

# Newsletter

Issue 112 - September 2020

## SELECTED NEWS



### Exchange of views with Commissioner Breton and the German Presidency

At the meeting of 28 September, IMCO Members will exchange views with Thierry Breton, Commissioner for the Internal Market, on the Member States' response to the COVID-19 crisis. The discussion is planned to focus on the lack of coordination of measures, imposing restrictions to the free movement of services and goods, adopted by Member States' as a response to the COVID-19 crisis in the last six months, leading to a lack of legal certainty and predictability for consumers and businesses, and ultimately to a fragmentation of the Single

Market. The exchange of views will also allow Members to ask questions on new policies, initiatives and tools to be developed by the Commission to avoid crisis situations and lack of coordinated action in the future and to ensure that measures introducing restrictions to free movement of persons, services and goods are coordinated at EU level and taken in a harmonised way, on the basis of cooperation between Member States. IMCO Members will also exchange views with the State Secretary Dörr-Voß representing the German Presidency on the different response measures, adopted by Member States depending on their domestic epidemiological situation and on other factors, including economic considerations.



### Follow-up exchange and state-of-play with the Commission on the three Communications on the Digital strategy for Europe, AI, and Data

During the last meeting of 3 September 2020, IMCO had an Exchange of Views (EoV) with the Commission as a follow up and state-of-play on the three Communications on the Digital strategy, AI, and Data, which were presented by Commissioner Breton in the joint IMCO-ITRE committee meeting in February 2020. The purpose of the EoV was to clarify the intentions of the Commission in relation to its future work and to facilitate the preparation of EP's own-initiative reports and opinions linked to these Communications. On Digital and AI, the Commission underlined the importance of the relation between green transition and digitalisation, especially in the light of the current health crisis. As for AI, the Commission focused on the importance of creating an "ecosystem of trust", and on whether this would call for new or revised legislation. In the Q&A with MEPs, the Commission further underlined the importance of ensuring fundamental rights and privacy as well as stimulating rather than over-regulating. For the part of the EoV on Data, the Commission highlighted how a common European data space (or even spaces), creating a single market for data, can contribute to tackle societal challenges such as climate change, health, mobility etc., and how personal and non-personal data can be a source of innovation for new products and services. During the Q&A, the Commission made it clear that European values, such as fundamental rights and privacy standards had to be at the very core. Moreover, the Commission highlighted the discussion on data-ownership and that this ought to be tackled in the future.

### Digital Services Act: Improving the functioning of the Single Market



IMCO will vote on 28 September on the [draft report](#) entitled "Digital Services Act: Improving the functioning of the Single Market" which calls on the Commission to put forward a proposal for a Digital Services Act following a set of recommendations on transparency and consumer protection, artificial intelligence, the need to tackle the spread of illegal content online, ex ante regulation of systemic platforms and the improvement of the current enforcement and supervision systems. The vote in plenary is expected to take place in October 2020.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Alex Agius Saliba \(S&D\)](#)

# NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

(28 SEPTEMBER 2020)

[Watch the committee meeting live](#)

## A new strategy for European SMEs



At its meeting of 2 September, IMCO considered 81 amendments tabled to the [draft opinion](#) on "A new strategy for European SMEs". The Rapporteur for the opinion, Ms Liesje Schreinemacher (Renew), underlined

the need to increase the support to SMEs considering their relevance for the European economy. Furthermore, the administrative burdens should be reduced and SMEs should be helped to take advantage of the digital developments. Simplification of public procurement and enforcement of the provisions of the Late Payment Directive (Directive 2011/7/EU) were also stressed as priorities, together with the importance of keeping the borders open under the crisis situation to allow SMEs to maintain their business. The political groups broadly shared the priorities of the Rapporteur, showing a constructive approach and stressing that SMEs must be considered at the core of the EU actions for economic recovery. The vote of the Opinion in the IMCO Committee is planned on 28 September.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Liesje Schreinemacher \(Renew\)](#)

## Construction Products Regulation

On 28 September, the IMCO Committee will consider the draft report of Mr Christian Doleschal (EPP) on the implementation of Construction Products Regulation (the CPR). The draft report takes stock of the status of the implementation of the CPR in the Member States and of its performance in making the internal market work properly for construction products in the EU. It also addresses a number of issues that, in the opinion of the Rapporteur, need further improvement, such as development of harmonised standards, optimisation of the CE marking and the Declaration of Performance, strengthening of market surveillance, guidance in case of overlap of specific product legislation with the CPR, and the use of digital tools. The deadline for tabling amendments is 6 October, noon.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Christian Doleschal \(EPP\)](#)

