

Newsletter

July 2017

Editorial by Karima Delli

Dear friends,

The decision of the British people to leave the European Union was a shock for us all and will have a significant impact on the transport sector in Europe. While awaiting the outcome of negotiations, we are considering how they may affect the stakeholders, companies, infrastructures, passengers, employees and territories. On 11 July we heard the views of aviation experts and discussed the implications of Brexit on this sector. The upcoming TRAN committee meetings will allow us to continue this consultative work and hear the views of industry experts, passengers and employees in land and maritime transport as well.



The concerns of the Members of the TRAN Committee are legitimate: how do we ensure that Brexit will not penalize players in each sector or that European citizens will not have to bear the costs of this decision? How can we ensure the same level of connectivity and freedom of movement we currently enjoy? While the European companies are already in the throes of stiff competition, how can we ensure that this pressure will not increase further by threatening the social conditions of European workers? Tomorrow, the post-Brexit period will create a new competitive situation that we must prepare for today. After the summer recess, we will continue to address some of the concerns raised by the UK's decision to leave the EU. But for the time being and before we get there, I would like to wish all Members, staff and TRAN secretariat staff a wonderful summer!

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

Vote

The provisional agreement reached during the Interinstitutional negotiations was endorsed with 46 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions.

- Rapporteur: Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE)
- Ordinary Legislative procedure, report

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

Vote

The provisional agreement reached during the Interinstitutional negotiations was endorsed with 46 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions.

- Rapporteur: Dominique Riquet (ALDE)
- Ordinary Legislative procedure, report

Safety rules and standards for passenger ships

Vote

The provisional agreement reached during the Interinstitutional negotiations was endorsed with 46 votes in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions.

- Rapporteur: Daniela Aiuto (EFDD)
- Ordinary Legislative procedure, report

Professional qualifications in inland navigation

Vote

The provisional agreement reached during the Interinstitutional negotiations was endorsed with 40 votes in favour, 3 against and 3 abstentions.

- Rapporteur: Gesine Meissner (ALDE)
- Ordinary Legislative procedure, report

Multilateral Agreement on the establishment of a European Common Aviation Area (ECAA)

Consideration of draft recommendation and vote

The recommendation to give consent to the conclusion of the multi-lateral agreement on the establishment of a European Common Aviation Area received broad support from the TRAN Committee. In the debate, Members underlined the importance of fully integrating the Western Balkan countries into the European aviation community by creating a European Common Aviation Area. This would be based on the principles of free market access, freedom of establishment, equal conditions of competition and common rules in the areas of safety, security, air traffic management, social and environmental matters.

The draft recommendation was adopted with 43 votes in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

- Rapporteur: Roberts Zile (ECR)
- Non legislative - consent procedure
- Vote in Plenary: September 2017 (tbc)

Cross-border parcel delivery services

Vote

The draft report was rejected with 21 votes in favour, 21 against and 5 abstentions.

A decision on the follow-up work on this report is foreseen for the September TRAN meeting.



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- Rapporteur: Lucy Anderson (S&D)
- Ordinary Legislative procedure, report

Saving Lives: Boosting Car Safety in the EU

Consideration of draft report

Mr Koch presented his draft own-initiative report on deploying a range of new safety measures (both active and passive) in road transport. The report assesses the efficiency and appropriateness of measures proposed by the Commission for achieving the EU goal of reducing the number of fatalities on EU roads.



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Members broadly endorsed the ideas set out in this draft. They stressed the importance of infrastructure and signage, including for cyclists and pedestrians as well as the need to reduce “blind spots”. They stressed the crucial role of Member States in implementing legislation and carrying out controls on roads as well as providing a level of protection for the most vulnerable road users.

- Rapporteur: Dieter-Lebrecht Koch (EPP)
- Own initiative report
- Consideration of amendments: 25 September
- Vote in TRAN: 12 October

Budget 2018

Presentation of draft opinion

Members generally supported the Rapporteur's priorities for the budget 2018, underlining the importance of maintaining stable and adequate funding for the Connecting Europe Facility and cross-border sections of the TEN-T network. Most Members also stressed the importance of Galileo for transport policies, in particular regarding safety and the future use of autonomous vehicles.

Members underlined the need to ensure adequate funding for the transport agencies responsible for rail, maritime or aviation safety. Some expressed reservations with regard to the proposed project of providing a free Interrail pass to all teenagers living in the EU on their 18th birthday. Even though they recognised the merits of such initiative, the costs

incurred could have a negative impact on the funding of other priorities of the Union.

