

Management Plan 2016

Internal Audit Service (IAS)

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PART 1. Overview of main outputs for the year

The purpose of this Management Plan (MP) is to highlight the most important outputs for the year 2016 in line with the objectives defined in the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. It provides an overview of planned actions of the IAS in 2016 substantiating the intended progress towards its main objectives. In relation to the long-term strategy of the IAS, it provides a snapshot that acts as an accountability tool. The MP mainly serves planning and management purposes at the operational level.

The IAS, as a key horizontal service in the Commission contributes to the Commission's general objective (No 11): "To help achieve the overall political objectives, the Commission will effectively and efficiently manage and safeguard assets and resources, and attract and develop the best talents". The IAS contributes to this general objective, in particular, to the protection and management of assets and resources by performing audits and consulting services in an effective and efficient manner and by providing re-assurance to the audited entities.

For the IAS, this general objective can therefore be broken down into three specific IAS objectives as follows:

Specific objective 1: To ensure that the work of the IAS adds value to the Commission services and EU autonomous bodies and contributes to the improvement of their operations (external dimension).

In order to capture the perception of the quality of IAS' work, the IAS is seeking to ensure that its main stakeholders (the APC for the work in the Commission and Executive Agencies on the one hand and Management Boards for IAS work in EU agencies and other autonomous bodies on the other hand) and the audited entities themselves regard IAS' work as adding value.

Main outputs in 2016

Internal audit of the Commission and the Executive Agencies			
Description	Indicator	Target	
Stakeholder satisfaction survey	Level of satisfaction	90%	
Limited assurance conclusion on the state of control as	Conclusions issued	15 February 2016	
a contribution to the preparation of the 2015 AARs			
Overall Opinion on the financial management of the	Opinion issued	15 May 2016	
European Commission for the year 2015			
Internal audit of the EU autonomous bodies			
Stakeholder satisfaction survey	Level of satisfaction	90%	

Specific objective.2: To ensure that the work of the IAS adds value by being conducted in accordance with the Financial Regulation and its Rules of Application, its internal methodology and guidelines and international auditing standards (internal dimension).

As IAS' work can only add value if it is of high quality, the IAS aims at ensuring that the work is conducted in accordance with its internal methodology and guidelines and international internal auditing standards.

Main outputs in 2016

Internal audit of the Commission and the Executive Agencies		
Description	Indicator	Target
Internal Quality Assessment	Generally compliant	December 2016
External Quality Assessment	Generally compliant	December 2016
Internal audit of the EU autonomous bodies		
Internal Quality Assessment Generally compliant December 2016		
External Quality Assessment	Generally compliant	December 2016

Specific objective 3: To ensure efficiency and effectiveness in delivering the strategic audit plans through the annual audit plans.

IAS' strategic plans are implemented through annual audit plans which aim to address the risks identified in the course of the strategic audit plans usually at an early stage in order to maximise the added value of any audit recommendation.

Main outputs in 2016

Internal audit of the Commission and the Executive Agencies			
Description	Indicator	Target	
Strategic Audit Plan 2016-2018	Timely finalisation	February 2016	
(and Audit Plan for 2016)			
Audit, consulting and follow-up engagements	Completion of the	January 2017	
reports planned for 2016	2016 Audit Plan		
Overview Reports/ Information notes on the follow-	Reports finalised and	March 2016	
up of the IAS recommendations issued to APC	transmitted to APC	May 2016	
throughout 2016	(four in total)	September 2016	
		November 2016	
2015 Annual Report of the Internal Auditor Art 99(3)	Report issued	May 2016	
of the FR			
Internal audit of the EU autonomous bodies			
Strategic Internal Audit Plans 2015-2017 or 2016-	Timely preparation	January 2016	
2018 to be prepared for those entities where the			
previous strategic audit plan is completed or has			
become obsolete			
Audit, consulting reports and follow-up	Completion of the	January 2017	
engagements planned for 2016	2016 Audit Plan		
Reports on the follow-up of the IAS	Reports/ Notes	February 2016	
recommendations issued to Agency Directors and	finalised and		
management Boards in case of significant delays in	transmitted to		
the implementation of critical recommendations	Directors and		
	Management Boards		

PART 2. Organisational management outputs for the year

Human resources

The IAS, as a key horizontal service in the Commission contributes to the Commission's general objective: "The DG deploys effectively its resources in support of the delivery of the Commission's priorities and core business, has a competent and engaged workforce, which is driven by an effective and gender-balanced management and which can deploy its full potential within supportive and healthy working conditions."

