



## Newsletter

Issue 12, November 2015



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

Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 12th issue of the AFCO Newsletter, a tool prepared by the Secretariat which aims to inform you about AFCO activities and increase awareness on institutional challenges that the EU is facing.

At our meeting on Thursday 19th November, we will have an important interparliamentary committee meeting with members of the national parliaments, during which we'll discuss issues like the future institutional evolution of the EU and parliamentary scrutiny over the executive in the Union.

Other important points will concern the role of the EU in the framework of international financial, monetary and regulatory institutions and bodies, the Commission delegated regulation on the content and functioning of the register of European political parties and foundations, the proposal for a regulation on the EP's right of inquiry and the annual report on the Protection of the EU's financial interests.

I hope you will find this issue useful,

Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair

### Meeting languages available

BG, CS, DA, DE, EL, EN, ES, ET, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, 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>



### MEETING DATE AND VENUE

19.11.2015 in BRUSSELS

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak - PHS 3C050

### 09:30 - 12.30 and 15:00 - 18:30

- Adoption of agenda
- Chair's announcements
- The EU role in the framework of international financial, monetary and regulatory institutions and bodies
- Commission Delegated Regulation on the content and functioning of the register of European political parties and foundations
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament on the detailed provisions governing the exercise of the European Parliament's right of inquiry replacing the Decision of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of 19 April 1995 (95/167/EC, Euratom, ECSC)
- Annual Report 2014 on the Protection of the EU's Financial Interests - Fight against fraud
- Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on "The future institutional evolution of the Union: enhancing political dialogue between EP and national Parliaments and reinforcing the scrutiny over the executive at European level"
- Any other business

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### **The EU role in the framework of international financial, monetary and regulatory institutions and bodies**

Adoption of a draft opinion  
 Rapporteur for opinion: Paulo Rangel (EPP)  
 Committee 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." In his draft opinion the rapporteur, Mr Paulo Rangel (EPP-PT), stresses the need to ensure the transparency, democratic accountability and legitimacy of the Union's participation in existing economic and financial institutions. He also insists on the need for the EP to be granted access to the relevant documents issued and be duly informed of the Union's activities within those institutions.

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

By the end of the deadline, 52 amendments had been tabled. The rapporteur is proposing 5 compromise amendments.

Shadow Rapporteurs: Mercedes Bresso (S&D), Morten Messerschmidt (ECR), Maite Pagarzaurtundúa (ALDE), Kostas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL), Josep-Maria Terricabras (Greens/EFA), Gerolf Annemans (ENF)

Calendar proposed:  
 19 November 2015: vote in AFCO  
 30 November 2015: vote in ECON



### **Commission Delegated Regulation on the contents and functioning of the register of European political parties and foundations**

Committee responsible: AFCO

At its meeting of 22 October 2012, AFCO set a deadline for expressing objections to the delegated act on the content and functioning of the register of European political parties and foundations or to propose an early non-objection recommendation in accordance with Rule 105 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure. The deadline expired on Thursday 29 October 2015 at noon. Since no objections, no early non-objection recommendation and no requests to extend the deadline for objections by two months have been received within the deadline set by AFCO, the committee will not be tabling any motion for resolution on this issue.

However, there is still a possibility for a political group or 40 members to present an objection at plenary level for the plenary session of December I. As a reminder, if no objection is approved by the plenary of December I, the delegated act would be deemed approved automatically by 2 December 2015, which is the regular deadline set according to the Treaty, the provisions of Regulation No 1141/2014 and the common understanding between the institutions.

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

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SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE



## Annual Report 2014 on the Protection of the EU's Financial Interest-Fight against fraud

*Consideration of draft opinion*

Rapporteur for opinion: Mercedes Bresso (S&D)

Committee responsible: CONT

Committee(s) responsible for an opinion: INTA, REGI, LIBE, AFCO

### Proposal for a regulation on the European Parliament's right of inquiry

*Exchange of views on a Working Document and possible vote of political orientation on a mandate for preparing negotiations*

Rapporteur: Ramón Jauregui Atondo (S&D)

The Rapporteur Ramón Jauregui Atondo (S&D - ES) will present his second Working Document, which mainly takes into account the position expressed by the Council in its letter of 3 September. He would also like to discuss the possibility that the AFCO Committee adopts a political orientation vote conferring a new mandate to the rapporteur in view of the preparation of negotiations with the Council.

As a reminder, the Council Presidency, by its letter of 3 September 2015, has replied for the first time to Parliament's proposal for a regulation on the EP right of inquiry, adopted by Plenary in a Legislative resolution on 16 April 2014, with 532 votes in favour, 81 against and 7 abstentions.

Following the receipt of this letter, the AFCO Rapporteur Jáuregui had a meeting with the Council President in office, Minister Nicolás Schmit, on 9 September 2015, who presented the position of the Council and its willingness to engage in dialogue with Parliament on the issue.

