

Newsletter

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Issue 42

Composition of the European Parliament



Consideration of amendments

Co-Rapporteurs: Danuta Maria Hübner, AFCO Chair (EPP), and Pedro Silva Pereira, AFCO Vice-Chair (S&D)

During this Committee meeting there will be a first exchange of views on the 170 tabled amendments. The amendments cover a broad range of issues regarding the future of the Parliament's composition. The principle of degressive proportionality is common ground for most of the amendments, but various approaches to seats distribution are suggested, ranging from introducing a permanent system for either the 2019 or 2024 elections, to electing a set number of MEPs on transnational lists or rejecting the creation of any joint constituency as such. Some of the contentious points stem from Brexit and include the redistribution of UK seats and the situation of Irish citizens in the UK.

A second consideration of amendments will take place during the next ordinary meeting on 21st November and the vote on the proposed amendments is scheduled to take place on 28 November in AFCO and in December in Plenary.

[Procedure File](#)

Statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations



First exchange of views

Rapporteurs: Mercedes Bresso (S&D) and Rainer Wieland (EPP)

On 13 September, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 1141/2014 of 22

INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 42nd 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.

During the morning session of our meeting on 11 October, the amendments on the composition of the European Parliament will be considered.

We will also vote on the draft opinion concerning the reform of the European Union's system of own resources which, among other issues, suggest a stronger role of the Parliament in order to achieve a higher level of transparency, democracy and legitimacy.

The second vote will concern the draft opinion on the next MFF post-2020.

Other highlights of this meeting include the discussion on the Commission's proposal to amend the Regulation on the Statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations and an exchange of views on the role of cities in the institutional framework of the Union, enhancing their role in the EU decision-making and their involvement in the institutional architecture. Finally, progress on the working document regarding national

October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and foundations, as Parliament had asked in its resolution of 15 June 2017. During the last meeting on 28 September, the Commission presented its proposal, which will be discussed during this Committee meeting. The co-rapporteurs will present the assessment of the proposal and they may suggest some amendments (corrections or additions to the proposal), while also listening to possible comments on it.

An agreement with the Council would have to be reached before the next European elections or, even more desirable, by the summer of next year so that it can apply for the budgetary year of 2019.

[Procedure File](#)

Role of cities in the institutional framework of the Union



First exchange of views (with invited guests)

Rapporteur: Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski (ECR)

In this debate, the committee will formally launch the preparation of the report on the role of cities in the institutional framework of the Union, by exchanging views with invited experts. The purpose of this report is to contribute to frame the involvement of cities in the current EU decision-making and institutional architecture and to gauge and build upon the recent developments within the field, as the relevance of cities and urban areas has been growing, including by force of EU legislation.

[Procedure File](#)

**** Voting Time ****

Reform of the European Union's system of own resources



Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur: Mercedes Bresso (S&D)

During this committee meeting the draft opinion and 30 amendments, plus 5 compromise amendments agreed with shadow-rapporteurs will be put to the vote.

parliaments will be presented.

In the afternoon session an Interparliamentary committee meeting will be held, where the "Future of Europe" will be discussed with members of national parliaments; in particular the European Parliament's proposals and the Commission White Paper will be analysed.

Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair

These amendments have specially the aim of reinforcing the draft opinion by making the system of own resources more transparent, democratic, legitimate and closer to the spirit of the Treaties. A higher involvement of the Parliament in the procedure for the adoption of own resources is suggested as well as a focus of the EU budget on areas with the highest "European added value".

[Procedure File](#)

The next MFF: Preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020



Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur: Gerolf Annemans (ENF)

The Committee will vote on the draft opinion on the next MFF, to which 31 amendments have been timely tabled. Some amendments suggest highlighting the link between the reform of the MFF and the need to introduce genuine own resources, as the revenue and expenditure sides of the budget should not be looked at separately. There is a difference of opinion concerning the duration of the MFF. Some amendments point to the link with Brexit and its impact on the future MFF.

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**** End of vote ****

The implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments



Consideration of a working document

Presentation of an EPRS study on "National Parliaments on EU affairs"

Rapporteur: Paulo Rangel (EPP)

The role of national parliaments has notably increased since the Treaty of Lisbon, recognizing their prerogatives and overall role in inter-parliamentary cooperation and European legislative procedures. Thus, the aim of this report is to assess the current mechanisms for national parliaments' participation in the EU political process and their possible improvements. Among the scrutiny tools used by the Rapporteur, a "European implementation assessment", supplemented by the "results of a survey" carried out "among the representatives of national

MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

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

Afternoon: All official languages except GA.

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

11 October 2017, 09.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30 (JAN 6Q2 Brussels)

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

NEXT MEETING

23 October 2017, 19:30-21:30 (Strasbourg)

Further information



[AFCO website](#)



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parliaments to the European Parliament” will be presented at the meeting and discussed, jointly with the Working Document of the Rapporteur. The study gives an empirical overview of the present situation while the survey rather concentrates on practical and administrative aspects and prospects.

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Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on "The future of Europe: Perspectives on the European Parliament's proposals and the Commission White Paper"



AFCO will hold an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on 'The Future of Europe' on Wednesday 11 October in the afternoon. This will be an opportunity to continue the discussions with members of national parliaments about the future institutional evolution of the Union.

There will be a particular focus on the European Parliament's proposals of 16 February 2017, the Commission White Paper of 1 March 2017 and the accompanying reflection papers, as well as proposals made by the Commission in the context of the State of the Union 2017. Interventions are foreseen from the Commission Vice-President Valdis DOMBROVSKIS, the President of the Council of the EU, Matti MAASIKAS, and EP Vice-President Mairead McGUINNESS. The European Economic and Social Committee will also be presenting its views on the future of the EU expressed in its opinion entitled "Towards a Common Sense of Purpose".

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