

## Newsletter

Issue 103 - September 2019

### FINNISH PRESIDENCY



Finland holds the six-month rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 July 2019. On 2 September, IMCO will hear a presentation of the Council Presidency's Programme by the Finnish Minister for Employment, Mr Timo Harakka.

The main priorities of Finland's Presidency are to strengthen common values and the rule of law, to make the EU more competitive and socially inclusive, to strengthen the EU's position

as a global leader in climate action and to protect the security of citizens comprehensively.

According to the Programme, the EU needs a comprehensive long-term strategy for sustainable growth and competitiveness that specifically includes measures to improve the functioning of the single market. To improve the single market for services, the Presidency will focus particularly on promoting digital services and eliminating barriers to cross-border trade in services.

More work is needed to achieve a competitive, human-driven data economy by promoting the interoperability and use of data, digitisation and artificial intelligence, while also respecting the rights and privacy of individuals.

As regards the circular economy, work will continue especially on consumer empowerment and stakeholder engagement.

The Finnish Presidency will seek to finalise the Council negotiations on the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) in autumn 2019. The Presidency also aims to reach an agreement between the Council and the European Parliament on the 2020 budget.

[LINK: Presidency](#)

### SINGLE MARKET SCOREBOARD

On 25 September the European Commission will present to IMCO Committee members the "Single Market Scoreboard 2018" and the "Annual Report on Monitoring the application of EU law in 2018", which were published by the Commission on July 2019. The Scoreboard is used by the Commission to monitor the performance of Member States with regard to the transposition of Internal Market law. The Annual Report gives a [performance overview](#) for all the Member States but also shows the results that have been achieved, the feedback received and conclusions drawn, providing

a basis for future action. The presentation of the Scoreboard and the Annual Report to the IMCO Committee by the Commission will offer the members of the Committee a detailed and accurate overview of the state of the implementation of the EU Single Market rules, which are currently in place.

[LINK: Single Market Scoreboard 2018](#) and [Annual Report](#) on Monitoring the Application of EU law in 2018

# NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(2 - 3 SEPTEMBER; 25 SEPTEMBER 2019)

[Watch the committee meeting live](#)

## EU Budget 2020

On 3 September, IMCO will hold two votes relating to the EU budget for the financial year 2020. First, IMCO will adopt its opinion on Draft Budget 2020, which will feed into a broader Resolution of Parliament in October. Second, IMCO will adopt a set of budgetary amendments on budget lines under IMCO's responsibility, which will then be tabled for review by the BUDG committee and plenary in October. 29 amendments were tabled to the draft opinion, while 23 amendments were tabled to IMCO-related budget lines.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Svenja Hahn \(Renew\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

## Presentation of EU customs system and legislative framework

On 25 September, the Director in charge of Customs Policy at the Commission's Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union will provide the Members of IMCO with a general overview of the EU's customs system, which will be of help for the legislative work during the new term. The presentation will provide details on the current legislative framework in place, and the status of implementation of the Union Customs Code, and will explain the processes that take place at the customs offices of the Union and the systems – whether they be electronic or paper-based – that underpin these processes.

## PRESENTATION OF STUDIES ON IMCO TOPICS

On 2 and 25 September a set of studies prepared by Parliament's Policy Department will be presented by experts to IMCO. The studies were requested by IMCO in the previous legislative term and were completed during the first half of 2019. They cover the four main policy areas under IMCO's competence: Single Market, Digital Single Market, Consumer Protection and Customs. The presentations will focus on forward-looking solutions needed to make real progress on the key challenges for the internal market. The aim of the presentations is to assist the Committee in its future work, focusing on the potential of forthcoming actions. The presentations will be organised in two sessions, followed by a Q&A session for each. Session 1 (Digital Single Market and consumer protection) will take place on 2 September, while Session 2 (Single Market and Customs) will be held on 25 September. The 10 studies are briefly summarised below.

### Digital Single Market

The first [study](#) reviews the rules adopted during the 2014-2019 legislative term to strengthen the Digital Single Market. The study analyses the main policy aspects in the fields of e-commerce and online platforms, e-government, data and AI, cybersecurity, consumer protection and electronic communications networks and services in order to identify remaining gaps and possible actions for Parliament's new term. The second [study](#) focuses on the economic benefits for citizens and businesses of the DSM and provides an in-depth analysis of what has been achieved in economic terms, of what remains to be done, and of candidate initiatives for this new legislative term.

### Consumer protection studies

The two studies ([here](#) and [here](#)) on consumer protection provide an in-depth analysis of the legal aspects and the economic benefits of policy achievements relating to Consumer Protection. Some

areas open for additional intervention are suggested in the studies.

### Single Market

The [study](#) on Free Movement of Services and Freedom of Establishment examines the EU legislative framework and identifies legislative challenges that the Union should address in this new legislative term. It also addresses specific Brexit-related issues relating to the freedom to provide services.

The first [study](#) on Free Movement of Goods presents a brief overview of the legal acts in the harmonised and non-harmonised areas of the free movement of goods, adopted during the 2009-2014 and 2014-2019 terms. It also highlights the rights that businesses and citizens enjoy under the current legislation, and ways in which the legislation could be improved. The second [study](#) summarises the economic benefits of the free movement of goods in the Single Market, which has led to substantial gains in terms of trade flows, output and real income.

The two studies ([here](#) and [here](#)) on European Public Procurement present a critical analysis of the legal framework of the public procurement regime and an assessment of the impact of recent EU public procurement legislation on strategic goals such as cross-border procurement, SME participation and competition.

### Customs

The [study](#) presents an in-depth analysis of the achievements of the EU Customs Union, focusing on the rights and benefits it has brought to European citizens, and examines the potential for further achievements. It reviews the interlinks between the Internal Market and the Customs Union, and reflects on the idea of the uniformisation of customs controls across the Member States with a view to providing streamlined procedures intended ultimately to facilitate trade.

### ABOUT THE EDITOR:

European Parliament  
Directorate General for Internal Policies of the Union  
Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee  
Head of Unit / Editor: Panos Konstantopoulos  
Responsible administrator: Mark Beamish  
Layout: Julia Pourceau

### SUBSCRIPTION:

If you wish to receive the IMCO newsletter, please [click here to subscribe](#)

To [unsubscribe](#)

### FOLLOW US:



[IMCO WEB-SITE](#)



[IMCO on Twitter](#)



Closure date of the current issue: 30 August 2019

**Disclaimer:** The items contained herein are drafted by the Secretariat of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. The IMCO Newsletter may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The IMCO Secretariat does not necessarily endorse the view expressed on these websites.