In addition, the IAS focusses on a number of IAS specific priority actions over the period of the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 as follows:

- Fill remaining vacant posts allocated to the IAS in the context of the centralisation of the Commission's internal audit function (2016-2017).
- Ensure that the Internal Audit Training Programme covers the necessary needs as defined by the Internal Audit Training Steering Committee (2016-2020).
- Keep auditors abreast of the latest developments in the Commission and in the profession relevant for their work through structured opportunities for continuous learning (2016-2020).
- Develop the management potential of the staff (2016-2020).

For 2016, this general objective can therefore be broken down into two specific IAS objectives as follows:

Main outputs in 2016

Specific objective 2.1: Increased capacity and the level of professionalism of internal auditors of the IAS and the EU autonomous bodies

Description	Indicator	Target date
Learning and Development Strategy	Timely delivery	February 2016
Internal Audit Training Programme	Timely delivery	January 2016
Finalise list of topics for Auditors' Forums in 2016	Timely delivery	January 2016
Development of a skills matrix/competency mapping	Timely delivery	April 2016
Organise two half-day seminars	Timely delivery	December 2016
"Welcome coffee" and "Induction Training" for new	Organising at least	December 2016
staff	one each	
Organise 6 Auditor Forum sessions	Timely delivery	December 2016

Specific objective 2.2: Provide effective HR services in order to recruit, to support and to maintain a high-performance work force in the IAS

Description	Indicator	Target date
Learning and Development Strategy	Timely delivery	February 2016
HR plan 2016-2020	Timely delivery	March 2016
Management of vacancy rate	Rate of 7%	December 2016

Financial management

The IAS, as a key horizontal service in the Commission contributes to the Commission's general objective: "The Authorising Officer by Delegation should have reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions including prevention, detection, correction and follow-up of fraud and irregularities".

The IAS contributes to this general objective, in particular, by focussing on a number of priority actions over the period of the Strategic Plan as follows:

Objective 1 (mandatory): Effective and reliable internal control system giving the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and the regularity of the underlying transactions

Title 28 of the budget covers the activity of the policy area 'Audit'. It includes two internal audit activities ("Internal Audit of the Commission" and "Internal Audit of the EU autonomous bodies") and three horizontal activities. The budget allocation for the IAS is included under the heading "Administrative expenditure of the Audit policy area".

The administrative budget of the IAS totals €18.77 m in 2016.

- As provided for by the Internal Rules, 96.36% of the IAS's budget is directly delegated to PMO, DG DIGIT and DG HR and this expenditure is therefore covered by the Declaration of assurance of DGs HR and DIGIT.
- The IAS¹ is therefore accountable for the remaining 3.64% which are, however, co-delegated² to DGs HR and DIGIT. As the budget is managed under the same Commission rules, the primary AOD can in principle rely on the legality and regularity, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the controls in place in DG HR and DG DIGIT. The co-delegation with DG HR is supported by a Service Level Agreement, the co-delegation with DG DIGIT by a Memorandum of Understanding.

Main outputs in 2016

Description	Indicator	Target
Ex-post controls on missions	Error rate	Below 2% materiality threshold

Objective 2 (mandatory): Effective and reliable internal control system in line with <u>sound financial management.</u>

The IAS executes its own controls to ensure compliance of the mission expenses with the Commission's Guide for missions and with the IAS specific guidance. Therefore, all mission requests and cost claims are ex-ante controlled by the

¹ According to Art. 98(1) of the Financial Regulation, the Director-General of the IAS (the Commission's Internal Auditor) may not be the Authorising Officer by Delegation (AOD). This role is exercised by the Director of IAS.A.

