MINUTES

Extraordinary meeting of 18 October 2021, 19.00 – 21.00

STRASBOURG

Remote participation open to AFCO Members via the Interactio meeting tool

The meeting opened at 19.04 on Monday, 18 October 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 with the clarification provided by the Chair that, due to successive changes in the preparation of the timetable for the plenary session, a revised draft agenda of the AFCO committee (v02) had to be drawn up and circulated on 14 October 2021.

2. Chair's announcements

The Chair informed Members that the deadline for amendments to the draft legislative initiative report on a proposal for a Council Regulation on the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, repealing the Council Decision and the Act currently in force (2020/2220(INL)) (rapporteur Domènec Ruiz Devesa - S&D) is set for Friday 5 November 2021, at 17:00, and that amendments should be tabled in English only, so as to allow their consideration at the AFCO committee meeting on 9
November 2021.

The Chair also reminded Members that, in the context of the Plenary of the Conference on the Future of Europe scheduled for 22-23 October 2021, the Working Groups of the Conference, including the Working Group on European democracy, would be meeting and that this meeting would provide important elements for the European Electoral Law file, which could be considered by Members before tabling their amendments to the draft report.

The Chair then made the following general announcements:

• **Interpretation** for this meeting is available in the following languages:
  FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, ES, PT, FI and PL

• 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.

3. **Chair’s announcements concerning coordinators’ recommendations**

The following appointments and proposals were endorsed by the committee, in accordance with the recommendations made by the AFCO Coordinators at their meeting of 27 September 2021:

• AFCO opinion to PETI report on Engaging with citizens: the right to petition, the right to refer to the European Ombudsman and the European Citizens’ Initiative (2020/2275(INI)): the rapporteur is Helmut Scholz (The LEFT), already rapporteur for the AFCO report on “Citizens’ dialogues and Citizens’ participation in the EU decision-making”, adopted in AFCO in June 2021. The opinion will be limited to the safeguard of AFCO competences as regards ECIs;

• AFCO opinion to ECON report on Establishing the Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism and amending Regulations (EU) No 1093/2010, (EU) 1094/2010, (EU) 1095/2010 (2021/0240(COD)): the opinion is allocated to The Left group, which will indicate the name of the rapporteur;

• AFCO opinion to CONT report on discharge 2020: European Council and Council (2021/2108(DEC)): the opinion is provisionally allocated to The Left group (pending confirmation; if not, to the Chair);

• AFCO opinion to LIBE report on the Commission’s 2021 Rule of Law report (2021/2180(INI)): the opinion is allocated to the Renew group, who indicated that Sophia in 't Veld has been appointed rapporteur;

• AFCO opinion to LIBE report on the Report on the application in 2020 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents: the opinion is allocated to the S&D group, which will indicate the name of the rapporteur;
• AFCO opinion to AFET report on the Implementation of the common foreign and security policy - annual report 2021 (2021/2182(INI)): the opinion is allocated to the ID group, who indicated that Gerolf Annemans has been appointed rapporteur;

• AFCO opinion to SEDE (AFET) report on Implementation of the common security and defence policy - Annual Report 2021 (2021/2183(INI)): the opinion is allocated to the ID group, who indicated that Gerolf Annemans has been appointed rapporteur;

• Danuta Maria Hübner is appointed as the AFCO representative / "standing rapporteur" in the UK Contact Group;

• Rules of Procedure: Coordinators recommended that the AFCO Working Group on the Rules of Procedure deal separately with President Sassoli’s request to look at Rules 19 and 209 of the Rules of Procedure;

• Possible follow-up of the 7 Working Documents of AFCO: Coordinators recommended to forward these Working Documents to the President of the European Parliament (who is also co-Chair of the Conference) and to the Chair of the Parliament’s delegation to the Conference on the Future of Europe (who is also co-Chair of the Executive Board of the Conference).

4. Approval of minutes of meetings of

• 4 February 2021 PV – PE689.697v01-00
• 25 February 2021 PV – PE691.214v01-00
• 17 March 2021 PV – PE691.215v01-00
• 12-13 April 2021 PV – PE696.478v01-00
• 10 May 2021 PV – PE696.535v01-00

The Minutes were approved.

*** First remote voting session ***

After the verification of the quorum, the FIRST remote voting session opened on 18 October 2021 at 19.14 (Strasbourg time) for the vote on amendments through the EP voting system

5. European political parties – report 2021

AFCO/9/05510
2021/2018(INI)

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

Opinions: CONT Isabel García Muñoz (S&D)

PR – PE692.733 v01-00
AM – PE695.035v01-00
AD – PE691.375 v02-00
AM – PE695.008 v01-00
Adoption of amendments
Adoption of draft report

The Chair informed that: 156 amendments had been tabled within the deadline, that the Committee on Budgetary Control had adopted an opinion containing 19 recommendations, and that the co-rapporteurs, in cooperation with the shadow rapporteurs, had drafted 19 compromise amendments.

