

## Newsletter

May 2017  
Issue 36

### **Interparliamentary Committee Meeting "The implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments"**



*Exchange of views*

*Rapporteur: Paulo Rangel (EPP)*

Since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, national Parliaments have repeatedly expressed their wish to be more associated to the development of the integration process, and many more or less informal means of cooperation have been developed between the European Parliament and national Parliaments. Therefore, AFCO decided to draw up a report which aim would be firstly to assess the use of the current mechanisms for national Parliaments' participation in the European political process provided for in the treaties, and then look into possible improvements to those mechanisms, in order to associate national Parliaments more closely to the overall integration process.

The Interparliamentary Committee Meeting is thus of the utmost importance, since it will allow members of national Parliaments to express their views on the subject matter of this report, as well as to engage in a dialogue with Members of the European Parliament.

On the basis of the preparatory document of the Rapporteur, Paulo Rangel, which presents the first key issues of his report on "The implementation of Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments", AFCO will hold an exchange of views with national Parliamentarians.

The discussions will be introduced by the interventions of two Chairs and a Member of EU Affairs committees from national Parliaments: Václav Hampl from the Senate of the Czech Republic, Vannino Chiti from the Italian Senate, and Patrick Reslow from the Swedish Parliament.

Then three invited experts will intervene: Carlo Casini, as former AFCO Chair and previous AFCO Rapporteur on national Parliaments, then the former Polish Sejm Speaker, Ludwik Dorn, and finally Professor Dr. Ingolf Pernice.

## INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 36th issue of the AFCO Newsletter, a tool prepared by the Secretariat, which aims to inform you about AFCO activities and increase awareness of institutional challenges that the EU is facing.

At our Interparliamentary meeting on 2 May, we will be having an exchange of views regarding the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments. National parliamentarians as well as invited experts will be present to discuss the way forward.

On 3 May, concerning the preparation of the negotiations of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, AFCO will hear from Prof. Poiares Maduro and the Parliament's Coordinator, Guy Verhofstadt.

Finally, exchanges of views will also take place regarding the opinion on "Rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers" and "The general budget of the EU for the financial year 2018".

Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair

## **The preparation of the negotiations on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Article 50 TEU)**



### *Exchange of views*

AFCO will continue its regular discussion on Brexit. In this regard, two exchanges of views are foreseen during its meeting on 3 May: first, with the coordinator for the negotiations on the UK withdrawal from the EU at the level of the Conference of Presidents, Guy Verhofstadt. He will give account of and assess the state of play of the preparation of the negotiations and the upcoming steps.

Secondly, AFCO will hear from Professor Poiares Maduro, from the Robert Schuman Centre of the European University Institute in Florence, and previously Advocate General, as well as Minister Deputy to the Prime Minister and Minister for Regional Development of the Portuguese Government. He will comment on the consequences and legal options of Brexit and citizens' rights.

[Subject file](#)

## **Rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers**



### *Exchange of views*

*Rapporteur:* Pascal Durand (Greens/EFA)

On 14 February the Commission adopted a [proposal](#) with targeted changes to the [Regulation](#) laying down rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers, to deal with the so-called 'no opinion' situations. Those are situations in which the

## **MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE**

2 May: All official languages except GA  
3 May: FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, Cs, DA, EL, ES, PT, SV, PL, RO

## **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 [EP internal](#) websites.

## **MEETING DATE AND VENUE**

2 May 2017, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)  
3 May 2017, 09.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)  
Room: József Antall (6Q2)

3 May 2017, 17:00 – 18:30 (Brussels)  
Room: Altiero Spinelli (1E-2)  
(Extraordinary meeting)

Here is the [link to the latest committee draft agenda](#).

## **NEXT MEETING**

29 May 2017, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)

## **Further information**



[AFCO website](#)



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Commission has to take a decision on a draft implementing act in absence of a qualified majority opinion by MS (in favour or against). The Commission considers such decision-making without support of the Member States problematic since such cases - although they are not frequent in number - often occur in politically sensitive areas, notably in the field of health and safety of humans, animals or plants.

To address this, the Commission makes four complementary proposals:

- removing Member States that are not present or abstain from the calculation of a qualified majority in the appeal committee (while introducing also a quorum);
- a further referral to the appeal committee at ministerial level when no opinion is delivered in the appeal committee;
- allowing the Commission to refer the matter to the Council for an opinion (political orientations) in case there is still no opinion in the appeal committee;
- making voting positions of individual Member State representatives' in the appeal committee public.

There will be a first exchange of views on the Commission proposal in view of preparing an opinion to the report of the Committee on Legal Affairs.

[Procedure File](#)

### **Monitoring the application of EU law 2015**



*Consideration of Draft Opinion*

*Rapporteur:* Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski (ECR)

AFCO traditionally provides an opinion to the Committee on Legal Affairs regarding their assessment of the Commission's Annual report on the Monitoring of the Application of the EU law.

This year JURI decided also to include within its scope a communication published in the framework of Commission's Better Regulation Agenda entitled 'EU Law: Better results through better application'.

Mr Ujazdowski will present his draft opinion during this AFCO meeting.

[Procedure File](#)

### **Contact the editor**

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## **General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018 - all sections**



### *Exchange of views*

*Rapporteur:* Danuta Maria Hübner (EPP)

AFCO will welcome Siegfried Mureşan, this year's Committee on Budgets' Rapporteur for Section III (Commission) Budget for 2018. He will give the Committee information on the calendar for this year's procedure as well as his views on the priorities for the 2018 Budget.

This is the first exchange of views AFCO will have on the subject.

[Procedure File](#)

## **Exchange of views with Commissioner Frans Timmermans**



### *Exchange of views*

On May 3 in the extraordinary evening session, AFCO will welcome Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the Commission, in charge of Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, in the framework of the 'Structured Dialogue with EP committees'. The subject of the exchange of views will be to discuss, within the AFCO area of competences, the state of implementation of the 2017 Commission Work Programme (CWP) as well the priorities for the rest of the current legislative term to be reflected in the 2018 CWP.

## **Legal disclaimer**

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