

The impact of the UK's withdrawal on EU integration



Presentation by Dr Garvan Walshe, Executive Director of TRD Policy

To contribute to understand how the UK's withdrawal might impact on EU integration, Dr Garvan Walshe, Executive Director of TRD Policy, will present a study on that issue in the AFCO meeting of 11 July. This study, commissioned by Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, examines the UK's effect on European integration, looking at the role the UK has played in five areas: the internal market; social policy; the area of freedom, security and justice; foreign, security and defence cooperation; and the Eurozone.

[Subject File](#)

Implementation of the Treaty provisions on Parliament's power of political control over the Commission



First exchange of views

Rapporteur: Mercedes Bresso (S&D)

On 11 July, AFCO will hold a first exchange of views on a forthcoming report on the implementation of the Treaty provisions on Parliament's political scrutiny over the Commission. Under the Treaties, Parliament has a range of supervisory and control powers that allow it to exercise such a scrutiny. By ensuring democratic control in this way, Parliament plays a crucial role in ensuring the democratic legitimacy and accountability of the EU executive.

[Procedure File](#)

Newsletter

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INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 56th issue of the AFCO Newsletter, a tool prepared by the Secretariat to keep you informed of AFCO activities and to increase awareness of the current institutional challenges facing the European Union.

Our next Committee meeting on 11 July will begin with a presentation on the impact of the UK's withdrawal on EU integration by Dr Garvan Walshe, Executive Director of TRD Policy, who has been commissioned to study the issue by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs.

This will be followed by a first exchange of views on a report evaluating the implementation of the Treaty provisions on Parliament's power of political control over the Commission, and then by a first exchange of views on the state of the debate on the Future of Europe.

We will then hold an exchange of views with the European Ombudsman, Ms Emily O'Reilly, on a proposed decision of Parliament to amend the Statute governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties.

State of the debate on the Future of Europe



First exchange of views

Rapporteur: Ramón Jáuregui Atondo (S&D)

In February 2017, AFCE adopted two reports on possible improvements to the institutional set-up of the European Union.

To follow up on the proposals, initiatives and reactions of the Commission, Heads of State or Government, Member States, national parliaments other EU institutions and bodies and stakeholders, since then, the committee has decided to draft a report on the “State of the debate on the Future of Europe” and will hold a first exchange of views on this topic on 11 July 2018.

Procedure File

Proposal for amending Parliament’s Decision on the regulations and conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman’s duties



Exchange of views with the European Ombudsman, Ms Emily O'Reilly

On 11 July 2018, AFCE will hold an exchange of views with the European Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly, concerning the AFCE legislative initiative tending to reform the Statute of the EU Ombudsman (EP Decision 94/262/ECSC, EC, Euratom of 9 March 1994), governing the performance of its duties, in order to update it according to new needs within the EU administration, access to documents, whistleblowing, harassment, etc. where the Parliament has clearly expressed its wish that the Ombudsman be more involved.

The European Ombudsman is an independent and impartial body, charged with holding the EU administration to account by investigating complaints about maladministration in EU institutions, bodies, offices, and agencies.

Procedure File

In a joint session with the Committee on Petitions (PETI), we will discuss the outcome of the Ombudsman’s strategic inquiry on the transparency of legislative discussions in the preparatory bodies of the Council of the European Union.

After this, we will hear from Mr Rainer Wieland, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Chair of the Working Group on the revision of the Rules of Procedure, who will present the outcome of the Working Group’s review.

Mr Gernot Blümel, Austrian Federal Minister for the EU, Art, Culture and Media, will then present the programme of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and this will be followed by a first exchange of views on the matter of differentiated integration between some EU Member States.

Afterwards AFCE will then consider a draft opinion on the protection of whistle-blowers and persons reporting on breaches of Union law. Our meeting will end with a discussion on the implementation of the Treaty provisions related to EU Citizenship.

**Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER,
Chair**

MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE
FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, DA, ES, PT, SV, 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.

Ombudsman's strategic inquiry on the transparency of legislative discussions in the preparatory bodies of the Council of the EU



Exchange of views with the European Ombudsman, Ms Emily O'Reilly

On 10 March 2017, the European Ombudsman opened a strategic inquiry focusing on the transparency of legislative discussions in the preparatory bodies of the Council of the EU. On 9 February 2018, after concluding her investigation, the Ombudsman made three recommendations and several suggestions to the Council on how to improve the transparency of its legislative process and specifically criticised its failure to record the identity of Member States taking positions in preparatory bodies. As the Council did not reply to the recommendations within the legally prescribed timeline of three months, the Ombudsman is now seeking Parliament's support on the issue.

