

\*\*\*Votes\*\*\*

**Proposal for an Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management**

**Rapporteur: Esteban González Pons (EPP)**



On 2 May 2018 the Commission presented its proposals for a new multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the years 2021 to 2027.

The proposal for a new Council Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 was accompanied by a proposal for a Council decision on the system of Own Resources of the EU, as well as a proposal for an Interinstitutional Agreement between the Parliament, the Council, and the Commission on budgetary discipline, cooperation in budgetary matters, and sound financial management. The package also included a proposal for a Regulation of the Parliament and of the Council on the protection of the Union's budget in the case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States.

As part of the EU's response to the COVID-19 crisis, on 27 May 2020 the Commission proposed a European Recovery Plan (Next Generation EU), including a new Recovery and Resilience Facility, and amended its MFF and Own Resources proposals, the draft IIA and several other MFF related proposals.

## INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR

*Dear Readers,*

*This 21st 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 meeting will take 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 twelfth AFCO remote meeting, we will be dealing with the proposal for a new interinstitutional agreement on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management which constitutes an important element of the package on the Union's new financial multiannual financial framework for the next seven years and the recovery plan, which is still blocked in the Council due to the opposition of two member states to the conditionality linked to the respect of the rule of law. AFCO takes all steps needed to ensure that it will be ready to proceed to the vote, as soon as the package is finally agreed.*

*We will also deal with a very important matter for the EP: its right of initiative. The EP does not enjoy a full right of legislative initiative, according to the Treaties. However, steps have been given in that direction, and the President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen assumed the engagement that the Commission will present a legislative initiative when that is required by the majority of the members of the Parliament, in the respect of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. AFCO will launch the work on its report on EP right of legislative initiative discussing an academic study on the matter commanded to Professor Andreas Maurer, of the University of Innsbruck.*

*On Wednesday 2 December, we will also discuss an working document on the right of inquiry of the European Parliament – a fundamental tool for the democratic control in the hands of parliaments in democratic societies -, as a new tentative to unblock the situation on this important matter, stalled for long due to the refusal of the Council to enter into dialogue with the EP.*

*On Thursday 3, we will discuss on a working document on the implementation of article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union, in the framework of the report on which we will review the development of the procedure of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom, and also another working document on "Citizens' and civil society's participation in the Conference on the Future of Europe", as a contribution of AFCO for the definition of the modalities of involvement of citizens and civil society in that conference.*

On 10 November a political agreement between the Parliament and Council delegations was reached on the MFF package, including on the Interinstitutional Agreement, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap for the introduction of new own resources.

However, Poland and Hungary have expressed their opposition to the conditionality linked to the respect of the rule of law and threatened to use their right of veto on the elements of the package to which unanimity applies.

Under Rule 148(1) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, AFCO is the competent committee to give a recommendation to Plenary as to the conclusion of the new Interinstitutional Agreement.

15 amendments were tabled to the draft report. The Committee on Budgets adopted its opinion to the AFCO report on Thursday 19 November.

AFCO is ready to proceed to the vote, as soon as an agreement is found and the package unblocked.

During the committee meeting, Members will exchange views on AFCO's draft report on the new Interinstitutional Agreement.

\*\*\*\*End of Votes\*\*\*\*

### **Parliament's right of initiative**

***Rapporteur for the opinion: Paulo Rangel (EPP)***



AFCO will draft an initiative report on Parliament's right of initiative

During Wednesday's meeting, a presentation of a study commissioned by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, at the request of AFCO, on "The European Parliament's right of initiative" by Dr. Andreas MAURER, Professor for Political Science and European Integration Studies, University of Innsbruck (Austria) will take place, followed by an exchange of views with Members.

The study provides, inter alia, for a comprehensive analysis of non-legislative and legislative own-initiative reports. Building on the empirical evidence of Parliament's practice since 1993, it discusses means and ways for pragmatic reform and Treaty revision.

The Committee on Legal Affairs is associated to this report under Rule 57.

### **Assessment of the implementation of Article 50 TEU**

***Rapporteur: Danuta Maria Hübner (PPE)***



After a first exchange of views on the assessment of the implementation of Article 50 TEU in AFCO's meeting of 28 October, the Rapporteur, Danuta Hübner, will present a Working Document in view of the preparation of the draft implementation report.

An analysis of the implementation of Article 50 TEU lies within the scope of the responsibilities of AFCO, in line with Parliament's Rules of Procedure, according to which AFCO is competent for "the implementation of the Treaties and the assessment of their operation".

Given the importance of and the impact that the application of Article 50 TEU had on the Union, it is crucial to have an in-depth reflection on how its provisions were interpreted and applied, and what are the lessons that can be drawn. This Working Document aims at offering AFCO Members relevant paths for such reflection.

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**Working Document on Citizens' and civil society's participation in the Conference on the Future of Europe**

**Co-Rapporteurs: Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL), Daniel Freund (Verts/ALE)**



AFCO will draft a number of working documents in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Today there will be an exchange of views on the subject of "Citizens' and civil society's participation in the Conference on the Future of Europe".

The Working Document on this topic intends to offer some reflections, ahead of the start of the Conference, about the way in which citizens' and youth agoras and other forms of citizens' participation could be organised within the Conference on the Future of Europe, about the feedback mechanisms between the different actors and platforms of discussion in the Conference, and about the way in which civil society can be involved and contribute with expert advice.

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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 2 December 2020, 09.00 – 12.00  
and Thursday 3 December 13.45 – 15.45  
Room: József Antall (6Q2), Brussels (*and with remote participation of AFCO Members*)

**MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE**

2/12 - 9.00-12.00: FR DE IT NL EN ES PT HU PL  
3/12 - 13.45-15.45: FR DE IT NL EN ES PT HU PL

**NEXT MEETING**

*10 December, Brussels (tbc)*

**FURTHER INFORMATION**



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