

Newsletter - September 2019



Words by the Chair

On 10 July I was honoured to be elected as Chair of the LIBE Committee which I had the privilege to lead from 2009-2014 following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon and the immediate adoption of the Stockholm programme to develop the provision of the area of freedom, security and justice. Our Committee is of particular relevance as during the last term it dealt with 25% of the legislation approved by the EU. In my capacity as Chair, I will put all my political commitment and energy to pursue the responsibilities for which I have been elected.

My first duty as LIBE Chair was to attend the informal Council on 18-19 July in Helsinki. It was a quick start into the Chair responsibilities and it gave me the chance to discuss the finish Presidency priorities, and celebrate the Tampere programme of 1999 which was a first step towards harmonisation and democratisation on the European level of the Justice and Home Affairs policies. Today, based on the Lisbon Treaty, the EP is a fully-fledged co-legislator in the area of freedom, security and justice. After having already held two Coordinators meetings in July, it is clear to me that we will start the Committee work at full speed, and we must therefore prioritise completing outstanding files, such as the Asylum package or the rule of law while preparing for the hearings of Commissioners-designated which will take place in the autumn.

I look forward to working with the MEPs and staff on this important Committee of values.

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

The new LIBE Bureau



Mr. LÓPEZ AGUILAR Juan Fernando
BRU - AGP 146205 - 45336
STR - LOW 107149 - 75336

Chair
S&D Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
Member of the European Parliament
Spain



Ms. PAGAZAURTUNDÚA Maite
BRU - VIB 028055 - 45730
STR - WIC M03054 - 75730

Vice-Chair
Renew Europe
Member of the European Parliament
Spain



Mr. BARTOLO Pietro
BRU - ASP 150354 - 45399
STR - LOW T06066 - 75393

Vice-Chair
S&D Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
Member of the European Parliament
Italy



Mr. RADEV Emil
BRU - WIE 070043 - 45189
STR - LOW T09004 - 75189

Vice-Chair
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)
Member of the European Parliament
Bulgaria

The LIBE Committee elected its new Chair and three Vice-Chairs on 10 July 2019, at its first meeting under the new mandate. The third Vice-Chair remains to be appointed. This bureau will head the work of the committee in the two and a half years to come. It combines experienced Members - such as the new Chair, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, who is starting his third term and already served as LIBE Chair in the legislature 2009-2014, or Maite Pagazaurtundúa and Emil Radev who were already part of the previous legislature as well as Pietro Bartolo.

In this issue

- The new LIBE Coordinators – page 2
- Commissioners in LIBE and the priorities of the Finnish Presidency – page 3
- Council Strategic Agenda 2019-2024 and selections of new Europol deputy-ED and EDPS – page 4
- EU 2020 budget – page 5
- 3 questions to the Chair – page 6
- News from JHA agencies – page 7
- JHA Council in July and CoE PACE campaign to end child detention – page 8

Next meetings

- 4-5 September 2019 ([click here](#) for draft agenda)
- 12 September
- 23-24 September 2019
- 2-3 October 2019

[Click here](#) for the LIBE Committee meetings provisional planning for 2019 (2nd part)

