AFCO



Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Newsletter

November 2017 Issue 46

**** Voting Time ****

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament on the detailed provisions governing the exercise of the European Parliament's right of inquiry



Consideration and adoption of a draft question for oral answer Rapporteur: Ramón Jáuregui Atondo (S&D)

At the beginning of the legislature, the Parliament confirmed the proposal it had endorsed on 16 April 2014, when it adopted the David Martin Report. However, the Council and the Commission raised some points of disagreement and as a consequence, the Parliament provided a mandate for the Rapporteur to seek a compromise with those two institutions, since their consent is indispensable for Parliament to adopt the new regulation. In an attempt to overcome the institutional deadlock, the Rapporteur approached different Presidencies but, despite the Parliament's efforts, no substantial dialogue has developed at political level. The EP considers this very damaging for the correct exercise of its right of inquiry. Therefore, the Rapporteur has proposed to launch two questions for oral answer with debate, to the Council and to the Commission, on the EP proposal.

Procedure File

**** End of vote ****

The implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in the EU institutional framework



Exchange of views with the Council and the Commission Rapporteur: Barbara Spinelli (GUE/NGL)

There will be a hearing on the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental rights in the EU institutional framework, as part of the activities related to the implementation report which is currently being prepared by Rapporteur Barbara Spinelli. Professor Olivier de Schutter will present the main observations of his study on this subject. In addition, there will be two representatives of the European Commission and of the Council to share their experience about the implementation of the Charter.

INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 46th 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 meeting on Tuesday 28 November, there will be a vote on two questions for oral answer to the Council and to the Commission, regarding Parliament's proposal on the provisions governing the exercise of its right of inquiry, and an exchange of views with the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. Further discussions will also take place on the draft report regarding the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments.

In the afternoon, an exchange of views with the First Vice-President of the Commission, Frans Timmermans, on the new legislative proposal on the citizens' initiative will take place. A workshop on the implications of Brexit on the Irish border will follow, where three experts will present their studies on the topic.

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The implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments



Consideration of draft report Rapporteur: Paulo Rangel (PPE)

The aim of this report is to assess the use of the current mechanisms for the participation of national Parliaments in the European political process, as well as to determine possible improvements so that national Parliaments can take part more actively in the overall integration process. Likewise, it intends to examine the implementation of the political structured debate established between the Commission and national Parliaments.

Procedure file

The debate on the Future of Europe



Consideration of working documents

On 20 June and 4 September, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs endorsed the coordinators' recommendations of 20 June and 13 July 2017 to draft a series of working documents on the constitutional aspects of the Future of Europe debate. The primary goal of these working documents is to provide the Committee with an evaluation of the White Paper and other documents published by the Commission, in light of the proposals formulated in the reports drafted by Mercedes Bresso and Elmar Brok and by Guy Verhofstadt, which were adopted in Plenary on 16 February 2017. These evaluations are accompanied by the observations of the different draftspersons. On 13 November, 6 working documents were presented and discussed. Today the two remaining working documents are on the agenda:

- WD on the Commission reflection paper on "The deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union": Markus Pieper (EPP) and Mercedes Bresso (S&D) are the draftspersons;
- WD on the Structure and Working Method of the Council: Kazimierz Michal Ujazdowski (ECR) is the draftsperson with Claudia Tapardel (S&D).

Other highlights of the meeting are the debate on the future of Europe with a discussion on the Working documents prepared by the AFCO Committee and an exchange of views on the interpretation and implementation of the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making as part of the Joint meeting with the Committee on Legal Affairs.

Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair

MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

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

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

28 November 2017, 9.45-12.30 and 14.30-18.00; 18.00-18.30: joint committee procedure (Rule 55)
Paul-Henri Spaak 5B001, Brussels

Here is the <u>link to the latest committee</u> draft agenda.

NEXT MEETING

11 December 2017 (in Strasbourg)

With the Committee on Petitions

<u>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European citizens' initiative</u>



Exchange of views with Frans TIMMERMANS

During this meeting, organised by the AFCO Committee in association with the Committee on Petitions, the First Vice President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, will present the new legislative proposal on the citizens' initiative. This proposal has been prepared after the recognition by the Commission, after repeated appeals from the Parliament and from the civil society that the current Regulation is not working properly and needs revision.

The implications of Brexit on the Irish border



During this Policy Department Workshop on "The implications of Brexit on the Irish Border" there will be presentations by experts of three research papers dealing with the issue in hand. The experts will discuss the challenges posed by Brexit to the implementation of the Good Friday agreement, to the Irish border regarding customs control, and to the free movement of persons and trade in agricultural products.

Event page

Joint meeting: Interpretation and implementation of the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making



Exchange of views (Committee on Legal Affairs and Committee on Constitutional Affairs)

Co-rapporteurs: Pavel Svoboda (PPE) and Richard Corbett (S&D)

There will be an exchange of views concerning the activities undertaken by the Working group on the interpretation and implementation of the interinstitutional Agreement on Better law-making. The rapporteur will present the summary of activities while outlining the major issues to be addressed in the forthcoming draft report.

Further information



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@EPInstitutional

Contact the editor

European Parliament,
Directorate General for Internal Policies of
the Union,
Secretariat of the Committee on
Constitutional Affairs



+ 32 2 28 43676



AFCO mailbox

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