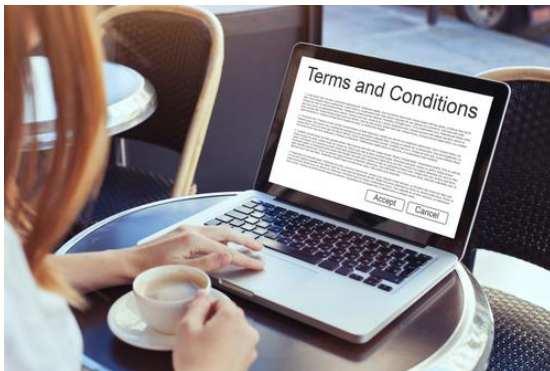


Newsletter

Issue 84 - September 2017

SELECTED NEWS

Contracts for the online and other distance sales of goods and contracts for the supply of digital content



On 28 September, the IMCO Committee will hear the presentation of the impact assessment carried on proposed substantial amendments on the two Commission's proposals on contracts for the online and other distance sales of goods and contracts for the supply of digital content and which have a bearing on the introduction of a commercial guarantee for lifespan. The assessment is to analyse the impact of a commercial guarantee on SMEs, and in particular small manufacturers, assessing likely costs and benefits thereto, on consumer protection, on the environment and on sustainable consumption, on the coherence of the legislative framework on consumer protection and also the respect of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Critical issues to be addressed include the relationship between the commercial guarantee and the legal guarantee, standardised categories of technical or durable products to be concerned, liability of the producer, and existence of sanctions.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Pascal Arimont \(EPP\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

Respect for private life and the protection of personal data in electronic communications



On 28 September IMCO Members will vote on the draft opinion by Eva Maydell on the ePrivacy regulation. 530 AMs were tabled in total in IMCO and a total of 37 Compromise Amendments have been proposed by the rapporteur and negotiated by the political groups in both technical and shadows meetings held on the file. The aim of the proposal is to ensure the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, in particular the respect for private life, confidentiality of communications and the protection of personal data in the electronic communications sector. It also aims to guarantee the free movement of electronic communications data, equipment and services in the Union. The vote on the file in the main committee (LIBE) is foreseen for 11 October.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Eva Maydell \(EPP\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

TOURISM: HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON A EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR GROWTH AND JOB CREATION



Europe

EU countries are among the world's most popular tourism destinations. Parliament will hold a conference on tourism as a key driver of growth and job creation. The event will focus

on, amongst others: attracting investment and improving the business environment; tourism innovation; and promoting Europe as

a tourist destination. It will take place on 27.09.17 and Mrs Corazza-Blidt, IMCO's 1st vice-chair, will chair the round-table on "Tourism innovation and digital economy". The event will draw stakeholders from the Committees on Transport and Tourism, on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, and on Culture and Education.

Register for the conference on [registration page](#).

LINK: [Programme of the Conference](#)

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(25 SEPTEMBER, 28 SEPTEMBER 2017)

[Watch the committee meeting live](#)

Access to third country goods and services

On 25 September, the IMCO committee will vote on its draft Opinion on the revised Commission proposal for an International Procurement Instrument (Rapporteur Ivan Štefanec (EPP)). A limited number of amendments were tabled on the Articles, but also amendments to reject the Commission proposal as a whole. The Rapporteur proposes one compromise amendment covering the aspects of environmental, social and labour law obligations. While INTA is the lead Committee on the file, IMCO is associated under Rule 54 with exclusive and shared competence for few Articles of the proposal.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Ivan Štefanec \(EPP\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

Action Plan on Retail Financial Services

On 28 September IMCO will vote on the 58 amendments tabled to the draft opinion. They address, amongst other issues, the need to focus on implementation and enforcement of existing legislation in the area; call for impact assessments before any legislative action is taken, and that any step should respect the principle of subsidiarity and reflect national experience so far; The need to tackle territorial restrictions (geoblocking) in the area of retail financial services is also tackled. A number of amendments were tabled on what steps to take so that consumers can choose the best rates and how to approach dynamic currency conversion (DCC) - the proposals range from relying on the enforcement of existing legislation to outlawing the DCC.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Josef Weidenholzer \(S&D\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

Saving lives: boosting car safety



On 28 September, IMCO will vote on the draft opinion by Daniel Dalton (ECR) to TRAN on saving lives: boosting car safety in the EU. 38 amendments were tabled to the draft opinion, on the basis of which the Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs elaborated four compromise amendments. The amendments reflect a very broad agreement on the importance of further improving the road safety in the EU. It is said that Europe should be leading in this area at that new safety requirements that the Commission is considering, which should be ambitious, should also stimulate innovation and create jobs. Furthermore, the need to increase control over the type approval bodies is stressed, as well as the need for adequate and speedy compensation for consumers and access to effective remedies.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Daniel Dalton \(ECR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

