



INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY

ITRE

ITRE Newsletter

Issue 3/2012

Meeting of 6 February 2012

Monday, 6 February 2012: 15.00-18.30 (votes at 16.00)

Room: 2Q2 in the József Antall building

The Committee meeting will be web-streamed and can be watched live on the EP website at:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eplive/public/default_en.htm

or on Europarl TV: www.europarlto.europa.eu

Past meetings can be watched or extracts downloaded via the EP Live Multimedia Library:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/multimedia-library/>



[Speeches and presentations held during ITRE meetings will be available on the ITRE website](#)



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This Newsletter is produced in advance of each ITRE Committee meeting by the Committee Secretariat.

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REPORTS

A competitive digital single market - eGovernment as a spearhead

(Rapporteur: S.-A. Țicău)

Consideration of draft report



This Own-Initiative (INI) report is based on the following European Commission documents:

'The European eGovernment Action Plan 2011-2015 - Harnessing ICT to promote smart, sustainable & innovative Government' (COM(2010)0743), 'Reaping the benefits of electronic invoicing for Europe' (COM(2010)0712) and 'Towards interoperability for European public services' (COM(2010)0744).

ITRE asked to draw up an INI report in order to have the opportunity to contribute actively to the debate on the future legislative proposals in the area of Digital Agenda (e.g. e-signature, e-Identification, e-procurement, cloud computing). While highlighting the overall advantages of competitive digital single market for citizens and SMEs, the draft report draws the attention to the remaining challenges in the area of eGovernment in particular in relation to interoperability, cross-border services and accessibility of public sector services in general online.

A mini-hearing under the same title was held on 19 December 2011 and contributions published on the [Committee website](#).

[Link to Draft report](#)

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Deadline amendments: 15 February 2012, 12h

Vote in ITRE: 21 March 2012

Vote Plenary: April 2012 tbc

Exchange mechanism in the field of energy

(Rapporteur: K. Kariņš)

Consideration of amendments



The draft report main goal is to ensure greater transparency concerning Intergovernmental Agreements between Member States and third countries in the field of energy (IGAs). Members have expressed general support, whilst raising a few additional points. Most of the amendments focus on the exchange mechanism for existing IGA and the *ex-ante* control mechanism. However, a few amendments foresee to make information exchange voluntary, limit the scope of the decision and want to restrict the possibility of the Commission to be present in the negotiations. A first discussion of the amendments and a mini-hearing took place on 24 January 2012 (see [Committee website](#)).

[Link to Draft report and amendments](#)

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Vote in ITRE: 28 February 2012 (negotiating mandate)

Vote Plenary: DEPENDING ON INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS

European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)

(Rapporteur: G. Chichester)

Adoption of draft report



The Commission has proposed a Regulation to reform and modernise ENISA, the European Network and Information Security Agency. Mr Chichester's draft report contains amendments aimed at further improving and streamlining the function of the agency. A number of compromise amendments are under discussion.

[Link to Draft report and amendments](#)

OPINIONS

Amending Council Directive 2003/96/EC (taxation of energy products and electricity)

(Draftsperson: B. Kovács)



Adoption of draft opinion

The general objective of the ETD proposal is to restructure the way in which energy is taxed to support the objective of moving to low carbon and energy-efficient economy and to avoid problems for the internal market.

To this end the revised ETD proposes to split the minimum rate of taxation of energy products into two parts: 1. CO₂-related taxation, based on the CO₂ emissions of the energy product, fixed at a level of 20 Euro per tonne CO₂; 2. General energy consumption taxation, based on energy content measured in GJ, regardless of the energy product.

The additional 114 amendments tabled are rather polarised, either supporting the Commission proposal (and requesting even further measures at EU level) or proposing to limit to the minimum (or removing altogether) EU-level action.

The lead Committee (ECON) is scheduled to vote at the end of February 2012.

[Link to Draft opinion and amendments](#)

Environment Action Programme: Review of the 6th and setting of priorities for the 7th EAP

(Draftsperson: C. Gutiérrez-Cortines)



Adoption of draft opinion

The ITRE draft opinion addresses the issue of developing indicators for assessing the visual renewable energy sites and the relationship of the EAP Programme with LIFE+

programme, Water Framework Directive and the "Low-carbon roadmap 2050.

Various amendments have been tabled specifying elements of the next 7th EAP such as waste management, alignment with EU energy policy objectives, urban development and other issues within the competence of ITRE.

The lead Committee (ENVI) is scheduled to vote at the end of February 2012.

[Link to Draft opinion and amendments](#)

An EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

(Draftsperson: R. Jordan Cizelj)



Adoption of draft opinion

The Rapporteur for opinion but also the authors of the 35 amendments tabled agree with the Commission analysis that biodiversity loss is not only costly for society as a whole, but also for economic actors in sectors that depend directly on ecosystem services and on the long-term availability and diversity of natural assets; furthermore they generally agree that nature-based innovation and action to restore ecosystems and conserve biodiversity has a significant potential to create new skills, jobs and business opportunities.

Overall the amendments introduced are complement each other and the draft opinion. Attention is given to research and dissemination of knowledge and best practice. Compromise amendments may be needed, mainly for editorial reasons.

The lead Committee (ENVI) is scheduled to vote at the end of February 2012.

