

Citizens' Dialogues and Citizens' Consultations on the future of Europe



Exchange of views with representatives of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions

Today the committee will have an exchange of views with Ms Melania-Gabriela Ciot, state secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Council Presidency, with Mr Luc Van den Brande, Member of the Committee of the Regions, with Mr Luca Jahier, President of the European Economic and Social Committee and with Mrs Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, Director General for the Commission (DG Communication) on their findings and recommendations with regards to their respective activities and reports on Citizens' Dialogues and Citizens' Consultations on the future of Europe, and on proposals for the establishment of permanent mechanism for structured consultations and dialogues with citizens.

The European Parliament recently adopted a report from the AFCO committee (rapporteur Ramón Jáuregui Atondo) on the state of the debate on the future of Europe reiterating that institutional reforms should aim at making decision-making processes more democratic and enhancing the transparency of decision-making and the accountability of the Union and its institutions. Parliament stressed that in view of these aims, it is an appropriate and opportune time to promote meaningful civic participation in the European project and organise consultations and encourage regular dialogue with citizens and representative associations, in line with the requirements of Article 11 of the TEU.

In-depth analysis on "Constitutional challenges of the enlargement: Is further enlargement feasible without constitutional changes?"

Presentation by Professor Bruno De Witte of the In-depth Analysis commissioned by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs on "Constitutional challenges of the enlargement: is further enlargement feasible without constitutional changes?"



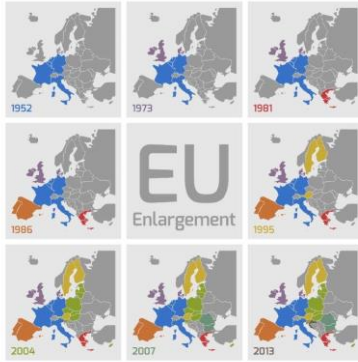
Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 71st 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.

The first point concerns a debate jointly with Council and Commission, and both Presidents of the EU Economic and Social committee and the Committee of the Regions, on findings and recommendations concerning an increased and structured dialogue with citizens.

Furthermore, continuing the debate on the institutional changes of the Union's constitutional framework, the AFCO MEPs will discuss a study of the Maastricht University on the necessary Treaties' revisions, or not, to prepare the Union for the possible EU accession of new countries in the near future.

The other three issues to be discussed and possibly adopted will be the AFCO priorities for Budget 2020, a delegated act aiming to modify the annexes to the Regulation of the ECI, and some requested Interpretations of outstanding issues of the EP's Rules of Procedure.



Following the publication of the Commission's 2018 strategy for 'A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans', AFCO requested this in-depth analysis in order to examine the perspective of further Union's enlargement from the point of view of the European Union's absorption capacity.

For this purpose, the in-depth analysis discusses whether further changes of the Union's constitutional framework - requiring Treaties' revisions or not - are necessary to prepare the Union for the possible accession of new countries in the near future, focusing on three main issues: the Union's decision-making capacity; forms of differentiated integration; and the question on how to ensure respect by all member states for the Union's fundamental values.

The in-depth analysis will be presented by its author, Bruno De Witte, Professor of European Union law at Maastricht University and at the European University Institute.

[In-depth Analysis](#)

2020 Budget - Mandate for the Trilogue



Exchange of views

AFCO Members will discuss the priorities for Budget 2020, which will be expressed in the form of a letter to the Committee on Budgets. In the draft letter, the Rapporteur Alain Lamassoure and the AFCO Chair Danuta Hübner have outlined communication with citizens, the fight against fake news, as well as building trust in the EU budget and its value added as the main priorities for AFCO. They also insist on ensuring sufficient commitment and payment appropriations for the EU programmes stimulating citizens' participation in the democratic processes, such as the Europe for Citizens programme, the Rights, equality and citizenship programme and the European citizens' initiative.

[Procedure File](#)

We might also deal (should the committee so agree), under a simplified procedure, with a proposal recently received on a modification of the statute of the EIB in order to increase the participation of some Member States in its capital.

Finally, the usual topic related to Brexit will provide an update on the situation in order to launch a discussion on the state of play of the withdrawal procedure after the recent developments and votes in the UK House of Commons.

Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair

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

Tuesday 2 March 2019, 10:30 - 12:30 and 14:30 - 17:00

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak (4B001) Brussels

Commission Delegated Regulation replacing Annex I and amending Annexes II and VII to Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the citizens' initiative



Consideration and vote on any possible objection or proposal for an early non-objection recommendation presented by Members

AFCO Members will decide whether they agree with the Commission's delegated regulation of 7th March 2019 updating the annexes of the EU Regulation on the European Citizens' Initiative (Regulation EU No 211/2011). The delegated act aims to modify the annexes to the Regulation, in particular the Annex I with regard to the minimum number of required signatories per Member State, in order to align it with the new European Council Decision (EU) 2018/937 on the new composition of the European Parliament, and the Annexes II and VII with regard to the references to the privacy statement.

Rules of Procedure: outstanding issues



Exchange of views and possible adoption of an interpretation of some Rules


The Committee will hear its rapporteur on the Rules of Procedure, Richard Corbett, who will comment further on some outstanding issues concerning the interpretation of certain provisions of the Rules adopted by Parliament over the two last years, as well as new requests forwarded to the committee, since it touched these matters at its previous meeting on 7 March 2019.

Among the Rules on which possible interpretations will be discussed are Rule 32(5) on the political declaration required for the establishment of political groups and Rule 149a on adopting and amending the (plenary) agenda.

In case the Committee adopts such interpretations, they will be forwarded to the President in order to be announced in plenary.


FURTHER INFORMATION

 [AFCO website](#)

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



Exchange of views on the state of play of the UK withdrawal, with the Chair, Danuta Maria Hübner, member of the Brexit Steering Group

The Committee will hold the usual exchange of views with Danuta Hübner, Chair of AFCO and member of the Parliament's Brexit Steering Group, following the outcome of the third meaningful vote held in the UK House of Commons on Friday, 29 March, in which the draft withdrawal agreement was once again rejected, and of the indicative votes taking place on Monday 1st April evening, ahead of the European Council meeting of next week, 10 April, as called by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk.

Subject File

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