On this basis, AFCO will participate in an exchange of views with the European Ombudsman, Ms Emily O'Reilly, on 11 July 2018 as part of a joint session with the European Parliament Committee on Petitions (PETI), at which the Council Presidency will be represented by Austrian Minister for Education, Science and Research - Prof. Dr. Heinz FASSMANN.

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Working Group on the "Revision of the Rules of Procedure"



Presentation of the outcome of the Working Group

On 13 July 2017, a decision was made to revive the European Parliament's Working Group on the revision of the Rules of Procedure to examine issues left over from the last general revision of the Rules adopted by Parliament in December 2016. Under the chairmanship of Vice-President Reiner Wieland, the Working Group held seven meetings between October 2017 and June 2018 and, while none of the issues left over from the previous revision have given rise to any new proposals, the Working Group has concluded that some other Rules may need to be clarified, completed or redrafted.

Vice-President Wieland has been invited to present the outcome of the Group's review in detail at the next meeting of AFCO on 11 July.

MEETING DATE AND VENUE

11 July 2018,
09.00 – 11.50 and 14.30 – 18.30

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak building (PHS 5 B 001), Brussels


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

NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, 3 September 2018
15.00 – 18.30
(Brussels)

FURTHER INFORMATION

 [AFCO website](#)

 [@EPInstitutional](#)

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Council Presidency

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**Austrian
Presidency
of the
Council of the
European Union**

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Presentation of the programme of the Austrian EU Council Presidency

Austria took over the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union on 1 July 2018 and has chosen “A Europe that protects” as the motto for its six-month tenure. This is the third time that Austria has held the Presidency since joining the EU in 1995, after holding it in 1998 and 2006. This time around, its programme places a focus on asylum and migration issues, on protecting external borders, on fighting radicalisation, terrorism and organised crime, on digital security, and on protecting European values.

This is a period of great challenge for the EU and the Austrian Presidency will have to confront some complex issues, including the Multi-Annual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 and the conclusion of withdrawal negotiations with the United Kingdom. Gernot Blümel, Austrian Federal Minister for the EU, Art, Culture and Media, will present the programme of the Austrian Presidency in detail and will participate in an exchange of views with MEPs.

Differentiated integration



First exchange of views

Rapporteur: Pascal Durand (Greens-EFA)

Differentiated integration in the EU takes many different forms and the landscape of flexible solutions that allow some Member States to move forward with deeper integration in a given policy area has become very varied in the recent years..

Therefore, AFCO has decided to prepare a report on the subject of differentiated integration in order to analyse the concept and examine possible venues to improve its application in the future.

[Procedure File](#)

Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law



Consideration of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ramón Jáuregui Atondo (S&D)

As shown in recent scandals such as LuxLeaks, WikiLeaks, the Panama Papers and Dieselgate etc., whistle-blowers provide a fundamental service to the whole community. At EU level the effective protection of whistle-blowers is not only key to ensuring the efficiency of the policy areas potentially concerned, but it is also necessary to meet the societal expectations prompted by those scandals and to reinforce citizens' trust in the EU Institutions. After privileging a sectoral approach, notably in financial services, the Commission has now put forward a proposal for a directive with a more comprehensive scope and providing general rules for the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law.

On 24 May, AFCO decided to draft an opinion on such a proposal and appointed Ramón Jáuregui Atondo as rapporteur. At the meeting on 11 July, the rapporteur will present his draft opinion, followed by an exchange of views on how to strengthen the legal framework for the protection of whistle-blowers.

[Procedure file](#)

Implementation of the Treaty provisions related to EU Citizenship



First exchange of views Rapporteur: Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE)

The 1992 Treaty on European Union (TEU), granted EU citizenship to all qualifying citizens of EU Member States. It is additional to national citizenship and affords rights, freedoms and legal protections to all citizens. AFCO has decided to produce a report on the implementation of the Treaty provisions related to EU Citizenship and has appointed Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz as rapporteur to oversee its progress. A first exchange of views on this issue will be held at AFCO meeting on 11 July.

[Procedure file](#)