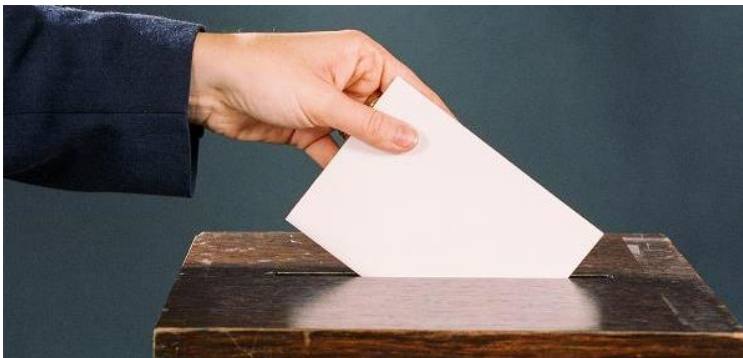


### **Draft Council Decision fixing the period for European Parliament elections**



*Consideration and adoption of draft report*  
*Rapporteur: Danuta Maria Hübner (PPE)*

Parliament has received a request for consultation from the Council on a draft decision seeking to modify the period during which the forthcoming European elections will be held. According to the Act on the elections of members of the European Parliament of 1976, this period would have been between Thursday 6 and Sunday 9 June 2019, but if the Member States consider it impossible to hold elections during this period, the Council may - after consulting the European Parliament - determine another time period.

Council has concluded that it would not be possible to have the elections on that week and therefore proposed to hold the elections in the period from 23 to 26 May 2019. The decision on these new dates needs to be taken as soon as possible in order to give the Member States sufficient time to organise the elections and allow for the EP to prepare its calendar for 2019.

Members will be voting on the opinion of the European Parliament which, according to the draft report, is favourable to the proposal of the Council. Besides, the EP had already, through its Conference of Presidents of political groups, suggested that same week for the organisation of the elections.

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### INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

I am very happy to present the 50th 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 extraordinary meeting on 16 April, we will be voting on the proposal of the Council for the dates of the next European elections. We will also have an exchange of views with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe which will certainly provide an important insight in matters concerning fundamental rights and rule of law in Europe.

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

#### MEETING LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

FR, DE, IT, NL, EN, ES, PT, 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.

## Venice Commission - Council of Europe



*Exchange of views with the President of the Venice Commission, Mr Gianni Buquicchio*

During the meeting on 16 April, there will be an exchange of views with members of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe on topics of common interest. The Venice Commission will be represented by its President, Mr Gianni Buquicchio, accompanied by Mr Thomas Markert and Ms Simona Granata-Menghini, Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of the Venice Commission, respectively.

The Venice Commission is an independent consultative body of the Council of Europe that provides legal advice to its member states on issues of constitutional law, including the functioning of democratic institutions, fundamental rights and constitutional justice. Since many of these topics touch upon the work of the AFCO Committee, the recommendations and opinions of the Venice Commission are always welcomed and considered with the highest degree of respect by AFCO and its members.

### **MEETING DATE AND VENUE**

16 April 2018, 19:30 - 21.30

Salvador de Madariaga (S1), Strasbourg

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

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

25 April 2018, 9.00-11.50, 11.50-12.30: joint meeting AFCO-JURI and 15.00-18.30 (Brussels)

### **Further information**



[AFCO website](#)



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