All compromise amendments (CA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8a, 9, 10, 11, 11a, 12, 13, 14, 14a, 15, 16), as well as AMs 1, 2=3, 11, 12, 16, 22=23, 24, 28, 29=30, 38, 48, 49, 52, 53=54, 57, 68, 72, 98, 103, 112, 114, 123, 124, 138, 141, 144, 145, 148, 155, 156 and CONT 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 5, 13, 14, 16, 19 were adopted.

All other amendments were rejected or fell.

*** End of the first remote voting session at 20.15 ***

After the opening of the first remote voting session, the Chair reminded Members that the SECOND remote voting session for the FINAL VOTE on the same draft report as amended was scheduled for TUESDAY 19 October 2021 - from 10:00 to 11:00 (Strasbourg time) - and that an e-mail from the Secretariat on behalf of the Chair would be sent to Members entitled to vote with the relevant link to the EPvote system.

The SECOND remote voting session opened for the final vote through the EPvote system on 19 October 2021 at 10.00 and ended at 11.00.

The draft report was adopted with 23 votes in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions.

The result of the vote on the AMENDMENTS as well as the FINAL VOTE were communicated in writing by the secretariat to the AFCO Members and published on the AFCO website.

In accordance with the revised Guidelines issued on 6 July 2021 by the Conference of Committee Chairs of the European Parliament on the remote voting procedure in committees and introducing systematic roll-call votes (“all votes will be taken by roll-call, with the exception of votes which according to the Rules of Procedure have to be taken by secret ballot”), please note that the results of the roll-call votes on all amendments, as well as on the final vote relating to this draft report, can be found at the following links:

[link to results of roll-call votes]

[link to final vote]
(in parallel with the first remote voting procedure)

6. Assessment of the implementation of Article 50 TEU

AFCO/9/03630
2020/2136(INI)

Rapporteur: Danuta Maria Hübner (PPE) PR – PE692.762v01-00
AM – PE695.028v01-00

Opinions: AFET Andreas Schieder (S&D) AD – PE689.561v03-00
AM – PE691.083v01-00
INTA Christophe Hansen (PPE) AL – PE691.134v02-00

Consideration of amendments

The Chair informed that, within the deadline for amendments, set for 16 July 2021, 199 amendments to the draft report were tabled. Also, on 7 October 2021, the rapporteur had submitted for consideration of the shadow rapporteurs a set of 23 compromise amendments.

In addition to the Chair, Antonio Tajani, and the rapporteur, Danuta Maria Hübner, the following Members took the floor: Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Pascal Durand (in replacement and in the name of Charles Goerens, shadow-rapporteur), Geert Bourgeois, João Pimenta Lopes, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield.

7. Engaging with citizens: the right to petition, the right to refer to the European Ombudsman and the European Citizens’ Initiative

AFCO/9/04949
2020/2275(INI)

Rapporteur for the opinion: Helmut Scholz (The Left) PA – PE697.604v01-00

Responsible: PETI* Marie-Pierre Vedrenne (Renew) PR – PE695.340v01-00
AM – PE697.540v02-00

Consideration of draft opinion

Decision on deadline for tabling amendments

The Chair informed that, since the PETI draft report raised several issues with regard to the ECI, which are within the exclusive competence of AFCO, the coordinators at their meeting on 27 September 2021 mandated Helmut Scholz to draft an opinion to the PETI report addressing only the issues of AFCO exclusive competence, should this be warranted by the scope of the draft report.

Those issues relate in substance to the general ECI regulatory framework and

The rapporteur for the opinion, Helmut Scholz, presented his draft opinion.

In the ensuing debate, in addition to the Chair, Antonio Tajani, and the rapporteur, Helmut Scholz, the following Members took the floor: Seán Kelly, Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Pascal Durand, François Alfonsi.

The deadline for tabling amendments, which should focus only on matters within the competence of AFCO, was set for 19 October 2021, at 17:00, and the vote for 9 November 2021.

The Chair also reported that, due to time constraints and with the agreement of Members, all amendments would have to be tabled in English only.

8. Other business

None.

9. Date and place of next meeting

27 October 2021, 9.00 – 12.00 and 16.45 – 18.45 (Brussels)

The meeting closed at 20.25.
Results of roll-call votes

Contents

AFCO/9/05510, Report (2021) on the application of Regulation 1141/2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations (2021/2018(INI)), co-rapporteurs: Charles Goerens and Rainer Wieland.................................8

Final vote by roll call ..........................................................................................................................................................................................8

Key to symbols:
+ : in favour
- : against
0 : abstention

Please note that the results of the roll-call votes on all amendments relating to this draft report can be found at the following links:

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/241060/2021-10-18_Results%20of%20RCV%20on%20AMs.pdf

AFCO/9/05510, Report (2021) on the application of Regulation 1141/2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations (2021/2018(INI)), co-rapporteurs: Charles Goerens and Rainer Wieland

Final vote by roll call

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Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/Na pozvani predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/På ordförandens inbjudan