

Election of 3 Vice-Chairs

At its constitutive meeting, on 10 July past, AFCO elected its Chair, Antonio Tajani (EPP/IT), and its first Vice-Chair, Gabriele Bischoff (S&D/DE), but political groups felt they would need to have further discussions before proceeding to the election of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Vice-Chairs. As such, the election of these officials was postponed and will take place at the opening of AFCO meeting on Tuesday 3rd September.

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020 - all sections



Rapporteur for Opinion: Antonio Tajani (EPP)

(Responsible committee: BUDG, Rapporteur: Monika Hohlmeier (EPP))

Consideration and adoption of draft opinion and of budgetary amendments, deadline for tabling amendments: 13 August 2019, 12:00

The exchange of views on Chair Tajani's draft opinion will take place together with the considerations of the amendments.

AFCO members will then vote on the draft opinion and the budgetary amendments in order to table them within the deadline of 5 September 2019.

As usual in AFCO, the draft opinion concentrates on programs like "Europe for Citizens" and the "Rights, Equality and Citizenship" as well as the European Citizens Initiative, supporting the increases on the funding for these programs proposed by the Commission. The opinion also insists on the need to secure proper financing for fighting fake news and disinformation and asks the Commission to ensure the appropriate funding for the Conference on the Future of Europe, in order to guarantee its autonomous functioning.

INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present this 1st issue of the AFCO Newsletter, for the 9th legislative term, a tool prepared by the Secretariat to keep you informed of AFCO activities and to increase awareness of the current institutional challenges facing the European Union.

I am sure that during this term the European Parliament will carry on being the voice of the European citizens and playing a leading role in building the future of our Union. AFCO, for its part, will certainly work to make the EU more efficient, democratic and transparent and bring its institutions nearer the citizens, notably through the participation in Conference on the Future of Europe as announced by the elected President of the European Commission Ursula Von der Leyen.

During this first AFCO meeting of the new legislature, we will complete the election of our Bureau: we will discuss and vote on the AFCO draft opinion on the "General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020 - all sections":. finally, we will discuss with Ms Tytti Tuppurainen, President of the Council of the European Union and Finnish Minister for European Affairs, the programme of the Finnish EU Council Presidency in the area of competences of AFCO.

Antonio Tajani, Chair

Calendar proposed:

3 September	Vote of draft opinion and budgetary amendments in AFCO
30 September-3 October	BUDG vote on the budgetary amendments
14 October	Adoption of budgetary resolution in BUDG committee
23 October	Adoption of Parliament's reading
27 November	Potential adoption of joint text in Plenary

Commission Delegated Regulation replacing Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/788 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European citizens' initiative



Consideration and possibly vote on any reasoned motion for a resolution objecting to the delegated act

At their meeting of 3rd September 2019 in the afternoon, AFCO Members will consider the delegated regulation aiming at amending the Annex I of the Regulation (EU) 2019/788 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European citizens' initiative. Its objective is to adapt this recently adopted regulation to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU and resulting modified composition of the European Parliament. It has been adopted by the European Commission on 23rd July 2019 and submitted to the Parliament and the Council for scrutiny. If no objections are raised by any of these institutions within two months the delegated regulation is considered adopted.

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Annex I of the regulation sets out the minimum of the signatures an Initiative has to reach in each Member State in order for such State to be counted towards the

minimum threshold of one quarter of the Member States. This number is strictly proportional to the number of MEPs elected in each Member State. These numbers currently reflect the composition of the European Parliament as defined in Article 3 of the European Council Decision 2013/312/EU.

On 28 June 2018, the European Council adopted Decision (EU) 2018/937 establishing the composition of the European Parliament which shall apply to the 2019-2024 parliamentary term. It anticipates the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and increases the numbers of members of the European Parliament for Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Finland. The Delegated regulation reflecting this revised composition of the Parliament is therefore set to enter into force simultaneously with the new Regulation on 1st January 2020 or on the date when the UK effectively withdraws from the EU, should that occur after the entry into force of the new ECI regulation.

No requests for objection to the delegated regulation were received within the deadline (29 August).

EU2019.FI

Presentation of the programme of the Finnish EU Council Presidency by Ms Tytti Tuppurainen, President of the Council of the European Union, Minister for European Affairs

Following a well-established tradition, at the beginning of each EU Council Presidency, a presentation of the programme of the Council Presidency takes place. The Committee will hear from Ms Tytti Tuppurainen, President of the Council of the European Union, Minister for European Affairs, who will present the priorities of the Finnish Presidency in the domain of competences of AFCO. A debate will follow.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

In light of the European Parliament's paperless project, please bear in mind that only a very limited number of paper dossiers will be available in the meeting room. Instead, meeting documents will be made available on the following **public** and **EP internal** websites.

MEETING DATE AND VENUE

Tuesday 3 September 2019, 11:00 - 12:30 and 14:30 - 16:00

Room: Altiero Spinelli (3E-2), Brussels

NEXT MEETINGS

25 September 2019, Brussels
9:00 – 12:30 and 14:30 – 18:30

FURTHER INFORMATION

 [AFCO website](#)

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