

Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Following a well-established tradition, a presentation of the Presidency's program takes place at the beginning of each EU Council Presidency. Belgium is succeeding Spain as President of the EU Council. During the ordinary meeting on 14 February, the AFCO Committee will welcome Ms. Hadja Lahbib, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Federal Cultural Institutions of the Kingdom of Belgium who will present the Belgian EU Council Presidency's priorities in the field of AFCO.

A debate will follow.



Permanent system for the allocation of seats in the European Parliament

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

For the report on a Permanent System for the allocation of seats in the European Parliament a workshop will take place during the upcoming ordinary meeting. Three experts will take the floor laying out the various mathematical variables that should be taken in consideration when deciding on a formula for the distribution of seats among Member States in the Parliament. The AFCO Committee has the pleasure to welcome Friedrich Pukelsheim from the University of Augsburg, Victoriano Ramírez from the University of Granada and Manuel Müller from the Finnish Institute of International Affairs in Helsinki. This workshop is intended to provide input to Members on the possible mathematical system to be used.

INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR

Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to present you the 71st edition of the AFCO



Newsletter. 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. February has one ordinary committee

meeting scheduled for the 14th of the month. The AFCO Committee will welcome Ms. Hadja Lahbib, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Federal Cultural Institutions of the Kingdom who will present the priorities of the Belgian Presidency of the EU Council in the domain of AFCO. Furthermore, our upcoming committee meeting will host a workshop during which three experts will provide their insights on the possible mathematics to be used for the report on a *Permanent system for the allocation of seats in the European Parliament*. Members will also consider the draft report on *Amendments to Parliament's Rules of Procedure implementing the parliamentary reform "Parliament 2024"* for which I am the rapporteur myself. Finally Members will also consider the report of the mission to Paris that was carried out on 14 and 15 December 2023. 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

**Amendments to Parliament's Rules of Procedure
implementing the parliamentary reform "Parliament 2024"**
Rapporteur: Salvatore De Meo

The AFCO Members will consider the draft report by the Working Group 'Parliament 2024'. After ten months of analysis and sharing views, the Working Group put forward a comprehensive package of reform proposals covering five areas: legislation, scrutiny, budgetary functions and budgetary control, plenary, and external relations. For a number of reform measures, the Rules of Procedure have to be amended and for others, additionally, implementing decisions have to be adopted by Parliament's governing bodies. The measures aim to increase Parliament's capacity to exercise democratic oversight and strengthen its functioning as co-legislator. Amendments to this draft report can be tabled until February 27th.



Mission report Paris

Members will consider the report of the AFCO mission to Paris, carried out between 14 and 15 December 2023. The mission's aim was to meet with the French High Authority for Transparency in Public Life to learn about its functioning and its role in ensuring transparency and administrative integrity. Following the AFCO Ad Hoc Delegation visit to Ottawa in November 2023, meeting with the Canadian Commissioner of Lobbying, this mission was held to further explore ethics and the transparency of office holders. The AFCO Committee held a hearing on the Transparency Register and its shortcomings, also in November. Understanding and appreciating France's High Authority is crucial for, among others, the AFCO Committee's contribution to shaping the inter-institutional Ethics Body. The meeting also aimed to assess the balance between keeping information confidential and making it public.



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

14 February 2024

9.00 – 13.00

Room: SPINELLI 3G3, Brussels

MEETING LANGUAGES REQUESTED

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

NEXT MEETING

7 March 2024

09:00 - 12:00

Brussels

FURTHER INFORMATION



[AFCO website](#)



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