

## Newsletter

Issue 106 - December 2019

### SELECTED NEWS

#### Machinery Directive Review

On 4 December, a Commission representative from DG GROW will present the Commission's plans to review the Machinery Directive, which was last updated in 2006. Like other internal market legislation, the Machinery Directive sets out fully harmonised requirements concerning protection of health and safety that machinery has to meet in order to be allowed to circulate freely across the internal market. The Commission is currently preparing a revision of the Directive, and one of the key reasons is to address challenges posed by artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things. According to the Commission's 2018 Communication on AI, the Machinery Directive is the EU's central safety framework for AI robots. An external contractor is preparing an impact assessment study on behalf of the Commission, which is due to be published in the first quarter of 2020.

[LINK: Revision of Directive](#)



**The IMCO Secretariat wishes you happy holidays!**



# NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(4 DECEMBER 2019)

[Watch the committee meeting live](#)

## Emissions from light passenger and commercial vehicles



On 4 December IMCO will consider a draft opinion on the Commission's proposal for a regulation that establishes rules on motor vehicle emissions. The aim is to control the emissions of motor vehicles in order to achieve fundamental air quality objectives, and to clarify the legal framework for repair and maintenance information. Parliament's work on the proposed regulation is being led by the ENVI committee, but IMCO has exclusive competence for provisions on repair and maintenance information. The draft opinion aims, among other things, to clarify the regime through which independent operators are granted access to repair and maintenance information for vehicles. The vote in IMCO is scheduled for February 2020.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Anna Cavazzini \(Greens/EFA\)](#) [Procedure file](#)

## Agreement on the withdrawal of the UK from the EU and the European Atomic Energy Community

On 6 November 2019, IMCO Coordinators agreed to draft an opinion to the AFCO consent procedure on the UK's Withdrawal Agreement ([2018/0427\(NLE\)](#)). IMCO's opinion will be in the form of letter from the Chair under Rule 56(1) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure. It addresses various issues, such as the internal market, customs and consumer policy, while also paying special attention to the Northern Ireland Protocol. In line with the position of the EP Conference of Presidents, AFCO will formally start the preparation of the draft report once the UK completes the ratification process of the Withdrawal Agreement. The vote on the opinion in IMCO is scheduled to take place on 4 December.

## Single Market Programme 2021-2027 (MFF)

On 4 December 2019, the IMCO Rapporteur Mr Brando Benifei will report back on the second trilogue meeting on the Single Market Programme (MFF) which took place on 18 November 2019. Following constructive discussions with the Finnish presidency, progress has been made on important issues relating to consumers, SMEs, statistics, as well as phytosanitary and veterinary measures. Given that the Council has not defined its position on the overall figures and repartition of the financial envelope, and that several horizontal and sectoral issues are still on hold, the Parliament reserves its right to pause negotiations until the Council provides more clarity.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Brando Benifei \(S&D\)](#) [Procedure file](#)

## Preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online

On 4 December, the IMCO Rapporteur Mr Marcel Kolaja will report back on the second trilogue on the Regulation designed to prevent the dissemination of terrorist content online which was held on 20 November 2019. The LIBE committee is leading the negotiations on the file, but IMCO, which delivered an opinion under Rule 56+ (formerly 53+) is entitled to contribute to the negotiations. IMCO attaches great importance to this file and is seeking to ensure consistency with the provisions of the e-Commerce Directive, especially with regard to the liability regime and ban on general monitoring. At the 2nd trilogue, there was an exchange of views on the issue of removal orders and on competent authorities, and political discussion of other items, such as preservation of content and related data, transparency obligations, complaint mechanisms, and information to content providers, as well as on evaluation criteria. The third and fourth trilogues are scheduled for 5 and 12 December 2019 respectively.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Marcel Kolaja \(Greens/EFA\)](#) [Procedure file](#)

## Customs Programme 2021-2027 (MFF)

On 4 December, the IMCO Rapporteur Ms Grapini will report back from the first trilogue on the draft Regulation that establishes the "Customs Programme for cooperation in the field of customs for the years 2021-2027", which is expected to take place 3 December 2019. The main objective of the Programme is to fund actions aimed at strengthening the Customs Union. One major focus of the Customs programme will be the further development, operation and maintenance of the customs IT infrastructure. The trilogue is expected to endorse the provisional agreements reached at technical level and to address unresolved political issues, including on budget and participation of third countries in the programme, as well as the adoption of multiannual work programmes and of the Multi-Annual Strategic Plan for Customs (MASP-C). The trilogue is also expected to involve political discussions on different points, such as the impact of a possible withdrawal from the Union and the evaluation period of the programme. A second trilogue is not expected to take place until the overall MFF agreement has been reached.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Maria Grapini \(S&D\)](#) [Procedure file](#)

