

Newsletter

Issue 136 - January 2023

SELECTED NEWS

30th Anniversary of the Single Market

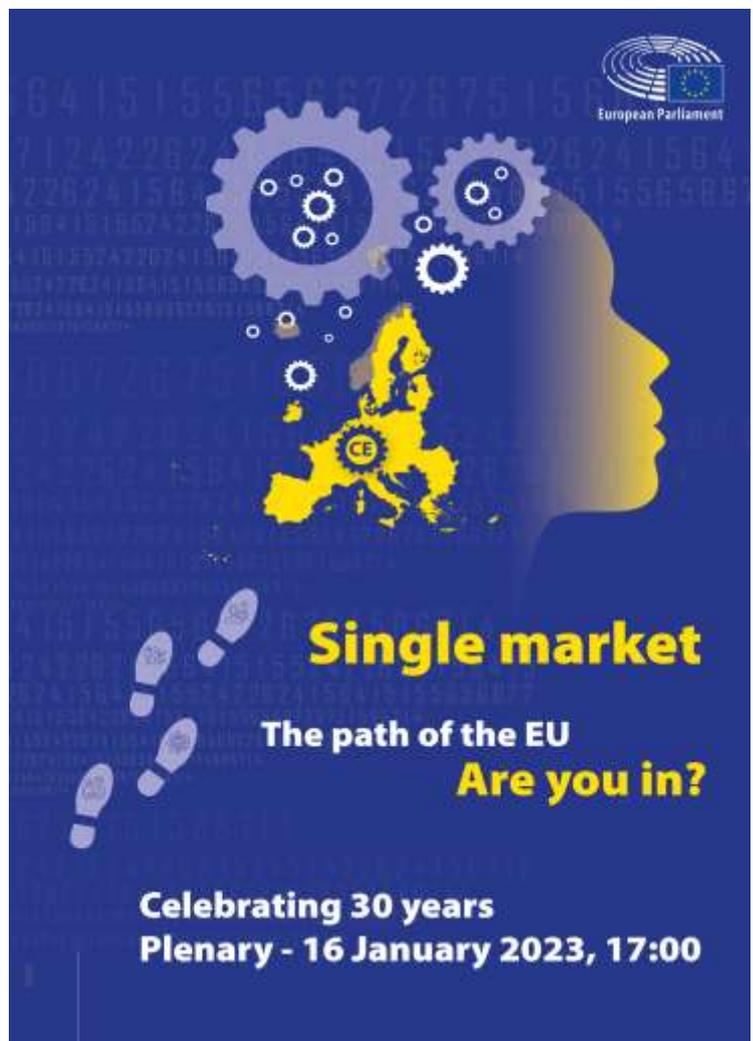
On 16 January, in plenary, Parliament will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the single market and exchange on the relevant motion for a resolution adopted in IMCO on 12 December 2022. The vote in plenary will follow. The draft resolution underlines the important role of the single market as the engine for European integration and the key path leading to peace, stability and prosperity in Europe. The draft resolution emphasises also the Single market's vital contribution towards the Union's role on the global stage. At the same time, it highlights that the single market continues to face various challenges, adding that its 30th anniversary is a crucial moment to renew Parliament's promise to commit to its further development in the collective interest and to strengthen the Union's place in the world. Hence, the draft resolution considers the steps to be taken to render the Single market stronger and more resilient in the future.

[Link to the relevant article on the IMCO webpage](#)

Presentation of the Programme of the Swedish Presidency of the Council

On 24 January, the Swedish Presidency of the Council will present to IMCO Members its [programme](#) falling under the IMCO remit. The Swedish Presidency will mark the 30th anniversary of the Single market and establish a path to strengthen the EU competitiveness in the years to come. Specifically, the Presidency will prioritise work on

the new Construction Products Regulation and focus on the proposals for a Single Market Emergency Instrument, on placing on the market of products made using forced labour and on short-term accommodation rentals. In addition, it will aim to initiate and advance negotiations on the AI Act. The Presidency also intends to strive for an agreement on the Political Advertising Regulation, as well as make progress on the Directive on distance marketing of financial services and on the Directive on empowering consumers for the green transition. Members will have the opportunity to provide their views and ask questions on these priorities.



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(23 & 24 JANUARY 2023)

[Draft Agendas](#) - [Watch the committee meeting live](#)

Political Advertising Regulation

IMCO will vote on its draft report on the proposed regulation on transparency and targeting of political advertising. In the course of several technical meetings in December, and discussions in the Committee on 6 and 12 December 2022 the draft compromise amendments presented by the Rapporteur were profoundly analysed. The Rapporteur and Shadows discussed a number of draft compromise amendments, notably the definitions, record keeping and transmission of information, transparency requirements, public ad repositories, reporting obligations, and implementation.

