

Newsletter

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Issue 38

Hearing on "Brexit: Constitutional challenges and implications"



The hearing aims at providing AFCO with an opportunity to discuss with experts a number of constitutional and institutional questions raised by Brexit. These questions comprise, among others, the implementation of the procedure of Article 50 TEU, including the role of the different actors in the process, the sequencing of negotiations, and the scope of possible transitional measures, as well as other issues such as dispute settlement and enforcement mechanisms.

The hearing will consist of presentations made by:

- 1) Professor Sionaidh Douglas-Scott, on the negotiation process of the UK exit and UK constitutional dimension
- 2) Professor Piet Eeckhout, on the scope of the withdrawal agreement, institutional set-up in the Treaties, issues related to legal certainty, enforcement and dispute settlement mechanism, and
- 3) Professor Christophe Hillion, on the process of negotiation, sequencing, connection between withdrawal and the future relationship agreement, nature and legal basis for the transitional measures.

[Subject file](#)

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INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 38th issue of the AFCO Newsletter, a tool prepared by the Secretariat, which aims to inform you about AFCO activities and increase awareness of institutional challenges that the EU is facing.

At our meeting on 20th June, AFCO will hold a Hearing on "Brexit: Constitutional challenges and implications", followed by an exchange of views on the "General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018 - all sections", as well as on an opinion to PETI on "EU Citizenship Report 2017: Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of Democratic Change". We will also discuss an interpretation of Rules 5 and 201a of the EP Rules of Procedure.

Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair

Interpretation of Rules 5 and 210a of the Rules of Procedure



Consideration of a draft interpretation and possibly vote

Co-rapporteurs: Richard Corbett (S&D) and Rainer Wieland (PPE)

The Committee will consider (and possibly vote) a draft interpretation of Rules 5 and 210a on Privileges and immunities of Members and on the procedure for the consultation by a committee of confidential information received by Parliament.

This interpretation will stress that the Rules have to be interpreted and applied in connection and with respect of EU legislation in force and agreements concluded by Parliament with the Council and the Commission, which all are legally binding for Parliament.

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018 - all sections



Rapporteur: Danuta Maria Hübner (EPP)

The Commission presented its Statement of Estimates for Budget 2018 on 29 May 2017. While there is an overall decrease in the spending for Heading 3, the “Europe for Citizens” programme and the “Rights, Equality and Citizenship” programmes are slightly reinforced compared to Budget 2017. Funding for ECI remains stable, with a minor decrease in commitment appropriations (EUR 100 000). Therefore, in the draft opinion, Ms Hübner suggests to support the Commission in its estimations for these programmes and to oppose any cuts by Council to these programmes vital for democracy and citizenship.

MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, DA, EL, ES, PT, PL, RO

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

20 June 2017, 09.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
Room: Altiero Spinelli (ASP 3E2)

Here is the [link to the latest committee draft agenda](#).

NEXT MEETING

12 July 2017, 09.00 – 12.30 & 15.00 - 18.30
(Brussels)

Further information



[AFCO website](#)



[@EPInstitutional](#)

As 2018 is a year of special importance for communication with citizens in preparation for the European elections in 2019 but also to ensure a broad public debate and citizens' involvement in the discussion on the future of Europe in reaction to the Commission's White Paper presented earlier this year, the draft opinion proposes to reinforce activities in this direction.

Concerning Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions, AFCO has tabled 4 of them for Commission pre-assessment, which should be ready by the end of the month in time for AFCO's vote in July.

This year's calendar for budgetary amendments is very tight - all committees need to submit them before noon on 31 August 2017. Since AFCO doesn't have a meeting in August, we will vote our opinion and the corresponding budgetary amendments on 12 July 2017. This would imply a vote of budgetary amendments based on the Commission's draft budget, which could then be adapted by the Rapporteur to the possible changes that the Council might introduce to the relevant budgetary lines, which has been a usual practice in AFCO in the past.

The deadline for amendments is also very short, i.e. on 22 June 2017 at 18:00 and amendments should be tabled only in English.

[Procedure File](#)

EU Citizenship Report 2017: Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of Democratic Change



Rapporteur: Christian Dan Preda (EPP)

AFCO will have a first exchange of views on the Commission's EU citizenship report 2017, whose main responsibility lies with the Committee on Petitions, and for which AFCO will provide an opinion drafted by our rapporteur Cristian Dan Preda.

The 'EU citizenship report 2017', while taking stock of the progress reached, sets out the priorities for 2017-2019 in order to guarantee that EU citizens will be able to enjoy fully their rights and the practical benefits that the EU provides.

Such priorities are:

- promoting EU citizenship rights and common values;
- promoting and enhancing citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU;
- simplifying travel, living and working across the EU for citizens;
- strengthening security and promoting equality.

[Procedure File](#)

Contact the editor

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