

****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 10 November a political agreement was reached between the delegations of the European Parliament and the Council on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 and the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council, and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters, and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap for the introduction of new own resources (IIA). The Council has not yet endorsed the MFF package due to opposition from two Member States.

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.

In order to be prepared for the eventuality that the MFF and IIA could be scheduled for the December plenary session, the vote on the amendments to the draft report will take place on 10 December.

The final vote will be taken only after an agreement on the MFF package has been reached.

****End of Votes****

INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR

Dear Readers,

This 22nd issue of the AFCO Newsletter comes in the persistently challenging context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In line with the precautionary measures taken by Parliament to contain the spread of the virus while safeguarding its core activities, our Committee meeting will take place in Brussels and 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.

At this meeting, we will proceed to the vote of the amendments on a report on the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, which is part of the package on the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and the Recovery Plan. As the approval of this package is still blocked in the Council, we will suspend the final vote on our opinion, which will take place only after an agreement is reached in the Council.

Moreover, we will have a much awaited exchange of views with Vice-President of the Commission Věra Jourová, responsible for Values and Transparency, who deals with various issues at the core of the activities of our committee. The timing of this exchange of views is particularly opportune, as the Commission last week approved, the European Action Plan for Democracy, prepared by a group under the direction of Vice-President Jourová.

In view of the importance of pending dossiers like the approval by the Council of the MFF/Recovery Plan package and the conclusion of the negotiations on the future relationship agreement with the UK, it is possible that our committee still meets again before the end of the year.

It has been a long, difficult year for every European citizen. We are experiencing a crisis that has no comparison in European history. I would like to take this opportunity to wish our readers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Hoping that the current pandemic is approaching its end, I want to stress that only by being united can we defeat the virus and work for a better future.

Antonio Tajani, Chair

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



AFCO will have an exchanges of views with Vice-President Věra Jourová, responsible for Values and Transparency. Within her tasks, Vice-President Jourová chairs the Commissioners' Group on a New Push for European Democracy. She is also responsible for issues that concerns directly the competences of AFCO, like the lead candidate system and transnational lists, important matters also in the perspective of the Conference on the Future of Europe, electoral law, European political parties, transparency of the legislative process, the possible creation of an Independent Ethics Body for all the European institutions or European Citizens' Initiative. She is also in charge of leading the efforts to protect the European democratic system from external interference.

This exchange of views - in the framework of the structured dialogue between the Parliament and the Commission, as foreseen in the Framework Agreement between the EP and the Commission - comes at a rather appropriate moment, exactly one week after the adoption by the Commission under the direction of Vice-President Jourová of the European Action Plan for Democracy, which aims to ensure that European citizens "... are able to participate in the democratic system through informed decision-making free from unlawful interference and manipulation".

*

*

*

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 10 December 2020, 16.45 – 18.45

Room: József Antall (2Q2), Brussels (*and with remote participation of AFCO Members*)

MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

FR DE IT NL EN ES PT FI HU PL SK BG

NEXT MEETING

14 December 2020 (t.b.c.)

FURTHER INFORMATION



[AFCO website](#)



[@EPInstitutional](#)

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](#)

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

The items contained herein are drafted by the Secretariat of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. The AFCO Newsletter may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The AFCO Secretariat does not necessarily endorse the views expressed on these websites.