

Voting time

Deepening EU integration in view of future enlargement

Co-rapporteurs: Petras Auštrevičius (Renew), Pedro Silva Pereira (S&D)

In a joint committee format (Rule 58), AFET and AFCO Members will vote on the draft report on ***Deepening EU integration in view of future enlargement***. The draft report underlines the strategic importance of enlargement for the EU and the need for institutional and financial reforms to face current challenges and to ensure the EU's capacity to absorb new Members and to promote their successful integration. Regarding institutional reforms, the draft report focuses on the need to increase the Union's capacity to act and to strengthen democratic legitimacy and accountability, in particular through more effective decision-making. The reaffirmation of a merit-based approach to accession and the respect for the Union fundamental values are also highlighted. In total 481 amendments were tabled to this report and the Co-rapporteurs drew up 20 compromises in agreement with the shadow rapporteurs.

Opinion on the Guidelines for Budget 2025

Rapporteur: Salvatore De Meo (PPE)

AFCO Members will adopt the opinion of Chair Salvatore De Meo to the report of the Committee on Budgets on the ***General guidelines for the preparation of the 2025 EU budget***. The draft opinion in form of the letter of the Chair emphasises the need for proper financing of the political priorities of the AFCO committee in 2025 – the post European election year. These include: communication with citizens, implementation of the future conclusions of the European Council concerning on the proposals for Treaty changes linked to the future enlargements, programmes falling under AFCO's remit (e.g. the European Citizens Initiative and the Rights and Values Programme), rule of law, transparency and integrity of EU institutions, as well as the Union's activities aimed at raising awareness and countering disinformation. The Committee underlines also the need to allocate adequate resources for the creation of the Interinstitutional Ethics Body and for the functioning of the Authority for European Political Parties and European Political Foundations in view of expanding its tasks.



End of vote

INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I present you the 70th issue of the



AFCO newsletter, the first of the year 2024. As many readers are aware, this newsletter is an important tool prepared by the Committee Secretariat to keep you informed on various AFCO activities and the current important topics in the domain of constitutional affairs in the European Parliament. This month

has one Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 23 January. During our ordinary meeting two votes will be held. The Members will vote on the report *Deepening EU integration in view of future enlargement* in a joint committee format (Rule 58) with the AFET Committee. Furthermore, the AFCO Committee Members will vote on the *Opinion on the Guidelines for Budget 2025*. The draft opinion stresses the need for adequate funding of the AFCO Committee's policy priorities in 2025. Additionally, two mission reports shall be considered during this month's committee meeting: the report from the AFCO ad hoc delegation to Washington D.C. and Ottawa carried out between 30 October and 3 November 2023 and the report of the delegation to Ireland that was held from November 29th to December 1st. The information gathered will help inform current and future work of the AFCO Committee. Finally, a draft report will be presented on a *Permanent system for the allocation of seats in the European Parliament*. The report sets out a number of methodologies and possible mathematical formulae that could be used to calculate the allocation of EP seats per Member State. I am convinced that readers will appreciate the important information included in this newsletter and will follow our upcoming committee meeting with great interest.

Salvatore De Meo

Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs



Permanent system for the allocation of seats in the European Parliament

Co-rapporteurs: Ana Collado Jiménez (PPE), Niklas Nienaaß (Verts/ALE)

The co-rapporteurs Ana Collado Jiménez and Niklas Nienaaß will present to the Members of AFCO their draft report on ***Permanent system for the allocation of seats in the European Parliament***. The European Parliament was asked by the Council to propose an objective, fair, durable and transparent seat distribution method implementing the principle of degressive proportionality, without prejudice to the institutions' prerogatives under the Treaties, by the end of 2026. The report presents some methodologies and possible mathematical formulas to be used to calculate the EP seat allocation per Member State, highlighting their advantages and disadvantages. The deadline for tabling amendments is set to 16 February, while the vote in committee is scheduled for 20 March.



Mission report Washington & Ottawa

Members will consider the mission report from the AFCO *ad hoc* delegation to Washington D.C. and Ottawa carried out between 30 October and 3 November 2023. During this mission several fruitful encounters took place with the goal to both examine the recent jurisprudential line of the US Supreme Court resulting in devolution of powers from the federal to the state level in USA and learn about the transparency of the legislative process in Canada. Discussions in Washington and Ottawa offered an interesting perspective with regard to the areas of competence of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, in particular with regard to the question of the supremacy of EU law and the transparency and integrity of the EU institutions. The information gathered will serve as input to the present and future work of AFCO.



Mission report Dublin

The Members of the AFCO Committee will consider the mission report of the delegation to Ireland that was held from November 29th to December 1st. The mission to Dublin was informative and balanced. The main objective of the delegation was to enable members to exchange views with national legislative authorities on the Treaty change report, the upcoming European elections in June 2024, the implementation of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement and its consequences for the Republic of Ireland and it was achieved. The range of meetings also provided a good overview of the Irish Citizens' Assemblies in order to exchange best practices on how public authorities involve citizens in the decision-making process and increase participation in political life.



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

23 January 2024

9.30 – 11.00

Room: SPINELLI 3G2, Brussels

MEETING LANGUAGES REQUESTED

DE EN FR IT NL DA ES PT FI CS ET HU PL SK BG RO

NEXT MEETING

14 February 2024

09:00 - 12:30

15:00 - 18:30

Brussels

FURTHER INFORMATION



[AFCO website](#)



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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](#)

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