The new LIBE Coordinators



Ms. METSOLA Roberta

BRU - ASP 08E107 - 45686
STR - LOW T12018 - 75686

Member
 EPP Coordinator

Member of the European Parliament
 Malta



Mr. LENAERS Jeroen

BRU - WIE 07U005 - 45560
STR - LOW T11017 - 75560

Member
 EPP Vice-Coordinator

Member of the European Parliament
 Netherlands



Ms. SIPPEL Birgit

BRU - ASP 12G116 - 45559
STR - LOW T12046 - 75559

Member
 S&D Coordinator

Member of the European Parliament
 Germany



Ms. in 't VELD Sophia

BRU - WIB 06M055 - 45796
STR - WIC M06069 - 75796

Member
 Coordinator

Member of the European Parliament
 Netherlands



Mr. TUDORACHE Dragoș

BRU - WIB 05M021 - 45216
STR - WIC M05037 - 75216

Member
 Deputy Coordinator

Member of the European Parliament
 Romania



Ms. REINTKE Terry

BRU - ASP 08H341 - 45760
STR - WIC M01068 - 75760

Member
 Co-Coordinator

Member of the European Parliament
 Germany



Ms. STRIK Tineke

BRU - ASP 10G317 - 45212
STR - WIC M03058 - 75212

Member
 Co-Coordinator

Member of the European Parliament
 Netherlands



Ms. TARDINO Annalisa

BRU - ASP 03F358 - 45749
STR - SDM G07023 - 75749

Member
 ID Coordinator

Member of the European Parliament
 Italy



Mr. PROCACCINI Nicola

BRU - WIE 02U005 - 45726
STR - SDM G01007 - 75726

Member
 ECR Coordinator

Member of the European Parliament
 Italy



Ms. ERNST Cornelia

BRU - ASP 01H158 - 45660
STR - SDM G00028 - 75660

Member
 GUE/NGL Coordinator

Member of the European Parliament
 Germany

The political groups designated their respective LIBE Coordinators who will play a leading role in preparing decisions and making recommendations for the committee, in accordance with Rule 214 of the European Parliament Rules of Procedure. Some Members have already endorsed this responsibility in the previous term. Roberta Metsola will act as the EPP Coordinator with Jeroen Lenaers as EPP Vice-Coordinator. S&D will be represented by Coordinator Birgit Sippel. For Renew Europe, Sophia in't Veld will be Coordinator and Dragos Tudorache the Renew Europe Deputy Coordinator. Terry Reintke and Tineke Strik will be the Co-Coordinators for the Greens/EFA. For ID Annalisa Tardino will be Coordinator. Nicola Procaccino will be the ECR Coordinator and Cornelia Ernst will be Coordinator for GUE/NGL.

A few figures on the new LIBE Committee

The new LIBE Committee is bigger this legislature - it has now 68 full Members instead of 60 in the previous term. 44% of the Members are women - not full parity yet but a slightly better ratio than for the full European Parliament (41% women). For most of the Members, the LIBE Committee and the European Parliament will be a new experience. 66% of the full LIBE Members are completely new to the European Parliament. Out of the 23 Members who were Members of the European Parliament already in the past, only 11 MEPs were previously Members in LIBE and 6 were substitutes in the past. Concerning the geographical origin of full LIBE Members, 4 were elected in the UK and their mandate might be affected by BREXIT. 9 Members are from Germany, 7 from Spain, 6 from France, 5 from Italy, 5 from Poland, 5 from Romania, 4 from the Netherlands, 3 from Belgium, 3 from Slovakia, 3 from Sweden, 2 from Austria, 2 from Hungary, 2 from Portugal, 2 from Bulgaria, 2 from Greece, 1 from Malta, 1 from Ireland, 1 from Denmark and 1 from Estonia.

The political composition of the Committee reflects that of the plenary. EPP is the biggest group with 16 Members, followed by S&D with 14. Renew Europe has 10 Members in LIBE, the Greens/EFA 7. Both the ID group and ECR have 6 Members in LIBE, GUE/NGL 4 and 5 Members are non-attached.

Almost 2/5 of LIBE Members have a legal background. The second most common field of study of the Members were political sciences, international relations and sociology. Several former journalists are to be found, including TV presenters. Many were previously active in national, regional or local politics. According to publicly available data, 9 Members served in the past as ministers in national governments, 4 were judges and 4 served as mayors. A few have some military experience. Some of the Members and their families have been affected in the past by terrorism and serious crime. Several have worked in their previous career with migrants and refugees.

