



NEWSLETTER

Issue 147 - January 2024

[IMCO website](#)

## IMCO's strategic outlook ahead of the European elections



*For some, the year 2024 brings with it new beginnings, but for us it also heralds the excitement of the European elections. It will be yet another opportunity for the citizens, across the continent, to engage with the EU in a positive way.*

*As you know, IMCO is all about listening and connecting. Your thoughts and insights matter to us. Together, we collaborate and develop a single market that truly reflects what the citizens need and want.*

*Looking ahead, we're rolling up our sleeves for some major tasks. We are about to wrap up negotiations with the Council on the [Single Market Emergency Instrument](#) and the [Right to Repair](#) - huge steps towards an ever more resilient single market, sustainability, and empowering consumers - as well as the proposal on [Digital Labelling of Fertilising Products](#), playing our part in the digital revolution. We also look forward to launching negotiations on [banning products made with forced labour](#) and improving [non-road mobile machinery](#) standards.*

*We're also focusing on adopting Parliament's position on [Toy Safety](#), [Late Payments](#), and the [Union Customs Code](#). Our partnership with ENVI on [Green Claims](#) shows our commitment to the environment, and we're always looking out for [travellers' protection](#).*

*We can't wait for the insights from Enrico Letta's report on the future of the single market and Mario Draghi's take on European competitiveness. These will be our guideposts as we navigate the complexities of the Union market. In this regard, the committee has again invited Mr Letta for [an exchange of views](#) on 22 February with Members and stakeholders on his findings and recommendations.*

*As the elections approach, we're ready for fresh ideas in the IMCO committee, keeping our mission alive: to continue building an EU single market that's stronger, more resilient, and inclusive. Let's make a real difference together!*

*With warm regards,*



Anna Cavazzini

IMCO Chair

## Provisional Agreements Reached with the Council

### Artificial Intelligence Act

On 8 December 2023, after 36 hours of marathon negotiations, a political agreement on the AI Act was reached between Parliament and Council. Among the main provisions, the provisional text sets forth criteria for high-risk AI systems. It also encompasses legislation on "General Purpose AI" and the creation of an AI Office within the European Commission, with the purpose of overseeing governance. The IMCO and LIBE committees are expected to vote on the text in February 2024, with the plenary vote expected in April.

co-Rapporteurs: Mr [Brando Benifei](#) (S&D, IMCO), Mr [Dragoş Tudorache](#) (Renew, LIBE)

[More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

### Construction Products Regulation

On 13 December 2023, the third trilogue on the review of the Construction Products Regulation took place in Strasbourg. Political agreement was achieved, including a compromise on green public procurement, the most politically contentious issue in the negotiation. This brought to a successful conclusion intensive work on this technically challenging file. It is anticipated, pending confirmation, that the plenary vote to conclude Parliament's first reading will occur in April.

Rapporteur: Mr [Christian Doleschal](#) (EPP)

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### Directive on Product Liability



On 14 December 2023, Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement on the proposal on the liability for defective products. To respond to the increase in online shopping and the emergence of new and innovative products, the new rules aim to ensure that there is always an economic operator that can be held liable for a product that caused damage. Furthermore, the rules on the burden of proof for the person requiring compensation have been clarified and simplified. The new directive represents a balanced approach, that encourages innovation while ensuring a high level of

protection of consumers. The IMCO and JURI committees now have to vote on the text, which will then be submitted for approval in plenary.

co-Rapporteurs: Mr [Vlad-Marius Botoş](#) (Renew, IMCO), [Mr Pascal Arimont](#) (EPP, JURI)

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## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

**24 January 2024**

### Votes

#### • Regulation on Transparency and Targeting of Political Advertising (Provisional Agreement)

Rapporteur: Mr [Sandro Gozi](#) (Renew)

[Link to the provisional agreement](#)

[Link to Procedure File](#), [More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

#### • Regulation on Data Collection & Sharing Relating to Short-Term Accommodation Rentals

Rapporteur: Ms [Kim Van Sappeantak](#) (Greens/EFA)

[Link to the provisional agreement](#)

[Link to Procedure File](#), [More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

#### • Regulation on the use of the Internal Market Information System and the Single Digital Gateway (European Cross-Border Associations)

Rapporteur: Ms [Anne-Sophie Pelletier](#) (The Left)

Link to the [Draft Report](#) and [Amendments](#) tabled in the Committee

[Link to Procedure File](#)

#### • Regulation on Detergents and Surfactants

Rapporteur for Opinion: Ms [Maria da Graça Carvalho](#) (EPP)

Link to the [Draft Opinion](#) and [Amendments](#) tabled in the Committee

[Link to Procedure File](#)

## Exchanges of Views

### Belgian Presidency Programme

As is customary with every new presidency of the Council, the Belgian presidency has been invited to present its programme in relation to IMCO's remit. Mr. Pierre-Yves Dermagne, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy and Employment and Ms Alexia Bertrand, State Secretary for the Budget and Consumer Protection will represent the presidency. Two of the Belgian presidency's priorities are completing the work on the the Right to Repair and on the Green Claims Directive. Progress on the proposal on Toy safety is another of the presidency's priorities.

