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IMCO



European Parliament

Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection



NEWSLETTER

Issue 149 - March 2024

[IMCO website](#)

Charting the Course: The future of the Single Market



Dear Reader,

As the European election looms closer, it is with a sense of pride and accomplishment that we reflect on the significant strides made by our committee over the past five years.

I think we can safely say that the internal market has been strengthened, consumer protection has been boosted and we passed laws to ensure the smooth operation of both digital and traditional marketplaces throughout the European Union.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA) have been adopted very recently. With the DSA, we took a leap forward towards making the online environment a safer one. It offers protection to users against illegal content and safeguards their digital wellbeing by regulating content moderation. The DMA, meanwhile, creates fair conditions for online platforms to compete and innovate.

Together, these Acts protect users' rights online and ensure businesses continue to thrive on an equal footing.

Added to these two, Members approved last week the Artificial Intelligence Act, which will usher in safety, transparency, and respect for human rights, especially in high risk areas.

Looking back even further, we also waded into the realms of the Circular Economy and Sustainable Products. These new rules move us towards product reuse and recycling. One notable example is the right to repair which seeks to prolong the life of products, cut electronic waste, and move towards a greener, more sustainable market.

We also worked hard to strengthen the resilience of election and referendum campaigns against manipulation from foreign actors and to provide a framework for political actors to run EU-wide campaigns, so that the political marketplace is fairer and equitable, even for voters.

Following the same fundamental principles, we worked on new rules for consumers to give them transparency and fairness in advertising and contracts, so that when they shop online, on a high street, or at a fair, they will be better informed and better protected against dishonest practices.

We have also answered our citizens' calls for a common charger, ensuring that consumers will now have a standardised option for wired charging of their mobile phones and other devices.

If one takes a pause and reflects, the EU's essence is not only technology-driven but also deeply human-centric, where our collective spirit and entrepreneurial drive grant us greater autonomy and influence.

Going forward, the European Parliament must be more proactive in setting the agenda of the EU. In our case, the IMCO committee should be at the forefront in scrutinising the Commission on the implementation of the DSA and DMA in the coming months and years.

In line with tradition, this newsletter presents the latest updates on the agenda items slated for discussion in the upcoming two Committee meetings. This edition also includes a detailed activity report that highlights our accomplishments over the past five years. Therefore, we do hope that you find this edition useful and if you have further questions, please get in touch with us.

Yours truly,

Anna Cavazzini, MEP

IMCO Activity Report 2019 - 2024

[The IMCO Activity Report](#) lists all of the main legislative and non-legislative activities carried out by the committee during this term. It will be presented to Members at the committee meeting of 20 March.

This report is intended as a handy go-to guide for the new mandate. For new Members of Parliament, this activity report may provide them with a clear overview of the committee's past work, priorities, and achievements. It may help them to quickly understand the committee's strategic direction, legislative focus, and policy debates, facilitating a smoother transition into their new roles. For the outgoing Members, the activity report may serve as a comprehensive record of their achievement and participation in the legislative process.

Therefore, the main aim of the report is to enhance policy continuity, to make the job of the new Members easier and to document the legacy of the past term for future policy evaluations.

SELECTED NEWS

**Implementation of the Digital
Services Act**

**Implementation of the Digital
Markets Act**

On 20 March, IMCO will hold an exchange of views in full committee on the implementation of the Digital Services Act. Members will hear interventions from Commission speakers and external representatives on issues connected to enforcement. The Federation of European Data Protection Officers, the Fundamental Rights Agency and the Center for Democracy & Technology, which represents a civil society perspective, will participate.

[More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

On 3 April, IMCO will hold an exchange of views in full committee on the implementation of the Digital Markets Act. Members will hear interventions from independent experts and industry representatives on self-preferencing, app stores and messaging services. Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager will intervene on behalf of the Commission.

[More information will be available on the IMCO webpage](#)

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

Regulation Banning Products made with Forced Labour

On 20 March, the IMCO-INTA joint committee is going to vote on the provisional agreement of the new regulation banning products made with forced labour. Remediation, decisions of the Commission and disposal of products in case of supply chain disruptions, were among the last political items that were discussed by the co-legislators, before they reached an agreement. A plenary vote is slated for the April II part-session.

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

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Regulation on Non-Road Mobile Machinery

On 20 March IMCO will vote on the political agreement reached at the trilogue on 21 February, regarding the non-road mobile machinery. The agreement is particularly aimed at minimising the risk of accidents and injury, as well as damage to roads, by establishing road safety requirements for work machines that may need to use public roads. It also introduces a new category of registration (U) for mobile work equipment. Notably, machinery that circulates only within one member state or is produced in small series of up to 70 machines per year will be excluded from the scope. Additionally, the agreement provides for a transition period of 11 years.

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

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NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

[20 March 2024](#)



Directive on Transparency of Interest Representation of Third Countries

Members will discuss with the Commission the proposal on harmonised requirements on transparency of interest representation carried out on behalf of third countries. Such activities are conducted with the

Regulation Combating Late Payments

Members will vote on the draft report on the Late Payments proposal. In total, 380 amendments have been tabled to the draft report and on that basis several compromise amendments have been drawn up. These seek to combat late payment practices and foster the competitiveness of companies, especially SMEs. The vote in plenary is foreseen for the April II part-session.