Resumption of legislative activities



The LIBE Committee decided how to resume legislative activities after the election recess on files that could not be concluded by the end of the previous term at its meeting of 24-25 July. The way files are to be considered at the beginning of a new legislature depends on the

procedure stage they reached within the Parliament by the end of the previous legislature. Two categories are to be distinguished. Firstly, files which did not reach the stage of a first reading position fall under the rules for 'unfinished business' (Rule 240 of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure). It is then up to the LIBE Committee to propose to the Conference of Presidents (CoP) to resume or continue the consideration of such unfinished business. The CoP is likely to decide on 19 September. Secondly, files for which the Parliament adopted a first reading position in plenary do not fall under Rule 240 and may resume along the procedure set in Article 294 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, without further step to be taken within the Parliament. LIBE may however, under Rule 63, request the Conference of Presidents to ask the Commission for a 'renewed referral' or, under rule 84, the Council for a 'reconsultation'. The Commission may also be asked to withdraw its proposals. Following discussions at the level of Coordinators, and in line with decisions made in July on legislative files, LIBE is to request the resumption of work on all 'unfinished business' and to continue files with a first reading position without renewed referral or reconsultation. It is expected that the work can be resumed in the second part of September 2019.

Commissioners in LIBE



The LIBE Committee invited Commissioners dealing with the topics under LIBE responsibility to come and exchange views with the newly re-constituted Committee on 24-25 July. Commissioners King and Jourová accepted the invitation for July, while Commissioners Timmermans and Avramopoulos are expected in September.

The exchange of views with the Commissioner for the Security Union Julian King was a follow-up to the Security Dialogue, a series of semi-annual debates on the state of play of the Security Union the latest of which took place on 19 February. The European Commission published its 'Nineteenth Progress Report towards an effective and genuine Security Union' on 24 July 2019 and this was presented by the Commissioner. The Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality Věra Jourová presented the latest developments and the upcoming work in the justice area, including judicial cooperation in criminal matters and data protection, promotion and safeguarding of fundamental rights and the rule of law, and possible advances with respect to non-discrimination and equal treatment. Commissioner Timmermans will present to LIBE on 5 September the awaited Communication issued by the Commission on 17 July 2019 on ["Strengthening the rule of law within the Union - a blueprint for action"](#).

Priorities of the Finnish Presidency and Ministries in LIBE in September



Finland took over the Council Presidency on 1 July and set its priorities as follows: "to strengthen [common values and the rule of law](#); to make [the EU more competitive and socially inclusive](#); to strengthen [the EU's position as a global leader in climate action](#) and to protect [the security of citizens comprehensively](#)".

The Presidency will continue to work with the Multiannual Financial Framework, rule of law, migration, EMU and Brexit.

Regarding Home affairs, the Presidency is concentrating on thematic discussions on the future course of internal security, responding to changing internal security threats, promoting a comprehensive approach to managing migration and improving border management.

In the field of justice, the Presidency is focusing on thematic discussions on the future course of the justice policy, strengthening mutual recognition and mutual trust and developing judicial cooperation in the EU and focusing on digitalization and technological development.

Key dates are 7-8 October and 2-3 December for the Justice and Home Affairs Council. [The Finnish Presidency](#) will present its priorities in the LIBE Committee on 4 September.

European Council Strategic Agenda 2019-2024

At its meeting in Brussels on 20 June 2019, the European Council agreed on a "Strategic Agenda 2019-2024" which includes priority areas to guide the work of EU institutions over the next five years. Four main priorities are identified: "protecting citizens and freedoms", "developing a strong and vibrant economic base", "building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe" and "promoting European interests and values on the global stage".



The first priority, protecting citizens and freedoms, covers topics in competence of the LIBE Committee. It stresses that Europe must be a place where people feel free and safe. Fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens, as recognized in the Treaties, must be defended. The rule of law is stressed to have a crucial role in all our democracies and to be a key guarantor that EU values are well protected; it must therefore be fully respected by all. The integrity of EU territory is also seen as needing to be protected, considering that Europeans need to know and be the ones to decide who enters the EU. For this, effective control of the external borders is presented as essential. The European Council expressed its determination to further develop a fully functioning comprehensive migration policy and reaffirmed that the Dublin Regulation should be reformed by consensus, based on a balance of responsibility and solidarity, taking into account the persons disembarked following Search and Rescue operations. The European Council also committed to take the necessary steps to ensure proper functioning of Schengen. The fight against terrorism and cross-border crime is to be strengthened, also by improving cooperation and information-sharing, and further developing common instruments. Other stressed issues are increasing the EU's resilience against both natural and man-made disasters, and protecting societies from malicious cyber activities, hybrid threats and disinformation originating from hostile State and non-State actors.