Notification procedure

On 28 September IMCO will consider the amendments, tabled to the report. In total, 243 amendments to the proposal on the Notification Procedure in Services, tabled by Rapporteur (Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto - S&D) and other Members, will be discussed at the next meeting. The main issues addressed relate to the scope of notification obligation, its link to the Services Directive, cases where a Member State modifies the already notified measure in the course of decision making including national parliaments, flexibility of procedure in urgent situations, and the powers of the Commission with regard to the follow-up to its alerts in cases where the Commission finds incompatibilities with the Services Directive.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto \(S&D\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

Towards digital trade strategy

On 28 September IMCO will hold an exchange of views on the 41 AMs tabled to Mr Dalton's draft opinion on the INI Report "Towards a Digital Trade Strategy" (INTA lead). Among the main elements of the draft opinion, also contained in the Amendments, are the support for the European Commission's "Trade for All" Strategy, the need to encourage measures towards facilitating trade in digital goods and services and eliminating digital non-tariff barriers, and to be ambitious in framing issues to be addressed in the Strategy, and also promoting EU's standards and rules in International Trade agreements and organizations, among other things.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Daniel Dalton \(ECR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

Report on competition policy 2016



On 28 September, Christel Schaldemose will present to the Committee her draft opinion on the Commission's 2016 annual report on competition policy. This is a yearly procedure, in which the IMCO Committee traditionally gives an opinion. This year, the draft opinion looks at the interaction between competition policy and social issues more widely, including social dumping and fair taxation. It also recalls the link between competition law enforcement and collective redress. Finally, it connects the annual report to the on-going legislative procedure on the ECN+.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Christel Schaldemose \(S&D\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(12-13 JULY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2017)

Proportionality test before adoption of new regulation of professions

The draft report presented by Mr Andreas Schwab on the proportionality test for regulated professions was considered in IMCO on 12 July 2017. In his draft report, the Rapporteur stressed the need to promote smart regulation to achieve sustainable growth. The shadow rapporteurs explained their respective positions on the file, focussing mainly on the proposed exclusion of healthcare professions from the obligation to conduct prior proportionality checks as well as on the suggested important margin of appreciation within which Member States would be able to regulate professions.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Andreas Schwab \(EPP\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

General budget of the European Union for 2018



On 12 July IMCO considered the draft opinion of the rapporteur Mr Dalton on the General budget of the European Union for 2018 that was subsequently approved on 12 July by a large majority of the Members of IMCO. The opinion stresses that a highly integrated and unified internal market with a fair environment for consumers and SMEs is a cornerstone of the Union and calls for appropriate funding of the three main areas under budgetary responsibility of IMCO, namely Internal Market, Customs union and Justice and Consumers. Accompanying budget amendments were adopted aiming at restoring the draft budget in these areas in all the cases where the Council had proposed reductions, at the funding of pilot projects that may generate future programs on the areas under the remit of IMCO and at the modification of some budgetary comments in order to bring clarity to the goals to be achieved through the concerned budget lines.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Daniel Dalton \(ECR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

Fertilising products

On 13 July IMCO voted on the report on Fertilising Products Regulation and adopted it with 30 votes in favour, 3 against and 4 abstentions. The adopted report paves the way for the organic and waste-based products to the Single Market, clarifies some of the definitions, generally reduces administrative burden on economic operators but at the same time ensures minimum requirements for the products to be CE-marked, clarifies the structure of the product function categories to have more transparency on the market. The amendments on contaminant levels were deemed adopted without a vote as ENVI had exclusive competence on this issue, including limits of Cadmium in phosphate fertilisers. The Plenary vote is foreseen in October.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Ildiko Gáll-Pelcz \(EPP\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

European Electronic Communication Code

On 4 September IMCO adopted its opinion on the European Electronic Communication Code with 31 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions. The Rapporteur had proposed a set of 52 Compromise Amendments which were all endorsed, with one exception. IMCO is associated committee under rule 54 (ITRE lead) with exclusive competence for the provisions governing universal service obligations and end-user rights. ITRE will vote on 3 October and trilogies are likely to start end of October.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Dita Charanzová \(ALDE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

Union certification system for aviation security screening equipment

An IMCO-TRAN Joint Committee meeting on 12 July 2017 received a presentation by the European Commission on the details of this legislative proposal. The co-rapporteurs welcomed the proposal. However, they deplored the lack of information received from the Commission and the attempts to redraft the proposal bilaterally with the Council. The joint committee requested further clarifications on the proposal, which should be made available by the Commission as soon as possible after the summer recess.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Anneleen Van Bossuyt \(ECR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

