

### **The withdrawal of the UK from the European Union– state of play**

*Exchange of views: update by the Chair*



The Committee will analyse the state of play of the procedure on the withdrawal of the UK, in the context of the recent developments in the process of approval of the draft withdrawal agreement in the UK parliament.

[Subject File](#)

### **Study on "The meaning of 'association' under EU law – A study on the law and practice of EU association agreements"**

*Presentation by Professor Peter Van Elsuwege (Ghent European Law Institute, Ghent University) of a study commissioned by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs on "The meaning of 'association' under EU law – A study on the law and practice of EU association agreements"*



AFCO requested this study in order to clarify the concept of 'association' under EU law. In the light of the EU-UK negotiations, a legal and political reflexion on the meaning of the concept was considered useful. Also, the role of Parliament in association agreements negotiations was investigated.

### INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 68th 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 the opening of the meeting, as usual, I will make a brief description of the state of play of Brexit, notably concerning both the latest developments at EP level on the ongoing works concerning the consent Procedure on the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement and the bilateral meetings I had on this crucial issue.

This will be followed by an item closely linked to Brexit, concerning the presentation by Professor Peter Van Elsuwege and Dr. Merijn Chamon (Ghent European Law Institute, Ghent University) of a study, commissioned by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, on "The meaning of 'association' under EU law – A study on the law and practice of EU association agreements".

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Association agreements (AA) concluded between the EU and third countries (Article 217 TFEU) typically contain three main components: political dialogue, trade liberalisation and sectoral cooperation. They aim to establish a long-term legal and institutional framework for cooperation, supported by joint decision-making bodies.

From a formal perspective, Parliament is not fully involved in AA negotiations (it only gives its consent at the end of the procedure). However, a dynamic application of Parliament's right to be immediately informed at all stages of the procedure (Article 218(10) TFEU) gives an opportunity to influence the content of agreements. The IIA on Better Law-making could be used to clarify the role of Parliament with respect to issues such as access to the negotiation guidelines, decisions on provisional application and monitoring of the implementation and potential suspension of agreements.

The study will be presented by its authors, Professor Peter VAN ELSUWEGE, Co-Director of the Ghent European Law Institute (GELI), and Dr. Merijn CHAMON, postdoctoral researcher at the Ghent European Law Institute.

### [Study](#)

### **MFF Regulation and Own Resources: update on developments**



#### *Exchange of views*

AFCO members will discuss the state of play of negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework and the package of proposals on Own Resources. AFCO Rapporteurs for the IIA on budgetary discipline (Charles Goerens), the MFF (Fabio Massimo Castaldo) and own resources (Jasenko Selimovic) are invited to brief AFCO members on the outcome of the latest meetings of MFF rapporteurs and the progress of negotiations, as well as what is expected of Parliament until the end of the term.

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We will finally discuss two other crucial issues for the Future of Europe: the state of play of negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework and the package of proposals on Own Resources.

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

### **MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE**

FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, DA, ES, PT, 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**


Wednesday 20 February 2019, 15.30 – 17:30  
Room: Paul-Henri Spaak (5B001)  
(Brussels)

### **NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 7 March 2019, 9.00 – 12.30 and 14.00 - 17:30 (Brussels)


### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

 [AFCO website](#)

 [@EPInstitutional](#)

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