On 18 July, the General Affairs Council discussed the implementation of the Strategic agenda and its integration into Council's work. The Finnish Presidency intends to hold a series of debates on the future of the area of freedom, security and justice in order to prepare strategic guidelines to be adopted by the European Council in this area under Article 68 TFEU. The Finnish Prime Minister shall report to the European Council on the progress achieved in the Council in October and December.

Strategic guidelines for the area of freedom, justice and security (Art. 68 TFEU)

"Strategic guidelines" for the area of freedom, justice and security are a requirement stemming from the Treaty. They are to be distinguished from the overall "Strategic Agenda" by which the European Council sets priorities for the work of the European Union over the five-year legislative cycle in meeting conclusions at the beginning of a new term. Article 68 of the TFEU states that "*the European Council shall define the strategic guidelines for legislative and operational planning within the area of freedom, security and justice*". An innovation introduced by the Lisbon Treaty, the first [strategic guidelines](#) were adopted by the European Council at its meeting of 26/27 June 2014, for the period 2014-2019. No formal involvement of the European Parliament is required by the Treaty. The EP has however developed a practice to regularly contribute to the debate through resolutions, including when guidelines were taking the form of "Programmes" (Tampere, The Hague, Stockholm). See for instance [European Parliament resolution of 2 April 2014 on the mid-term review of the Stockholm Programme \(2013/2024\(INI\)\)](#).

The Europol's JPSG



The Europol Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) is a unique form of parliamentary oversight of an EU

agency. Pursuant to Article 88 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and the Europol regulation, the scrutiny of Europol's activities shall be carried out by the EP together with national parliaments. The EP is represented by 16 Members. JPSG meets twice a year. The next meeting will take place on 23-24 September 2019 in Brussels.

The meeting will include a presentation by Ms Catherine De Bolle, Europol Executive Director, as well as a keynote speech by Minister of Interior of Finland Ms Maria Ohisalo. The thematic debate will focus on Europol's information management priorities in 2019. Other important topics to be included in the Europol presentation are fight against cybercrime, structure of organised crime groups in the EU, money laundering and child pornography.

Selection procedure of the Europol Deputy Executive Director



Europol Deputy Executive-Director Mr Martinů's mandate ends on 31 October 2019. A vacancy notice was published on 23 January 2019 in the Official Journal of the EU. The Europol Management Board submitted a shortlist of experts for the Council to decide. On 18 July the Council decided its preferred candidate to be Mr Jürgen Ebner from Germany. On 11 July, LIBE Coordinators decided in accordance with Articles 54(2) and 55(2) of the Europol Regulation to hear the Council's candidate on 5 September aiming at issuing a non-binding opinion.

Hearing on the appointment of the European Data Protection Supervisor

Regulation EU 2018/1725 sets up an independent supervisory authority for the processing of personal data by EU institutions, agencies and bodies, called the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) (Art. 52). The Supervisor acts in complete independence in the performance of his/her duties. The EDPS is appointed by the EP and the Council "by common accord" for a term of five years, on the basis of a list drawn up by the Commission following a public call for candidates (Art. 53). The term of office of the current EDPS and the Assistant Supervisor ends 3 December 2019. On 11 April 2019, the Commission has published the vacancy notice for the selection of the EDPS for the period 2019-2024 with the deadline having ended on 16 May. On the basis of the short list of candidates that the Commission will transmit to the Parliament and to the Council, the LIBE Committee will then hear the short listed candidates in order to express a preference.

The LIBE Committee learnt with great sadness that European Data Protection Supervisor Giovanni Buttarelli passed away over the summer. Both the [President of the Parliament](#) and the [LIBE Chair](#) presented their condolences to his family as well as to the EDPS team.

EU 2020 Budget

The year 2020 is the last of the current MFF and is an important one in terms of budgetary flexibility as it is also a transition year prior to the next MFF that will be adopted at the earliest by the end of 2019, most likely only during the course of 2020.

