

Newsletter

Issue 114 - December 2020

SELECTED NEWS



Election of Chair and first Vice Chair

On 26 October IMCO elected its new Chair: Ms Anna Cavazzini (Greens) replacing Ms Petra de Sutter, who on 1 October became deputy prime minister of the new Belgian government. Ms Cavazzini before becoming a Member of the European Parliament in 2019, worked in the German Federal Foreign Office and in the United Nations in New York.

The Committee elected also its first Vice-Chair, Mr Andrus Ansip (Renew). Mr Ansip served as the Estonian Prime Minister from 2005 to 2014. In 2014 he became Commissioner for Digital Single Market and Vice President of the European Commission.



CANCELLED Presentation by Commissioner Thierry Breton of the Commission's proposals for a Digital Services Act (DSA) and a Digital Markets Act (DMA)

On 10 December 2020, during an extraordinary meeting of the Committee, Commissioner Thierry Breton will present to IMCO members the Commission's proposals for a Digital Services Act (DSA) and a Digital Markets Act (DMA), which are expected to be published by the Commission on 9 December 2020. The DSA and the DMA are a follow up to IMCO's own initiative report on ["Digital Services Act: Improving the functioning of the Single Market"](#) (rapporteur Alex Agius Saliba, S&D).



Christmas wishes from IMCO



The IMCO Secretariat wishes you happy holidays and a covidless New Year!

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(2 DECEMBER 2020)

[Watch the committee meeting live](#)

Implementation of Directive 2009/81/EC, concerning procurement in the fields of defence and security, and of Directive 2009/43/EC, concerning the transfer of defence-related products



On 2 December, IMCO will be considering amendments to the draft report by Mr Kris Peeters on the implementation of the 'Defence Procurement Directive' and the 'Transfers Directive' in Member States. 76 amendments tabled go in line with the main points put forward by the Rapporteur, namely on the need to improve certain elements of the Directives, such as greater consistency with the general Public Procurement Directive. Members however believe that no revision of these Directives is necessary since the existing regulatory framework should be sufficient if correctly implemented and properly used. Furthermore, the necessity of a strong enforcement policy and improvement of the level of SMEs participation in the defence market have been stressed.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Kris Peeters \(EPP\)](#)

Implementation of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products (the Construction Products Regulation)



On 2 December, the IMCO Committee will consider the compromise amendments to Mr Christian Doleschal's draft report on "Implementation of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products". The set of draft compromise amendments looks at the importance of harmonised standards in the construction sector, the need to avoid duplication of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) and other EU legislation, the need to enhance and make a full use of digital solutions for providing information about construction products, the reinforcement of Product Contact Points for Construction and the need for enhanced and uniform market surveillance across Europe.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Christian Doleschal \(EPP\)](#)



Impacts of EU rules on the free movements of workers and services: intra-EU labour mobility as a tool to match labour market needs and skills

Mr Morten Løkkegaard presented his draft opinion to EMPL INI on free movement of workers and services at the IMCO meeting of 26 October. The opinion adds elements on key legislation within IMCO competences: the Services Directive, the Professional Qualifications Directive and the Proportionality Test Directive. 86 amendments were tabled. The rapporteur drafted seven compromise amendments covering most of the amendments. These amendments and compromise amendments will be discussed in the Committee on 2 December. The IMCO vote is scheduled for 11 January 2021, while the vote in EMPL is planned in February 2021.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Morten Løkkegaard \(Renew\)](#)

Strengthening the Single Market: the future of free movement of services

On 2 December, IMCO will vote on the draft report on "Strengthening the Single Market: the future of free movement of services". The report underlines the need to ensure implementation of the single market rules for services and to improve the enforcement action of the European Commission. It stresses the need to evaluate the level of implementation of the EU legal framework for services and to empower companies by providing them better access to information. 288 amendments were submitted to the report. The rapporteur drafted a comprehensive set of 11 compromise amendments, which were discussed at technical and Shadows' meetings aiming at finding common ground on the issues highlighted by the political groups.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Morten Løkkegaard \(Renew\)](#)