Reform in professional services



On 4 September IMCO Members considered the draft report presented by Mr Nicola Danti on the on the implementation of Directive 2005/36/EC and the need for reforms in professional services. The Rapporteur highlighted the role played by the professions in the EU economy and the fact that the quality of professional services is of paramount importance to preserve the European economic, social and cultural model. The Rapporteur insisted on the impact of scientific progress, innovation and digitalisation in the area of regulated professions. The shadow rapporteurs generally welcomed the draft report. The amendments, tabled on 12 September will be discussed in IMCO on 11 October 2017.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Nicola Danti \(S&D\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

Proposal for a Directive to empower the competition authorities to be more effective enforcers and to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market

The committee considered Ms Maydell's draft opinion on the proposal for a directive to empower the competition authorities of the Member States (NCAs) to be more effective enforcers. The draft opinion supports the Commission proposal, tries to enhance the independence of NCAs and the transparency of procedures for selection and removal of staff, introduces new text on budgetary autonomy for NCAs, introduces provisions for electronic searches, and proposes a common maximum level for fines issued by NCAs. The Shadow rapporteurs expressed their support for the draft opinion and raised a few issues to be addressed via amendments.

DRAFTSPERSON: [Eva Maydell \(EPP\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

UPDATE ON IMCO TRILOGUES

CPC

On 13 July, the IMCO Committee approved, by single vote, the provisional agreement reached with the Maltese Presidency on 21 June on the revision of the Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation. The agreed text strengthens the involvement of consumer organisations and provides for a strong coordination role of the Commission in tackling EU-wide infringements. With respect to websites, enforcers may under conditions remove or restrict

access to content and display warnings; they may also seek to obtain remedial commitments from traders responsible for infringements. The threshold for the “widespread infringements with a Union dimension” remains as in the Commission’s proposal 2/3 of MS and Union population. The Plenary vote is for the moment planned for November I 2017.

LINK: [Procedure file](#)

LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY

SOLVIT

On 25 September, IMCO will hold a scrutiny session with the Commission on the SOLVIT Action Plan which was published on 2 May as part of the Compliance Package. In the Action Plan, the Commission announces that it will build on the successes of SOLVIT, a free of charge service which provides rapid and pragmatic solutions to people and companies all over Europe when

they experience difficulties with public administrations while moving or doing business cross-border in the EU. The Action Plan aims to increase the use of SOLVIT by making sure that more citizens and businesses can easily access it and by improving data collection so that evidence from SOLVIT cases can be used to improve the functioning of the Single Market.

LINK: [SOLVIT Action Plan](#)

IMCO DELEGATION TO CANADA

A delegation of the IMCO Committee visited Ottawa, Canada on 18 - 20 July 2017. In view of the strengthening of the EU-Canada relationships, in particular following the provisional application of the CETA agreement as of 21 September 2017, the delegation focussed on the changes that this will entail on several domains that fall within the IMCO competences, such as the effects on customs functioning following the removal of customs duties, the opening of the Canadian services market to EU companies, mutual recognition of qualifications, standardisation, and consumer protection. With that, the delegation set off to meet a range of

government authorities, business and labour representatives, high-tech companies and other stakeholders, which also gave the delegation an opportunity to gain an understanding of how Canadian authorities and civil society tackle the challenges related to digitalisation, innovation, SMEs and entrepreneurship, and consumer protection in the digital environment. Led by Andreas Schwab (EPP), the delegation was composed of Adam Szejnfeld (EPP), Nicola Danti (S&D), Marc Tarabella (S&D), and Robert Iwaskiewicz (EFDD).

IMCO CALENDAR FOR 2018



The image shows a calendar for the year 2018, divided into quarters (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4). Meetings are indicated by red and blue blocks on the calendar grid.

During its meeting of 4 September, IMCO committee adopted the calendar of meetings for 2018.

Calendar of meetings is available on [IMCO website](#).

EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS

On 14 September the Commission published a new EU Cybersecurity strategy including a legislative proposal for a reform of ENISA and a voluntary framework for EU-wide cybersecurity certification of ICT products and services. In addition to the legislative proposal, the package comprises two policy papers (EU cybersecurity strategy, implementation update on the NIS directive) and a non-binding recommendation on a

coordinated response to large-scale cybersecurity incidents. On the same day the Commission also published a proposal for a regulation on the free flow of data, with the aim of unlocking the massive potential of the EU data market by eliminating barriers to the cross border delivery of data storage and other data processing services. Both files will be followed closely by IMCO in the near future.

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