On 5 June the Commission has published its proposal for the Draft Budget 2020 and on 9 July the Council has adopted its position vis a vis of the proposal of the Commission. On 11 July LIBE Coordinators appointed Ms Gwendoline DELBOS-CORFIELD (Greens/EFA) under the new legislature. The presentation of the LIBE opinion took place on 24 July. Adoption of amendments to the opinion as well as to the Draft Budget 2020 itself is on 5 September AM.

Agencies' budgets

In line with the political agreement reached end of 2018 and its revised financial program adopted in January 2019, the Commission increases Frontex commitment appropriations by 34.8% (+108 Million euros, the largest increase of all JHA agencies) to establish a corps of 10000 border and coast guards by 2027. The Council cuts this increase by -6.6 million euros.

The Commission did not follow the budgetary requests of EUROPOL and proposed to under fund the Agency by 33.7 million EUR and 52 temporary agent posts compared to the proposal for 2020 agreed by the Member States in the Europol Management Board. The Council did not make any change.

Regarding eu-LISA, the decrease of commitment appropriations proposed by the Commission (-18.7% commitment appropriations, -55 million euros) matches the project cycle of the agency. However, the amount proposed in the Draft Budget 2020 by the Commission is 15 million euros higher than the one foreseen in the January 2019 financial programme. The Council did not make any change.

The Commission increases commitment and payment appropriations of EASO by +41.5% (39 million euros). The Council position is to cut the reserve foreseen for the implementation of the new EASO mandate (-24.7 million euros) hence resulting in an increase of 9.3 million euros only (so +9.3% vs +41.5% proposed by the Commission).

The Commission also proposed a budget of 8.4 million euros for the European Prosecutor Office (+70%) and the Council did not make any changes.

Regarding the other Justice and Home agencies and programmes, the Commission increases are in the order of 5-7% (except for CEPOL, +14%). However, for EMCDA and FRA the Council cuts 860000 euros (for EMCDA) and 750000 euros (for FRA) out of the 1.2 million euros increase (+7.7% for EMCDA and + 5.4% for FRA) proposed by the Commission for each agency.

Justice and Home Affairs Funds

The Commission proposal is to decrease AMIF commitment appropriations by -15.4% (-172 million euros) compared to 2019 and the Council applies an additional cut of -33.6 million euros (-203.6 million euro reduction in total). Like in 2019, the Commission does not foresee a dedicated reserve in case of adoption of a reviewed Dublin legislation but includes the financial resources in the AMIF budget itself to continue to support Member states under pressure (with a particular focus on Greece) as well as to assist with solidarity and resettlement efforts. This contrasts with the position of the Council that just like in 2019 objects this approach and puts in reserve 42% of the Commitment appropriations (400 million euros) and 12% (115 million euros) of the payment ones.

Regarding the Internal Security Fund, compared to 2019, the Commission decreases by 6.1% (32.6 million euros). Specifically, for the prevention and fight against cross border crime and better management of security related risks and crisis, the position of the Council is to cut 25.4 million euros out of the 191.3 million euros commitment appropriation increase (+41%) proposed by the Commission.



3 questions to the Chair - Juan Fernando López Aguilar

Why did you decide to run as LIBE Chair? What are your expectations and objectives in this new position?

Having served as a Member of the Committee since 2009, including having already served as Chair in my first term (2009-2014), this new term represented an opportunity to represent the Committee and my distinguished fellow Members. Being elected by acclamation for a second time as LIBE Chair, following the mandate as Chair of my good friend Claude Moraes, represents a great honour while at the same time is a huge responsibility.

Following my election as LIBE Chair in July, I have immediately begun the substantive work on the Committee with all of our MEPs and Coordinators in outlining our priorities for the next 5 years. Certainly, we need to await to the announcement of the new Commissioners, portfolio allocation and priorities, as it is the European Parliament's role to approve the nominations. This is why in the short term, a great deal of our work will be focused on organising the LIBE Committee Hearings to assess the competence and suitability of the Commissioners designated.



In your opinion, what are the main challenges that the Union is facing in the field of Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs?

