

### **European citizens' initiative**



#### *Consideration of draft report*

*Rapporteur: György Schöpflin (EPP)*

After the very initial exchange of views held in November with Vice-President Frans Timmermans, who introduced the Commission proposal on the European citizens' initiative, and the hearing organised together with the PETI Committee last week, the rapporteur will introduce a provisional draft report on the Commission's regulation.

AFCO has been consistently calling for a revision of the regulation on the ECI in order to make it a more transparent and user-friendly instrument for citizens' involvement in the EU agenda-setting. The report aims to enhance the current proposal from the Commission with regards to the transparency of funding, flexibility and support provided to organisers, robustness of the political follow-up by the Commission and to endow the ECI with its own financial programme.

### **Procedure file**

### **The situation in Hungary (pursuant to the European Parliament resolution of 17 May 2017)**



#### *Consideration of amendments*

*Rapporteur: Maite Pagazaurtundua Ruiz (ALDE)*

During this meeting, the amendments to the draft opinion to the LIBE legislative own-initiative report on the situation in Hungary will be presented. Some of the amendments, for instance, call for an additional and more structured EU framework to monitor the respect of the principles set out in Article 2 TEU. In turn, others focus on the impact of constitutional and legislative reforms on the judiciary in Hungary and the shrinking space of NGOs. The criticism already drawn by the Venice Commission on Hungary's Fundamental Law and the draft law on the transparency of organisations receiving support from abroad is also

### INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 48th 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.

During the meeting on 26 February, the draft report on the European citizens' initiative will be introduced and discussed. Additionally, the amendments to the draft opinion prepared for the LIBE legislative own-initiative report on the situation in Hungary will be presented.

AFCO will vote on three opinions, on the location of the seats of the European Medicines Agency and of the European Banking Authority and regarding the Annual reports 2015-2016 on subsidiarity and proportionality.

Other highlights of the meeting include an exchange of views on the statute and funding of European political parties and foundations, the discussion on the draft opinion "Monitoring the application of EU law 2016" and the presentation of the draft report on the role of cities in the institutional framework of the Union on the following day.

## **Monitoring the application of EU law 2016**



*Consideration of draft opinion*

*Rapporteur: Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski (ECR)*

There will also be a discussion on the draft opinion on monitoring the application of EU law. The opinion highlights the constitutional importance of the application of the EU law by the Member States which is enshrined in Art. 197 TFEU and highlights a number of worrying trends in last year's report from the Commission, notably drop in resolution rates, increase in registered complaints and of infringement procedures. The opinion puts a particular emphasis on the transparency and predictability of EU norms and on the principles of Better Law-Making.

### **Procedure file**

## **Statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations**



*Exchange of views on the State of play of the interinstitutional negotiations*

*Co-Rapporteurs: Mercedes Bresso (S&D), Rainer Wieland (PPE)*

After the Council adopted its negotiation mandate at COREPER level, a discussion will take place at the AFCO meeting in order to have an update on the state of the interinstitutional negotiations on the regulation concerning the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations.

Regarding the content of the negotiations, the progress on certain issues such as the new financing keys or the co-financing threshold will be presented.

### **Procedure File**

\*\*\*\* Voting Time \*\*\*\*

## **Location of the seat of the European Medicines Agency**



*Consideration of draft opinion and amendments*

*Rapporteur: Mercedes Bresso (S&D)*

During this meeting, there will also be a short discussion and a vote on the draft opinion for ENVI on the Commission Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 as regards the location of the seat of the European Medicines Agency. 6 amendments have been tabled while two amendments were proposed by the rapporteur in the draft opinion. Furthermore, one

An exchange of views on the progress of Brexit negotiations with Guy Verhofstadt, the Parliament's coordinator for the negotiations on the UK withdrawal from the EU, will also take place on Tuesday.

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

### **MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE**

FR,DE,IT,NL,EN,DA,EL,ES,PT,SV,CS,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.

## **Location of the seat of the European Banking Authority**

*Consideration of draft opinion and amendments*

*Rapporteur: Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD)*



At the meeting of 23 January, AFCO coordinators decided to draft an opinion for ECON on the Commission Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010 as regards the location of the seat of the European Banking Authority. The draft opinion and the further 3 amendments tabled, as well as an oral amendment by the rapporteur will be first discussed and subsequently the vote will take place.

## **Annual reports 2015-2016 on subsidiarity and proportionality**



*Consideration and adoption of draft opinion*

*Rapporteur: Christian Dan Preda (PPE)*

A vote on the draft opinion to the attention of the Committee on Legal Affairs on the Annual reports 2015-2016 on subsidiarity and proportionality will be held during the meeting. 41 amendments have been presented and 4 compromises proposed.

It analyses the changes that occurred between 2015 and 2016 in what concerns reasoned opinions and other contributions coming from national parliaments. It also highlights the role of the European Parliament in matters related to subsidiarity and proportionality mechanisms, and the existing interconnection between these two principles and better law making.

## **[Procedure File](#)**

\*\*\*\* End of vote \*\*\*\*

## **MEETING DATE AND VENUE**

26 February 2018, 15.00 - 18.30

27 February 2018, 10.30 - 12.30

Altiero Spinelli (3G-3), Brussels

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

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

21 March 2018, 9.00-12.30 and 15.00-

18.30 (Brussels)

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



### *Exchange of views*

During the meeting on 27 February, there will be an exchange of views on the progress of Brexit negotiations and the challenges ahead, with Danuta Hübner, AFCO Chair and member of Parliament's Brexit Steering Group, and Guy Verhofstadt, Parliament's coordinator for the negotiations on the UK withdrawal from the EU.

### **[Subject File](#)**

## **Role of cities in the institutional framework of the Union**



### *Consideration of Draft Report*

*Rapporteur:* Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski (ECR)

There will be a presentation of the report on the role of cities in the institutional framework of the Union. The purpose of this report is to contribute to frame the involvement of cities in the current EU decision-making and institutional architecture and to gauge and build upon the recent developments within the field, as the relevance of cities and urban areas has been growing, including by force of EU legislation.

### **[Procedure File](#)**

## **Further information**



[AFCO website](#)



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## **Contact the editor**

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