## Addressing product safety in the Single Market



On 28 September, the IMCO Committee will consider the compromise amendments to Ms. Marion Walsmann's (EPP) draft report on "Addressing product safety in the single market". The set of draft compromise amendments discussed

so far looks at improving the safety for all products, including those offered online and manufactured in third countries, and ensuring the compliance to the EU rules of products entering and circulating in the internal market. A common understanding is also sought on the need to take into account the digital challenges, in particular AI, IoT and robotics, also through standardisation, while keeping a balanced and risk-based approach to product safety. An effective market surveillance should also be ensured, increasing the resources available to market surveillance authorities and improving their cooperation. The importance of the information to consumers is underlined, including with regard to the recalls of products that should be swiftly and effectively performed.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Marion Walsmann \(S&D\)](#)

## Strengthening the Single Market: the future of free movement of services

On 8 June, Mr Morten Løkkegaard (Renew) presented in IMCO his report on the future of free movement of services in which he highlighted the role of the services sector for the EU economy, especially during the current crisis. Mr Løkkegaard underlined the need to ensure implementation of the single market rules for services and to improve the enforcement action of the European Commission. 288 amendments were submitted to the report reflecting the views of the political groups on this issue. Some Members opted for further liberalisation of services, while others underlined the importance of workers' rights and circular green economy. The rapporteur together with the shadow rapporteurs is working on compromise amendments, aiming at finding a common ground for these issues.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Morten Løkkegaard \(Renew\)](#)



## Towards a more sustainable single market for business and consumers

On 28 September, IMCO will hold a debate for the consideration of amendments and compromise amendments on the [draft report](#) "Towards a more sustainable single market", which focuses on how to make the single market more sustainable and empower market participants to adopt more sustainable consumption practices. 355 amendments have been tabled to the draft report. The Rapporteur, Mr David Cormand (Greens/EFA), has proposed a series of draft compromises on all the aspects covered in the draft report, such as tackling premature obsolescence, strengthening consumer rights, improving the reparability and reuse of products, adopting a digital strategy which takes sustainability into account, strengthening green public procurement and tackling misleading green claims. IMCO will vote on the draft report on 26 October.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [DAVID CORMAND \(GREENS/EFA\)](#)

# LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

(2 - 3 SEPTEMBER 2020)

## General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - all sections



On 2 September, IMCO adopted the budgetary amendments to the EU 2021 budget. All 8 amendments, covering budget lines for which IMCO is responsible, were voted in favour. The Committee voted for the restoration of the draft budget and supported the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions, which it endorsed in March. The Committee adopted also the Miller [opinion](#) to BUDG on the 2021 EU budget by a large majority: 39 votes in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention. All 5 compromise amendments were adopted. The vote in BUDG is scheduled for end of October.

DRAFTSPERSON: MILLER LESZEK (S&D)

## New Circular Economy Action Plan



On 2 September, Ms Anna Cavazzini (Greens/EFA) presented her [draft opinion](#) on the ENVI own-initiative report on the "New Circular Economy Action Plan". The Rapporteur for opinion underlined the importance of the Commission's Action Plan published in March for achieving the goals set in the European Green Deal and highlighted certain key IMCO policy areas which could be strengthened with the Parliament's report, such as laying down a horizontal sustainable products framework, fostering reparability of products, consumer information and transparency, as well as green public procurement.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Ms Anna Cavazzini \(Greens/EFA\)](#)

## Artificial intelligence in criminal law and its use by the police and judicial authorities in criminal matters



On 2 September, IMCO adopted the [draft opinion](#) on "Artificial intelligence in criminal law and its use by the police and judicial authorities in criminal matters", Rapporteur for the opinion Mr Marcel Kolaja (Greens/EFA) with a large majority, with 40 votes in favour, 4 against and no abstentions. The lead Committee LIBE will vote on the final report on 28 September 2020.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Marcel Kolaja \(Greens/EFA\)](#)

## EVENTS

Due to the ongoing safety measures in place in response to the COVID-19 crisis, no IMCO missions, public hearings, or other events have taken place in Committee since the last IMCO newsletter edition (April 2020).

## OTHERS NEWS

Next IMCO Committee meetings: Monday, 28 September, 10.00 - 12.00 and 13.45 - 15.45, Monday 26 October 2020, 13.45 - 15.45 and 16.45 - 18.45 and Tuesday 27 October 2020, 9.00 - 11.00 and 11.30 - 12.30

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