



**AFCO**  
Constitutional Affairs

## Newsletter

Issue 9, September 2015



### Introductory words by Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER

Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 9th issue of the AFCO Newsletter, a tool prepared by the secretariat which aims to inform about AFCO activities and increase awareness on institutional challenges that the EU is facing.

At our part-meeting on the afternoon of 21st September the main points will be the discussions on the presented amendments to the Report on the reform of the EU electoral law, and on the draft opinion of Paolo Rangel on the EU role in the international financial institutions.

Furthermore a Workshop on the issues of the Giegold report on "Transparency, accountability and Integrity in the EU institutions", will enable AFCO Members to debate with three prominent experts on these crucial aspects for the "credibility" of the overall process of European Integration: Mr Janós Berók, of the OECD in Paris, Mr David Coen of the University College of London (UCL) and Mr Roland Blomeyer, author of a Study for the EP on "Declarations of financial interests and their scrutiny in the national legislatures".

I hope you will find this ninth issue useful,

Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair

### Meeting languages available

CS, DA, DE, EL, EN, ES, FR, HR, IT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SV

### Meeting documents

In light of the European Parliament's paperless project please bear in mind that only a very limited number of paper dossiers will be available in the meeting room.

Instead, meeting documents will be made available on the following public and internal websites:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014\\_2019/organes/afco/afco\\_8leg\\_meetinglist.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/organes/afco/afco_8leg_meetinglist.htm)



and (EP internal only):

<http://www.emeeeting.ep.parl.union.eu/committee/>

### Webstreaming

Members are informed that this AFCO meeting will be webstreamed (apart from the Coordinators' meeting)

under the following link:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/wps-europarl-internet/frd/live/live-program?language=en>

The videos will be available to watch or download within 24 hours at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/committees/?legislature=8&start-date=&end-date=&committee=AFCO>

Please be aware that each time a speaker activates the microphone to make an intervention the camera will be automatically directed to the speaker.

eCommittee (EP internal only): further information on the work of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs can be found on our eCommittee page:

<http://www.afconet.ep.parl.union.eu>

### MEETING DATE AND VENUE

21.09.2015 and 22.09.2015 in BRUSSELS: Altiero Spinelli (ASP 5G3)

### 15:00 - 17.30

- Adoption of agenda
- Chair's announcements
- The reform of the electoral law of the European Union
- European Citizens' Initiative
- The EU role in the framework of international financial, monetary and regulatory institutions and bodies
- **Coordinators' meeting (in camera)**

**10:00 - 12:30**

- Chair's announcements concerning coordinators' recommendations
- The role of the EU within the UN - how to better achieve EU foreign policy goals



### **The reform of the electoral law of the European Union (point 3 of the draft agenda)**

#### *Consideration of amendments*

Co-rapporteurs: Danuta Hübner (EPP) and Jo Leinen (S&D)

284 amendments to the draft report on the reform of EU electoral law were received: 76 amendments to the Electoral Act of 1976, including 11 amendments already suggested by the two co-Rapporteurs in the draft report, and 208 to the legislative resolution.

On this basis, Chair Hübner and Jo Leinen suggested to the Shadow Rapporteurs 12 compromise amendments which cover issues such as the procedure for nomination of candidates for the position of Commission President; the enhancement of the gender balance; specifications on what exactly should be indicated on the ballot papers concerning the affiliation of national candidates with European political parties; and measures to ensure that minimum standards of transparency and democratic accountability are observed by national parties when nominating their candidates for Members of European Parliament. The Final vote will take place at the following extraordinary AFCO meeting on 28th September.

#### Calendar proposed:

Date	Event
21 September	Consideration of amendments
28 September	Vote of draft report in AFCO
26 - 29 October (STR)	Vote in Plenary

#### Shadow rapporteurs:

ECR Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski  
 ALDE Sylvie Goulard  
 GUE/NGL Helmut Scholz  
 Greens/EFA Josep-Maria Terricabras



### **European Citizens' Initiative (point 4 of the draft agenda)**

#### *Consideration of amendments*

A discussion is foreseen on the compromise amendments that the rapporteur agreed with the political groups. The final vote on the Draft Report can take place at the following extraordinary AFCO meeting on 28th September.

### **The EU role in the framework of international financial, monetary and regulatory institutions and bodies (point 5 of the draft agenda)**

#### *Exchange of views*

Rapporteur for opinion: Paulo Rangel (EPP)

Committee(s) responsible: ECON

AFCO decided to deliver an opinion to the ECON INI report on "The EU role in the framework of international financial, monetary and regulatory institutions and bodies." The vote is scheduled in ECON on 30 November.

In his draft opinion, the rapporteur stresses the need to ensure the transparency, democratic accountability and legitimacy of the Union's participation in existing economic and financial institutions. The EP should be granted access to the relevant documents issued and be duly informed of the Union's activities within those institutions. An appropriate, open and efficient reporting mechanism should be developed, and EU participants should systematically provide feedback to Parliament on the decisions taken.

