the Netherlands Court of Audit in October 2008. Before joining the Court of Audit, Mr. De Vries was a Senior Fellow at Clingendael, the Netherlands Institute for International Relations. Between 2004 and 2007 he worked in Brussels as the European Union's anti-terrorism coordinator. As a special ambassador, he was responsible in 2004 for the Dutch preparations for the European foreign service. He was also a member of the Expert Committee appointed for the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (from 2003 to 2004) and represented the Dutch government in the Convention on the Future of the European Union (from 2002 to 2003).

Between 1998 and 2002 Mr. De Vries was State Secretary for the Interior and Kingdom Relations in the second Kok government and from May to October 2002 a member of the House of Representatives for the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD).

Between 1984 and 1994 Mr. De Vries was a member of the European Parliament and from 1994 to 1998 Chair of the Liberal and Democratic Group in the European Parliament.

Gijs de Vries studied political science at the University of Leiden. Following his graduation, he worked at the same university as a research assistant in the Political Science department of the Law Faculty. He was a member of Leiden municipal council from 1982 to 1984.



Frans de Nerée tot Babberich

Frans De Nerée tot Babberich is a member of the House of Representatives of the Dutch Parliament since June 11, 2002. He is the Financial Spokesman for the Christian Democratic Party in the House of Representatives. He is a member of the standing Committees for Finance, Public Expenditure, Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs and for European Affairs.

Before being elected to the Dutch Parliament Frans De Nerée tot Babberich was posted at the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands with the European Union in Brussels (from June 1995 till June 2002). He was the representative of the Ministry of Finance at the Permanent Representation charged with Fiscal and Customs Affairs.

From the beginning of 1990 till the end of 1994 he was seconded to the Netherlands Embassy in Washington by the Netherlands Ministry of Finance. As Financial Counsellor he was responsible for dealing with financial and taxation matters in the bilateral relationship between the United States and the Netherlands.

Before coming to Washington Mr. De Nerée tot Babberich was head of the Bilateral International Fiscal Affairs Department at the Ministry of Finance in the Hague.

Mr. De Nerée tot Babberich earned his law degree from the University of Leyden in 1971. He started his career as an Assistant Professor in Commercial Law at the Leyden University. In 1974 he earned a degree in Tax Law in Leyden. Subsequently he held several positions in the Netherlands Tax Department (the Dutch IRS) first as Inspector of Taxes and later as Chief Inspector of Taxes. From 1980 to 1990 Mr. De Nerée combined his professional activities with a chief editorship of a bi-monthly newsletter on taxes and financial affairs. From 1985 to 1990 he was also the deputy chairman of the Netherlands Central Association of Investment Clubs.

Mr. Nerée tot Babberich, who is married and has two children, has also held and still holds positions in several other organisations. He is a member of several professional organisations.

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