

# EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS



## Working Group on Common Auditing Standards

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# Agenda

- One continuous mandate
- Topics excluded from discussion
- Different forms of voluntary cooperation
- What is happening now?
- Reporting and evaluating the results

## *One continuous mandate*

The WG has sought **a) to identify the relevant international standards** and **b) to discuss these within the particular perspective of the EU.**  
(Meeting Warsaw 2006)

The WG is **not a standard setting body**, thus it has not tried to develop new standards. Instead it has analysed existing international standards to facilitate a common appreciation of their significance and implications.

In parallel, the WG has facilitated and encouraged **a discussion on the particular characteristics of the EU context** and sought to **compile relevant experiences of the individual SAls.**

## *Certain topics were not for discussion*

- SAI's are independent institutions and each one has its own particular mandate.
- It is up to each SAI to decide on the extent of collaboration, with other SAIs, that it deems to be relevant and desirable.
- All forms of cooperation are of benefit.

# Different forms of voluntary co-operation

A **Concurrent Audit / (Parallel)** is conducted simultaneously by two or more SAIs on the same topic, but in their respective countries; with a separate audit team from each SAI, where each one of them may adopt a different audit approach, but staying within a common audit framework and where each SAI reports only to its own stakeholders.

A **Joint Audit** is conducted by one audit team consisting of auditors from two or more SAIs, who prepare and agree on a single, common audit report for publication in all the participating countries.

A **Coordinated Audit** may refer to any form of cooperation which falls in-between the above two definitions. In this approach, participating SAIs harmonise their audit approaches in some ways but differences (between countries) are still possible leading, for example, to a joint audit with separate reports.

# What is happening now?

- **Audit Planning Memoranda have been approved by the Court for the co-ordinated audits with the Nejvyšší kontrolní úřad (NKU) and the Algemene Rekenkamer (AR).**
- **Memoranda of Understanding have been signed between representatives of the ECA and the NKU and the ECA and the AR**

## Indicative Timetable for both AR and NKU

**July 2010 to February 2011 - System & Transaction Testing**

**January 2011 to April 2011 - Completion Phase**

## How will the results be reported and evaluated?

During the **completion phase**, the participants will come to a common understanding of the facts and draft audit results based on the audit evidence obtained and will be communicated to the auditee.

The **contradictory procedure** with the *auditees* is also part of the completion phase and will result in finalising the audit results. This phase will be finished by April 2011.

**Reporting** to the respective stakeholders remains the responsibility of the participating SAI's

All participants agree to **evaluate** the *Pilot Project on a Co-ordinated Audit* and may decide to produce a joint evaluation which may be presented to the respective decision-making bodies of each participant.

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Thank you for your  
attention

Any Questions?



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