- Rapporteur: Evžen Tošenovský (ECR)
- Opinion to BUDG
- Vote in TRAN: 31 August
- Vote in BUDG: September
- Vote in Plenary: 25 October

International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans

Presentation of draft opinion

Mr Van de Camp presented the draft opinion on behalf of the Rapporteur, Ms Monteiro de Aguiar. The opinion focuses on those areas that fall into TRAN's competence, namely, promoting global maritime spatial planning, ensuring the safety and security of seas and oceans, as well as horizontal actions within the ocean governance framework, coordination between international organizations and capacity building. It also refers to the impact of coastal and maritime tourism on coastal, island and hinterland regions, which should be taken into account at an international level.

Members supported the draft opinion and stressed the urgent need of implementable measures in order to ensure safe, secure, clean and sustainable oceans. They raised various environmental issues related to the pollution produced by coastal and maritime transport, as well as by the agricultural sector.

- Rapporteur: Claudia Monteiro de Aguiar (PPE)
- Opinion to ENVI
- Vote in TRAN: 25 September
- Vote in ENVI: 28 September
- Vote in Plenary: 25 October

Alignment of the regulatory procedure with scrutiny (RPS) to the TFEU

Presentation of draft opinion

The Commission submitted a proposal to adapt legislative acts, which still contain references to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny.

The aim of this legislative proposal is to change provisions on regulatory procedure with scrutiny to provisions on delegated and in rare cases implementing acts in 168 legislative acts, including 34 related to Mobility and Transport policy.

The TRAN opinion focuses on amendments addressing the duration of the delegation of powers of five years with automatic renewal, instead of indeterminate duration and the empowerment to adopt delegated acts, instead of implementing acts.

- Rapporteur: Georg Mayer (ENF)
- Opinion to JURI
- Vote in TRAN: 25 September 2017

The priorities of the Estonian Presidency

Presentation by Mrs Kadri Simson, the Estonian Minister for Economic Affairs and Infrastructure

Minister Kadri Simson was invited to present the Estonian Presidency's top priorities in the fields of transport and tourism. She highlighted areas such as the digitalisation of transport, the revision of the EU legislation on road transport (Mobility Package), the revision of the rules governing the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the priorities for the next Multi-annual Financial Framework.



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The issue of Brexit was raised by Members as there is increasing concern amongst the transport community that a "cliff edge" Brexit could have very negative effects on the mobility needs of EU citizens and enterprises. The Minister stressed that the Estonian Presidency would take into consideration Members' concerns regarding the various transport files and will do its utmost to successfully conclude Interinstitutional negotiations.

Tourism policy

Presentation by Commissioner Bienkowska

Commissioner Bienkowska presented the main focus of the EC strategy on tourism policy. She mentioned the most relevant programmes on tourism and the contribution of the EFSI and ESIF to financing tourism projects. She also explained the main challenges faced by the European tourism sector such as the collaborative economy, digitalisation, innovation and the necessity of a European brand, all while underlining the non-legislative competences of the EU on tourism matters.



The debate was opened by Mr Ujhelyi who called for a more consistent tourism policy and suggested that it be included in the Commission's annual work programme. Members raised the issue of special budgetary lines related to tourism and called for more European programmes, specifically related to sustainable tourism, a common European brand and labelling. They also raised questions about approved Pilot Projects and if they are likely to be implemented by the end of 2017. Members confirmed their support of enlarging the EU's competences in the tourism sector.



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CEF call results 2016

Presentation by DG MOVE

The Commission was invited to present the outcome of the 2016 CEF Transport calls for proposals. The 152 selected projects will have an investment volume of € 2.7 billion. This third round of calls was again heavily oversubscribed, especially for the cohesion envelope. Overall, the CEF calls for 2014-2016 have led to 604 projects with over € 21 billion co-funding from CEF, taking up over 90% of the available grant budget and corresponding to investments of more than € 41 billion.

The part of CEF dedicated to projects in cohesion countries is now almost fully utilised. Members acknowledged the positive outcome of this call as well as the overall use of CEF. They also argued for the continuation of CEF with adequate resources under the next MFF in order to further support infrastructure investments in the trans-european transport network and ensure connectivity in all regions, including in cohesion countries. Members were also pleased that the latest call gave particular priority to smaller projects which bridge cross-border sections and improve regional connectivity between neighbouring countries.

The impact of BREXIT on aviation

Hearing

The TRAN Committee invited nine top level executives representing airports (Heathrow, Dublin and Paris CDG), airlines (IAG, Ryanair, Lufthansa, TUI and Airlines for America) and aircraft manufacturer Airbus. The main purpose of the hearing was to identify and understand the risks posed by the United Kingdom's departure from the EU to the air transport and tourism sectors and to learn how Brexit would affect companies' mid and long term plans, operations, and ownership structures.

Speakers presented TRAN members with their views on Brexit, ranging from cautiously optimistic to rather gloom. The latter was especially expressed by Ryanair's CEO Michael O'Leary who said if there is no interim deal on traffic rights between the EU and UK by September 2017, airlines would start cancelling flights and withdrawing aircraft from the UK airports. He further added that Brexit could force more share buybacks in order to comply with the EU ownership rules.