A European strategy for data

On 9 November, Ms Christel Schaldemose presented her draft opinion (Rule 57 RoP) to the ITRE strategic INI Report on a European strategy for data. The opinion focuses on elements aimed at creating a genuine single market for data, such as the free flow of non-personal data, European cloud services, interoperability, consumer protection and data sharing. After the deadline for amendments, it is clear that most groups share the overall aim of the draft report, but that there is a need to include further elements on issues such as empowering and stimulating SMEs, usability and accessibility of data, cloud and edge computing, the protection of European interests as well as a clear structure for data governance. The Committee will consider amendments and possible compromise amendments on 2 December ahead of the vote in January.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Christel Schaldemose \(S&D\)](#)

LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

(26/27 OCTOBER, 9 NOVEMBER, 19 NOVEMBER 2020)



Exchange of views with Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age - as part of the structured dialogue

On 27 October 2020, IMCO Members exchanged views with Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age and Competition. VP Vestager congratulated IMCO Rapporteur, Alex Saliba for the rich and well-developed report on the Digital Services Act. She pointed out that the IMCO's report is being taken into account by the Commission when preparing the two legislative proposals, the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act, which the Commission plans to present by the end of the year. Members raised questions regarding the ongoing investigations of online platforms by the USA authorities, AI-enabled services, interoperability in the DSA, a European login/identification system, platform-government cooperation, structural remedies against online platforms, digitisation of SME's, bias in algorithms, a ban on behavioural and targeted advertising in the DSA.

Exchange of views with Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, on Strategic Foresight Communication



On 26 October, IMCO exchanged views with Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič on the 2020 Strategic Foresight Report. Mr Šefčovič mentioned that the report assesses the weaknesses and the strengths of the EU and, as far as IMCO Committee is concerned, deals with the risks associated with

uncoordinated decision, restrictive measures in the Single Market and limitations in free movement within the Schengen area. During the debate, Members raised questions on digital aspects of resilience, data resilience, new jobs strategy, impact of the pandemic on SMEs, relation between competition and state aid with better regulation and the state of play of Brexit negotiations.

Exchange of views with Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice, on the New Consumer Agenda



On 19 November, IMCO held an exchange of views with Commissioner Reynders on the New Consumer Agenda. The Commissioner presented the priorities of EU consumer policy for the coming years, namely the green and digital transitions; redress and enforcement of consumer rights; specific needs of certain consumer groups and international cooperation. He also referred to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on

consumers and on the need to move from consumer protection towards more empowerment and enforcement. The discussion also covered the digital transformation, consumer protection with regard to new technologies such as AI, increased role and accountability of online platforms, as well as the need to ensure the quality and safety of products, especially those imported from third countries.

UPDATE FROM TRILOGUE

Establishing the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics



On 9th November 2020, the Rapporteur, Mr Brando Benifei (S&D), reported back from the fourth trilogue on the Single Market Programme (MFF), held on 28 October 2020. After freezing the MFF trilogues in November 2019, discussions have resumed on political and technical level and a good progress has been achieved, especially on objectives and actions, related to market surveillance, consumers, animals, plants, food and feed, support for SMEs and statistics. The Parliament is upholding its strong and united position on designated beneficiaries and on the budgetary envelopes. The following trilogue of 25 November discussed remaining items, notably the budget and the annual work programmes.

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

EVENTS



Due to the ongoing safety measures in place in response to the COVID-19 crisis, no IMCO missions, public hearings, or other events have taken place in Committee since March 2020.

These safety measures have been prolonged till 31 March 2021 impacting the presence in the offices and meeting conditions of the Committee.

OTHERS NEWS

Next IMCO Committee meetings:

Extraordinary Committee meeting 10 December 2020 from 13.45-15.45

Monday 11 January 2021 from 13.45 – 15.45 and 16.45 – 18.45

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