

Newsletter

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Accessibility requirements for products and services

Adoption of draft opinion

The Commission approved Mr Taylor's Opinion, supporting the Commission Proposal for a Directive to help Member States to achieve their national commitments as well as their obligations regarding accessibility under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD, to which EU is a party).

The amendments approved propose modifications to achieve non-discrimination and to provide assistance for persons with reduced mobility in the transport sector. TRAN Committee approved to extend the scope of the Directive also to the urban transport, buildings environment, intermodality, transport vehicles, tourism services and to reduce the cut-off date.

Also to include only feasible targets, to adapt the Directive to the sectorial transport legislation and to require the same obligations to public and private companies.

- Rapporteur: Keith Taylor (Greens/EFA)
- Ordinary Legislative procedure, opinion
- Vote in IMCO Committee: 25 April 2017
- Vote in Plenary: tbd

Digitising European Industry and European standards - implementation

Consideration of amendments and vote

The Committee discussed and voted on two non-legislative opinions: Digitising European Industry and European standards.

Although these opinions were drawn up on the basis of different Commission Communications and addressed to different committees (ITRE and IMCO), they share a common objective, namely to enhance the potential of digitalisation in all modes of transport and tourism and to promote EU-wide standardisation with the aim to bring about a competitive Single European Transport Area.

Members called for a coordinated Industrial Digitalisation Strategy which should contribute to solving some of the most pressing challenges in the transport and tourism sectors. They pointed out that digitalisation has so far not been beneficial to the same extent throughout the transport sector, and emphasised that the focus should not be limited to connected and automated driving, but address existing challenges in all modes of transport.

They also called on the Commission to address current and potential threats within a comprehensive strategy on cybersecurity for transport.

The Committee also stressed the need to attract investment in order to adequately finance the transition towards digital processes in transport and to support the development of the associated infrastructure. In this regard, better use should be made of the European Fund for Strategic Investments.

The important role of start-up companies and SMEs for digitising transport was also underlined, and the need to further develop the collaborative economy in the transport sector.

The Committee called also for swift action to promote the development of integrated smart ticketing and new mobility concepts, and to create a favourable environment for sustainable transport solutions, such as electric cars and alternative fuels.

- Rapporteur: Pavel Telička (ALDE)
- Own initiative procedures
- Digitising European Industry, opinion
Vote in ITRE Committee: 24 April 2017
- European standards, opinion
Vote in IMCO Committee: tbd
- Votes in Plenary: tbd



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Registration of persons sailing on board passenger ships operating to or from ports of the Community

Consideration of amendments and vote

The legislative report by Mrs Bilbao Barandica on the passenger registration directive was adopted in committee by a large majority.

TRAN members endorsed the proposed changes in rules for the registration of passengers that would streamline passenger data transmission via digital reporting to the authorities, in order to avoid double reporting and to ensure that this data is available immediately for search and rescue efforts in case of accidents.

The committee backed an additional option for reporting data via a local Member State-approved electronic system for a two-year transition period, whereby any search and rescue operations would be handled locally.

Members also further strengthened personal data protection requirements. The committee decided to enter into interinstitutional negotiations with the Council and the Commission.

- Rapporteur: Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE)
- Ordinary Legislative procedure, report
- The decision to enter into negotiations has to be endorsed by the upcoming plenary
- Vote in Plenary: tbd

Safety rules and standards for passenger ships

Consideration of amendments and vote

The Committee adopted with a broad majority its report on safety rules and standards of passenger ships providing domestic services in EU Member States.

The report backs the Commission's proposal to remove smaller ships from the scope of the Directive but requests the Commission to present guidelines to ensure the safety of such ships.

While the Committee supports the inclusion of aluminium as a material equivalent to steel, it proposes longer transition periods for Member States to bring their ships built from aluminium in line with the Directive's rules.

Adopted provisions would furthermore allow Greece to use the concept of sea routes rather than sea areas when classifying its passenger ships. In addition, the report aims to make the application of the Directive more transparent to the public. Moreover, the EU should take a proactive role in monitoring and improving the social dimension for workers on the ships.

The Committee decided to enter into negotiations with the Council and the Commission.

- Rapporteur: Daniela Aiuto (EFDD)
- Ordinary Legislative procedure, report
- The decision to enter into negotiations has to be endorsed by the upcoming plenary
- Vote in Plenary: tbd

System of inspections for the safe operation of ro-ro ferry and high speed passenger craft in regular service

Consideration of amendments and vote

There was a large support to clarify the rules regarding the inspection requirements for ro-ro ferries and high speed passenger crafts, thereby ensuring that biannual inspections are carried out at regular intervals of approximately six months.

Given the risk profile of ro-ro ships, these vessels should be considered as high-risk vessels and therefore be inspected as a matter of priority within the framework of Port State Control.



The Rapporteur recalled that several accidents involving ro-ro ships had caused hundreds of casualties and that inspections were therefore of paramount importance to ensure the safety of passengers and crew.