## Customs Control Equipment (MFF)

On 4 December, the IMCO Rapporteur Mr Pospíšil will report back from the first trilogue on the draft Regulation that establishes, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for financial support for customs control equipment. The trilogue took place on 26 November 2019. The file is part of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) package and aims to provide vital and reinforced support to Member States to secure the common external borders. At the trilogue, Parliament's negotiation team and the Finnish presidency reached a provisional agreement on political issues such as the importance of equivalent results of customs control, eligible actions for funding, the general and specific objectives, inter-agency cooperation and the acceptable degree of dual use of the equipment, as well as evaluation periods of the Instrument. No complete agreement on the file will be possible, however, until the overall MFF package is agreed, at which point a second trilogue will be organised.

**DRAFTSPERSON:** [Jiří Pospíšil \(EPP\)](#) [Procedure file](#)

# LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(6 NOVEMBER 2019)

## Presentations on dual quality and the food supply chain



On 6 November, the Commission presented the [final report of the High Level Forum \(HLF\)](#) for a better functioning food supply chain. This covers the work of the HLF undertaken during its current mandate (2014 to 2019). In addition, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) presented its work on dual quality. This includes the [JRC's report of June 2019](#), which contains the results of the testing it has conducted on a range of products to determine the incidence of products with identical packaging, but different composition. The JRC's work on dual quality also covers an on-going economic analysis of consumer behaviour with regard to dual quality, expected to be finalised in December. The presentations were followed by a wide-ranging debate, during which Members insisted on the need to pay the greatest attention to the phenomenon of dual quality.

## Legislative scrutiny: Radio Equipment Directive

On 6 November, a Commission representative from DG GROW updated IMCO Members on work it is doing to prepare three delegated acts under the Radio Equipment Directive, which was adopted in 2014. The delegated acts relate to the possible introduction of a "common charger", the safety of consumers using Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and the safety of radio equipment following software uploads. In the debate that followed the presentation, many Members focussed on the campaign for a common charger for mobile and other small devices, noting that Parliament had been calling for this for years. The Commission announced that several important studies relating to the delegated acts would soon be finalised, and they would be happy to report back again to the committee.

LINK: [Directive](#)

## Legislative scrutiny: Free flow of non-personal data Regulation

On 6 November a Commission representative from DG CNECT updated IMCO Members on the implementation of the Free Flow Regulation, which bans Member State from setting any requirements for data to be located in a specific territory in the Union. The Commission presented the [guidance that it published](#) on 29 May 2019 on the interaction between this Regulation and the GDPR, especially as regards datasets composed of both personal and non-personal data. In the debate that followed, Members supported the Commission's implementation efforts and raised a variety of points on, for example, the establishment of single points of contact, the self-regulatory nature of codes of conduct, and the importance to our economies of non-personal data flowing freely.

LINK: [Regulation](#)

## EVENTS

### Internet Governance Forum in Berlin - 25-29 November

A cross-committee delegation of the European Parliament participated in the 14th meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Berlin from 25 to 29 November. The IGF is a multi-stakeholder discussion platform of the United Nations that addresses current legal, political, social and technical aspects of

the Internet. Ms Alexandra Geese (Greens) is the Member participating on behalf of IMCO.

The issues up for discussion include technical standards, human rights matters, the impact of digital technologies on everyday life and working life, and opportunities arising for economic and social development.

LINK: [IGF](#)

#### ABOUT THE EDITOR:

European Parliament  
Directorate General for Internal Policies of the Union  
Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee  
Head of Unit / Editor: Panos Konstantopoulos  
Responsible administrator: Mark Beamish  
Layout: Julia Pourceau

#### SUBSCRIPTION:

If you wish to receive the IMCO newsletter, please [click here to subscribe](#)

To [unsubscribe](#)

#### FOLLOW US:

 [IMCO WEB-SITE](#)

 [IMCO on Twitter](#)



Closure date of the current issue: 2 December 2019

**Disclaimer:** The items contained herein are drafted by the Secretariat of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee 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. The IMCO Newsletter may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The IMCO Secretariat does not necessarily endorse the view expressed on these websites.