I strongly believe that the challenges LIBE faces in the new term are of the outmost importance for the future of Europe and of the European citizens. Allow me to name a few, the rise of populism and the potential threats to the rule of law, the development of a common asylum and migration policy, the new challenges in data protection with the progress in the artificial intelligence or the forthcoming developments in the area of criminal justice, among other relevant items.

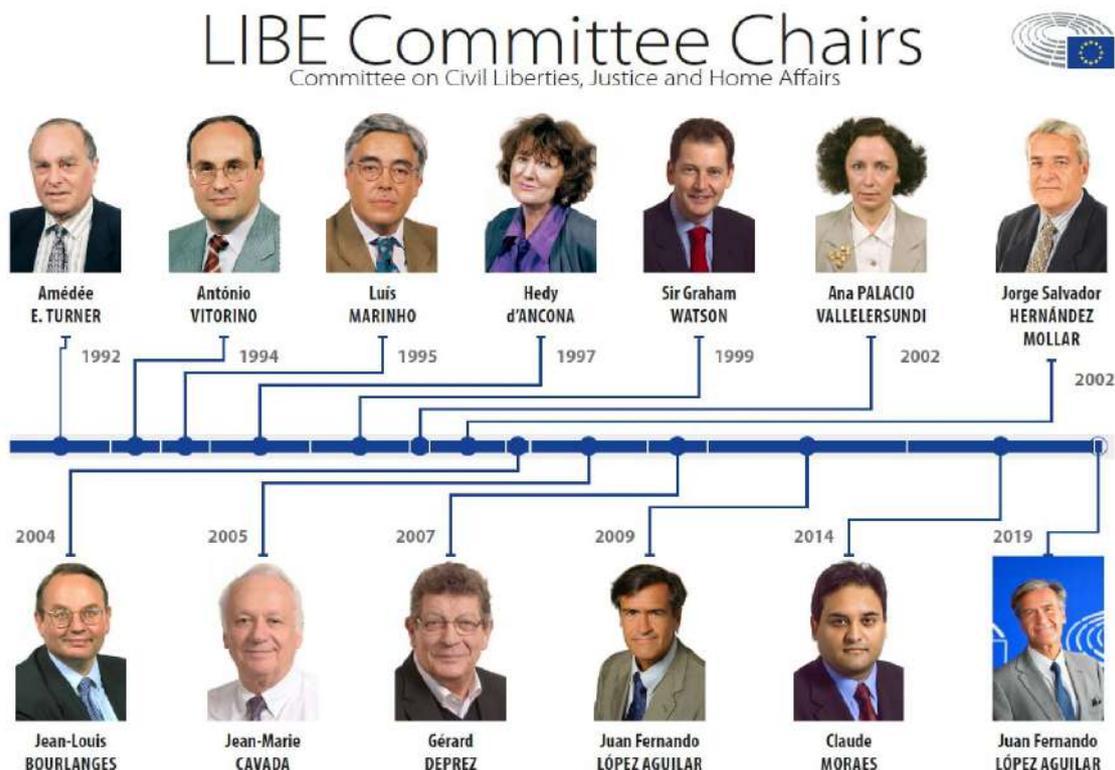
In addition to this, and despite the big work done under the last term, several proposals of legislation were not concluded, such as e-privacy and the proposal on the prevention of the dissemination of terrorist content online. Rule of Law will be also an important part of LIBE's work, with the continuation by Parliament of the mandate of the resolutions on Poland and Hungary, the latter having initiated the procedure of Article 7 TEU. Of great importance will be to obtain progress in the domain of asylum and migration. As you know, under the last term due to the inability inside the Council, it was not possible to reach an agreement in the CEAS reform package, the recast of the return directive and the revision of the Blue Card for legal migration. As regards to the different MFF files^[1] the LIBE Committee will continue its work, once the Council decides on the figures by the end of 2019.

How do you see your role as Chair of the LIBE Committee to help address these challenges?

