



NEWSLETTER

Issue 148 - February 2024

[IMCO website](#)

Charting the Course: The future of the Single Market



Never has there been such a level of interest in EU policies by citizens and interest groups as today. As the date of the elections of the European parliamentary elections comes closer, interest in our work in this area, only continues to peak further. It may also have come to this because the Single Market is for traders and consumers alike, the bread and butter of EU policies.

Indeed, the EU quest for closer alignment with the needs of the citizens has never been more important than today. As your representatives, we understand that the Single Market must be completed. It remains our first priority.

With this in mind, in June 2023, the European Council called for a High-Level Report on the Future of the Single Market and tasked **Enrico Letta**, the former Italian Prime Minister and the President of the Jacques Delors Institute, to draft it.

Our Committee already held a discussion with Mr Letta on September 2023. In our next Committee meeting, we will have another [exchange of views](#) with him and IMCO main stakeholders. This will give us the opportunity to hear about his first results and recommendations. This session will guide us through one of the main steps in our effort to reshape and complete the Single Market to fit better the changing needs of us, citizens. You may follow this discussion both online or in person.

We would also like to remind you that in our next meeting, we will have a number of votes, including one on the Single Market emergency instrument (now Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Act) and another one on the Right to Repair.

As is customary, this newsletter gives a detailed outline of the agenda of the next Committee meeting. So we do hope this edition gets you up to speed with all things IMCO, and if not, please get in touch with us.

Anna Cavallini

Early 1st Reading - Provisional Agreements Reached with the Council & their Votes in Committee

Single Market Emergency Instrument (IMERA) - Agreement with Council

At the fourth trilogue of 1 February, Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement, including on Parliament's involvement in the Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Board, as well as emergency and resilience dialogue. Agreement was also reached on other points of the main proposal, relating to the inclusion of digital forms and templates in mitigation measures, transparency obligations for Member States, and voluntary information

Directive on the Right to Repair - Agreement with Council

At the second trilogue of 1 February, Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement that strengthens consumers' rights to repair. The deal supports the general objectives of the directive but introduces some improvements regarding the scope of application, the obligation to repair, the European Repair Information Form, the online platform, the consumers' right to choose between repair and replacement, the extension of the liability period

requests and priority-rated requests to economic operators. It was also agreed that the General Product Safety Regulation is amended and added to the accompanying legal acts with a specific chapter on the emergency mode. Members should be voting on the text of the agreement on 22 February.

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

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by 12 months, and the introduction of measures by Member States promoting repair. The vote in committee on the text of the agreement is scheduled for 22 February.

Rapporteur: Mr [René Repasi](#) (S&D)

[More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

Directive on Product Liability - IMCO-JURI vote on the provisional agreement scheduled for 22 February

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

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Artificial Intelligence Act - IMCO-LIBE vote on the provisional agreement held on 13 February

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

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Regulation on Construction Products - IMCO vote on the provisional agreement held on 13 February

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

[More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

Regulation on the Digital Labelling of EU Fertilising Products - IMCO vote on the provisional agreement held on 13 February

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

[More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

Regulation on Transparency and Targeting of Political Advertising - IMCO vote on the provisional agreement held on 24 January

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

[More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

Regulation on Data Collection and Sharing Relating to Short-term Accommodation Rental Services - IMCO vote on the provisional agreement held on 24 January

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

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NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

22 February 2024

Votes on Legislative Reports

• Late Payments Regulation

Rapporteur: Mr [Róża Thun und Hohenstein](#) (Renew)

Link to the [Draft Report](#) and Amendments ([batch 1](#), [batch 2](#)) tabled in committee

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

• Union Customs Code

Rapporteur: Ms [Deirdre Clune](#) (EPP)

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

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

• Directive on Alternative Dispute Resolution for Consumer Disputes

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

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

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

• Regulation on the Discontinuation of the European ODR Platform

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

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

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

Budgetary procedure 2025 - Pilot Projects

On 22 February, IMCO is going to vote on two proposals for Pilot Projects (PP), tabled by Members. If these proposals are indeed endorsed by IMCO, they will then be submitted to BUDG, and after that submitted to the Commission for pre-assessment. The Commission's assessment of these proposed pilot projects can be expected by the end of June. Pilot projects are experimental initiatives designed to test the feasibility of future EU actions or projects and they are proposed every year.

LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

[24 January, 13 & 14 February 2024](#)

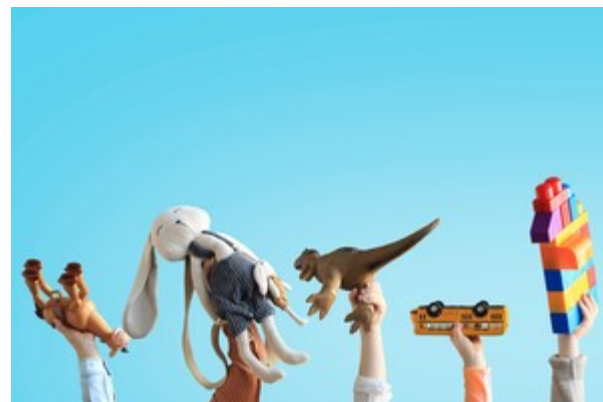


Directive on Green Claims

On 14 February, ENVI and IMCO Members adopted a report on the Green Claims Directive. The report aims to protect consumers against greenwashing but also strive to ensure fair competition for businesses which make green claims. Significantly, a simplified verification system for some explicit environmental claims is proposed, which should streamline and shorten the process as established by the Commission's proposal and reduce administrative burden. Two other important changes concern green claims made on carbon offsetting and those made on products containing hazardous substances. Furthermore, the report amends the transposition period and introduces a transitional provision for small businesses. The plenary vote is planned for March 2024.

co-Rapporteurs: Mr [Andrus Ansip](#) (Renew, IMCO), Mr [Cyrus Engerer](#) (S&D, ENVI)

[More information on the IMCO webpage](#)



Regulation on Toy Safety

On 13 February, IMCO Members unanimously adopted a report on the proposal for a regulation on the safety of toys. The report aims to strengthen the level of protection of children by preventing unsafe toys from entering the EU market. To achieve this, manufacturers will have to create digital product passports (DPP) for each toy. DPPs will enhance market surveillance and strengthen customs inspections at borders but will also enable consumers to easily access safety information. The Report also clarifies the interplay with other legislation, in particular regarding digitally connected toys. The plenary vote is scheduled for March.

Rapporteur: Ms [Marion Walsmann](#) (EPP)

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Regulation on the use of the Internal Market Information

Regulation on Detergents and surfactants

System and the Single Digital Gateway

On 24 January, Members adopted a report on the use of the Internal Market Information System and the Single Digital Gateway (SDG) on European cross-border associations. The report aims to clarify the text of the proposal and adds the right of creditors and workers to the annex of the SDG Regulation. The vote in plenary on the Parliament's 1st Reading position is planned for March, as negotiations with the Council are not foreseen within this legislative term.

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

[Link to the Procedure File](#)

On 24 January, Members adopted an opinion to the ENVI Committee on detergents and surfactants. The IMCO Rapporteur emphasised three points: protecting consumers through the use of hybrid labels, reducing burden by requiring a digital passport only at the product level (not batch level) and by removing the requirement for a CE label. ENVI adopted its report on 14 February.

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

[Link to the Procedure File](#)

Presentation of the Belgian Presidency's Programme



On 24 January, the Belgian Presidency of the Council presented its priorities to the Committee. Members insisted that the Presidency commit to speeding up the work on the SMEI and Right to Repair proposals - a provisional agreement was reached on both proposals on 1 February. Members also underlined the importance that the Council reaches an agreement on the Forced Labour proposal, in order to start negotiations with Parliament, which have since started (see below). The discussions focused on the proposal on Toy Safety; the EU Strategic Agenda 2024-2029; the future of the internal market and the development of the digital single market; the necessity to

reduce administrative burdens for SMEs, the need to avoid overregulation and improve the EU's competitiveness.

UPDATE ON IMCO TRILOGUES

Regulation on Forced Labour

The first trilogue on the proposal banning products made with forced labour took place on 30 January. Parliament and Council presented the key priorities of their mandates and then had an exchange-of-views on the following political points: governance mechanism: role of the Commission and Union interest; means to address state-imposed forced labour, and remediation. They also agreed on a provisional timetable for negotiations with the next trilogue foreseen to take place on 4 March.

co-Rapporteurs: Ms [Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques](#) (S&D, IMCO), Ms [Samira Rafaela](#) (Renew, INTA)

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EVENTS

Annual Digital Consumer Event - Follow-up discussion with the Commission

On 13 February, IMCO Members held an exchange of views with the European Commission on the Annual Digital Consumer Event, which took place on 30 November 2023 and focused on two topics in the framework of the Commission's Digital Fairness Fitness Check: the burden of proof in consumer law and the addictive design of digital services. Members highlighted the need to ensure effective enforcement and addressing new challenges in digital environments, such as addictive design, dark patterns and digital asymmetries.

[ADCE event page](#)

OTHER NEWS





Closure date of the current issue: 16 February 2024

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