² Type II co-delegation, whereby the IAS is the primary AOD, while DGs HR resp. DG DIGIT are the secondary AOD.

verifying officer. In addition, a sample of reimbursements is controlled ex-post within the IAS. These IAS controls are in addition to the standard controls performed by PMO and the ex-post controls performed by DG HR on a sample of transactions executed by PMO and DG HR in the framework of the existing SLA with the IAS.

Main outputs in 2016

Description	Indicator	Target
Errors identified in mission	Errors identified as a percentage of total	Below 2% materiality
costs	mission costs	threshold

Objective 3 (mandatory): Minimisation of the risk of fraud through application of effective anti-fraud measures, integrated in all activities of the DG, based on the DG's anti-fraud strategy (AFS) aimed at the prevention, detection and reparation of fraud.

As a non-spending DG with low fraud risk profile, the IAS anti-fraud strategy aims at maintaining the high ethical awareness and stance of its staff and at keeping in place standard preventive and detective control measures (segregation of duties, ex-post controls and collegiality of decisions). This strategy is valid for 2014-2016 and will be updated following its assessment at the end of this implementation period. The services provided by DG HR and DIGIT are subject to their own anti-fraud measures.

Main outputs in 2016

Description	Indicator	Target
Updated Anti-Fraud Strategy	Timely delivery	December 2016

Information management

The IAS, as a key horizontal service in the Commission contributes to the <u>Commission's general objective</u> (mandatory): "Information and knowledge in your DG is shared and reusable by other DGs. Important documents are registered, filed and retrievable".

As the rest of the Commission, the IAS relies on information for every aspect of its work. Therefore, the IAS has adopted specific policies to enable a change of culture ensuring the effective corporate management of data, information and knowledge (see SP for further details).

In order to improve productivity and facilitate quality control, the IAS uses an electronic tool to document its audit work. The tool enables the use of standard checklists, provides an audit trail of the review and supervision of audit work and provides reports on the status of the implementation of audit recommendations. In addition, the tool also allows the IAS to better monitor the progress of the audit plan. In 2015, the IAS reviewed its existing tool and decided to replace it with a new tool. Following a selection procedure, the most suitable candidate has been identified and the new tool is expected to be rolled out in late 2016 following a selection procedure and training staff on the use of the tool.

The IAS also identified knowledge management/knowledge retention as an area to be better supported by an information system. In 2016, the IAS will therefore

undertake a project to assess its needs, identify different options and implement a suitable solution.

Main outputs in 2016

Description	Indicator	Target
New IT audit tool	Roll out of new tool	October 2016
Annual report on document management	Timely delivery	December 2016
Assessment of IAS needs for knowledge	Assessment of results	December 2016
management system and identification of potential	by Q4 2016	
software tools		

2016 performance tables

INTERNAL AUDIT (COMMISSION AND EU AUTONOMOUS BODIES)

General objective No 11 ³		
To help achieve the overall political objectives, the Commission will effectively and efficiently		
manage and safeguard assets and resource	es, and attract and develop the best talents.	
Impact indicator:		
Trust in the European Commission		
Source: Eurobarometer on Public Opinion in the Euro	ppean Union	
Baseline (2015): 40% tend to trust	Target 2016: Increase	
Impact indicator:		
Staff engagement index in the Commission		
Source: European Commission		
Baseline (2014): 65.3%	Target 2016: Increase	

Specific objective 1

To ensure that the work of the IAS adds value to the Commission services and EU autonomous bodies and contributes to the improvement of their operations (external dimension).

Result indicator 1.1:

Level of satisfaction of stakeholders (APC/Management Boards and Directors-General/Directors of autonomous bodies)

(Results of the annual satisfaction survey to show a minimum level of satisfaction)

Source: 2015 IAS annual Stakeholder Survey

Baseline 2015

Commission stakeholders: 88%⁴

Target 2016:

Commission stakeholders: minimum 90%

EU autonomous bodies stakeholders: 91% EU autonomous bodies stakeholders: minimum 90%

Planned evaluations: N/A

Result indicator 1.2:

Level of auditee satisfaction

Source: Satisfaction survey addressed to the audited services in the Commission and the Executive Agencies after each engagement.