The beginning of a new term 2019-2024 gives us all the opportunity to reflect on the possible role of the Chair and improves the existing working methods. In particular, of a Committee such as LIBE with such a huge workload and number of meetings which sometimes doubles that of other committees. In addition, under this new term, the LIBE Committee has suffered a big reshuffle with many new Members arriving for the first time. The new display of Members and political groups may need an effort of adjustment, especially during the first months. As new Chair, I will work to make possible that every Member can operate and fulfil the mandate given by the European citizens.

Also, the Chair as representative of the LIBE Committee is requested to represent the Committee in the internal structure of the Parliament, in particular at the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC), but also at the external level, such as in the Informal JHA Council meetings. I am intending to fulfil a reinforced role in all of these structures.

^[1] The Rights and Values programme, the revision of the Asylum and Migration Fund (AMF), the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF), the Internal Security Fund (ISF) and Pericles IV programme against counterfeiting for the years 2021-2027.



News from Justice and Home Affairs agencies

Presentation of agencies to LIBE in September

All EU agencies acting in policy areas of LIBE competence have been invited to introduce themselves to the new Committee in early September (meetings of 4-5 and 12 September).



EDPS

On 2 April 2019 the EDPS issued two opinions on the Commission's recommendations on the negotiating mandate of an EU-US agreement on cross-border access to electronic evidence and on participation in the negotiations in view of a Second Additional Protocol to the [Budapest Cybercrime Convention](#). The opinions were issued following the consultation of the LIBE Committee with EDPS on the recommendations.

The European Data Protection Supervisor, Giovanni Buttarelli, has also announced on 8 April his [investigation into contractual arrangements](#) concluded between the EU institutions and third contractors regarding software used by EU institutions. On 3 June Mr. Buttarelli published the results of his [inspection on the websites of major EU institutions and bodies](#). The inspection revealed data protection and data security issues in seven out of the ten websites inspected (eg. third-party tracking without prior consent,

use of trackers for web analytics without visitors' prior consent).

EUROPOL and FRONTEX

The two agencies signed a new joint [action plan](#). The action plan will improve the structural exchange of information between the two agencies and the work of border guards and support investigations.

EASO

On the 16th of June, Nina Gregori (Slovenia) took up her duties as the new Executive Director of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), based in Malta. She stated that "EASO has gone through a challenging period, but is now turning the corner. I am committed to sustaining the progress that has been made over the past year in improving the Agency's governance." Ms. Gregori also presented the EASO [Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the EU](#) on 24 June 2019 in Brussels. In 2018, the number of applications for asylum continued to decrease and was a bit below 700.000 applications. There had been four times as many applications than irregular border crossings. A rise of applications from Iranian, Turkish, Colombian, Georgian and Venezuelan nationals was observed, while the number of Nigerian and Eritrean applicants decreased significantly. Three quarters of all applications were made in Germany, France, Greece, Italy and Spain, while Italy and Austria registered a big decrease. In the EU and the CEAS associated states (EU+), the rate of positive decisions had slightly decreased. In 2018, 39% of applicants received a positive decision, in most cases refugee status, but recognition rates vary greatly among EU+ Member States. In 2019, so far 280,000 applications were counted, a plus of 11% compared to the same period in 2018.

[Catherine De Bolle and Nina Gregori will take part in the LIBE meeting of 5 September.](#)

FRONTEX

the agency opened a risk [analysis cell in Senegal](#). The role of the cell is to collect and analyse strategic data on cross-border crime in various African countries and support relevant authorities involved in border management.

[Fabrice Leggeri will attend the LIBE meeting to take place on 12 September.](#)

EASO and FRONTEX signed an updated [Cooperation Plan](#) on 18 July 2019. The Cooperation Plan covers the 2019-2021 period and follows a previous Cooperation Plan for the years 2017-2018. The document will govern joint work in the areas of operational cooperation, information and analysis, capacity building and horizontal cooperation. The two agencies will work together on projects such as the set-up and implementation of the Migration Management Support Teams (MMST), as well as delivering a Common Situational Picture on irregular migration and persons in need of international protection

CEPOL launches its Cybercrime Academy

[CEPOL Cybercrime Academy](#) was officially inaugurated on 13 June 2019 in Budapest. It is equipped with state of the art hardware and software, fully configured to train simultaneously up to 100 participants. CEPOL has identified cybercrime as its key priority for the upcoming years, recognising that this is one of the fastest growing forms of crime and that developing the necessary knowledge and expertise in law enforcement authorities across Europe is key in addressing this evolving challenge.

