

## Newsletter

Issue 77 - January 2017

### SELECTED NEWS

#### Market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units for such vehicles



25 January 2017 IMCO will consider the compromise amendments to the proposal on market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles followed by the vote on the proposal 26 January. The Rapporteur and the shadow rapporteurs have worked to find a compromise regarding the possibility to establish an agency and to find agreement on repair- and maintenance information, fee structure and penalties. 1142 amendments to the Commission proposal have been drafted by IMCO. ENVI and TRAN Committees have also contributed their opinions to the proposal. The proposal was launched by the Commission 27 January 2016 and amongst other things introduces market surveillance provisions, improves the enforcement of the type-approval framework, clarifies the roles and responsibilities of economic operators and authorities and introduces empowerment of the Commission to carry out market surveillance and to issue fines to economic operators.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Daniel Dalton \(ECR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

#### Annual Report on the Single Market Governance within the European Semester 2017

On 25 January, IMCO will consider compromise amendments and on 26 January vote on the Annual Report on the Single Market Governance within the European Semester 2017 which has been

#EuropeanSemester

European  
Semester  
2017

drafted by MEP Antonio López-Istúriz White. Based on a total of 86 Amendments tabled in IMCO, the Rapporteur and his Shadow Rapporteurs have elaborated 9 compromise amendments. The compromises cover issues such as IMCO's response to the Commission's Annual Growth Survey 2017 that launched the European Semester 2017, the importance of the single market in the EU and the call for the creation of a strong single market pillar with a social dimension within the European Semester. Furthermore, the Rapporteur and Shadows have found a common language in urging the Commission to carry out systematic monitoring of implementation and enforcement of the single market rules through country-specific recommendations (CSRs) and on the importance of addressing the unnecessary non-tariff barriers in the single market. The compromises also take note of the recent Commission proposals for a European services card and for a harmonised notification form and, finally, address the issue of unnecessary administrative burdens at European level. This report is scheduled to be voted during the February II plenary session.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Antonio López-Istúriz White \(EPP\)](#)

[LINK: Procedure file](#)

### ELECTION OF THE IMCO CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS

On 25 January, IMCO will mark the mid-term of the 8th parliamentary term by holding a committee constitutive meeting in order to elect its new Chair and four Vice-Chairs (the IMCO bureau). This will be the first item of the agenda. The election of the Chair will be chaired by Mrs Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, the current IMCO 1st Vice-Chair, while the election of Vice-Chairs will be presided over by the newly elected Chair. The election procedure will depend on the number of candidates for each post. In case there is only one candidate, the Chair and Vice-Chairs can be elected by acclamation

respectively, unless a secret ballot is requested by at least one-fifth of the committee's component Members. In case there are two or three candidates for any of the posts, a secret ballot will be used by electronic vote while in case there are four or more candidates, a ballot box vote will be needed. The newly elected IMCO bureau will have to reflect the diversity of Parliament, meaning that the bureau will need to be gender-balanced and that all Vice-Chairs cannot come from the same Member State.

# NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(25 -26 JANUARY AND 6 FEBRUARY 2017)

[Watch the committee meeting live](#)

## European Accessibility Act

25 January 2017 the Members will discuss the report drafted by MEP Morten Løkkegaard on the proposal for a directive on approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States as regards the accessibility requirements for products and services. The Rapporteur has in his draft focused on burdens for economic operators, especially micro enterprises and SMEs and an adaptation of the requirements in Annex I. The proposal was launched on 2 December 2015 and aims to improve the functioning of the internal market and to remove barriers for the free movement of accessible products and services.

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

[Procedure file](#)

## The functioning of franchising in the retail sector

On 25 January, MEP Dennis De Jong will present his draft report on the functioning of franchising in the retail sector. The report follows from a study commissioned by the IMCO Committee in 2015, which was delivered by researchers at Osnabruck University. The study was presented to the Committee at a workshop held on 12 July, at which a range of stakeholders exchanged views on the state of franchising in the EU. The draft report takes an open position, advocating a limited number of initiatives to be taken by the Commission. The ECON Committee will be contributing with an opinion on aspects related to competition.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Dennis de Jong \(GUE\)](#)

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## Addressing geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market

On 25 January, IMCO will discuss the draft report on the proposed geo-blocking regulation of rapporteur MEP Róza Thun. The rapporteur supports the overall objective of the Commission but has identified a number of areas where she sees a need for further clarity. To this end, the rapporteur proposes a new Article 8a on the applicable law and jurisdiction. Secondly, in the interest of proportionality, the rapporteur suggests to limit the scope of the regulation to consumers only. Whilst the rapporteur can accept that at this stage the scope is aligned to the Services Directive to the extent possible, the rapporteur believes that there are numerous incidents of discrimination in relation to electronically supplied services such as e-books, e-music, games or software. She therefore proposes to include them within the scope of Article 4. Deadline for amendments in IMCO is on 14 February at 12h00.

