

The Implementation of the European Arrest Warrant and the Surrender Procedures between Member States

Rapporteur for the opinion: Paulo Rangel (PPE)

(Responsible committee: LIBE, Rapporteur: Javier Zarzalejos (EPP))



This draft opinion focuses on the implementation of the Framework Decision on the European Arrest Warrant (FDEAW), an emblematic legal instrument of judicial cooperation in criminal matters adopted by the Council in pre-Lisbon era. The draft recognizes that it put under the strain legal systems in many Member States, revealing stark differences between substantive and procedural criminal law. It recalls that Member States are responsible for high degree of mutual trust which presupposes not only adherence to the treaties, EU Charter of Fundamental rights but also respect by the national institutions of the EU values including the respect of the Rule of Law.

The rapporteur further highlights the need for the establishment of further horizontal measures in criminal law in order to increase mutual trust and enhance judicial cooperation across the EU. He considers that the FDEAW should be brought fully under Lisbon treaty as a separate legislative instrument, which could provide substantial benefits in terms of democracy, legal certainty and transparency while increasing coherence with other legal instruments of judicial cooperation.

Finally, the draft opinion recalls that, while Brexit provides an opportunity for further unification of the criminal justice area in the EU, any future agreement with the UK on this aspect should fully respect the commitments in the in the Political Declaration, in particular on fundamental rights and the role of the Court of the Justice of the European Union.

INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR

Dear Readers,

This 17th 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 the 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 eighth AFCO remote meeting. The Committee will have an important hearing on issues so relevant for the good functioning of the democratic European system of governance as transnational lists and the top-candidates principle. We will hear four renowned experts, as well as the pre-presentation of a study produced by EPRS.

Moreover, we will continue the discussion on the reform of the Rules of Procedure in order to give the Parliament the necessary mechanisms to properly function under extraordinary circumstances like the ones we have been living with in the last months. We will also discuss an opinion on the European Arrest Warrant.

Antonio Tajani, Chair

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure in order to ensure the functioning of Parliament in extraordinary circumstances

Rapporteur: Gabriele Bischoff (S&D)



The Committee will have a discussion on the amendments to the Rules of Procedure aimed at ensuring the functioning of Parliament in extraordinary circumstances.

Ten amendments were tabled on the draft decision contained in Ms Bischoff's draft report, while 27 concern the Rules as such.

Most of them actually amend the proposals made by the rapporteur in her draft report, which all suggest to add a new Title and new Rules to Parliament's Rules of Procedure.

This debate will offer the opportunity to the authors of amendments to present and defend them and to the rapporteur to comment and evaluate their suggestions.

The vote in committee is foreseen on Monday 12 October 2020 and in plenary pending a decision of Parliament's Conference of Presidents.

Hearing on "Transnational lists and the Spitzenkandidaten principle" and presentation of EPRS research on transnational lists: "Transnational lists: a way to further Europeanise European elections?"



As part of its programme of hearings for 2020, AFCO will organise a public remote hearing on the 'Transnational lists and the Spitzenkandidaten principle', the aim of which is to hear experts on transnational lists and the lead candidates system, based on lessons to be drawn from the last European elections and following inter-institutional nominations' cycle.

The following experts have been invited to participate:

- Mr János Martonyi, Professor of International Trade Law and European Law, University of Public Service, Budapest;
- Ms Christine Verger, Vice-President of Institut Jacques Delors, Paris, France;
- Mr Andreas Maurer, Professor at the University of Innsbruck - School of Social and Political Sciences, Austria;
- Mr Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Former Member of the European Parliament, 1994-2014, Verts/ALE.

Also in the context of the issue of the hearing, AFCO Members will have the opportunity to hear from Maria Diaz Crego, from the Members' Research Service, on the main issues of an EPRS research paper entitled "Transnational lists: a way to further Europeanise European elections?", and which will be published in the coming weeks.

The conclusions of these discussions aim equally at contributing to the ongoing work on the draft report on stocktaking of European elections, led by its Rapporteur, Pascal Durand (Renew Europe, FR).

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

Thursday 24 September 2020, 13.45 – 15.45 and 16.45 – 18.45
Room: József Antall (6Q2), Brussels (*and with remote participation of AFCO Members*)

MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

FR DE IT NL EN ES PT HU PL

NEXT MEETING

12 October, Brussels

FURTHER INFORMATION



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