MINUTES

Meeting of 15 June 2021, 10.30 – 12.00, 13.45 – 16.15 and 16.45 – 18.45

BRUSSELS

Remote participation open to AFCO Members via the Interactio meeting tool

The meeting opened at 10.52 on Tuesday, 15 June 2021, with Antonio Tajani (Chair) presiding.

For legal reasons (right to privacy) the Chair informed the participants that the meeting would be filmed and streamed live on the Internet.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Chair's announcements

The Chair recalled that AFCO decided to hold an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the “Reform of the European Electoral Law” and on “The European Parliament’s Right of Inquiry” on Tuesday 22 June, which will be an opportunity to engage in discussions with national parliaments on the electoral law and on the right of inquiry. The Vice-Presidents of the Commission, Věra Jourová (responsible for Values and Transparency) and Maroš Šefčovič (responsible for Inter-institutional Relations and Foresight) were invited to participate in this meeting.

The Chair made also the following general announcements:
• **Interpretation** for this meeting is available in the following languages:

FR DE IT NL EN ES PT FI HU PL RO

The Finnish language would **not** be available during the meeting session from 16:45 to 18:45.

• Social **distance measures** are in force in all Parliament and the use of **community masks is mandatory** in all premises of the EP, including during meetings and even while taking the floor, except for the person chairing the meeting.

*** First remote voting session ***

The first remote voting session opened at 10.58 through the EPvote system for the vote on Amendments

3. **Citizens’ dialogues and Citizens’ participation in the EU decision-making**

AFCO/9/04289
2020/2201(INI)

Rapporteur **Helmut Scholz** (The Left) PR – PE689.799v01-00
AM – PE692.599v01-00

Opinions : CULT **Irena Joveva** (Renew) AD – PE663.036v02-00
AM – PE680.877v01-00
LIBE **Loránt Vincze** (PPE) AD – PE691.183v02-00
AM – PE691.463v02-00

Positions in the form of amendments:

PETI* **Dolors Montserrat** (PPE) AD – PE691.283v01-00

All compromise amendments (1 to 31) were adopted as well as the amendments: 7, 11, 13, 16, 20, 29, 30, 32, 34, 36, 37, 44, 45, 46, 51, 68, 76, 78, 77, 94, 102, 110, 114, 118, 131, 133, 135, 136, 137B, 144, CULT 2, CULT 5, CULT 9, CULT 11, CULT 14, CULT 15, CULT 16, CULT 18, CULT 19, LIBE A, LIBE C, LIBE 14, LIBE 23, LIBE 25, LIBE 30, LIBE 34. All other amendments were rejected or fell.

*** End of the first remote voting session at 12.16 ***

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(in parallel with the remote voting procedure for amendments)
4. Modification of the Act concerning the election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage pursuant to Article 223(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

AFCO/9/04472
2020/2220(INL)

Rapporteur: Domènec Ruiz Devesa (S&D) PR – PE693.622v02-00

The rapporteur Domènec Ruiz Devesa presented his draft report containing a detailed and global proposal for reform of the procedure for the elections to the European Parliament.

In addition to the Chair, Antonio Tajani, and the rapporteur Domènec Ruiz Devesa, the following Members took the floor: Paulo Rangel, Gabriele Bischoff ‘(1st Vice-Chair), Guy Verhofstadt, Damian Boeselager, Helmut Scholz, Brando Benifei, Sandro Gozi.

5. Assessment of the implementation of Article 50 TEU

AFCO/9/03630
2020/2136(INI)

Rapporteur: Danuta Maria Hübner (PPE) PR – PE692.762v01-00

Opinions:
- AFET Andreas Schieder(S&D) AD – PE689.561v03-00
- AM – PE691.083v01-00
- INTA Christophe Hansen (PPE) AL – PE691.134v02-00
- EMPL Decision: no opinion

The rapporteur Danuta Maria Hübner presented her draft implementation report which analyses the procedural aspects of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU.

Due to the lack of time for concluding this item on the agenda, the debate has been postponed to the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11.53 and resumed at 13.48, with Gabriele Bischoff (1st Vice-Chair) presiding.


AFCO/9/01332

Guy Verhofstadt, Co-Chair of the Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe, reported on the last developments concerning the next steps of the Conference.

