

### The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union



*Report by the Chair, Danuta Maria Hübner (EPP)*

This month's meeting will begin with a report by Professor Danuta Hübner, AFCO Chair and member of the European Parliament's Brexit Steering Group, on the current state of play of negotiations between the EU and the United Kingdom. As AFCO is the Committee responsible for the institutional consequences of the UK's withdrawal, Brexit is a top priority and staying abreast of recent developments is crucial to the Committee's work

#### [Subject File](#)

### General budget of the EU for the financial year 2019



*Consideration of draft opinion and of budget amendments  
Rapporteur for the opinion: Danuta Maria Hübner (EPP)*

MEPs will consider AFCO's draft opinion on the 2019 general budget of the European Union. As 2019 is both the year of European elections and the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union, AFCO considers this year's budgetary opinion to be of the utmost importance. The Committee will be pushing to restore any cuts that might be made by the Council to programmes like "Europe for citizens" and will request a modest increase to the lines vital for the successful communication with citizens in view of next year's elections.

#### [Procedure file](#)

### Introductory words by the Chair



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 54th issue of the AFCO Newsletter, a tool prepared by the Secretariat to keep you informed of AFCO activities and to increase awareness of the current institutional challenges facing the European Union.

Our Committee meeting on 20 June will begin with a report on the progress of Brexit negotiations and this will be followed by the consideration of a draft opinion on the EU's general budget for 2019. Given that 2019 is both the year of European elections and the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union, AFCO considers this year's budgetary opinion to be especially important.

AFCO will then continue with a dialogue with Michael O'Flaherty, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, before moving on to consider a draft opinion on European Union macro-prudential oversight of the financial system and the establishment of a European Systemic Risk Board.

After this MEPs will hold a first exchange of views on the implementation of treaty provisions concerning enhanced cooperation before then discussing the reform of EU electoral law.

## Dialogue with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights



*Exchange of views with Michael O'Flaherty, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights*

To better understand how EU agencies can contribute to the promotion and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, AFCO has invited Michael O'Flaherty, Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), to participate in an exchange of views with MEPs at its meeting on 20 June. Mr O'Flaherty's presence is especially timely as his insight and expertise will be invaluable to the preparation of the forthcoming report by AFCO member Barbara Spinelli on the "Implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU institutional Framework." Beyond this specific issue, AFCO will also explore how to establish a more structured dialogue with FRA in the future.

### Procedure file

## European Union macro-prudential oversight of the financial system and establishing a European Systemic Risk Board



*Consideration of draft opinion  
Rapporteur for the opinion: Danuta Maria Hübner (EPP)*

On 20 June, MEPs will consider a draft opinion on the revision of the regulation on the macro-prudential oversight of the financial system establishing a European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB). This opinion is a response to proposals adopted by the Commission in 2017 and includes eight amendments.

The ESRB is the second pillar of the European System of Financial Supervision (ESFS), a two-pillar system of macro-prudential and micro-prudential supervision established by the EU in the aftermath of the financial crisis. The first pillar consists of three European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs), one for each sector: banking, insurance and securities. The ESAs are responsible for micro-prudential supervision, while the European Systemic Risk Board is responsible for macro-prudential supervision.

### Procedure file

This will be followed by a vote on the adoption of a draft report on the European Citizens' Initiative, as well as a vote on the decision to enter into inter-institutional negotiations.

We will then hold an exchange of views with Monika Panayotova, Deputy Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2018, on the outcome and the achievements of the Bulgarian Presidency.

Later in the day, AFCO will have an 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, in the framework of Parliament's structured dialogue with the Commission.

Finally, the committee will hear from a panel of experts and hold an exchange of views on the issue of legality and legitimacy in the European Union integration process.

**Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER,**  
Chair

**MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE**  
FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, DA, 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.

## Implementation of the Treaty provisions on enhanced cooperation



*First exchange of views*

*Rapporteur: Alain Lamassoure (EPP)*

At this meeting, MEPs will hold a first exchange of views on the implementation of Treaty provisions concerning enhanced cooperation. AFCO has been given authorisation to examine and evaluate how the Treaty rules on enhanced cooperation have been implemented so far and to draw up a report based on its findings. This report, that will be drafted by Alain Lamassoure (EPP, FR), will aim to make recommendations on possible improvements for the future implementation of these provisions by examining existing cases of enhanced cooperation within the EU and by exploring similar provisions in federal states outside the EU, such as Canada, Switzerland and the United States.

### Procedure file

## The reform of the electoral law of the European Union



*Exchange of views*

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

In November 2015, Parliament adopted a proposal for the reform of EU electoral law that aimed to reinforce the European dimension of elections to Parliament, to improve the functioning of the House, to increase voter turnout and to enable the efficient conduct of elections. After almost three years of intensive discussion, the Council was finally able to reach an agreement, and is now asking Parliament to finalise the procedure by giving its consent before the summer recess.

The draft Council's decision is a step forward for European democracy and could act as the basis for further improvements to EU electoral law in the future. It has also raised awareness of the importance of EU electoral law and the necessity to modernise the rules governing the conduct of European elections.

### Working document

## MEETING DATE AND VENUE

20 June 2018,  
09.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak building (PHS  
4 B 001), Brussels

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

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 11 July 2018  
9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30  
(Brussels)

## FURTHER INFORMATION

 [AFCO website](#)

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## European citizens' initiative



*Adoption of draft report, vote to enter inter-institutional negotiations  
Rapporteur: György Schöpflin (Epp)*

A vote will take place on 194 amendments tabled by the AFCO Committee, 89 we received in the PETI opinion and 34 we received from CULT. Given the functional connection between a number of amendments in the vote, the Chair proposes to take these as a block vote, with a total of 10 block votes. Several amendments are deemed to be out of the scope of the report. Following the vote on the report, which will constitute the negotiating mandate, a separate vote has to be taken on the decision to enter into inter-institutional negotiations and the composition of the negotiation team.

## Procedure file

*\*\*\* End of Vote \*\*\**

## Council Presidency



*Exchange of views with Monika Panayotova, Deputy Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2018*

AFCO Members will hold an exchange of views with the Deputy Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018, Monika Panayotova, on the outcome of the Bulgarian Presidency. AFCO welcomes the progress that the Bulgarian Presidency has made in a number of areas, including managing to achieve an agreement in the Council on the reform of EU electoral law. However, there are other areas where negotiations with the Council have not been that successful.

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## **Exchange of views with Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission**



*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*

This exchange of views with the First Vice-President takes place in the framework of the structured dialogue between parliamentary committees and the Commission. It will start with a short intervention by the First Vice-President and will be followed by two rounds of questioning.

Some relevant issues to consider include concluding the revision of the ECI regulation by the end of this legislative term, the need for the EP to have effective inquiry powers, and a follow up to the EP resolution of 14 September 2017 on transparency, accountability and integrity in the EU institutions.

## **Hearing: Legality and legitimacy in the EU integration process**



*Presentation by experts*

This hearing aims to facilitate the gathering of expertise on the relationship between legality and legitimacy in the EU integration process, set against the current backdrop of discussions on the future of the Europe. The goal is to reflect on regaining citizens' trust, fighting populism and the possible evolution of European integration, based on respect for the founding values of the Union.

Three experts have been invited to discuss the topic: Julian Plottka from the Institute for European Politics in Berlin; Warren J. Newman, Senior General Counsel in the Constitutional, Administrative & International Law Section of the Department of Justice of Canada; and Eleanor Spaventa, Professor of EU Law at the University of Bocconi in Milan.