

State of play of Brexit negotiations – report by the Chair



Report by the Chair:

The Chair will give the usual overview on the developments in the negotiations since the Committee's previous meeting of 22 October, while reporting back on the most relevant points of her latest meetings on Brexit.

[Subject File](#)

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



Consideration of amendments to the draft opinion
Rapporteur for the opinion: Claudia Tapardel (S&D, RO)

There will be an exchange of views on the amendments tabled to the Commission proposal for a directive on "Strengthening fiscal responsibility and the medium-term budgetary orientation in the Member States". The rapporteur had proposed one single amendment to change the legal basis of this proposal for a directive. 11 further amendments were tabled by other AFCO members. 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.

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INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 62nd 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 12 November, I will report on the state of play of the negotiations on Brexit. We will then discuss the AFCO opinion on strengthening fiscal responsibility and the medium-term budgetary orientation in the Member States.

The opinion on Establishing the Rights and Values programme will also be discussed, and a first exchange of views will be held on the report on the Protection of personal data in the context of elections to the European Parliament (amendment of the regulation on the Statute and funding of European political parties and foundations).

Finally, there will be a consideration of amendments on the opinion on the Protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States.

Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER,
Chair

Establishing the Rights and Values programme



Consideration of amendments

Rapporteur: Joseph-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)

The new “Rights and Values” programme replaces the existing “Rights Equality and Citizenship” and “Europe for Citizens” programmes. Together with the justice programme the proposed “Rights and Values” programme will be part of a new justice, rights and values fund of the EU budget. Its overall proposed budget is set at EUR 641.7 million for the period 2021-2027.

In his draft opinion to the LIBE committee, the rapporteur, Joseph-Maria Terricabras, proposes the addition of a fourth strand focusing on actions promoting democracy, fundamental rights and the rule of law (the Union values strand) and a conditionality mechanism whereby, in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the values enshrined in Article 2 TEU in the recipient Member State, the Commission may resort to direct management. He furthermore proposes that the relevant work programmes be adopted by means of delegated acts and reinstates elements of the predecessor programmes left out of the new one.

By the deadline set for this purpose, 81 amendments were tabled. They mostly focus on the scope of the Union values strand, the type of actions which are eligible for funding and the link with the respect for the rule of law and fundamental rights.

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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

12 November 2018, Strasbourg
19.00-21.00

Room: Salvador de Madariaga (S1)

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

NEXT MEETINGS

- Wednesday, 21 November 2018,
Brussels

Protection of personal data in the context of elections to the European Parliament



Exchange of views Consideration of draft report

*Decision on deadline for tabling amendments
Mercedes Bresso (S&D), Rainer Wieland (PPE)*

AFCO will have a first exchange of views on the Commission proposal of aiming at amending again Regulation 1141/2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and foundations, with a view of establishing a verification procedure related to infringements of rules on the protection of personal data in the context of elections to the European Parliament in order to guarantee free and fair elections.

This proposal introduces financial penalties to parties and foundations infringing data protection rules in an attempt to influence the outcome of these elections and reinforces the role of the Authority for the European political parties and foundations and of the Committee of independent and eminent experts. The vote in AFCO is scheduled for the 6 December meeting, with a deadline for amendments set on 19th November 2018.

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



Consideration of amendments

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

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, such as in particular the suspension of payments or the implementation of legal commitments, etc.

In his draft opinion for the BUDG and CONT committees (acting jointly under Rule 55), the rapporteur, Helmut Scholz, focused on the conditions and the criteria that the Commission should meet in order to apply the proposed measures and on the procedure established for this purpose. By the relevant deadline, 94 amendments were tabled mostly focusing on the nature and the scope of the possible measures and on the procedure that should be followed to apply them, with particular regard to the role of the European Parliament.

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