

Votes

Stocktaking of European elections

Rapporteur: Pascal Durand (Renew)



AFCO will vote on the draft report on stocktaking of European elections. Within the deadline for amendments, 265 amendments were tabled to the draft report. After a number of technical meetings and shadow-rapporteurs' meetings, 27 compromise amendments were agreed and will be put to the vote.

The draft report aims at examining the impact of the 2019 European elections, and how they reflected the goals of the reform initiated by Parliament in 2015, including, among others, enhancing the democratic dimension of the European elections, reinforcing European citizenship, improving the functioning of the Parliament and the governance of the Union, and enhancing the effectiveness of the European elections' conduct.

The draft report addresses also the Spitzenkandidaten procedure and makes recommendations for future evolution, while also reflecting on the issue of transnational lists, and on improvements of the electoral processes, proposing that the Conference on the Future of Europe address such issues.

INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR

Dear Readers,

This 19th issue of the AFCO Newsletter for the 9th legislative term comes in the very challenging 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 place in Brussels via videoconference.



The 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.

On this tenth AFCO remote meeting, we will be voting on an important report of initiative of our committee on the stocktaking of the European elections of May 2019, which draws the lessons from the way the last European elections took place, notably in light of the main goals of the reform of the European electoral law launched by the Parliament during the last legislature and which was not yet approved by all member states, and in which, also on the perspective of the Conference on the Future of Europe, issues like transnational lists and the Spitzenkandidaten system are also discussed. We will also vote on an opinion on the monitoring of the application of European law in 2018 and 2019.

AFCO will also have the first discussion on two important subjects that will be on the agenda in the next months: a report on citizens' dialogue and citizens' participation in EU decision-making, which seeks to identify some important elements for enhancing participatory democracy in Europe; and a report on the implementation of article 50 TEU, which seeks to draw conclusions from the way the procedure of withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU was run.

Finally, I would like to call the attention of our readers for an important public hearing that AFCO, together with JURI, LIBE and PETI will be organising next Thursday 29 October, with the participation of Commissioner Didier Reynders, on "Union Citizenship: Empowerment, Inclusion, Participation".

Antonio Tajani, Chair

Monitoring the Application of EU Law in 2017 - 2018

Rapporteur for the opinion: Pedro Silva Pereira (S&D)

(Responsible committee: JURI, Rapporteur: Sabrina Pignedoli (NI))



AFCO will vote on the draft opinion to JURI prepared by Pedro Silva Pereira (S&D). Members have submitted 43 amendments and the rapporteur has proposed 8 compromise amendments.

The draft opinion looks at the problem of the correct application of the EU law from a broader institutional perspective, providing ideas for improvements at all stages of the EU decision making process starting from the drafting phase and ending with transposition and implementation, as well as analysing the role of different actors, including national parliaments, civil society organisations and the Court of Justice of the European Union.

****End of Votes****

Citizens' dialogues and Citizens' participation in the EU decision-making

Rapporteur: Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL)



At the end of last legislature, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, held an exchange of views with representatives from the Council Presidency, the Commission, the Economic and

Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the findings and recommendations with regard to their respective activities and reports on Citizens' Dialogues and Citizens' Consultations on the Future of Europe.

In February of this year the AFCO committee requested authorisation for an INI report on "Citizens' initiatives and Citizens' participation in EU decision-making", which has been authorised by the Conference of Presidents in September and to which the PETI committee is associated under Rule 57, where it concerns issues related to their exclusive competences.

This report provides an opportunity to analyse the various initiatives taken and proposals made, the lessons to draw from these exercises and to see how to make them lasting and bring them into an overall institutional framework. Citizens' participation will also be a crucial element in the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Today Members will have a first exchange of views on this subject.

Assessment of the implementation of Article 50 TEU

Rapporteur: Danuta Maria Hübner (PPE)



The Committee will hold a first debate without document on the implementation report on the "assessment of the implementation of Article 50 TEU", for which Danuta Maria Hübner (EPP, PL) was appointed as rapporteur.

This debate will kick-start the procedure on this implementation report, which will analyse how Article 50 TEU was interpreted and applied and how the procedure of withdrawal of the UK from the EU was actually organised and conducted.

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AFCO, JURI, LIBE, PETI Joint Hearing - Union Citizenship: Empowerment, Inclusion, Participation



On 29 October 2020, a hearing on Union Citizenship will be jointly organised by the European Parliament (JURI, LIBE, AFCO and PETI Committees) and the European Commission. The hearing will see a keynote speech by Mr. Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice and the participation of Ms. Emily O'Reilly, the European Ombudsman, as well as representatives from various NGOs.

The objective of the hearing will be to offer a timely opportunity to further reflect, with all actors concerned, on concrete avenues to simplify and strengthen EU citizenship rights, promoting EU citizenship's values and citizens' democratic participation, also taking into account lessons learned from the responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The internal border restrictions introduced during the initial months of the Covid-19 pandemic made clear the benefits to EU citizens of their right to freedom of movement, as well as the barriers to certain social groups in exercising their full EU citizenship rights.

At the same time, the need to come up with new ways of working, meeting, and communicating can provide an opportunity to explore innovative channels and formats for enhancing European democracy - ways which could reach more EU citizens directly and facilitate their participation in debates and European elections.

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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

Wednesday 28 October 2020, 09.00 – 11.00
and 16.45 – 18.00
Room: József Antall (2Q2), Brussels (*and with remote participation of AFCO Members*)

MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

9.00-11.00: FR DE IT NL EN ES PT FI HU PL RO
16.45-18.00: FR DE IT NL EN ES

NEXT MEETING

19 November, Brussels

FURTHER INFORMATION



[AFCO website](#)



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