

AFCO-European Youth Event (EYE) speed-hearing



Exchange of views - Dialogue with young people: questions and answers

Around 9.000 young people aged between 16 and 30 from all over Europe took part in the third edition of the European Youth Event (EYE2018) at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on last 1-2 June. The EYE2018 served as a platform for dialogue between young citizens and European decision makers. Accordingly 100 most concrete ideas and proposals from the EYE2018 are now available in the EYE Report which has been distributed to all Member of the European Parliament last September, in a way to provide the MEPs with a clear view of young people's concerns, dreams and expectations for the future.

As a direct follow-up of the EYE2018, three selected EYE2018 young participants, as idea-givers, will discuss with AFCO MEPs some of the most relevant ideas from the EYE event on three specific topics as: the future of Europe after Brexit, EU democracy and participation in the eve of the European elections, maintaining, preserving and improving a fair and transparent European public space of debate especially related to the New Technologies, allowing young people to have an impact on the agenda of the next legislature and make a positive change.

[EYE Website](#)

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INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 64th 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 27 November, we will exchange views and vote, among others, on many issues of high interest and importance for the EU such as: the recently signed Withdrawal Agreement of the UK from the EU, on which we will exchange views (*in camera*) with the chief-negotiator for the EU Michel Barnier; the state of the debate on the future of Europe; the constitutional perspective of the EU's social dimension; and the implementation of the legal provisions and the Joint Statement on parliamentary scrutiny over decentralised agencies.

I am also very pleased to announce that we will have the opportunity to exchange views with young representatives on proposals concerning the future of Europe after Brexit and on the eve of the European Elections of next 23-26 May 2019. These proposals were developed during the European Youth Event 2018, which took place from 1 to 2 June in Strasbourg.

Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair

The state of the debate on the Future of Europe



Adoption of draft report

Rapporteur: Ramon Jáuregui Atondo (S&D)

On 27 November AFCD will vote on the draft report of Ramón Jáuregui Atondo on the state of the debate on the future of Europe. AFCD members tabled 244 amendments to this report. Opinions were delivered by ECON (associated committee under Rule 54), AGRI, INTA and JURI. There were two meetings of shadow rapporteurs on 25 October and on 13 November. This resulted in 37 compromise proposals.

In its draft, the rapporteur stresses that the multiple challenges facing the Union need to be tackled together and require a greater and better integration, reiterating that institutional reforms should make the decision-making processes more democratic and transparent and increase the Unions capacity to act.

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Proposed amendments to Protocol No 3 on the Statute of the Court of Justice of the European Union



Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur for the opinion: Morten Messerschmidt (ECR)

By letter of 26 March 2018, the President of the Court of Justice, acting in accordance with Article 281(2) TFEU and 106a(1) Euratom, submitted a request to the European Parliament and the Council to amend Protocol 3 on the Statute of the Court of Justice of the European Union. By letter of 13 July 2018, the President of the Court of Justice, following the opinion of the Commission, submitted a revised proposal.

In addition to harmonising terminology, the proposal aims at the following: (i) the conferral on the Court of Justice of responsibility to deal with actions for annulment linked to the failure properly to comply with a judgment delivered by the Court under Article 260 TFEU and (ii) the introduction, for certain categories of appeals, of a procedure whereby the Court of Justice will first determine whether certain appeals are allowed to proceed.

The rapporteur, Morten Messerschmidt considers, among other things, the possibility for the judges to publish separate opinions, including dissenting ones, and proposes amendments to the relevant articles of the Statute of the Court. By the deadline set for this purpose, 2 amendments have been tabled. At this meeting the vote on the opinion will take place.

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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

27 November 2018, Brussels
9.00-12.30 and 14.30-18.30

Room: Altiero Spinelli (1G-3)

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

NEXT MEETINGS

- 6 December 2018, Brussels
9.00 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 17.30

Implementation report on enhanced cooperation:



*Rapporteur: Alain Lamassoure (PPE)
Consideration of draft report*

In his draft report, the rapporteur Alain Lamassoure (EPP, FR), examines both the internal and the external dimension of enhanced cooperation. Mr Lamassoure evaluates the application of the Treaty provisions on enhanced cooperation in the Union but also searches for similar examples of sub-federal cooperation within the Federal Member States, such as Germany and Italy, and in federations outside the EU, such as the USA, Canada, Switzerland and Australia.

Based on the findings of the research, which encompassed a hearing on the institutional structure and governance of existing forms of enhanced cooperation, a study commissioned by Policy Department C, an in-house study prepared by the EPRS, an in-depth analysis carried out by Policy Department EXPO, as well as fact-finding missions to Bern, Switzerland and Washington, D.C., the USA, the Rapporteur has identified several shortcomings in the application of enhanced cooperation so far.