[Detlef Schröder will attend the LIBE meeting on 4 September.](#)

EMCDDA - European Drug Report (EDR) 2019: Trends and Developments

Last 6 June the EMCDDA released the 2019 edition of the [European Drug Report \(EDR\)](#). The analysis is complemented by an online Statistical Bulletin and 30 Country Drug Reports. The EDR 2019 stresses the dramatic changes Europe has witnessed in the drugs area, including the appearance of more non-controlled substances and a shift from a market dominated by imported plant-based substances into one where synthetic drugs and production within Europe have grown in importance.

[Alexis Goosdeel will attend the LIBE meeting on 4 September.](#)

eu-LISA

The [Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2018](#), which was adopted by the eu-LISA Management Board at its meeting on 26-27 June 2019 was published on the eu-LISA website on 1st July.

[Krum Garkov will take part in the LIBE meeting of 5 September.](#)

FRA - LGBTI Survey

Between 23 May and 20 July 2019, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights carried out its second [EU-wide LGBTI survey](#). The survey collected the experiences of discrimination and hate crime as well as the views and challenges faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and, for the first time, intersex people across the EU, North Macedonia and Serbia.

Efforts have been made to reach out to LGBTI persons of 15 years and above, from all backgrounds, including those not affiliated to LGBTI community organisations, as well as those who are not able or wanting to be open about being lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or intersex in their daily lives. The first survey in 2012 aimed to address the lack of robust, statistical data on the life experiences of LGBT people in the EU and reached over 93,000 LGBT people. The 2019 survey allowed for the collection of even more data to assist the EU and Member States in their efforts to further strengthen legal and policy frameworks protecting the fundamental rights of LGBTI people.

[Michael O'Flaherty will take part in the LIBE meeting of 4 September.](#)

JHA Council meeting in July



The Finnish Presidency's informal Justice and Home affairs ministers' meeting was held in Helsinki on 18-19 July. On the agenda were the future of EU internal security, the future of migration policy, artificial intelligence, hybrid threats, strengthening the rule of law and cooperation in criminal matters. You can find more information on the outcome of the meeting [here](#).

CoE-PACE Campaign



On 25 July, LIBE heard the General Rapporteur on the Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), [Pierre-Alain Fridez](#).

The PACE Campaign has been advocating since 2015 for an end of immigration detention of children and for the promotion of alternatives that meet the best interests of the child (see Campaign [webpage](#)). The issue is at the heart of LIBE's work, for instance while dealing with files like the recast of the Directives on Reception Conditions and on Return.

Moreover, in its May 2018 [resolution for the protection of children in migration](#), the EP took the view that "*the Commission should enact infringement procedures against Member States in instances of protracted and systematic immigration detention of children and their families, so as to ensure compliance with children's fundamental rights*".

Commissioners' hearing



As stressed by the new Chair of the LIBE Committee (see p. 1), in the short term a great deal of the Committee's work will be focused on organising hearings to assess the competence and suitability of the Commissioners designate in charge of policy areas under the Committee's remit. At the time of writing, while President-elect of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen is still to finalise her proposal for the new College, precise dates for those hearings are not known. However, they should take place at the beginning of October, to allow for a vote in Plenary in the October part Session. More information can be found [here](#).

With our most supportive regards,

The LIBE Secretariat Team



Follow LIBE

www.europarl.europa.eu/libe/
https://twitter.com/EP_Justice
webstreaming

© European Union (2019) -
European Parliament

Contact

LIBE Secretariat
Head of Unit: Antoine Cahen
Square de Meeûs 8 - 8th floor
B-1047 Brussels
libe-secretariat@ep.europa.eu

Disclaimer: The items contained herein are drafted by the secretariat of the European Parliament and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. This document may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The secretariat does not necessarily endorse the view(s) expressed on these websites.