



**EU CONTACT COMMITTEE 2017 JOINT SEMINAR**  
**FISCAL POLICY AUDIT NETWORK AND EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY AUDIT NETWORK**  
**Malta, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017**

**Europe 2020 Strategy Audit Network**

**CONCLUSIONS**

**I – Parallel Audits on Europe 2020 Strategy**

Work from the parallel audits presented at the Seminar proved to be an important way to get audit teams closer and in this context provide an opportunity to develop common approaches with a positive impact in the promotion of common tools that facilitate the production of comparable results on the selected subjects.

To minimize the costs of parallel audits work and maximize their results, the members' SAI of the Network emphasised the need to reinforce the planning phase and the communication strategy.

**II – National Audits on Europe 2020 Strategy**

1. The network participants took note on the results of the national audits conducted by the SAI of Austria, Bulgaria and Portugal. They analysed the use of public funds in areas with impact in the targets of Europe 2020 Strategy, namely R&D and education. Overall the three audits found some complexity related to the use of the public funds allocated in the promotion of the targets: a diversity of players using different methodologies in the planning phase (the Portuguese Audit), a confusingly complex funding system (the Austrian Audit) and an insignificant contribution to the R&D indicator (the Bulgarian Audit).
2. From the questionnaire conducted by the Chair of the Network, participants took note that since 2012, 16 SAIs worked on 155 audits (on average: 3 audits reports published every two years). Those audits covered all the five headline targets. Climate and energy was the most audited. **Education** was identified as a priority for auditing at a national level. At a coordinated level, **climate and energy** was identified as the most relevant issue. There is a diversity of approaches on auditing the Europe 2020 Strategy and still not a common set of indicators making possible a comparable approach.

**III – Future of the Network**

The Chair of the Network called on participants to discuss on the continuity, or not, of the Network. Participants: (i) supported the value added received from the previous 6 seminars, (ii) considered the existence of scope for future work particularly given the timeframe of the Strategy with projects arriving to an end with potential to be audited, and (iii) raised the need to have more information on the Commission plans about the future of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Within this context, it was agreed that further consideration should be given to this question, in order to make a concrete proposal to the 2018 Contact Committee.