[Link to Draft opinion and amendments](#)



Food intended for infants and young children and food for special medical purposes

(Draftsperson: H. Takkula)

Adoption of draft opinion

The main aim of the proposal is to ensure appropriate consumer information and good functioning of the internal market in the sector of food intended for infants and young children and food for special medical purposes. The Commission proposal repeals the Framework Directive on dietetic food but maintains certain specific rules adopted under that Framework. The proposal was considered during the ITRE meeting on 12 January 2012, altogether 94 amendments were tabled and the Rapporteur has prepared 4 compromise amendments. A large share of amendments are calling for the inclusion of two food categories - namely food for persons intolerant to gluten and milk based drinks intended for young children - in the scope of the proposed Regulation. Other amendments are mostly focusing on the issues of innovation and consumer protection with particular focus on protection of most vulnerable consumer groups.

[Link to **Draft opinion** and **amendments**](#)

EVENTS

Presentation of the study on the 'European Renewable Energy Network'

This study - carried out under the responsibility of the Policy Department A - aims at identifying the energy network infrastructures needed to cope with the increasing share of renewable energies as the targeted increase of renewable energy sources in the European energy mix to 20% by 2020, and the goal of an 80-95% CO₂ emissions reduction by 2050, will require changes to and extensions of the electricity grid. The analysis covers a timeframe up to 2050 taking into account different existing projections of renewable energy development. Published infrastructure development priorities as well as methodologies including notably infrastructure cost benefit analyses are critically assessed. The study furthermore analyses the relationship between the promotion of renewable energy generation and related infrastructure on the one hand, and other (energy) policy goals and existing legislation at EU level on the other. Various obstacles to grid-roll out of social, economic, administrative as well as political nature are identified and a set of policy recommendations are proposed.



The study feeds into the on-going work on the Energy Infrastructure Regulation (rapporteur: António Fernando CORREIA DE CAMPOS (S&D, PT)).

[Read the **Study**](#)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

ACER http://www.acer.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/ACER_HOME/The_Agency

ACER's opinion on ENTSOG's 2012 Annual Work Programme: need for more consultation, transparency and greater engagement

As foreseen by the Regulation, the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) issued its reasoned opinion on ENTSOG 2012 annual work programme. ACER notably recommends ENTSOG to strengthen the scope of the consultation on its annual work programmes and ensure participation of all interested stakeholders. The Agency also invites ENTSOG to provide transparency on how observations received during the consultation have been taken into consideration. It encourages ENTSOG to involve Distribution System Operators (DSOs) to the extent necessary; take an active role in reflecting the Gas Target Model into the network codes and lead on the development of pilot projects undertaken as part of the Regional Initiatives.

The full text of ACER Opinion on ENTSOG's 2012 Annual Work Programme can be found on www.acer.europa.eu.

BEREC http://www.erg.eu.int/whatsnew/index_en.htm

Public debriefing on BEREC's plenary meeting

Following BEREC's plenary meeting to be held in Vienna on 23 and 24 February 2012, a public debriefing will be held in Brussels on 1 March 2012 from 11h00 to 13h00. The debriefing will take place at Albert Borschette Conference Centre, rue Froissart № 36, 1040 Brussels; it will be open to all interested parties, but [prior registration](#) is required for all those attending.

ENISA <http://www.enisa.europa.eu/media/press-releases>

Ranking & voting online; privacy risks of reputation systems

Reputation systems are a key success factor of many websites, e.g. eBay, or Amazon, ranking hotels, films, or music, enabling users and customers to vote on products. This gives consumers a better idea of the information, products and services being provided. However, by using reputation systems, citizens place themselves at additional risk such as exposing personal data, facilitating the targeting of advertising against themselves, risking price discrimination.

The [ENISA report on trust and reputation models](#) reveals a significant difference between the real-life implementation of reputation systems and current academic research.

ITRE EVENTS

COMING SOON

Next ITRE meetings:

- ✦ 27-28 February 2012, 15.00-18.30 (I); 9.00-18.30 (II) in Brussels (room to be confirmed)
- ✦ 19-21 March 2012, in Brussels (PHS 3C050)

Upcoming Report votes:

- ✦ **C. Turmes:** Energy Efficiency Directive - FORESEEN 28/02
- ✦ **K. Kariņš:** Exchange mechanism in the field of energy - FORESEEN 28/02
- ✦ **A. Niebler:** Roaming III - FORESEEN 28/02 (to be confirmed)
- ✦ **S.-A. Țicău:** eGovernment as a spearhead - FORESEEN 28/02

Upcoming Opinion votes:

- ✦ **A Gierek:** European Standardisation - FORESEEN 28/02
- ✦ **N. Tzavela:** The role of Cohesion Policy in the outermost regions ... - FORESEEN 28/02
- ✦ **J. Creutzmann:** Attractiveness of investing in Europe - (POSTPONED MARCH)

Amendments deadlines:

- ✦ **S.-A. Țicău:** eGovernment as a spearhead - REPORT (15/02)
- ✦ **I. Kalfin:** Critical Information Infrastructure Protection - REPORT (5/03)
- ✦ **I. Enciu:** Online distribution of audiovisual works in the EU - OPINION (7/03)
- ✦ **E. Herczog:** Engaging in energy policy cooperation ... - REPORT (POSTPONED)