

# Invitation to a Policy Hub on

## The payments backlog in recent EU budgets

### Lessons learnt and outlook

**Friday, 4 December 2015, 11.00 -12.30 hours**

**Meeting Room: Altiero Spinelli (ASP) A1E-1, European Parliament, Brussels**

*This policy hub will present and discuss the issue of the year-end backlog of unpaid claims affecting the EU budget since 2011. The problem combines both technical aspects of budgetary management and political considerations, raising fundamental questions about the architecture of the EU's public finances, including the system of own resources and the flexibility of the MFF. The EPRS has recently published an [in-depth analysis](#) on this topic.*

11.00	<b>Sidonia Jędrzejewska</b> , Acting Head of the Budgetary Policies Unit, EPRS
11.10	<b>Alessandro D'Alfonso</b> , Policy Analyst, Budgetary Policies Unit, EPRS <b>Magdalena Sapała</b> , Policy Analyst, Budgetary Policies Unit, EPRS
11.25	<b>Ralph Otte</b> , Head of Unit for Reliability of Accounts, European Court of Auditors
11.40	<b>Eulalia Rubio</b> , Senior Research Fellow, Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute
12.00	<i>Questions and Answers</i>

#### The following aspects of the backlog problem will be discussed:

- What is the difference between a 'normal' and an 'abnormal' payments backlog?
- What are the main drivers and implications of the 'abnormal' payments backlog?
- What has been done so far to tackle the backlog?
- Are additional measures needed from 2017 onwards?

#### The concept

Policy Hubs are informal fora for dialogue and debate among experts within the European Parliament and other EU institutions, as well as the wider think tank and academic communities, on current EU policies and issues. To facilitate broad participation and to encourage open exchanges, the meetings are short and held under the Chatham House rule. Policy Hubs are open to all staff working on the subject, including staff from the political groups and MEPs' Assistants, as well as invited representatives of the think tank community and academia.

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