[Website of the Belgian Presidency of the Council](#)

### Directive on Alternative Dispute Resolution

Members will discuss two draft reports on alternative dispute resolution and online dispute resolution. Key issues addressed by the Rapporteur include enhancing consumer awareness and increasing business engagement. To inform this discussion, the European Parliamentary Research Service will provide two briefings focusing on the EU's revised framework for these dispute resolutions, analysing the Commission's impact assessment and the practical implementation of current legislation.

Rapporteur: [Ms Laura Ballarín Cereza](#) (S&D)

Links to the Procedure Files ([2023/0375\(COD\)](#), [2023/0376\(COD\)](#))

## LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### 28 November & 4 December 2023

### Regulation on Non-Road Mobile Machinery

On 28 November 2023, Members adopted a report on the proposal on the approval and market surveillance of non-road mobile machinery circulating on public roads. Whilst welcoming the general objectives of the Commission's proposal, the report proposes several amendments concerning the scope, the definition of 'type' and 'variant', overlap with the Machinery Products Regulation, greater involvement of industry stakeholders, lead time in relation to the validity of existing types, and

### Own-Initiative Report on Virtual Worlds

On 28 November 2023, Members adopted an own-initiative report on Virtual worlds – opportunities, risks and policy implications for the single market. The report welcomes the Commission's communication on virtual worlds of 11 July 2023 but calls for more work to define them. It wants clear rules in the digital single market, through existing laws, to support virtual world development. The report highlights the economic potential but most companies concerned are situated outside the Union.

mutual recognition by Member States of approved production arrangements. Trilogue negotiations will shortly begin at technical level with the first political trilogue expected during the second half of February 2024.

Rapporteur: Mr [Tom Vandekendelaere](#) (EPP)

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## Directive on the Recognition of Qualifications of Nurses Trained in Romania

On 28 November 2023, Members adopted a report on the proposal on the recognition of professional qualifications of nurses responsible for general care trained in Romania. The report does not amend the Commission's proposal in terms of substance but merely makes technical amendments, with the aim of rendering the proposal linguistically clearer.

Rapporteur: Mr [Adam Bielan](#) (ECR)

[Link to the Procedure File](#)

## Directive on the European Disability Card

On 4 December 2023, Members adopted an opinion in letter form for the EMPL committee on the proposal for a directive establishing the European Disability Card and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities. The opinion welcomes the proposal and further elaborates on topics such as, awareness-raising on the initiative, digitalisation, and use of the Disability and Parking Cards by disabled people moving between Member States to work or study. The opinion also refers to IMCO's previous work in relation to persons with disabilities e.g. the European Accessibility Act and the INI on Accessible EU Centre.

[Link to the Procedure File](#)

Therefore, the report calls for EU leadership and stresses the need for interoperability and open standards to prevent monopolies. Overall, regular regulatory checks are needed as virtual worlds develop but standalone regulation just for virtual worlds is not required yet.

Rapporteur: Mr [Pablo Arias Echeverría](#) (EPP)

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## Regulation on Standard Essential Patents

On 4 December 2023, Members adopted an opinion for the JURI committee on standard essential patents (SEPs). The opinion proposes the inclusion of current SEPs in the scope of the proposal and the elimination of penalties resulting from their not being registered. It also improves the process for determining if a patent is 'essential' and for determining fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory (FRAND) terms. Finally, the opinion also proposes that access to the SEP database be more inclusive by placing the overarching maintenance costs on the EUIPO. However, access to certain information, like non-confidential information on FRAND determinations may be subject to payment, where justified.

Rapporteur for Opinion: Ms [Dita Charanzová](#) (Renew)

[Link to the Procedure File](#)

## Directive on European Cross-Border Associations

On 4 December 2023, Members adopted an opinion in letter form for the JURI committee on the proposal for a directive on European cross-border associations. The opinion's proposals follow a list of general principles, including removing existing barriers that non-profit associations face regarding internal market freedom, creating a level playing-field, enhancing and encouraging the use of digital technologies, enhanced transparency of information, encouraging active participation and mandating requirements for reporting, evaluation and revision.

[Link to the Procedure File](#)

## ONGOING IMCO TRILOGUES

### Single Market Emergency Instrument

### Right to Repair

The first trilogue took place on 7 December 2023, during which the mandates and main



A third trilogue took place on 7 December 2023. The co-legislators discussed a number of points in a constructive spirit. The divergences between Parliament and the Council were also outlined, specifically on provisions related to the activation of the emergency mode during a crisis, notifications, priority-rated orders, and the establishment of fast lanes. A fourth trilogue is planned for 1 February 2024.

Rapporteur: Mr [Andreas Schwab](#) (EPP)

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priorities of the co-legislators were presented. Among the points discussed were the obligation to repair, the online platform, the amendments to the Sales of Goods Directive, the Member States' measures promoting repair, the penalties and the European Repair Information Form. The next trilogue is scheduled for 1 February 2024.

Rapporteur: Mr [René Repasi](#) (S&D)

[More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

## Digital Labelling of Fertilising Products



The first trilogue took place on 6 December 2023. Among the points discussed were the accessibility of the label to e.g. people with a disability and the time during which a digital label would need to remain accessible. The Council outlined its reasons for aligning the labelling of packaged and unpackaged fertilisers, whilst Parliament insisted on a balanced approach. The next trilogue will take place on 22 January 2024.

Rapporteur: Ms [Maria Grapini](#) (S&D)

[More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

## OTHER NEWS

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**Next Committee Meeting: 13 & 22 February 2024**

**Closure date of the current issue: 17 January 2024**

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