Rapporteur: Mr [Sandro Gozi](#) (Renew) [Procedure File](#)

Single Market Emergency Instrument



Members will exchange views on the proposal for a Regulation establishing the Single market emergency instrument (SMEI). The proposal aims to put in place a flexible and transparent mechanism

in order to respond quickly to emergencies and crises that threaten the functioning of the Single market. The SMEI package includes one main regulation and two accompanying proposals. Together, these seek to ensure the coordination, solidarity, and coherence of EU crisis response, protecting the Single market. The proposed instrument is intended to ensure the continued free movement of goods, services, and persons, the smooth-running of supply chains, and the availability of and access to goods and services.

Rapporteur: Mr [Andreas Schwab](#) (EPP)
[Link to the relevant article on the IMCO page](#)

Geographical Indication Regulation

The Committee will vote on the Rule 56 opinion on geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products, which aims to establish and ensure intellectual property rights protection for these specific products across the Union, whilst pursuing policies that provide consumers with reliable information, and empower local business. Four hundred amendments were submitted to the initial Commission's proposal, which were then grouped in six vast compromise amendments covering a majority of the submitted proposals. JURI, the main Committee responsible, will vote on the report in February 2023.

Rapporteur: Ms [Dita Charanzová](#) (Renew) [Procedure File](#)

Public Hearing on Standardisation



IMCO will hold a hearing on Standardisation in the Single Market. The aim is to give Members the chance to exchange views with the Commission, European Standardisation Organisations and stakeholders on current challenges, strategic priorities and future developments in European standardisation. The hearing will address the EU Strategy on Standardisation published by the Commission in February 2022 and the 2023 Annual Union Work Programme on Standardisation. It will feed into the upcoming IMCO own-initiative report on "A standardisation Strategy for the Single market" and the upcoming evaluation of the EU Standardisation Regulation (1025/2012).

[Link to the relevant article on the IMCO page](#)

Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive

IMCO will vote on the Opinion on the proposal for a Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence. The Rapporteur drafted a set of compromise amendments covering the most relevant issues for IMCO, thus aiming to ensure harmonisation in the Internal Market and avoid fragmentation, find a balance between a risk-based approach and effective prevention and mitigation measures, support SMEs, enhance the engagement of stakeholders and incisively strengthen cross-border cooperation. The Opinion will contribute to the work of the JURI Committee on this proposal.

Rapporteur: Ms. [Deirdre Clune](#) (EPP) [Procedure File](#)

Data Act

IMCO will vote on the opinion on the Data Act. The Rapporteur drafted ten compromise amendments, covering articles over which IMCO has exclusive competence (Chapter VI) and shared competence (Chapter II, III, V, VII and Article 29), including a compromise amendment covering definitions relating to IMCO's exclusive competence and a compromise amendment covering recitals corresponding to Chapter VI.

Rapporteur: Mr [Adam Bielan](#) (ECR) [Procedure File](#)

LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

([8 & 12 DECEMBER 2022](#))

Sustainable and Circular Textiles

IMCO considered the draft opinion for ENVI, on an EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles. The Rapporteur underlined the importance of the strategy, given the vast environmental and human rights impact of the textiles industry. She emphasized both environmental and social factors in her opinion, focusing on consumer protection and information rights. The Shadow Rapporteurs broadly welcomed the Commission's Strategy and the draft opinion, and highlighted that consumption of textiles has doubled in recent years and that quality has worsened with the growth of the fast fashion industry, among other issues. The vote in IMCO is scheduled on 27/28 March 2023.

Rapporteur: [Ms Anne-Sophie Pelletier](#) (The Left)
[Procedure File](#)

Online Video Games

The Committee adopted its own initiative report on Consumer protection in online video games: a European Single Market approach. The report presents the risks and benefits of online video games from the point of view of consumer protection, especially for minors, with the aim of creating a safe online environment for users while at the same time helping to promote a very important European industry securing 90 000 direct jobs in the EU.

Rapporteur: [Ms Adriana Maldonado López](#) (S&D)
[Link to the relevant article on the IMCO page](#)

Chips Act

IMCO also adopted an opinion on Establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's semiconductor ecosystem (Chips Act). The Rapporteur put forward three compromise amendments that broadly covered the amendments on the Articles and related Recitals, on which IMCO is associated under Rule 57 with shared competences. The opinion adds actors in the semiconductor value chain to the subject matter and introduces key market representative organisations and the semiconductor crisis in definitions. Further suggestions relate to the identification of early warning indicators and risk mitigation, mapping of the semiconductor value chain and alerting. Furthermore, a list of critical sectors that would be subject to the Regulation are included in the annex.

