

Newsletter

March 2018

Issue 49

Hearing with the European Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly



In the framework of AFCO's contribution to the debate on the constitutional and institutional aspects of the Future of Europe AFCO is holding an important exchange of views, with the EU Ombudsman, Ms Emily O'Reilly, on the topic of "Transparency in the EU Institutions one year ahead the European elections"

Issue related to transparency in the institutions, like Council's accountability inquiry, Commissioners' Code of Conduct, Transparency Register and the negotiations on Brexit could be dealt with during the exchange of views.

AFCO drafted a series of eight working documents on the constitutional aspects of the Future of Europe debate. This includes a specific AFCO Working Document on "Structure and working method of the Council". This document was presented in AFCO on 28 November 2018.

The conclusions of this hearing could feed a future report of AFCO on the future of the European Union.

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INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 49th issue of the AFCO Newsletter, a tool prepared by the Secretariat, which aims to inform you about AFCO activities and increase awareness of the institutional challenges that the EU is facing.

The meeting on 21 March will start with an exchange of views with the European Ombudsman, Ms Emily O'Reilly. The focus will be on the findings of her inquiry on the transparency of the Council legislative process and on transparency in the EU institutions more generally.

This will be followed by votes, including on the outcome of the trilogue on the amendment of the regulation on Statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations, as well as the report on the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments.

In the afternoon, we will discuss the latest developments concerning the withdrawal of the UK from the EU (the Head of the UK Law Societies Brussels Office, Dr Helena Raulus, will contribute to this discussion), and the report on the new regulation on European Citizens' initiative (ECI).

Prof. Dr. Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair

Voting Time

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.

Statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations



Consideration and adoption of the text of the provisional agreement
Co-Rapporteurs: Mercedes Bresso (S&D), Rainer Wieland (PPE)

On 27 February, delegations from Parliament, Council and the Commission met in trilogue with the goal of reaching a compromise on the Commission proposal for amending a regulation on the statute and funding of European political parties. A provisional agreement was reached, which was endorsed by Council at COREPER level on 7 March.

If the compromise is given a favourable vote by AFCO today, it will be submitted to the plenary vote at the April half-session. This could mean entry into force by early May, applicable on time for requests for funding from the 2019 budget.

[Procedure File](#)

The implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments



Adoption of draft report
Rapporteur: Paulo Rangel (PPE)

On 3 September 2016, Paulo Rangel was appointed rapporteur for AFCO 's implementing report evaluating the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national parliaments. Since then, the rapporteur has carried several scrutiny activities (a workshop, Interparliamentary Committee Meetings, fact-finding missions, an evaluation assessment and a legal opinion). On this basis his draft report was discussed in AFCO on 28 November 2017 and 119 Amendments have been tabled. Through political negotiations 27 compromise amendments were achieved. AFCO will now be voting on the draft report.

[Procedure File](#)

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



Adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur: Maite Pagazaurtundua Ruiz (ALDE)

AFCO decided to draft an opinion to the LIBE legislative own-initiative report on the situation in Hungary. This report follows the European Parliament resolution of 17 May 2017 through which the Parliament instructed the LIBE Committee to initiate proceedings and draw up a report to hold a plenary vote on a proposal calling on the Council to act pursuant to Art. 7(1) of the TEU..

32 amendments were received on the draft opinion. The rapporteur for the AFCO opinion to LIBE, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, has managed to agree with the shadow rapporteurs on seven compromise amendments. These will be put to the vote during this AFCO meeting.

Procedure File

Monitoring the application of EU law 2016



Consideration and adoption of draft opinion

Rapporteur: Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski (ECR)

At this meeting, the Committee will consider the adoption of an AFCO opinion on monitoring the application of EU law. The opinion focuses on the general constitutional principles regarding the implementation of EU law and stresses the importance of transparency in EU law making. The opinion also comments on the negative trends exposed in the 2016 report and insists that the Commission start reporting on the implementation of regulations, so as to enhance the European Parliament's capacity to scrutinise the implementation of EU law.

39 amendments and 6 compromise amendments will be put to vote.

Procedure file

**** End of vote ****

MEETING DATE AND VENUE

21 March 2018,
10.00 - 12.30 and 14.30 - 18.30

Altiero Spinelli (1 G 3), Brussels

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

NEXT MEETINGS

25 April 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

Since the Committee last met, there were important developments in relation to Brexit, including the publication of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement by the European Commission on 28 February and, just this week, the reaching of an agreement between Britain and the EU on a 21-month transition period after Brexit. To take stock of these developments and to identify the challenges ahead, this month's exchange of views will begin with a debate on the progress of Brexit negotiations with Danuta Hübner, AFCO chair and member of Parliament's Brexit Steering Group.

Following this, the Head of the UK Law Societies Brussels Office, Dr Helena Raulus, will share some observations on the Draft Withdrawal Agreement, particularly in relation to citizens' rights, dispute settlement, and regulatory alignment in Northern Ireland. Dr Raulus is an expert on EU legislative processes and institutional frameworks.

Subject File

European citizens' initiative



Exchange of views

Rapporteur: George Schöpflin (PPE)

During the meeting on 21 March, a draft report on the Commission's regulation, to be presented by George Schöpflin (PPE), will serve as the basis for an exchange of views on the European Citizen's Initiative (ECI). The report aims to provide more support and clarity to the organisers of an ECI, while also aiming to enhance the transparency of funding of ECIs and to improve the promotion of the ECI instrument in connection with other means of citizen engagement with the EU.

Procedure file

Further information



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