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

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objective of influencing the development, formulation or implementation of policy/legislation, or of the public decision-making process in the Union. The proposal aims to increase the level of information, in particular about the entities providing the services of interest representation, their funding, and the third countries entities on whose behalf the activities are carried out.

IMCO is in the lead on this file with AFCD associated for certain provisions of the proposal.

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

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2024 Single Market & Competitiveness Report

Members will discuss with the Commission the state of EU competitiveness. On 14 February, the Commission published the annual report on the Annual Single Market and Competitiveness. It highlights the competitive strengths and challenges of the single market, tracking annual developments across nine competitiveness criteria. This document, together with the Single Market and Competitiveness Scoreboard and the Single Market Enforcement Task Force, provide useful information for discussions on how to take forward the single market and competitiveness agenda in the next months.

[Link to the 2024 Annual Single Market & Competitiveness Report](#)

Electronic Invoicing in Public Procurement

The Commission will present its report on the impact of Directive 2014/55/EU on the Internal Market and on the uptake of electronic invoicing in public procurement. Under the eInvoicing Directive, significant achievements were made towards the removal of internal market barriers to trade deriving from the existence of differing national eInvoicing rules and standards. However, the latest developments (in particular VAT in the Digital Age legislative proposals) created new challenges that need to be tackled.

[Link to the Commission's Report](#)

LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS & PLENARY VOTES

[22 February 2024](#)

Internal Market Emergency Resilience Act

On 22 February, the Committee Members voted in favour of the text of the provisional agreement, reached with the Council, on the regulation establishing the single market emergency instrument, which under the agreement is renamed as Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Act. The co-legislators agreed on an emergency and resilience dialogue and to involve Parliament in

Regulation on the Union Customs Code & EU Customs Authority

During the last plenary session, on 13 March, Members adopted a report on the Union Customs Code (UCC) and the EU Customs Authority (EUCA). The report aims to integrate the Customs Single Window Regulation into the UCC proposal, streamline the part on sanctions and infringements, and reduce application dates

the Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Board, as observer. Furthermore, the agreement entails digital forms and templates in mitigation measures, transparency obligations for Member States, and voluntary information requests and priority-rated requests to economic operators during an internal market emergency. The General Product Safety Regulation is amended and added to the accompanying legal acts (omnibuses) with a specific chapter on emergency provisions. The vote in plenary is foreseen for the April session.

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

[More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

Regulations on ADR and ODR platform

During the last plenary session, on 13 March, Members adopted two reports on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). The ADR report enhances the Commission proposal in various respects, most prominent among which are the mandatory participation of airline carriers in ADR and the raising of awareness of existing ADR processes. The ODR report approves the Commission proposal for discontinuation of the ODR platform without amendment. Interinstitutional negotiations are expected to start after the European elections of 6 - 9 June 2024.

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

[More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

Product Liability Directive

During the last plenary session, on 12 March, Members endorsed the provisional agreement on the Directive on liability for defective products. The provisions aim to revise the current framework by adapting it to online shopping and new technologies. The new rules will ensure that there is always an EU based business liable for a product that caused damage. Moreover, the burden of proof for the person requiring compensation will be simplified. In order not to stifle innovation, the rules will not apply to open-source software supplied outside of a commercial activity.

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

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for the main pillars of the proposal, i.e. the Customs Data Hub and Trust and Check Trader scheme. It also improves the provisions on the authorised and economic operator and the new scheme for Trust and Check trader, as well as aspects related to the EU Customs Data Hub, Risk Management, and the EUCA.

Simplifications for SMEs are introduced and Parliament's role within the Management Board of the EUCA is strengthened. Trilogue negotiations will begin under the new term and after Council has adopted its mandate.

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

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High Level Report on the Future of the Single Market

Members held a second exchange of views with Enrico Letta, which also saw the participation of the main stakeholders. Mr Letta focused on what he identified as the four new pillars of the single market that previously prevailed as national competences: defence, telecommunications, energy, and financial services. He highlighted the new geopolitical landscape Europe finds itself in and the fact that this requires a coordinated effort in these four areas, combined with adequate speed, scale and funding. Letta also underlined the importance of applying existing policy and maximising cohesion policy. In his final remarks he underlined the importance of EU citizens being at the heart of all decision-making processes.

[More information on the IMCO webpage](#)

Directive on the Right to Repair

Committee Members approved the text of the provisional agreement reached with the Council on the proposal on the Right to Repair. The deal supports the general objectives of the proposal, but introduces some improvements regarding 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 by 12 months and the introduction of Member States measures promoting repair. The vote in plenary is foreseen for April II part-session.

Rapporteur: Mr [René Repasi](#) (S&D)

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EVENTS

European Consumer Summit



The European Consumer Summit will take place on 18 April 2024 in Brussels and will bring together stakeholders from all EU Member States, including policymakers, national consumer enforcement authorities, academia, and representatives of civil society, such as consumer, business and youth organisations, at both EU and national level. The aim of the Summit is to discuss and provide input to Shaping the Future Consumer Policy Priorities and Actions. The Summit will consist of plenary sessions and breakout sessions for discussions on different topics such as sustainable consumption, digital and advanced technologies, a fair Single Market that works for consumers and traders.

[ECS 2024 page](#)

OTHER NEWS

Next Committee Meeting: 3 April 2024

Closure date of the current issue: 18 March 2024

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