

# Newsletter

Issue 119 - May 2021

## SELECTED NEWS

### Implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: challenges for the integrity of the Single Market and the Customs Union



On 26 May IMCO will hold a Public Hearing on the implications of the implementation of the Agreements laying down the future relationship between the EU and the United Kingdom

related to the Internal Market and the Customs Union. In particular, the Withdrawal Agreement and its Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland have key relevance in these respects, since they anchor Northern Ireland to the EU's Single Market and Customs Union. Challenges in the implementation of the Protocol have recently led to tensions with - and within - the UK. The hearing will also focus on the new instruments created under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, in particular the countervailing measures at the disposal of the Union by virtue of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

### Presentation of the Regulation on Machinery products



On 27 May, IMCO will hear a presentation by the Commission of the Regulation on machinery products, which was put forward by the Commission together with the Artificial Intelligence Act on 21 April 2021. The new Machinery

Regulation replaces the current Machinery Directive, which defines health and safety requirements for machinery. Machinery products cover an extensive range of consumer and professional products, from robots to lawnmowers, 3D printers, construction machines and industrial production lines. This new Machinery Regulation will ensure that the new generation of machinery guarantees the safety of users and consumers, and encourages innovation. It will also respond to the market needs by bringing greater legal clarity to the current provisions and simplifying the administrative burden and costs for companies.

### Workshop: The DSA and DMA - a forward-looking and consumer-centered perspective



On 26 May, IMCO will hold a workshop on **the Digital Services Act (DSA) and Digital Markets Act (DMA)**. The discussions of the workshop aim to feed into the DSA and the DMA reports of the IMCO committee, setting out the Parliament's political response. The first panel will explore issues covered by the DSA proposal, namely the fragmentation of the single market for services, the responsibilities of intermediaries and the problems faced by consumers when using online platforms and digital services or accessing content, as well as issues related to supervision and enforcement. The aim of the second panel is to explore more in-depth some of the issues covered by the DMA proposal, namely the role that a few online platforms play in the digital economy and the need to ensure a fair and contestable online platform environment to the benefit of consumers.

### Artificial Intelligence Act: New rules for safe and future-proof AI

The IMCO Committee has in May received the Commission's proposal for a regulation on Artificial Intelligence (AI), the "Artificial Intelligence Act". This first-ever legal framework on AI aims to guarantee the safety and fundamental rights of people and business, while moving forward innovation and development of AI in Europe. New rules will address the specific risks posed by AI systems and set high standards for a safe handling of AI. Margrethe Vestager stressed "On Artificial Intelligence, trust is a must, not a nice to have". The Commissioner will appear at a joint meeting of IMCO and AIDA on 2 June. IMCO will soon launch its legislative work on the proposal.

# NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

( 26 - 27 MAY 2021)

[Watch the committee meeting live](#)

## Roaming on public mobile communications networks within the Union (recast)



On 26 May, IMCO will consider the draft opinion to ITRE by Ms Róza Thun und Hohenstein (EPP) on the proposal for a Recast of the current Roaming Regulation that expires on 30 June 2022. The proposal aims to increase transparency and ensure a genuine 'Roam-Like-At-Home' experience in terms of quality of service and access to emergency services while roaming. For the IMCO rapporteur, it is important to strengthen further consumer protection, including clear and comprehensible consumer information regarding different elements of the quality of service while roaming, making sure that roaming providers have access to full and regularly updated lists of mandated emergency communications, as well as better communication to consumers about value added services and access to emergency services. Moreover, the IMCO rapporteur emphasises that the scope of the Regulation should be open to future revisions whenever needed and through the ordinary legislative procedure.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Róza Thun und Hohenstein \(EPP\)](#)

## Data governance act



On 26 May, IMCO will consider the draft opinion by the IMCO rapporteur, Mr Gozi (Renew) on the proposal for a Data Governance Act, for which the ITRE committee is lead. The proposal aims to foster the availability of data for use and re-use by increasing trust in data intermediaries and by strengthening data-sharing mechanisms across the EU. The IMCO rapporteur welcomes this proposal as a crucial milestone to strengthen data exchange to the benefit of businesses and consumers. However, the draft report suggests improvements to the proposal regarding the re-use of public sector data, requirements applicable to data intermediation services, data altruism, and supervision and compliance, as well as strengthening the European Data Innovation board and enhancing cross-sector interoperability and portability.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Sandro Gozi \(Renew\)](#)