In addition to the acting Chair, Gabriele Bischoff (1st Vice-Chair), and Guy Verhofstadt, the following Members took also the floor: Paulo Rangel, Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Pascal Durand, Jaak Madison, Markéta Gregorová, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Gunnar Beck.
7. **Strengthening transparency and integrity in the EU institutions by setting up an independent EU ethics body**

AFCO/9/03618
2020/2/133(INI)

Rapporteur Daniel Freund (Verts/ALE) PR – PE663.273v02-00
AM – PE681.036v01-00

Opinions :

CONT Mikuláš Peksa (Verts/ALE) AD – PE661.960v02-00
AM – PE663.207v01-00

ECON Derk Jan Eppink (ECR) AD – PE657.256v02-00
AM – PE658.867v01-00

JURI* Stéphane Séjourné (Renew) AD – PE657.482v02-00
AM – PE661.820v01-00

PETI Radan Kanev (PPE) AD – PE662.117v03-00
AM – PE680.921v01-00

The rapporteur Daniel Freund introduced the exchange of views on the compromise amendments to the report on setting up an independent EU Ethics body.

In addition to the acting Chair Gabriele Bischoff (1st Vice-Chair), and the rapporteur Daniel Freund, the following Members took the floor: Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Rainer Wieland, Pascal Durand, Damian Boeselager, Leila Chaibi.

The Chair also gave the floor to the representative of the Commission, Mr Christian Linder, Head of Unit Ethics, Good Administration, Relations with the European Ombudsman of the Secretariat-General of the Commission.

**Public hearing**

8. **Hearing on "The Legislative Power in the EU"**

AFCO/9/06180

The following invited experts made their presentation: Professor René Repasi (Professor of International and European Union Law at Erasmus University of Rotterdam); Professor Sara Hagemann (Associate Professor in European Politics at London School of Economics and Political Science); Professor Andreas Maurer (Jean Monnet Chair for EU Integration Studies, Professor for Political Science and European Integration Studies at University of Innsbruck).

In addition to the acting Chair Gabriele Bischoff (1st Vice-Chair), the following Members took the floor: Paulo Rangel, Domèneç Ruiz Devesa, Pascal Durand, Damian Boeselager, Helmut Scholz, Giuliano Pisapia (3rd Vice-Chair).

The meeting adjourned at 16.19 and resumed at 16.56, with Antonio Tajani (Chair) presiding.
9. Chair's announcements concerning coordinators’ recommendations

The following proposal was endorsed by the committee, in accordance with the recommendations made by the AFCO Coordinators at their meeting of 15 June 2021:

- AFCO will deliver an opinion in form of a letter under Rule 56 to the INI report of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Budgetary Control (CJ13) (joint committee procedure under Rule 58) on “The creation of guidelines for the application of the general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget” (2021/2071(INI)).

*** Second remote voting session ***

The second remote voting procedure opened at 17.00 through the EPvote system for the final vote

10. Citizens’ dialogues and Citizens’ participation in the EU decision-making

AFCO/9/04289
2020/2201(INI)

Rapporteur: **Helmut Scholz** (The Left) PR – PE689.799v01-00
AM – PE692.599v01-00

Opinions: CULT Irena Joveva (Renew) AD – PE663.036v02-00
AM – PE680.877v01-00
LIBE Loránt Vincze (PPE) AD – PE691.183v02-00
AM – PE691.463v02-00

Positions in the form of amendments:
PETI* Dolors Montserrat (PPE) AD – PE691.283v01-00

The draft report was adopted with 23 votes in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention.

*** End of the second remote voting session at 18.17 ***

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(in parallel with the remote voting procedure for the final vote)

11. European political parties – report 2021

AFCO/9/05510
2021/2218(INI)

Co-rapporteurs: **Charles Goerens** (Renew)
**Rainer Wieland** (PPE)

Opinions: CONT Isabel García Muñoz (S&D) PA – PE691.375v01-00
The co-rapporteurs Charles Goerens (2nd Vice-Chair) and Rainer Wieland introduced the exchange of views and were followed by interventions of representatives of the European political parties: Mr Luc Vandeputte (Deputy Secretary General, on behalf of the European's People Party); Mr Giacomo Filibeck (Deputy Secretary General, on behalf of the Party of European Socialists); Ms Sabine Dechamps (Deputy Secretary General, on behalf of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party); Ms Mar Garcia (Secretary General, on behalf of the European Green Party); Mr Pawel Amborski (on behalf of the Identity & Democracy Party); Mr Antonio Giordano (Secretary General, on behalf of the European Conservatives and Reformists Party); Ms Brigitte Berthouzoz (Treasurer, on behalf of the Party of the European Left); Ms Lorena Lopez de Lacalle (President, on behalf of the European Free Alliance); Mr Sandro Gozi, MEP (Secretary General on behalf of the European Democratic Party); Mr Auke Minnema (General Director, on behalf of the European Christian Political Movement).