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

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## European Agenda for the Collaborative Economy

On 25th January IMCO Members will consider the draft report prepared by MEP Nicola Danti on European Agenda for Collaborative Economy. The draft own-initiative report responds to the Commission's Communication released on the 2 June 2016. The rapporteur acknowledges that the collaborative economy may create significant opportunities for citizens and consumers and generate new entrepreneurial opportunities, jobs and growth; at the same time, highlights the potential risks of reducing consumer protection, workers' rights, and tax compliance. The draft report also touches upon the issues of competition, and promotion of the local dimension of collaborative economy. In order to avoid the risk of fragmentation of the Single Market, the EU needs to build an ambitious strategy on collaborative economy and to develop a common EU horizontal and harmonised regulatory framework consisting of a combination of general principles and specific rules.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Nicola Danti \(S&D\)](#)

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## Digitising European Industry

On 25 January IMCO will hold an exchange of views on the 68 Amendments tabled by MEPs. Among the main topics are the importance of addressing properly the upcoming challenges for digitising the EU Industry, the need for adequacy, interoperability and EU standards, facilitation of innovation, increasing trust in the digital environment and the protection of personal data and improving e-skills. The rapporteur for the opinion has circulated among shadows a proposal with a total of 16 draft Compromise Amendments that are currently being negotiated by political groups. The vote will take place on 6 February.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Sergio Gaetano Cofferati \(S&D\)](#)

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## Online Platforms and the Digital Single Market

On 26 January, IMCO and ITRE will hold a joint committee meeting for an exchange of views on Online Platforms and the Digital Single Market. This will mark the start of the preparation of the joint ITRE - IMCO report on the subject matter under Rule 55 of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure and under the leadership of two co-rapporteurs MEP Henna Virkkunen (ITRE) and MEP Philippe Juvin (IMCO). The importance of this report is based on the fact that online platforms play a key role in innovation and growth in the Digital Single Market. The growing importance of the digital economy linked with the diversity and fast changing nature of platform ecosystems also raises new policy and regulatory challenges. Creating the right framework conditions and the right environment is essential to retain, grow and foster the emergence of new online platforms in Europe.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Philippe Juvin \(EPP\)](#)

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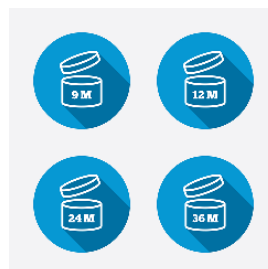
## FinTech: the influence of technology on the future of the financial sector

On 26 January, the Committee will consider draft opinion of MEP Dita Charanzová on the FinTech. The rapporteur points out the transformative nature of the Financial Technology on the global financial sector, the many opportunities it creates in terms of potential benefits for consumers, innovation, and jobs and growth in EU, and its role in developing a future proof DSM. She believes that more needs to be done in order to enable the EU to reap benefits of FinTech, and therefore calls on the COM to identify necessary policy changes as well as existing barriers to Single Market, including those preventing the advancement of digital services.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Dita Charanzová \(ALDE\)](#)

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## A longer lifetime for products: benefits for consumers and companies



On 6 February, the Rapporteur Pascal Durand is to present to the IMCO Committee his draft report on a longer lifetime for products: benefits for consumers and companies. The own-initiative draft report invites the Commission to set criteria of minimum resistance per product category, to support the right to have products repaired, to promote an economic model based on functionality, to better inform consumers on products durability, to ban planned obsolescence, to reinforce consumer rights, to have access to conformity, legal guarantee and to combat software planned obsolescence. The deadline for amendments is on 14 February.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Pascal Durand \(Verts/ALE\)](#)

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## LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(5 DECEMBER 2016)

### Cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws



Rapporteur Olga Sehnalová presented her draft report on 5 December. The draft emphasized the importance of the following aspects: the list of minimum powers of competent authorities in Article 8, challenged in the Council, as well as increased involvement of consumer organisations in the CPC system, due to the information these have on

infringements. Shadow Rapporteurs highlighted the need to define the minimum powers more narrowly, to address concerns of proportionality. The Rapporteur of the European Economic and Social Committee expressed broad acceptance of the proposal praising the involvement of consumer organisations in the system. Ms. Spanou, Director (DG JUST), expressed concern regarding the deletion of the Commission's initiating role in launching a common action to tackle widespread infringements with a Union-wide dimension.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Olga Sehnalová \(S&D\)](#)

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### Coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services in view of changing market realities



On 5 December IMCO adopted its opinion to the AVMSD. MEP Emma McClarkin was the rapporteur for the opinion, and a total of 30 Compromise Amendments in different key issues were agreed by political groups, leading to the adoption of a very balanced opinion. Among others, agreements on key issues such as Video Sharing Platforms of audiovisual media services (VSPs), commercial communications and the protection of European works, levies and discoverability were reached. Also, on the establishment of different codes of conduct, accessibility of audiovisual media services. The vote in the lead Committee (CULT) will take place at the end of January.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Emma McClarkin \(ECR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