Rapporteur: Ms [Maria-Manuel Leitão Marques](#) (S&D)
[Procedure File](#)

Public Hearing on the Right to Repair



The Committee held a hearing on the "Right to Repair: Strengthening consumer rights and empowering consumers to use products longer." The purpose of the hearing was to feed into the discussion related to the upcoming

Commission proposal on the right to repair and more specifically to look at how consumer rights and guarantees can be strengthened to promote repair over other remedies. Speakers welcomed Parliament's involvement in the topic and notably its Resolution on the "Right to repair" of 7 April 2022 ([2022/2515\(RSP\)](#)). IMCO Members enquired about the relation between the different legislative instruments on the topic and insisted that there should be a clear delineation between them to avoid overlaps. They also questioned speakers about the feasibility of an EU-wide label to inform consumers on the reparability of products, such as the reparability index applicable in France to certain electric and electronic products, and on the feasibility of an EU ban of planned/ premature obsolescence.

[Link to the relevant article on the IMCO page](#)

Financial services contracts concluded at a distance

Members had an exchange of views on the proposal concerning financial services contracts concluded at a distance (DMFSD). The proposal aims to simplify and modernise the legislative framework by repealing the existing Directive 2002/65/EC, while including the relevant aspects of consumer rights concerning financial services contracts concluded at a distance within the scope of the horizontally applicable Consumer Rights Directive 2011/83/EU. Members underlined the need to ensure a high level of consumer protection and avoid overlaps with existing sectoral legislation. They also stressed the importance of maintaining the horizontal "safety net" function of the DMFSD provisions. The Commission representative further highlighted that the proposal seeks to modernise key basic consumer rights in limited areas.

Rapporteur: Ms [Arba Kokalari](#) (EPP)
[Link to the relevant article on the IMCO page](#)

UPDATE ON IMCO TRILOGUES

Machineries Regulation

The third and final trilogue on the proposal for a Machinery Products Regulation took place on 15 December 2022. Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement on a new Machinery Regulation, adapting the rules of the current Machinery Directive to new market developments and risks originating from emerging technologies. The overall aim of the new Regulation is to bring more safety for users as well as improved predictability by harmonisation of EU markets for the machinery industry, especially SMEs.

Rapporteur: Mr [Ivan Štefanec](#) (EPP)

[Link to negotiations](#)

Regulation on Products Associated with Deforestation

The third and final trilogue on this file took place on 5 December, during which a provisional agreement was reached on the outstanding points. The co-legislators agreed to include rubber, charcoal, printed paper products, and a number of palm oil derivatives in the legislation. Furthermore, the Commission shall evaluate one year after the entry into force of the Regulation, whether to extend the scope to other wooded land, and by two years, the possibility of an extension of the scope to other ecosystems.

IMCO Rapporteur: Ms [Anna Cavazzini](#) (Greens/EFA)
[Procedure File](#)

Regulation on batteries and waste-batteries

The fourth trilogue took place on 9 December. At this last informal trilogue, Parliament and Council agreed on the remaining issues following technical work relating primarily to the targets and timelines for the key requirements of the Regulation, the scope of the due diligence requirements, the legal base, as well as its general application date. With regard to the IMCO remit, the remaining issues were those regarding the Union Testing Facility and the National Competence Centres for batteries, which were included in the final text.

IMCO Rapporteur: Mr [Antonius Manders](#) (EPP)
[Procedure File](#)

EVENTS



Mission to Ireland

A Delegation of five MEPs, led by the IMCO Chair visited Ireland 19 - 21 December to see first-hand the effects of the EU-UK Withdrawal and Trade & Cooperation Agreements, and the related Protocol on Northern Ireland. Briefings were received on the perspectives of the Irish Government, representatives of business and consumers, and two private sector businesses, whose activities in Ireland North and South depend on the Protocol for future commercial success.

[Link to the relevant article on the IMCO webpage](#)

Mission to Helsinki and Tallinn

On 20-22 February 2023, an IMCO mission of four Members and the IMCO Chair will travel to Helsinki (Finland) and Tallinn (Estonia) to look into the e-government initiatives of both countries and into digitalisation and resource-efficiency programs. This mission will provide valuable insight in the context of IMCO's ongoing work on e-government and digital public services (own-initiative report 2022/2036(INI)) and on legislative files related to consumers and the green transition.

[Link to the relevant article on the IMCO webpage](#)

OTHER NEWS

Next committee meeting: 6 February 2023

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Closure date of the current issue: 12 January 2023

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