Baseline 2015 Target 2016

average score of 1.5 on a scale from 1 (strong agreement)

Average score below 1.5 to 4 (strong disagreement)

Planned evaluations: N/A

Output indicator 1.3 (effectiveness):

Timely delivery of IAS overall opinion on financial management in the Commission

Source: Regular IAS internal monitoring.

Baseline Target 2016

³ Monitoring of the corporate impact indicators will be performed by the SG once per year and the results will be shared with all DGs and services in time for inclusion in the Annual Activity Reports.

⁴ This calculation is based on the average level of satisfaction of: (1) APC PG members and (2) Commission DGs and Directors of Executive Agencies, in respect of the following two statements (a) IAS covering the mains risks and processes and (b) IAS work adding value.

⁵ This calculation is based on the average level of satisfaction of: (1) Board members of the EU autonomous bodies and (2) Directors of the EU autonomous bodies, in respect of the following two statements (a) IAS covering the mains risks and processes and (b) IAS work adding value.

Target met (2015)	By 15 May 2016	
Planned evaluations: N/A		
Output indicator 1.4 (effectiveness):		
Timely delivery of IAS conclusion on the state of internal control as a contribution to the preparation to		
the AARs of DGs/Services/Executive Agencies		
Source: Regular IAS internal monitoring.		
Baseline	Target 2016	
New	By 15 February 2016	
Planned evaluations: N/A		

Specific objective 2

To ensure that the work of the IAS adds value by being conducted in accordance with the Financial Regulation and its Rules of Application, its internal methodology and guidelines and international auditing standards (internal dimension).

Result indicator 2.1 (effectiveness):

Successful compliance with the internal methodology and guidelines of the IAS and with international internal auditing standards as assessed through the Internal Quality Assessment (IQA)

Source: Report of the internal quality assessment carried out by IAS 01 for all three Directorates

Baseline	Target 2016
IQA of 2015	IQA of 2016
No non-conformance issues raised	No non-conformance issues raised
Planned evaluations: N/A	

Result indicator 2.2 (effectiveness):

Successful compliance with the internal methodology and guidelines of the IAS and with international internal auditing standards as assessed through the External Quality Assessment (EQA)

Source: Report of the independent External Quality Assessor

Baseline	Target 2016
EQAs of 2011 and 2013 ⁶	Next EQA to start in July and to be completed by December 2016
No non-conformance issues raised	No non-conformance issues raised
Planned evaluations: N/A	

Specific objective 3

To ensure efficiency and effectiveness in delivering the strategic audit plans through the annual audit plans.

Output indicator 3.1 (effectiveness):

Completion rate of the annual audit plan

Source: Regular IAS internal monitoring.

J	5	
Baseline 2015	Target 2016	
100%	Completion of 100 % of C1 engagements (i.e. engagements to be completed during the	
	year) included in the (revised) plans in both Commission and EU autonomous bodies	
Planned evaluations: N/A		
Result indicator 3.2 (efficiency):		
Described of time appet on direct godit work and godit compart work by goditors		

Percentage of time spent on direct audit work and audit support work by auditors

Source: Regular IAS internal monitoring.

5	
Baseline (31/12/2015)	Target 2016
Commission: 87%	86% (this target is the planned split between direct

⁶ For audits in the decentralised agencies and other autonomous bodies, the last EQA was carried out in 2011, while for the audits in the Commission and Executive Agencies, the last EQA was carried out in 2013.

EU bodies: 86%		audit work and audit support work)
Planned evaluations: N/A		
Output indicator 3.3 (efficiency):		
imeliness of the completion and the delivery of audit reports		
time elapsed in working days between the validation meeting and the final report)		
Source: Regular IAS internal monitoring.		
Baseline (31/12/2015) Ta		Target 2016 ⁷
Commission:		
35 days for engagements with one auditee and		30 days for engagements with one auditee and
40 days for engagements with multiple auditees		35 days for engagements with multiple auditees
EU bodies :		
32 days		
Planned evaluations: N/A.		
Output indicator 3.4 (efficiency):		
Difference between actual time and budgeted time for each audit engagement.		
Source: Regular IAS internal moni	Source: Regular IAS internal monitoring.	
Baseline (31/12/2015)	Target 2016	
Commission: 5%	Actual execution within the margin of ±10% of budgeted number of man-days	
EU Bodies: 6%	EU Bodies: 6% (+ indicating an overrun and – indicating an underrun)	
Planned evaluations: N/A.		

ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES

Objective (mandatory)8:

The DG deploys effectively its resources in support of the delivery of the Commission's priorities and core business, has a competent and engaged workforce, which is driven by an effective and gender-balanced management and which can deploy its full potential within supportive and healthy working conditions.

Indicator 1 (mandatory):

Percentage of female representation in middle management

Source: data to be provided by DG HR and SEC(2015)336 of 15/7/2015

Baseline: 22.2 % per 1/1/2016 Final target by 2019: 40% (Commission average: 31.9%)

Indicator 2 (mandatory):

Percentage of staff who feel that the Commission cares about their well-being

Source: European Commission Staff Survey 2014 – data to be provided by DG HR

Baseline 2014: 37.5% Target 2016: in line with Commission average

(Commission average not communicated for 2014 survey)

Indicator 3 (mandatory):

Staff engagement index

Source: Commission staff survey – data to be provided by DG HR $\,$

⁷ Following the centralisation of the internal audit function on 1 January 2015, the IAS was re-organised leading to new working practices, in particular for the quality review of audit deliverables. The new target now reflects the additional time spent on this specific task.

⁸ Monitoring of the corporate impact indicators will be performed by the SG once per year and the results will be shared with all DGs and services in time for inclusion in the Annual Activity Reports.

⁹ From list of targets for each DG as adopted by the Commission on 15 July 2015 – SEC(2015)336.

Baseline 2014: 65.5% Target 2016: in line with the Commission (Commission average: 65.3%) average

Specific objective 2.1:

Increased capacity and the level of professionalism of internal auditors of the IAS and the EU autonomous bodies

Indicator 1:

Percentage of staff certified

Source: Internal calculations

Baseline 2015: 64 % Target 2016: 66%

Result indicator 2:

Internal auditors are kept abreast of the latest developments in the Commission and the profession relevant for their work through structured opportunities for continuous learning

Source: Internal

Baseline:

6 Auditors Forum seminars held in 2014

6 Auditors Forum seminars held in 2015

Target 2016:

- At least six seminars per year
- Two half-day events every two years starting in 2016

Result indicator 3:

The Internal Audit Training Programme covers the necessary needs as defined by the Internal Audit Training Steering Committee

Source: Internal annual training needs survey

Baseline 2015: needs are covered

Target 2016:

IAS Management confirming that the necessary needs are covered

Planned evaluations: Training Needs Assessment

Specific objective 2.2:

Provide effective HR services in order to recruit, to support and to maintain a high-performance work force in the IAS

Result indicator 1:

Vacancy rate¹⁰

Source of data:

Baseline 31.12.2015: 8%

Target 2016: 7%

(Commission average, currently 5.3%, to be reached by 2018)

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

(including internal control and risk management)

Overarching objective:

The Authorising Officer by Delegation should have reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions including prevention, detection, correction and follow-up of fraud and irregularities.

Objective 1 (mandatory):

Effective and reliable internal control system giving the necessary guarantees concerning the

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¹⁰ The vacancy rate is calculated by deducting posts to be returned in 2016 in the context of staff reduction and redeployment tax.

