

## Newsletter

Issue 102 - July 2019

### WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Dear reader,

The Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection, under the excellent leadership of my predecessors Anneleen Van Bossuyt and Vicky Ford, has completed many efforts to improve the functioning of the internal market during the last five years. This will undoubtedly strengthen the functioning of EU rules on the single market, including the digital single market, customs and consumer protection.



I hope we will continue this work in the same positive spirit, because the internal market is at the heart of the core businesses of the EU. It is the cornerstone of European cooperation and we have many challenges and opportunities ahead. My view is that our Committee's work can also endeavour a better enforcement and modernisation of EU consumer protection rules to protect people's rights and wellbeing.

Because, I believe, we should not only focus on consumers' and businesses' economic interests but also on social, environmental and governance aspects of products. This is central to realise the necessary social and ecological transition of our economy. We should make sure that, based on sound scientific evidence, the protection of public interest objectives, such as public health or protection of the environment, is always our guideline when controlling products, that certification and testing is done by independent bodies, and that market surveillance benefits from improved resources.

In addition, it is important to ensure policy consistency between the online and offline worlds, providing fairness and transparency safeguards to build citizens' trust in the internal market and when dealing with big data, including for robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

Petra De Sutter  
Chairwoman

### IMCO CONSTITUTIVE MEETING

**Election of the committee Chair and Vice-Chairs.** The IMCO Committee held its constitutive meeting on 10 July 2019 following the appointment of its members. During this meeting, **Petra De Sutter (Greens/EFA, BE)** was elected by acclamation as the new Chair of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer protection. The Committee also elected by acclamation its Vice-Chairs: Pierre Karleskind (Renew Europe, FR), Maria Grapini (S&D, RO), Róza Thun und Hohenstein (EPP, PL) and Maria Manuel Leitão Marques (S&D, PT). Together, the Chair and Vice-Chairs make up the Bureau of the Committee, elected for a two-and-a-half year term. The newly set up committee held a first preparatory meeting of its Coordinators on 18 July 2019.

The full list of the new **members of the IMCO committee** is available [online](#).

The full agenda of the next meeting is available on [IMCO's webpage](#).



# NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(24 JULY 2019)

[Watch the committee meeting live](#)

## Budget 2020



that it brings benefits to business and citizens across Europe. It also underlines the importance of robust protection of consumers

On 24 July, IMCO will discuss the draft Opinion, prepared by rapporteur Svenja Hahn, on the Union's budget for 2020. The draft Opinion stresses that the Single Market remains one of the Union's greatest and most tangible achievements, and

both offline and online. Within the context of customs policy, the draft Opinion stresses the importance of financing the transition to a fully automated customs operation. The draft Opinion welcomes the increase in appropriations for development of the internal market and safeguarding consumers, but regrets the reduction in appropriations for supporting modernisation of the customs union.

The vote on the draft Opinion and any amendments tabled to it is scheduled for 2 September, after which the final Opinion will be submitted to the BUDG committee.

[LINK: Budgetary procedure 2020](#)

## RESUMPTION OF WORK STARTED IN PREVIOUS TERM

### Motor Insurance Directive



The motor insurance file falls within the definition of unfinished business. In this dossier, IMCO adopted its report on 22 January 2019 and the plenary adopted a set of amendments (corresponding to the IMCO report) on 13 February 2019. However, it did

not close the first reading and instead referred the file back to IMCO under Rule 59(4) for inter-institutional negotiations. The lack of progress in the Council did not allow the negotiations to start before the end of the previous legislative term. On 18 July 2019, IMCO Coordinators agreed to request resumption of work on the basis of the negotiating mandate, as adopted in plenary on 13 February 2019. Coordinators also agreed to reappoint a rapporteur from the same political group (Renew Europe).

[LINK: Subject File](#)

### Single Market Programme 2021-2027 (MFF)

The IMCO Report on the new draft Programme for Single Market and Competitiveness of Enterprises (a programme under the multi-annual financial framework (MFF)) was endorsed in Plenary in February 2019. The new Programme aims to support actions that improve consumer protection and increase the competitiveness of businesses. The main changes made through the IMCO Report to this key legislative proposal include: increasing the programme's overall budget from €4 billion to €6.5 billion, including additional funding for SMEs and market surveillance; clarifying the objectives of the programme with a view to enhancing fairness, transparency and trust in the single market; as well as ensuring greater visibility of the benefits of EU actions and grants and improved accountability as regards the use of EU resources. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the position adopted at first reading constitutes the mandate for negotiations. At the same time, the Council gave a partial mandate to its preparatory bodies to enter swiftly into negotiations with the European Parliament, with a view to reaching a political agreement ahead of the second reading.