On 28 September 2015 AFCO Chair Hübner responded to the Council's letter, taking note of the expressed concerns, and reaffirming the availability of AFCO and its Rapporteur Jáuregui to explore with the Council and the Commission possible solutions to overcome the differences and reach an agreement, and duly considering the peculiarities of the specific legislative procedure established by art. Article 226 TFEU (which provides the adoption of the proposal by the EP Plenary, on its own initiative, after obtaining the consent of the Council - by qualified majority - and of the Commission).

The following proposed calendar could be endorsed:

3 December 2015: Exchange of views on the follow-up

Shadow rapporteurs: Rainer Wieland (EPP), Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski (ECR), Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE), Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL), Max Andersson (Greens/EFA), Isabella Adinolfi (EFDD), Gerolf Annemans (ENF)

The exchange of views on the draft opinion of Ms Bresso (S&D - IT) took place at the last AFCO Committee meeting of 22 October. Within the deadline for tabling amendments, fixed for 30 October at noon, 28 amendments have been presented. Among others, some amendments emphasise the need for an increased cooperation among the institutions to fight against corruption and for more transparency; they call on the Member States to make public national declarations by their respective Court of Auditors for the spending of EU funds; point out the need to have a specific chapter on the performance of the EU Institutions on the Anti-corruption annual report; call on the Commission to come up with a legislative proposal on the minimum level of protection for whistle-blowers in the EU; outline the need to simplify the regulations applicable to the EU budget in order to prevent frauds and irregularities.

19 November 2015: Discussion on tabled amendments

3 December 2015: Vote on Draft opinion and amendments

Adoption in CONT: 28 January 2016

Plenary: February 2016

Deadline for tabling amendments

30 October 2015, 12.00

Shadow Rapporteurs: György Schöpfin (EPP), Marcus Pretzell (ECR), Sylvie Goulard (ALDE), Pascal Durand (GREENS/EFA), Isabella Adinolfi (EFDD)

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**Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on "The future institutional evolution of the Union: enhancing political dialogue between EP and national Parliaments and reinforcing the scrutiny over the executive at European level"**

The ICM is organised in two parts: the first one will focus on the future institutional evolution of the Union, while the second part will be dedicated to a hearing on parliamentary scrutiny over the executive in the EU.

In addition to the opening statement of AFCO Chair Danuta Maria Hübner, introductory remarks will be given by:

- Marc Angel, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Cooperation and Immigration of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies;
- Nicolas Schmit, Luxembourg Minister of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy;
- 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

**Part 1: THE FUTURE INSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION OF THE UNION**

*Debate in interparliamentary committee meeting*

One of the aims of the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM) is to feed into the discussion on the two INI reports of AFCO concerning the institutional future of the EU, namely the report of Ms Bresso (S&D - IT) and Mr Brok (EPP - DE) on "Improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty" and the report of Mr Verhofstadt (ALDE - BE) on "Possible evolutions and adjustments of the current institutional set up of the European Union."

The Union is currently facing serious challenges which have revealed the need for an institutional reform that will equip the Union with the necessary tools to respond to these challenges in a more effective, democratic and unified manner. Some of these reforms can be done by implementing fully the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty that have not been exploited to their maximum potential yet. Others might necessitate a Treaty change. Either way, the current political, security and economic situation of the Union calls for institutional changes and the exchange of views with the representatives of EU institutions as well as of national parliaments on the future institutional evolution of the EU would provide a valuable contribution to the upcoming work of AFCO in this respect.

During the first session of the ICM, the two co-rapporteurs of the INI report on "Improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty", Mercedes Bresso (S&D - IT) and Elmar Brok (EPP-DE) will present their working document. In their paper they are examining the yet unused possibilities offered by the Lisbon Treaty to tackle the challenges that the Union is currently facing, by adapting its institutional structure, enhancing its democratic accountability, deepening the Economic and Monetary Union, completing the Internal Market and furthering joint efforts in the fields of External Action and Justice and Home Affairs.

**Part 2: REINFORCING THE PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION GOVERNANCE**

*Hearing- Presentation by experts*

*Debate in interparliamentary committee meeting*

The parliamentary control over the EU activities remains an everyday challenge. In the context of the ongoing financial and economic crisis, where European Council meetings and Euro summits play an increasingly important role in the governance of the European Union, the parliamentary control over the executive becomes more difficult, especially for national parliaments. In a majority of Member States, there are formal rules mentioning explicitly the parliamentary control over the Council and the European Council. In all cases those rules are focused on securing information about the summits. In some cases, they also allow parliaments to give opinions and even mandates. By contrast, very few specific rules about Euro summits are to be found.

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AFCO Members and their guests from national parliaments will have the chance to discuss the important issue of parliamentary scrutiny over the executive in the EU with Prof. Dr. Christine Neuhold (Professor within the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASoS) at Maastricht University), Prof. Olivier Rozenberg (Associate Professor at Sciences Po Paris, Center for European Studies), and Prof. Philippe Poirier (Chair of Parliamentary Studies Research in the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg).

### **Next meetings**

\* 3 December 2015, 09.00 - 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)

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### **Contact the editor**

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