

Newsletter

October 2018

Issue 59

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



Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: Barbara Spinelli (S&D, IT)

Gabriel Toggeburg, Senior Adviser at the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), will present the agency's opinion on "Challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental rights" as part of the input for the preparation of the draft report prepared by Barbara Spinelli (IT/GUE) on the Implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU institutional Framework.

AFCO expects to look at the impact the EU institutions and agencies have on the implementation of the Charter by the Member States in their legislation, case law and policies in general.

Subject File

INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 59th 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.

At our next Committee meeting on 1st October, I will report on the state of play of the negotiations on Brexit. We will then discuss the Implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in the EU institutional framework.

This will be followed by a vote on the opinion on the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law, as well as on another opinion regarding the annual report on the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy.

We will then have a discussion on the report on further modifications to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament and we will look at the parliamentary scrutiny over decentralised agencies of the EU.

Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law



Adoption of draft opinion

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

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 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.

AFCO will be voting on a draft opinion of Ramón Jáuregui Atondo to the JURI committee on the Commission proposal for a directive with a more comprehensive scope and providing general rules for the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law. Some 250 amendments plus 2 compromise amendments and 11 oral amendments will be put to the vote.

Subject File

Annual report on the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy



Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: Paulo Rangel (PPE, PT)

AFCO will vote the draft opinion to the attention of AFET on the Annual report regarding the Implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy. 35 amendments were tabled within the deadline. The rapporteur, Paulo Rangel has presented 6 compromise amendments, in particular to reiterate the call for the establishment of a defence ministers meeting format within the Council, chaired by the VP/HR and asking for further European integration, with more democratic scrutiny through parliamentary control.

Subject File

This will be followed by a discussion on the implementation of the treaty provisions on European citizenship.

We will finish our meeting with a discussion on the opinions concerning the protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States and regarding strengthening fiscal responsibility in the context of the medium-term budgetary orientation in the Member States.

Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER,
Chair

MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

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

1 October 2018, Strasbourg

Extraordinary meeting

19.30 - 22.30

Room: Salvador de Madariaga (S1),
Strasbourg

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

NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, 10 October 2018
9.00 - 12.30 and 14.30 - 18.30
(Brussels)

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure affecting Chapters 1 and 4 of Title I; Chapter 3 of Title V; Chapters 4 and 5 of Title VII, Chapter 1 of Title VIII; Title XII; Title XIV and Annex II



Exchange of views

Rapporteur: Richard Corbett (S&D), UK)

AFCO will discuss the 45 amendments tabled following the presentation of the draft report by the rapporteur, Richard Corbett (S&D, UK) at the meeting of 3 September.

The European Commission will also make its observations on the proposed changes, pursuant to the Parliament's commitment to consult it, as foreseen in the Framework Agreement between the European Parliament and the European Commission.

The vote of this report is scheduled for the next AFCO meeting on Wednesday 10 October 2018.

Procedure File

Implementation of the legal provisions and the Joint Statement ensuring the parliamentary scrutiny over decentralised agencies



Exchange of views

Rapporteur: György Schöpflin (EPP, HU)


The rapporteur will present his action plan and the main issues to be examined in this implementation report. He may also briefly report back on his fact-finding visit to the Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna last week.

The next step will be an exchange of views with the rapporteurs for opinion and the Commission within AFCO in Strasbourg on 22 October.

Subject File

FURTHER INFORMATION

 [AFCO website](#)

 [@EPInstitutional](#)

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Implementation of the Treaty provisions related to EU Citizenship



Exchange of views

Rapporteur: Maite Pagazaurtundúa (ALDE, ES)

AFCO will hold an exchange of views on the draft working document prepared by Maite Pagazaurtundúa (ES/ALDE). The text looks at the provisions in the EU treaties which are related to EU citizenship. This document aims to set out a general framework for the investigation the rapporteur will conduct in preparation of the final report.

Subject File

Interim report on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 – Parliament's position with a view to an agreement



Exchange of views

Rapporteur: Fabio Castaldo (EFDD, IT)

This item is postponed to the AFCO meeting of 10 October.

Subject File

Protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States

Consideration of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL, D)

The respect for the rule of law must be ensured throughout all Union policies. This includes the EU budget, where this is an essential precondition for sound financial management and effective EU funding. The proposal from the Commission lists the type of measures that could be taken, as in particular the suspension of payments or the implementation of legal commitments, etc.

The rapporteur, Helmut Scholz, will present his draft opinion to the attention of BUDG, followed by an exchange of views.

Subject File

Strengthening fiscal responsibility and the medium-term budgetary orientation in the Member States

Consideration of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: Claudia Tapardel (S&D, RO)

Claudia Tapardel will be presenting her draft opinion to the ECON report on the Commission proposal for a directive on "Strengthening fiscal responsibility and the medium-term budgetary orientation in the Member States".

The integration of the substance of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the EMU (TSCG) has been a long-standing request of the EP, notably also in the AFCO resolutions on the future of Europe.

Subject File