The need for coherent EU representation and a strong European voice in international financial, monetary and regulatory institutions and bodies is emphasised. The EU should enhance its influence over the decision-making process through better-structured prior coordination mechanisms and a concerted, unified and inclusive EU strategy within each institution. Member States should refrain from any measure which could jeopardise the attainment of the Union's objectives; the 'principle of sincere cooperation' should be fully respected.

Consideration should be given to introducing unified external representation of the EU and the euro area within the IMF and other international economic forums and the EU should seek full membership of such international economic and financial institutions, where this has not yet been granted and is appropriate (in the case of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), for instance).

Calendar proposed:

Date	Event
28 January, midday	Deadline for amendments
22 October	Exchange of views on amendments and Vote

Shadow rapporteurs:

S&D Mercedes Bresso  
ALDE Maite Pagazaurtundua

**Exchange of views with Frans TIMMERMANS, First Vice-President of the European Commission, in charge of Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights (point 8 of the draft agenda - cancelled)**

Unfortunately, the FVP Franz Timmermans will not be able to attend the meeting, due to the latest developments in relation to the emergency migration situation, notably the extraordinary Justice and Home Affairs Council. As such, this discussion will be postponed to another AFCO meeting.

**Workshop on Transparency, accountability and integrity in the EU institutions (point 9 of the draft agenda)**

Rapporteur: Sven Giegold (Verts-ALE/DE)

Committees for opinion: CONT (Tamás Deutsch-EPP/HU);

ENVI (Nessa Childers-S&D/IE);

JURI (Chair Pavel Svoboda-EPP/CZ);

LIBE (Vice-President Sylvie Guillaume-S&D/FR)



As support to the work of our Rapporteur Giegold and the deliberation of the committee, two Studies have been carried out by the DG IPOL-Policy Department:

- the first on the "Institutional & Constitutional aspects of special interest representation", and
- the second on the "Declarations of financial interests and their scrutiny in the national legislatures".

Both studies have been distributed to the AFCO Colleagues. The two authors, David Coen and Roland Blomeyer, as well as Janos Bertok, another prominent expert on these issues, have been invited to present and discuss with AFCO Members.

Janos Bertok is Head of the Public Sector Integrity Division, Public Governance Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and will provide the latest developments for improving "Transparency and Integrity" in decision making, carried out at the level of the OECD.

David Coen is author of the Study on "Institutional & Constitutional aspects of special interest representation" and Director of the School of Public Policy, at University College London (UCL). His research maps EU lobbying strategies and EU regulatory networks.

The third and last speaker is Roland Blomeyer, author of the Study on "Declarations of financial interests and their scrutiny in the national legislatures". Since 2004, he directs the independent firm 'Blomeyer & Sanz', providing research, evaluation and regulatory impact assessment services to European and international organisations (European Parliament, Council of Europe, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe). His current research looks at the effectiveness of strategies to enhance compliance with integrity requirements.

Shadow rapporteurs:

EPP Mr Andrej Plenkovich  
 S&D Mr Jo Leinen  
 ECR Mr Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski  
 ALDE Mrs Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz  
 GUE/NGL Mr Helmut Scholz  
 EFDD Mr Fabio Massimo Castaldo  
 ENF Mr Gerolf Annemans

The following proposed calendar could be endorsed:

Date	Event
22 September	AFCO Workshop on "Declaration"
19 November	Consideration of draft report
Beginning 2016	Vote in AFCO

#### Next meetings

\* 28 September 2015, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)  
 \* 22 October 2015, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15:00 - 18.30 (Brussels)

#### Further information

For any further information, please visit the AFCO committee website:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/afco/home.html>

#### Twitter

Activities of the AFCO committee may be followed on twitter [@EPIInstitutional](https://twitter.com/EPIInstitutional)

#### Contact the editor

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#### Legal disclaimer

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#### The role of the EU within the UN - how to better achieve EU foreign policy goals (point 10 of the draft agenda)

Consideration of amendments

Opinion-giving rapporteur: David McAllister  
 Committee(s) responsible: AFET

After the presentation of this draft opinion on 15 July, 41 amendments were tabled at the deadline of last 28 August. The rapporteur, Mr McAllister, will explain how he is proceeding with this dossier and inform on possible compromise amendments reached with the shadow rapporteurs.

Calendar proposed:

Date	Event
15/07/2015	Exchange of views (with draft opinion)
28/08/2015	Deadline for amendments
22 September 2015	Consideration of amendments
28 September 2015	Vote in AFCO

Shadow rapporteurs:

EPP David McAllister - rapporteur  
 S&D Ana-Claudia Tapardel  
 ECR Marcus Pretzell  
 ALDE Maite Pagazaurtundúa  
 GUE/NGL Helmut Scholz  
 Greens/EFA Josep-Maira Terricabras  
 EFDD Fabio Massimo Castaldo