

Topic 2: Planning and Coordination of CAP Audit - Summary

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- Coordination of CAP audits.
- The experience of SAIs as certification bodies



Coordination

6 presentations:

- 1) Coordination of CAP audits *by Mr Edward Fennessy, European Court of Auditors*
- 2) Coordination of CAP audits: ACA's experience *by Ms Margit Spindelegger, SAI of Austria*
- 3) CAP audits in the Dutch member state declaration *by Ms Simone Melis, SAI of the Netherlands*



- 4) Working Group on Common Auditing Standards
by Alan Findlay, European Court of Auditors
- 5) Audit Activities of CAP set out in Spain and possible improvements *by Mr Fausto Casla and Mr José Manuel Reus García – Bendoya, SAI of Spain*
- 6) External Controls at the SAIF *by Tereza Vávrová, State Agricultural Intervention Fond, Czech Republic*



Requests related to the current situation:

- Closer coordination and planning of audits to eliminate duplicity and overlapping of audits performed by different audits entities (EC, ECA, SAI etc.)
- Relieve the burden that lies on the paying agency
- Maximize the exchange of information as far ahead as possible



Coordination

Answers to the request:

- ECA, EC aware of the problem with coordination, although there are some mechanisms to help (Liason Officer)
- expressed the effort to improve the coordination
- current situation: use the pragmatic, practical approach, case-to-case



Coordination

Request:

- Stabilization and simplification of legal regulations
- no „learning by doing“ audit work by auditors

Answer to the request:

- importance of identifying the experts in advance, making sure they are available



Coordination in progress

- co-ordinated audits of ECA and SAIs
 - with NKÚ and AR
 - concerning audit of Member State Declaration
 - planned to be completed on April 2011
 - negotiations with other SAIs
- SAI as a contact point
 - Experience of Austria's ACA



The Experience of SAIs as Certification Bodies

3 presentations:

- 1) Experiences with certifying controls of the EAGGF in Slovakia *by Ms Olga Fajrová, SAI of Slovakia*
- 2) Romanian SAI – Certifying Body for EAGF and EAFRD *by Mr Catalin Florian, SAI of Romania*
- 3) The experience of SAIs as certification bodies *by Ms Maggie McGhee, SAI of the United Kingdom*



The Experience of SAIs as Certification Bodies

Advantages for SAI

- familiar with the audit area of CAP
- helps to detect other fields of interest in CAP
- protection of national financial interest

Disadvantages for SAI

- burden on budget and staff of SAI
- time consuming, tight deadlines
- duplications in audits (ECA, EC)



The Experience of SAIs as Certification Bodies

Conclusion:

Slovakia

- disadvantages of being SAI prevailed, Certifying body for 3 years (2004 – 2006)

Romania and UK

- find ways to act with bigger efficiency in their work
- concern about the proposed extension of audit (covering also legality and regularity)



- „single audit“ model?
 - Extension of audit of paying agencies by Certifying bodies to legality and regularity
 - Independence of Certification bodies
 - Prior approval of ECA and EC



Consequences:

- Reduced EC presence in Paying Agencies?
- Restricted ECA on-spot audits in Member States?



Question 1:

Would it be possible to progressively implement such a scenario?

First phase – meeting the requirements of the EC

Second phase – meeting the requirements of the ECA
(ECA's Opinion No. 2/2004 on „Single Audit Model“)



Question 2:

Member State Declarations providing assurance on CAP expenditure (and audited by national SAIs) -

useful element in the required control and audit structure?

or too great a risk of conflict of interest?

