

Future of Europe (follow up to the White Paper)

There had been an attempt to reach a common position of the EP on the various scenarios proposed by the European Commission in the resolution on the Commission Work Program 2018, but it ended in failure: the resolution was rejected, so there is no Parliament position on the Commission Work Program for next year. On the other hand, the EPP and ALDE did not want to include a paragraph on the future of Europe in this resolution.

So far there has been no EP position on the future of Europe related to the Commission's scenarios, and there should not be any soon.

At the level of AFCO, some still wanted to do "something". On our part, we felt that with the adoption of the Brok-Bresso and Verhofstadt reports at the beginning of the year, the Parliament had already adopted its position on this subject. This "something" has resulted in the preparation of 8 working papers on different topics (social Europe, globalization, multiple integration, European defense, EMU, etc.). These working papers are supposed to take stock of what the EP has already voted on and if there is a need to work more on it. A first part of these working papers was presented in AFCO last week, and the rest should be done next week. At the end of these presentations, it could happen that there is a decision to launch reports.

But, on our side, once again, we have little hope in the interest of this process because there is no longer any majority in the EP to seriously work on a major institutional reform. The EPP is becoming more and more Euro-chilly, especially its German delegation (similar situation on transnational lists - see below)

Transnational lists

We are in the midst of negotiations on the distribution of seats in the EP and we are using this file to put the issue of transnational lists back on the table, especially since, with the support of the French, Italian and Spanish governments, there is a window for political opportunity.

The position of the group:

- Use 22 of the 73 British seats to (finally) respect degressive proportionality
- We use a mathematical formula to do this
- We are allocating 50 seats of 73 UK to the transnational list
- No one loses seats
- We propose a mathematical formula for future distributions

The vote will take place in AFCO on 28 November. The debate scheduled today in AFCO has been postponed for lack of progress since last week on compromises. To schematize, the EPP is very reluctant on the transnational lists (refuses to put a number, only agrees to mention the principle) and the S&D does not want a mathematical formula to distribute the seats ("too complicated").

We can still hope for a good result, especially on the transnational lists. We work a lot with ALDE (Verhofstadt is the shadow) on this issue. It is not certain that the timetable will be maintained, but for the moment it foresees a vote in AFCO on November 28 and a plenary vote in December.