

### **The Establishment of an EU Mechanism on Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights**

**Rapporteur: Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz (S&D)**

(Responsible committee: LIBE, Rapporteur: Michal Šimečka (Renew))



The rapporteur for opinion on this file Mr Cimoszewicz, will present his draft opinion to the own initiative legislative report prepared by LIBE committee. This draft opinion highlights the substantial deterioration in the EU with regard to the observance of fundamental values, in particular the rule of law, which is one of the core values of the EU as a community based on law.

According to the draft opinion, with regard to the nature of the mechanism, the establishment of the annual monitoring cycle on the Rule of Law, Democracy and Fundamental Rights, should be based on principle of mutual sincere cooperation, where each of the institutions contributes to the defence of those core EU values. Such cooperation should take a form of an inter-institutional agreement, which would also allow to establish a joint body for coordination of the annual cycle.

As for the governing principles, the draft opinion sets out that the process should be transparent, impartial, maintain equality between Member States, be objective-based and lead to realistic measures. On the enforcement side, it also calls for the cycle to inform the Commission's decisions about whether to launch systemic infringement procedure and highlights the need for an urgency mechanism to deal with cases of grave violation of the EU values. This would include enhancing the role of the ECJ in defence of EU law, requiring the Commission to request systematically interim relief measures.

### INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR

Dear Readers,

*This 13th issue of the AFCO Newsletter for the 9th legislative term comes in the very special context of the COVID-19 epidemic.*



*In line with the precautionary measures taken by the European Parliament to contain the spread of epidemic while safeguarding Parliament's core activities, our AFCO Committee meeting will take place in Brussels via videoconference.*

*This Newsletter is 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.*

*This will be the fifth AFCO remote meeting. At this meeting AFCO will have the opportunity to exchange views with the Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency, Věra Jourová. Many of the responsibilities of the Vice-President fall within the remit of the AFCO committee and this will provide for an interesting debate on a wide range of issues. Furthermore, we will discuss the draft opinion that Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, rapporteur for opinion on the Establishment of an EU Mechanism on Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights, will present to the committee*

**Antonio Tajani, Chair**

### **Exchange of views with Věra Jourová, Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency**



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Members will have the opportunity to exchange views with the Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency, Věra Jourová, on issues of importance to the AFCO committee falling within her responsibilities, such as the Commission's report on the 2019 elections, the lead candidate system, transnational lists, European political parties, the forthcoming EU Democracy Action plan, the Transparency Register, the European Convention on Human Rights, the dialogue with citizens and civil society, as well as citizenship rights, the European Citizens' Initiative, the rule of law and an independent ethics body for EU institutions.

This is her first appearance in the AFCO committee in 2020, after her participation in the public hearing organised by AFCO on "Lessons to be drawn from the 2019 elections and proposals in view of the debate concerning the Future of Europe", which took place in December 2019.

### **MEETING DOCUMENTS**

In light of the European Parliament's paperless project, please bear in mind that no 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 7 July 2020, 09.00 – 11.00  
Room: József Antall (6Q1), Brussels (*and with remote participation of AFCO Members*)

### **MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE**

FR DE IT NL EN ES PT HU

### **NEXT MEETING**

*14 July, Brussels*

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**



[AFCO website](#)



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### **CONTACT THE EDITOR**

European Parliament,  
Directorate General for Internal Policies of  
the Union,  
Secretariat of the Committee on  
Constitutional Affairs



+ 32 2 28 43676



[AFCO mailbox](#)

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