[LINK: Subject file](#)

### Notifications Procedure Directive

To ensure better enforcement of the Services Directive, the Commission proposed a Directive on Notifications in Services in January 2017, which complements the Services Directive. This key legislative file aims at enhancing transparency and clarity of all national regulatory measures affecting cross-border provision of services for the benefit of businesses and consumers. IMCO adopted its report on 4 December 2017. The decision to enter inter-institutional negotiations was taken by vote in plenary on 8 December 2017, however no formal first reading position was adopted and no agreement was reached during the past legislative term. IMCO Coordinators decided on 18 July that they would like to resume the work on the file based on the negotiating mandate of December 2017, and to reappoint a rapporteur from the same political group (S&D). The final decision on resumption of 'unfinished business' lies with the Conference of Presidents.

[LINK: Procedure file](#)

### Customs programme 2021-2027 (MFF) and Customs Control Equipment (MFF)

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading in plenary on 16 April 2019 in respect of two customs-related Regulations: one establishing a Customs Programme; the other establishing an instrument for financial support for customs control equipment. The positions reflect, for the most part, the reports that IMCO adopted on the two files on 6 December 2018. Both files are part of the multi-annual financial framework (MFF) package.

The draft Regulation that establishes a "Customs Programme for cooperation in the field of customs for the years 2021-2027" is the successor to the Customs 2020 Programme. The main objective of the Programme is to fund actions aimed at strengthening the Customs Union. Specific objectives include areas such as supporting the preparation and uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy, and the development and operation of European electronic systems.

The draft Regulation that establishes an Instrument for financial support for customs control equipment is part of the Integrated Border Management Fund. It aims to provide vital and reinforced support to Member States to secure the common external borders.

[LINK: Subject file](#)

[LINK: Subject file](#)

### Policy Department

IMCO Coordinators agreed in the previous term to update the IMCO study from the [Policy Department](#) on the impact of measures in the 7th legislature in the area of the single market on growth, and to extend the study to cover the 8th legislature. The study was broken down to separate parts covering the various areas of IMCO's competence. The delivery of these parts took place during the first months of 2019. The studies regard [European Digital Single Market](#); [Consumer protection](#); [Customs union](#); [Free movement of goods](#); [Free Movement of Services and Freedom of Establishment](#); and [Public procurement](#).

The various parts of the studies are expected to be presented in Committee at the beginning of the new term. The aim of the presentations will be to assist the new Committee in its future work, focusing on the potential of actions covering IMCO's areas of competence.

### EPRS

A recent publication from EPRS, [Europe's two trillion euro dividend: Mapping the Cost of Non-Europe, 2019-24](#), seeks to identify and analyse the 'cost of non-Europe' in a number of policy fields to quantify the potential gains in today's European economy. This is done through pursuing a series of policy initiatives recently advocated by the Parliament, ranging from a wider and deeper digital single market to increased cooperation to fight corporate tax avoidance. Another recent publication, [The power of the European Parliament: Examples of EP impact during the 2014-19 legislative term](#), provides an overview of the powers of the European Parliament, giving examples of how and where it has made a difference during the most recent legislative term. EPRS has also published a series of documents focusing on the beginning of the new term, which can be found online on their [website](#).

## IMCO MEETINGS: CALENDAR FOR THE 2ND HALF OF 2019

On 24 July, IMCO will adopt the calendar of committee meetings for the second half of 2019. The proposed dates are as follows:

24 July 2019

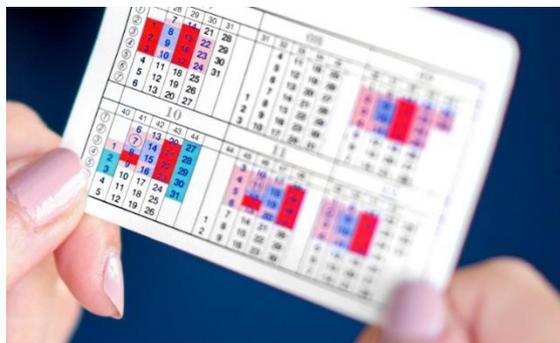
2-3 September 2019

25-26 September 2019

7-8 October 2019

6-7 November 2019

4-5 December 2019



## USEFUL IMCO LINKS

[IMCO Committee website](#) makes publicly accessible all relevant documents connected with the committee's activities: calendar of meetings, agendas, draft reports and amendments, opinions, motions for resolutions, oral and written questions, alerts on forthcoming events, IMCO newsletters, studies, roll-call votes and other useful documents and links.

[eMeeting](#) is single gateway for finding all IMCO committee meeting documents: agendas, voting lists, reports, opinions etc.

[Summaries of IMCO files](#): The IMCO Committee's work falls broadly into three policy areas: Internal market policy, which includes the digital single market; customs policy; and consumer protection policy. This section of the IMCO website, headed "subject files", contains summaries of the files that IMCO dealt with during the 8th legislative term (2014-2019).

[Welcome Pack](#): This practical guide, in addition to the IMCO activity report, explains IMCO's role and main tasks in Parliament's decision-making and the inter-institutional legislation-shaping process. It is intended to serve as a reference for the new MEPs at the beginning of the 9th legislative term. It provides an overview of what has been achieved in the 8th legislature and what may be some of the key issues in the 9th incoming legislature.

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