The Committee decided to enter into negotiations with the Council and the Commission

- Rapporteur: Dominique Riquet (ALDE)
- Ordinary Legislative procedure, report
- The decision to enter into negotiations has to be endorsed by the upcoming plenary
- Vote in Plenary: tbd

A European agenda for collaborative economy

Consideration of amendments and vote

The Committee supports the development of collaborative economy in transport and tourism and especially its potential to improve employment, mobility and tourism in rural, mountainous and outermost areas. It calls for analysis followed, if necessary, by proportionate regulatory steps at EU level by 2018.

The regulatory framework should rather be on a sectorial basis with the aim to ensure fair competition and foster innovations.

The Committee stresses that issues related to consumer protection, liability allocation, tax compliance, insurance schemes, social protection of workers, and data protection should be properly assessed.

Barrier-free access of elderly and people with disabilities to services in collaborative economy is also important for Members.

The Committee recalled that taxes and social protection contributions should be paid in compliance with the national laws of the place where profits are generated.

- Rapporteur: Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)
- Own initiative procedure, opinion
- Vote in IMCO Committee: 24 April 2017
- Vote in Plenary: May 2017

Promotion of Internet connectivity in communities

Consideration of amendments and vote

Overall, the Committee supports the Commission's proposal, with the addition that the initiative should be extended to cover local transport services and touristic sites.

This would enhance the efficiency of transportation in communities, while offering high quality services to consumers.

Nevertheless, in the absence of an impact study and taking into account the small funds made available, the Committee recommends that the Commission establishes clear criteria for selecting the communities that will benefit from the initiative, and ensure a thorough scrutiny of all projects submitted for funding.

The amendments approved propose that the programme covers primarily public spaces, including schools, health centres retirement homes.

The Committee also requests compatibility with National and Regional Operating Programmes and with the structural funds and a balanced distribution - at the national and regional level- with special attention to the islands and the rural, outermost, border and mountain areas.

Finally it asks the Commission to develop a long-term strategy for the deployment of wireless spots guaranteeing the continuity of the programme.

The opinion was approved by a large majority of the Commission.

- Rapporteur: Claudia Tapardel (S&D)
- Ordinary Legislative procedure, opinion
- Vote in ITRE Committee: 25 April 2017
- Vote in Plenary: tbd

Internet connectivity for growth, competitiveness and cohesion: European gigabit society and 5G

Consideration of amendments and vote

The committee adopted by broad majority an opinion on the development of European Gigabit Society and 5G from the transport and tourism sectors' angle.

Both sectors would benefit from the deployment of 5G networks and that would be a necessary condition for the development of existing and new business models.

Nevertheless, progress in the process of building the European Gigabit Society can only be made with appropriate high levels of investment in network infrastructure in all Member States, stressed the Members.

The transport routes would need access to such technologies to be able to support intelligent transport solutions and modes.

- Rapporteur: Kosma Złotowski (ECR)
- Own initiative procedure, opinion
- Vote in ITRE Committee: 25 April 2017
- Vote in Plenary: May 2017

Space Strategy for Europe

Consideration of draft opinion

Ms Meissner's draft opinion to ITRE Committee received general cross-party support from all the TRAN Members, who agreed that space sector was crucial to the innovation and sustainable development in transport.

The Committee shared most of her comments and concerns, including the need for a constructive dialogue between the space and transport industries in order to achieve a coordinated strategy and an appropriate legislative and financial support for the two sectors aiming at facilitating the market uptake of the already available space technology by the transport users.

They furthermore agreed that the financial needs of space strategy should be reflected in the budget in the forthcoming MFF planning, including further financing of GALILEO, EGNOS and Copernicus.

Finally, Members underlined the importance of non-dependence of the EU on other countries' technology and services in space and expressed the view that well developed EU space strategy could be a source of pride for the young Europeans and that it has a potential to become an EU flagship initiative.

- Rapporteur: Gesine Meissner (ALDE)
- Own initiative procedure, opinion
- Deadline for amendments: 19 April 2017
- Vote in TRAN Committee: 30 May 2017
- Vote in ITRE Committee: 22 June 2017
- Vote in Plenary: tbd

Adoption and review of technical specifications for rail interoperability

Scrutiny: presentation of the draft delegated act by the Commission

The Commission presented the draft delegated Decision setting out the specific objectives of all technical specifications for rail interoperability (TSIs), in accordance with the delegation of power established in Article 5 of Directive (EU) 2016/797.

After the entry into force of the delegated act, the content of the specific objectives will be established by means of implementing acts; which underlines the importance of this delegated act in the context of the implementation of the technical pillar of the 4th Railway Package.

The scope of the delegated act covers a wide range of topics, including objectives related to rolling stock and rail freight noise, accessibility for persons with disabilities, control-command and safety, through-ticketing, etc.