## Single Window environment for Customs



On 26 May, IMCO will consider the draft report on the proposal for a regulation aiming at the creation of a Single Window environment for Customs operations. The proposal aims at the establishment of an electronic system of communication through which information relevant for customs controls can be exchanged safely and in an automated manner. The rapporteur intends to ensure interlinking all the relevant customs and non-customs systems that contain information that supports the controls effected in Customs Offices, while avoiding as much as possible double encoding of the same data by economic operators.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Ivan Štefanec \(EPP\)](#)

## Resilience of critical entities



IMCO Members will consider the draft opinion to LIBE on the proposal for a directive on the resilience of critical entities, published by the Commission on 16 December 2020. The proposal requires Member States to adopt national strategies and undertake regular risk assessments, and it establishes obligations on critical entities to enhance their resilience and ability to provide essential services. The rapporteur is of the view that physical non-cyber protection under the proposal needs to be separated from the requirements in the NIS 2 proposal. Furthermore, suggestions are made on the identification of critical entities by Member States and on notification of incidents.

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

## Measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, repealing Directive (EU) 2016/1148 (NIS 2.0)



IMCO will consider the draft opinion to ITRE by Mr Morten Løkkegaard (Renew) on the proposal for a NIS 2 Directive, put forward by the Commission on 16 December 2020.

The proposal lays down obligations for Member States to adopt a national cybersecurity strategy, designate competent national authorities and single points of contact, as well as to establish cybersecurity risk management and reporting obligations for essential and important entities. The Rapporteur is of the view that more the clarity is needed, mainly concerning some of the obligations imposed on companies, in order to reduce the bureaucracy and make it easier for businesses to comply with the new rules, while ensuring

## An intellectual property action plan to support the EU's recovery and resilience



On 26 May, Mr Vlad Botoș (Renew) will present his opinion to the JURI report on an intellectual property action plan to support the EU's recovery and resilience. In his opinion Mr Botoș calls on the Commission to formulate a strategy to tackle and minimise the infringements, hold-backs, counterfeiting and piracy that are still thriving and proved to be even more dangerous during the Covid-19 pandemic. 57 amendments were table to the report, aiming at detailing the main message of the report and adding additional aspects, like the role of startups and EU innovators. The rapporteur

an effective implementation of the Directive. He also proposes to extend the deadline on reporting obligations for the first notifications of cyber-attacks.

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

drafted 5 compromise amendments, which will also be presented at the Committee. IMCO will vote on the opinion on 21 June, while JURI will vote on its report in September.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Vlad-Marius Botos \(Renew\)](#)

### Protecting workers from asbestos



At the IMCO meeting of 26 May, Members will consider the draft opinion to EMPL by Ms Anne-Sophie Pelletier (The Left) on the Parliament's legislative initiative concerning protecting workers from asbestos. The draft opinion calls on the Commission to present a legislative proposal on mandatory screening of asbestos in buildings prior to their sale or rental and on establishing minimum requirements for locating all asbestos-containing materials in buildings built before 2005 or the year of the national asbestos ban. The Rapporteur proposes that the screening is validated by a certificate and in order to protect users or occupants, it must be carried out by qualified and certified operators.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Anne-Sophie Pelletier \(The Left\)](#)

### ECA special report on "Customs controls: insufficient harmonisation hampers EU financial interests"



IMCO and CONT committees will hold an exchange with the European Court of Auditors on 26 May on the Court's recent report on customs controls. The Court points out that there is no sufficient harmonisation of the controls performed under the responsibility of the Member States, partly because of a deficient guidance framework, partly because of divergence in its application. Therefore, the controls that Member States effect on equivalent customs operations (e.g. the import of the same type and quantity of goods from the same origin and company) differ depending on which customs office performs them, because the risks that the operation entails are not perceived in the same manner by every Member State's customs administration.

## LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(14 - 15 APRIL, 26 APRIL 2021)

### Exchange of views with Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market



On 15 April, IMCO held an exchange of views with Commissioner Thierry Breton as part of the Structured Dialogue. The Commissioner presented insights into current and upcoming legislative proposals concerning the digital and green transition of the internal market and the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. The Commission is working on making the EU more resilient to the effects of the pandemic. In the digital area, the Commissioner announced proposals concerning cybersecurity and the digitalisation of public administration, infrastructure, but also an EU digital citizenship, and regarding the green transition, a proposal concerning a common charger for mobile devices.

### Presentation of JRC Technical report: Results of an EU wide comparison of quality related characteristics of branded food products



On 14 April, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) presented [its latest report on dual quality of food products](#). According to the report, sensory differences are clearly noticeable, where there are large differences in product composition.

The JRC indicated that differences in sensory perception may affect consumers' purchasing decisions and stressed that the sensory differences are not associated to certain geographical regions. Members highlighted the need to ban dual quality practices, provide consumers with clear information, extend the harmonised testing methodology to non-food products and properly transpose and implement the existing provisions tackling dual quality.

### Presentation of the Commission's Report on the application of Directive (EU) 2015/2302 on package travel and linked travel arrangements



On 14 April, the Commission presented [the report on the application of the Package Travel Directive](#). The presentation focused on the main challenges faced during the transposition period and the first years of application of the Directive and on the problems

created for travellers and travel operators due to the Thomas Cook bankruptcy and the Covid-19 pandemic. Members stressed the need to enhance consumer protection, enforce travellers' rights and harmonise insolvency protection rules across Member States.

## MFF Single Market Program



On 26 April 2021, in an extraordinary meeting, IMCO adopted by a large majority the Regulation establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme). The Single Market Programme was adopted in plenary on 27 April through a fast-track procedure and published in Official Journal on 3 May, in order for the Regulation to enter into force as soon as possible, and to avoid discontinuity in the funding of the actions covered by the preceding MFF programmes. The aim of the €4.2 billion programme for 2021-2027 is to support EU businesses and ensure stronger consumer protection.

## UPDATE ON IMCO TRILOGUE



### Insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles, and the enforcement of the obligation to ensure against such liability (Motor Insurance Directive)

On 26 May 2021, IMCO rapporteur Ms Dita Charanzová (Renew) will report back to the IMCO Committee on the fourth trilogue, which took place on 27 April 2021, on the Commission's proposal to revise the Motor Insurance Directive. The proposal seeks to amend the current Directive in five areas, namely the insolvency of the insurer, claims-history statements, risks due to uninsured driving, minimum amounts of cover and the scope of the Directive.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Dita Charanzová \(Renew\)](#)

## OTHER NEWS

### Next IMCO Committee meetings:

Monday, 21 June, 13.45-16.15 and 16.45-18.45 and Tuesday, 22 June, 09.30-11.30 and 11.30-12.30 (Coordinators)



### The IMCO WG on the Digital Single Market

The IMCO WG on the Digital Single Market will restart its works in the IX Parliamentary Term on 31st May (webstreamed, from 13:45 to 15:45). The title of the next meeting is: *"How can the Digital Single Market help us to advance in the ecological transition?"*

The digital revolution has brought several advantages and opportunities to move towards a much greener economy. How to adapt the Digital Single Market and help European businesses and consumers to achieve these new green and digital policy objectives would be a matter for discussion during this first IMCO WG meeting.

(For info contact IMCO Secretariat/ AD Pablo Sanz ([pablo.sanz@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:pablo.sanz@europarl.europa.eu)))

#### 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 administrators: Michal Czaplicki, Soutana Dimou  
Layout: Gina Duma, Barbara Ajmi

#### SUBSCRIPTION:

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

To [unsubscribe](#)

#### FOLLOW US:

 [IMCO WEBSITE](#)

 [IMCO on Twitter](#)



**Closure date of the current issue: 21 May 2021**

**Disclaimer:** The items contained herein are drafted by the secretariat of the IMCO Committee the European Parliament 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. This document may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The secretariat does not necessarily endorse the view(s) expressed on these websites.

Photos used under the licence of [www.adobestock.com](http://www.adobestock.com); European Council and European Parliament websites.