

## PRESS RELEASE

5 November 2018

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Report of the Court of Audit presented to the Parliament of the Brussels-Capital Region and to the Brussels' United Assembly of the Joint Commission for Community matters



The Belgian Court of Audit has today released its 23<sup>rd</sup> Report for the Parliament of the Brussels-Capital Region and the Brussels' United Assembly of the Joint Commission for Community matters.

#### ***Financing balance lower than expected in 2017***

The financing balance for 2017 has decreased to -€94.9 million, whereas the Region's budget had reckoned on an amount equal to zero. This difference must be put into perspective since the calculation of the Institute for National Accounts also includes security expenditure and strategic investments (€109 million) that had both been neutralised by the Brussels government while preparing its adjusted budget for 2017. Compliance with the budgetary path will depend on the position to be adopted by the European Commission on whether or not this expenditure will be excluded.

#### ***General account 2017 of the Region : qualified certification***

The Court of Audit has issued a qualified opinion with four remarks on the 2017 general account of the regional entity, namely the government departments and 22 autonomous administrative bodies. The Court has also certified the accounts of 21 of these administrative bodies: it has refrained from issuing an opinion in 2 cases, has issued a qualified certification in 13 cases and an unqualified certification in 6 cases.

#### ***Inventory management needs to be improved***

The Court of Audit has noted recurring shortcomings in the inventory of tangible and intangible assets of the government departments and the autonomous administrative bodies. These shortcomings, due in particular to the non-exhaustiveness of inventories and physical controls as well as to accounting errors, are likely to jeopardise the very existence and the value of these assets.

***Contract staff members subsidised by the Brussels Employment Agency Actiris: room for improvement as far as the subsidising management is concerned***

Despite the efforts that have already been made by Actiris, the Court of Audit has noted that there is still room for improvement in managing the subsidisation process of such contract staff members. As a matter of fact, the complexity and diversity of rules and regulations make them difficult to implement and inefficient. Moreover, the method for justifying some subsidies does not seem adequate. Finally, the lack of management information makes the process management a challenging task.

***Other thematic audits***

The Court of Audit also reports the results of two other thematic audits. On the one hand, the audit of public procurement contracts of the IT-Centre for the Brussels Region has revealed some inadequacies when evaluating tenders and justifying the sole source solicitation (non-competitive procurement process). On the other hand, the Court has examined the administrative and financial situation of Innoviris (the Brussels Institute for Research and Innovation) staff members: it has made several observations and recommendations on the admissibility of applications and the calculation of rights linked to seniority.

**Information for the press**

*The Court of Audit exerts an external control on the financial operations of the Federal State, the Communities, the Regions and the provinces. It contributes to improving public governance by transmitting to the parliamentary assemblies, to the managers and to the audited services any useful and reliable information resulting from a contradictory examination. As a collateral body of the Parliament, the Court performs its missions independently of the authorities it controls.*

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Report of the Court of Audit presented to the Parliament of the Brussels-Capital Region and to the Brussels' United Assembly of the Joint Commission for Community matters as well as the press release are available (in French and Dutch) on the Court's homepage ([www.courtofaudit.be](http://www.courtofaudit.be)).