### Union programme in the field of financial services for the period of 2017-2020



On 5 December, IMCO voted its opinion on the proposed regulation establishing a programme aimed at supporting the activities carried out by Finance Watch and Better Finance for the period 2017-2020 with an overall maximum budget of EUR 6 000 000. The opinion was adopted by unanimous vote (27 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions). 61 amendments were tabled in the Committee and the rapporteur proposed 14 compromise amendments. The proposed programme builds on a pilot project (2012-2013) and a preparatory action (2014-2016) that was aiming to provide grants to consumer bodies and civil society organisations lacking the adequate funds to conduct research on highly technical topics, research that was deemed helpful to the Union's financial services policy making.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Vicky Ford \(ECR\)](#)

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### Annual Report on the Single Market Governance within the European Semester 2017

On 5 December IMCO considered amendments tabled to the draft report by MEP Antonio López-Istúriz White on the Single Market Governance within the European Semester 2017. In total, 86 amendments were tabled before the deadline. The first deadline was set on 16 November as part of the regular procedure in IMCO, while the second deadline of 30 November was opened in order for IMCO Members to be able to respond to the Commission's Annual Growth Survey 2017 which was launched on 16 November. By and large, the amendments reinforce and further elaborate the Rapporteur's initial highlights. Amongst them is the long-standing Parliament's call for the creation of a single market pillar within the European Semester, which should encompass a system for regular monitoring, identification of the country-specific barriers to the single market and evaluation of single market integration and competitiveness. Many amendments call for better implementation and enforcement of the single market rules with the aim of reducing market fragmentation and delivering concrete results for citizens and businesses. They also call for improved ownership of country specific recommendations (CSRs) by national parliaments. In order to take the full benefit from the functioning of the single market, stress is put on the need to have a proper and reliable analysis of existing barriers in the single market. Some amendments call for a better dialogue and cooperation between Member States and the Commission on transposition issues and underline that a careful assessment of the impact of legislative proposals on the market and business environment in Member States would help overcome at least part of the problems at the stage of transposition. The Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs will elaborate some compromise amendments which are to be discussed on 25 January before the vote in IMCO on 26 January 2017.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Antonio López-Istúriz White \(EPP\)](#)

[LINK: Procedure file](#)



## UP-DATE ON IMCO NEGOTIATIONS AND EVENTS

### Control of the acquisition and possession of weapons

The fourth interinstitutional informal Trilogue on the revision of the Firearms Directive was held on 5th of December 2016 in the EP premises in Brussels. During that meeting, the co-legislators reached an initial political agreement on the outstanding issues, including the medical review provisions, the categorisation of high-capacity semi-automatic firearms, the provisions on high

capacity magazines, the provisions on collectors and target shooters, the provisions on deactivation. The Commission was finally able to support the agreed text as endorsed by the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) of the Council on 20 December 2016. This text will be put to vote in IMCO on 26 January 2017.

LINK: [Subject file](#)

## IMCO HEARINGS

### European standards - implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012

The hearing on European standards in the 21st century will take place on 26 January 2017. The hearing is organised in the context of the preparation of an own initiative report on European Standards for the 21st Century, for which Marlene Mizzi is Rapporteur. The report focuses on the different actions launched by the Commission last year such as ICT priorities, the joint standardisation initiative and the implementation report on Regulation 1025/2012 on standardisation. Several issues have

been pointed out to the Rapporteur and the Committee such as the evolution especially in the ICT area, FRAND-terms, inclusiveness and transparency. The Members wish to have the opportunity to discuss this issue with experts present at the hearing. The hearing will consist of two panels. Panel one will focus on innovative, interconnected and interoperable standards for the future and panel two will focus on how to make standards serve a modern inclusive society.

LINK: [Hearings](#)

## MALTESE PRESIDENCY



On 25 January, IMCO will hear a presentation of the Council Presidency's Programme by Maltese Minister Christian Cardona, Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business. The published work programme of the 2017 Maltese Presidency stresses that boosting the Digital Single Market and removing barriers in the Single Market are essential means for driving economic growth across the Union. As the smallest EU Member State with an open services economy, Malta remains a strong advocate for the internal market, and will work as a Presidency to strengthen it for the benefit of European businesses, particularly

SMEs, as well as consumers. The Maltese Presidency is committed to making progress on the legislative dossiers issued under the Digital Single Market Strategy and presented in May 2015 and the Single Market Strategy on goods and services presented on 28 October 2015. In the context of the Digital Single Market Strategy, the Maltese Presidency will give priority to the e-commerce package and take forward discussions on the proposed Regulation on cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market. The Maltese Presidency will also continue discussions on the copyright reform. Furthermore, the Maltese Presidency intends to take forward the Proposal for a Regulation on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws, with the aim of reaching a General Approach, and initiate work on the Services Package issued by the Commission on 10 January. Finally, Malta plans to initiate discussions on the upgrading of SOLVIT and the Single Market Information Tool which are part of the Enforcement Package together with the Single Digital Gateway.

LINK: [Maltese Presidency](#)

2017  
Happy New Year!

*IMCO Secretariat wishes you a happy and successful New Year!*

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