After that, the following took also the floor: Mr Michael Adam (Director of the Authority for European political parties and European political foundations), Mr Eduard Reijnders (Director in DG Finance of the European Parliament, replacing the Director general Didier Kléthi), Mr Norbert Lorenz (Director, Legal Service, European Parliament).

In addition to the Chair, Antonio Tajani, and the co-rapporteurs Charles Goerens (2nd Vice-Chair) and Rainer Wieland, the following Members took the floor: Gabriele Bischoff (1st Vice-Chair), Damian Boeselager, Domèneq Ruiz Devesa.

12. Other business

None.

13. Date and place of next meeting

22 June 2021, 9.00 – 11.15 and 11.45 – 13.30 and 16.45 – 18.45 (Brussels)

The meeting closed at 18.30.
Results of roll-call votes

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Key to symbols:
+ : in favour
- : against
0 : abstention
**AFCO/9/04289, Citizens’ dialogues and Citizens’ participation in the EU decision-making (2020/2201(INI)), rapporteur: Helmut Scholz**

**Final vote by roll call**

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<tr>
<td>NI</td>
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<td>Esteban González Pons, Brice Hortefeux, Paulo Rangel, Sven Simon, Antonio Tajani, Loránt Vincze, Rainer Wieland</td>
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<td>Anne-Sophie Pelletier (3*)</td>
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All by remote participation: Professor René Repasi; Professor Sara Hagemann; Professor Andreas Maurer, Mr Luc Vandeputte, Mr Giacomo Filibeck, Ms Sabine Dechamps, Ms Mar Garcia, Mr Pawel Amborski, Mr Antonio Giordano, Ms Brigitte Berthouzoz, Ms Lorena Lopez de Lalalle, Mr Auke Minnema, Mr Michael Adam

| Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Pohjoissuomen/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*) |
| --- | --- |
| Christian Linder |

| Комисия/Comisión/Komission/Kommissjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisia/Commissione/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisija/Commission/Kommissionen (*) |
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| Други институции и органи/Otras instituciones y organismos/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner og organer/Andere Organe und Einrichtungen/Muud institutsioonid ja organis/Øfriges organer og institutioner/Andre institutions et organes/Dруге институции и организации/Altre istituzioni e altri organi/Citātēs iestādes un struktūras/Kits institucijos ir įstaigos/Más instituciones y organismos/Alte instiții și organe/Andere instiutuijiet u korpi ohra/Andre instillingen en organen/Inne institutioner e organer/Others institutions and bodies/Други учесници/Drugi sudionici/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más rėštviešės/Participanti ohra/Andre aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Outros participantes/Drugi sudionici/Participanti ohra/Andre aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Drugi sudionici/Participanti ohra/Andre aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Drugi sudionici/Participanti ohra/Andre aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Drugi sudionici/Participanti ohra/Andre aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți |
| Christian Linder |

<p>| Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaria de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariat političkih skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/ Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioninide sekretariatā/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politiska gruppen sekretariat/Fraktsjonens sekretariat/Sekretariat der politischen Fraktionen/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat des politischen Parteien/Секретариат группи политички/Групените политически секретариати/Кепвилсгооспорток титкáršga/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractie-secretarjaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Sekretariato dos grupos políticos/Sekretariat grupuri politice/Sekretariat politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Politiittisten ryhmien sihteeriointi/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat |
| PPE | Cornelia Gheorghiu, Iris Bergmann |
| S&amp;D | Francesco Cerasani, Fabian Valli |
| Renew | Sietse Wijnema, Sam Odo Callebaut |
| ID | Lucrezia De Paulis, Sakari Linden |
| Verts/ALE | Mélanie Vogel, Helena Argerich i Terradas |
| ECR | Ralf Packet, Michal Czykkerda |
| The Left | Maj Aslett-Rydbjerg, Brian Carty |
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