Mr Lamassoure proposes to improve the application of enhanced cooperation in the future by providing a list of questions that need to be answered and a roadmap to be followed. The Rapporteur is making several recommendations when it comes to the decision-making process, the administration, the parliamentary scrutiny, the budget, the jurisdiction and the necessary adjustments to the institutional structure of the Union in order to make the application of enhanced cooperation smoother and more efficient in the future. To mention a few examples, he recommends to interpret Parliament's right to quasi-legislative initiative as a possibility for Parliament to initiate enhanced cooperation on the basis of a Commission proposal, to set a deadline of two consecutive Council presidencies to determine that the objectives of cooperation cannot be attained by the Union as a whole, to use the special passerelle clause contained in Article 333 TEU to switch from unanimity to QMV. The Rapporteur also proposes several institutional adjustments necessary for the smooth functioning of enhanced cooperation in the future, among which to entrust Parliament's standing committees with the task of following each case of enhanced cooperation from its adoption through to the end of its period of application, and of examining possible additional areas where this tool could be useful.

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FURTHER INFORMATION



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Amendment of the EIB Statute



Consideration of draft report

Rapporteur: Danuta Maria Hübner (PPE),

By letter of 15 October 2018 the European Investment Bank, in accordance with Article 308 TFEU, submitted a request to the Council to amend the Statute of the European Investment Bank. On 25 October 2018 the Council forwarded the EIB request to the European Parliament for consultation.

The statute of the EIB is contained in the Protocol 5 to the Treaties which, according to Article 308 TFEU, may be modified through a special legislative procedure in which - upon request from the EIB - the Council decides by unanimity after consulting the European Parliament and the Commission.

The main aim of the EIB proposal is to take into account the consequences of the withdrawal of the UK from the Union. The proposal contains the following amendments:

- adapting the number of directors composing the Board of Directors;
- adapting the capital of the Bank to the loss of the quota of the UK on it;
- increase of the number of alternate directors of the EIB;
- extension of the qualified majority voting in the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors to three areas.

The proposal made by the EIB will enable to adjust the governance of the EIB to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union and enhance its efficiency and effectiveness. Swift agreement on the amendments to the EIB statute is needed, so that adjustments can enter into force on time for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union.

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Exchange of views with members of the Commission for citizenship, governance, institutional and external affairs (CIVEX) of the European Committee of the Regions on the future of Europe



Exchange of views

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs invited the President of the Committee of Regions, President Karl-Heinz Lambertz and the Members of the CIVEX committee, including its Chair, Ms Barbara Duden for an exchange of views on the Future of Europe.

The Committee of Regions has adopted an opinion on 9 October 2018, entitled "Reflecting on Europe: the voice of local and regional authorities to rebuild trust in the European Union". The AFCO committee today also adopts its report on the state of debate on the Future of Europe (rapporteur Ramon Jáuregui Atondo (S&D))

Constitutional perspective of EU's social dimension in the context of the debate on the future of Europe



Public Hearing

Continuing its reflections on the main issues of the debate on the Future of Europe, AFCO is organising a public hearing on the "Constitutional Perspective of EU's social dimension in the context of the debate on the future of Europe". Three guest experts, as the Professor Frank Vandenbroucke from the University of Amsterdam, Professor Francesco Costamagna, from University of Turin, and Esther Lynch, Confederal Secretary from the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), will address the AFCO MEPs on one of the most discussed subjects concerning the debate on the future of Europe, and the way forward, notably at the light of the developments occurred during the financial and economic crisis, which has been even the subject of a specific reflection paper of the Commission in the framework of the White Paper on the future of Europe. AFCO will discuss, notably, on the competences of the EU in this area as provided for by Treaties and possibilities of enhancing its role on this domain within the current treaties and reinforcing democratic control on possible measures taken at EU level on social issues, as well as on possible modifications of the Treaty concerning social policy.

The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Article 50 TEU) (in camera)



Exchange of views

The Committee will hold an exchange of views, *in camera*, with the EU chief-negotiator for BREXIT, Michel Barnier on the withdrawal agreement, after its endorsement at the special meeting of the European Council (Art. 50), of Sunday, 25 November 2018, and after the conclusion of the negotiations on the political declaration, as approved at the same European Council meeting.

[Subject File](#)

Presentation of the Key findings of the future study on "The Council of the EU: from the Congress of Ambassadors to a genuine Parliamentary Chamber"



Presentation of a study

AFCO had requested the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs to provide expertise on both the structure and working methods of the Council and the transparency of Council proceedings. Consequently, Professor ROZENBERG, Associate Professor at the "Centre d'Études Européennes" in Sciences Po (Paris), will present the key findings of this study, which will be published in December.

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



Presentation of research by European Parliamentary Research Service

Rapporteur: György Schöpflin (PPE)

The Conference of Presidents authorised the drafting of this implementation report on 31 May 2018. The report will examine and evaluate how the institutional mechanisms ensuring democratic control over decentralised agencies have been implemented and possibly suggest improvements to those mechanisms in order to reach a more coherent, efficient and transparent institutional set up for the parliamentary scrutiny over the activity of the agencies. BUDG, CONT, ECON and ENVI will give an opinion under Rule 53. As part of the Action plan for the implementation report on the 'Implementation of the legal provisions and the Joint Statement ensuring the parliamentary scrutiny over decentralised agencies' (rapporteur György Schöpflin), there will be the presentation of a study entitled 'EU Agencies, Common Approach and Parliamentary Scrutiny'. The study has been written by Professor Ellen Vos of the University of Maastricht at the request of the Ex-post Evaluation Unit of the Directorate for Impact Assessment and European Added Value, within the Directorate General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) of the Secretariat of the European Parliament.

[Subject File](#)