<u>legality</u> and the regularity of the underlying transactions Indicator 1 (mandatory): Estimated residual error rate¹¹ As explained in the narrative, the IAS will rely on the assurance provided by the AOSDs and its additional own controls regarding mission expenditure. As in the past, a qualitative approach will be employed to judge on the legality and regularity of expenditure taking into account all of the above. Source: internal Baseline Target 2016 2014: judged to be close to 0 % Below the materiality threshold of 2% Indicator 2 (mandatory): Estimated overall amount at risk for the year for the entire budget under the DGs responsibility. Rf. to indicator 1 above Source: internal Baseline Target 2016 2014: judged to be close to 0 € Below materiality threshold of 2% Indicator 3 (mandatory): **Estimated future corrections** Source: internal Baseline **Target** 2014: 0€ Given the target on the amounts at risk, no corrections are likely to be made ex-post. However, if needed, IAS is determined to ensure full recovery of undue amounts paid out. **Objective 2 (mandatory):** Effective and reliable internal control system in line with sound financial management. Indicator 1 (mandatory): Conclusion reached on cost effectiveness of controls Source: Estimation of the costs of controls on missions and other expenditure Baseline 2014 Target 2016: 0.25 AST FTE No more than 0.25 AST FTE. Yes Yes Indicator 2: Conclusion reached on reliability, effectiveness of controls within the IAS Source: Qualitative analysis of exception register, transactions rejected by PMO, errors reported by DG HR, errors detected in sample of missions verified by the IAS in its ex-post control Target 2016 Below materiality threshold of 2% Errors identified as a percentage of total mission costs: 0.1%

Objective 3 (mandatory):

Minimisation of the risk of fraud through application of effective anti-fraud measures, integrated in all activities of the DG, based on the DG's anti-fraud strategy (AFS) aimed at the prevention, detection and reparation of fraud.

Indicator 1 (mandatory)

Updated anti-fraud strategy of DG IAS, elaborated on the basis of the methodology provided by OLAF¹² Source: information available in DG's AFS

Baseline: period 2014-2016 Target 2016:

IAS Anti-fraud strategy was Current Anti-fraud strategy to be updated on the basis of its

¹¹ For the definition, see the first annex to the AAR instructions 2014 "Key definitions for determining amounts at risk" at https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/budgweb/EN/rep/aar/Documents/aar-standing-instructions.pdf. ¹²The methodology can be found on the FPDNet website: https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/serv/en/fraud-prevention/ToolBox/Documents/Methodology%20and%20guidance%20for%20DGs%20anti-fraud%20strategies.pdf. In particular paragraph 3 of the methodology is relevant.

released on 20 January 2014	assessment at the end of the implementation period (December 2016)
	(low fraud risk profile)

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Objective (mandatory):			
Information and knowledge in your DG is shared and reusable by other DGs.			
Important documents are registered, filed and retrievable			
Indicator 1 (mandatory):			
Percentage of registered documents that are not fi			
Source: Hermes-Ares-Nomcom (HAN) ¹⁴ statistics – data to be provided by DG DIGIT			
Baseline	Target 2016		
2015: 1.2%			
(3.51% at Commission level)	< 1% ¹⁵		
Indicator 2 (mandatory):			
Number of HAN files readable/accessible by all uni	ts in the IAS		
Source: HAN statistics- data to be provided by DG DIGIT			
Baseline	Target 2016		
2015: 85.1%			
(77.88% at Commission level)	85% ¹⁶		
Indicator 3 (mandatory):			
Number of HAN files shared with other DGs			
N/A: Given the restrictive nature of the IAS work, th	e IAS does not share files with other DGs. Occasionally,		
there might be an exception (see baseline).			
Source: HAN statistics - data to be provided by DG DIGIT			
Baseline	Target 2016		
2015: 1 file (0.05%)			
(6.25% at Commission level)	0%		
Indicator 4 (IAS specific):			
Timely implementation of new IT audit tool			
Source: internal			
Baseline	Target 2016:		
New	Tool to be operational in October 2016		
Indicator 5 (IAS specific):	·		
Assessment of the needs for a knowledge management system and identification of potential software			
tools			
Source: internal			
Baseline	Target 2016:		
New	Results by Q4 2016		

 13 Each registered document must be filed in at least one official file of the *Chef de file*, as required by the <u>e-Domec</u> policy rules (and by ICS 11 requirements). The indicator is to be measured via reporting tools available in Ares.

14 Suite of tools designed to implement the e-Domec policy rules.

15 1% is an ambitious target. In any case, 0% is not feasible because there is always a turnover of registers waiting for

the opening of files.

16 To promote the knowledge sharing amongst IAS auditors, the IAS has chosen to give a maximum of access to IAS documents. However, the remaining 15% concern restricted files related to management, horizontal, QA and HR issues.