The delegated act has been drafted in accordance with the inputs provided by the Commission expert group gathering the Member States and representative organisations of the European railway sector. It was under public consultation until 17 April 2017 and it will be officially notified to the EP in May.

Enabling multi-modality and promoting motorways of the sea

Exchange of views

The TEN-T Coordinators, Ms Karla Peijs and Mr Brian Simpson, presented the main achievements and ongoing efforts in the Rhine-Danube corridor and in the implementation of the Motorways of the Sea priority of the TEN-T.

In their presentations, the Coordinators focused on initiatives enabling multi-modality in freight transport. They also highlighted ongoing projects aimed at reducing emissions in maritime transport by the use of alternative fuels such as LNG or methanol.

Members stressed the role of the corridors and the Motorways of the Sea for connecting all Member States with each other, including remote regions, but also with the EU's international trade partners.

They also reiterated the importance of further strengthening the coordination and cooperation between Member States in order to achieve a coherent development of the transport system, in particular for cross-border connections that serve corridors as a whole.

Members also questioned the Coordinators on possible future priorities regarding the sustainability of transport and its infrastructure, accelerated digitalisation and the impact of the pending Brexit.

Women and Transport - the role of women in solving the shortage of qualified staff in transport

Hearing

The speakers, Asa Webber, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden to the EU, Cristina Tilling, European Transport Workers' Federation, Theresia Hacksteiner, European Barge Union and Gilles Bergot, Commission, DG MOVE, addressed the gender dimension in transport and analysed the ways to increase the number of women working in transport, as,

at present, women represent only 18% of EU transport workforce.

In particular, the discussion focused on how women could contribute to address the problem of the shortage of qualified staff in transport posts that the EU will be facing in the coming years, due to economic and societal challenges and the sector's negative image for employment.

Furthermore, the Committee discussed the European framework for setting up equal opportunities in the field of transport, the experience of Sweden in this field, the concrete problems encountered by female workers in transport, as well as the viewpoint of transportation companies and their experience in hiring and working with female employees.



Members accentuated on the importance that measures taken are in line with the reality in the sector, differentiated for mobile and non-mobile jobs, and that a great focus should be put on job quality and working conditions, including workload, access to training, ergonomics (adapted for women), health and safety policies (also with specificities for women), as well as to tackling the violence and harassment at work.

Also, the issue of education was raised, with an impetus on encouraging girls in following STEM studies and technical professions so as to earn a degree in the upcoming new technologies to be used in the transportation sector.

Next TRAN Committee meeting: planned draft agenda - To be confirmed

Wednesday 3 May, afternoon

- Exchange of views with Commissioner Bulc on CWP 2017
- Proposal for a Regulation on cross-border parcel delivery services - consideration of draft report
- Regulation on the financial rules applicable to general budget of the Union (Opinion to BUDG-CONT) - consideration of amendments

Thursday 4 May

- Regulation on the financial rules applicable to general budget of the Union (Opinion to BUDG-CONT) - vote
- A European Strategy for low-emission mobility (Strategic INI report) - consideration of draft report
- Presentation by the Commission, DG MOVE, of COM(2016)0787 on Saving Lives: Boosting Car Safety in the EU
- Exchange of views with TEN-T Coordinators Catherine Trautmann and Karel Vinck on “Effectively integrating urban nodes in TEN-T corridors, boosting innovation and interoperability”

Meeting room: JAN 6Q2

TRAN Committee meetings 2017, Brussels

Tuesday, 30 May, 15h00-18h30

Monday 19 June, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 20 June, 9h00-12h30

Tuesday, 20 June, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 10 July, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 11 July, 9h00-12h30

Tuesday, 11 July, 15h00-18h30

Thursday 31 August, 09h00-12h30

Thursday, 7 September, 9h00-12h30

Thursday, 7 September, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 25 September, 15h00-18h30

Wednesday, 11 October, 9h00-12h30

Wednesday, 11 October, 15h00-18h30

Thursday, 12 October, 09h00-12h30

Thursday, 9 November, 9h00-12h30

Wednesday, 22 November, 9h00-12h30

Wednesday, 22 November, 15h00-18h30

Thursday, 23 November, 9h00-12h30

Monday, 4 December, 15h00-18h30

Useful links

TRAN website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/TRAN>

Policy Department Publication in the European Parliament:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/supporting-analyses.html>

European Aviation Safety Agency newsletters: <http://easa.europa.eu/communications/general-publications.php>

European Railway Agency newsletters: <http://www.era.europa.eu/Communication/Newsletter>

European Maritime Safety Agency newsletters: <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/news-a-press-centre/newsletters.html>

SESAR Joint Undertaking news: <http://www.sesarju.eu/newsroom/all-news>

Innovation & Networks Executive Agency: <http://ec.europa.eu/inea/en>

DG MOVE newsletter: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/media/newsletter_en

Maltese Presidency of the Council: <http://www.eu2017.mt>



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