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Speakers were questioned about their "plan B" in case of a "hard" Brexit scenario and the overall answer they received was that the whole industry favoured and hoped to maintain the *status quo* with regards to the UK's membership in the European common aviation area, suggesting that airports and airlines alike have supported the remain campaign.



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Speakers confirmed that, unlike other sectors of the economy, aviation had no benefit of a backup legislative framework in the WTO rules and therefore having no Brexit deal on aviation would jeopardise all flights to and from the UK. Moreover, it was stressed that an early agreement was needed, by autumn 2018 at the latest, to provide the industry with much needed certainty as airline tickets go on sale a year ahead of a schedule. At least two further hearings, on land and maritime transport respectively, are foreseen in TRAN in next following months.

Recent events:

Agreement with the Maltese EU Council Presidency on professional qualifications in inland navigation

The European Parliament reached a preliminary agreement with the Maltese EU Council presidency on the revised rules of professional qualifications in inland navigation. This legislation, which will provide common criteria in the EU for the certification of boatmasters and deck crew, should give a boost to the sector of inland navigation, which currently faces a shortage of qualified personnel. It will facilitate the mobility of workers and ensure the quality and adequacy of training programmes.



Gesine Meissner (ALDE, DE) expressed satisfaction with the agreement reached. She stressed that this agreement is very important for the modernisation and competitiveness of the inland waterway sector. She explained that the agreement is well-balanced as it takes into account the different geographical situations in the EU, thereby preventing excessive administrative burden.

The agreement was endorsed by the TRAN Committee on 11 July 2017. The vote in Plenary is expected in November.

Joint IMCO-TRAN Committee meeting on Union certification system for aviation security screening equipment (Rule 55)

TRAN and IMCO held an extraordinary joint committee meeting to discuss the Commission's proposal establishing a Union certification system for aviation security screening equipment on which the two committees cooperate under Rule 55 of the Rules of Procedure. The proposal dates back to September 2016 and aims at setting up a common certification system for screening equipment based on the EU-type approval and on the ECAC system. The proposal, however, was not met with enthusiasm in the Council, where the biggest Member States blocked any progress and invited the Commission to withdraw the proposal. The Commission, instead, committed to redraft some parts of the proposal in order to address the Council's biggest concerns.

The co-rapporteurs (Mr De Grandes Pascual in TRAN and IMCO Chair Ms Van Bossuyt) welcomed the idea of the proposal, especially in the context of international terrorist threats and the US's unilateral ban on certain electronic equipment. However, they strongly opposed the way in which the Commission tried to bilaterally redraft the proposal with the Council without consulting the Parliament. The exchange of views that followed revealed diverging positions both on substance and on procedure with some groups clearly supporting the Rapporteurs' view and others ready to work on the proposal in its current form without waiting for the Commission's addendum or withdrawal. Some Members said the proposal was in breach of the subsidiarity principle, referring to airport security being a national competence.

Both committees concluded the meeting by asking the Commission to send Parliament a clear assurance that the proposal (possibly including an addendum) has sufficient support in the Council in order for the Parliament to start its work.

TRAN Mission to North of Sweden

A delegation of the TRAN Committee is currently in Sweden (Östersund, Sundsvall, Stockholm). Members will meet with Swedish local and national politicians to discuss the development of transport infrastructure projects, including the TEN-T Scandinavian-Mediterranean Corridor and the Swedish approach to green transport. The mission also provides an opportunity for an exchange of views on how to incorporate tourism as a part of regional strategy to create growth and development.

Tourism

Tourism Task Force initiatives



Vice-President Mr István Ujhelyi informed Members of the most recent initiatives of the Tourism Task Force, which include:

- A Joint Memorandum between the European Parliament and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNTWO) as proposed by the TRAN Committee. This Memorandum would give a formal framework to the collaboration of the two institutions and aims to consolidate relations between them.

- A letter addressed to Mr Junker requesting the inclusion of a European Strategy for Tourism in the European Commission Work Programme for 2018. This would allow the Commission to address tourism-related challenges across all relevant EU policies and present a multi-annual work programme with clear goals, indicators and measures for tourism. The strategy would provide guidelines for Member States, regions, local authorities and the private sector in developing their tourism strategies. All TRAN Members are invited to sign this draft letter.

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

Thursday 31 August (9h00-12h30)

- Budget 2018 - vote
- Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (Opinion to ITRE) - consideration of amendments
- Presentation of a study by Policy Department on "Infrastructure funding challenges in the sharing economy"
- Presentation by the Commission of Progress report on the implementation of the TEN-T network in 2014-2015

Meeting room: ASP A3E-2

TRAN Committee meetings 2017, Brussels

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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