



TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

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2 OCTOBER 2013



COMITOLOGY

Flight Time Limitations

Regulatory Procedure with Scrutiny, Rule 88

Members rejected the adaptation of current rules on on-duty and rest times for pilots and cabin crew and asked the European Commission to come up with another proposal as a matter of urgency.

The resolution, which was adopted with 21 votes in favour and 13 against, says that a new proposal must "respect the principle of proportionality". Under the so-called comitology procedure, Parliament has the right to scrutinise Commission measures on flight time. It may oppose but cannot change them.

Parliament has until 25 October to decide by an absolute majority whether it will follow the Committee and oppose the draft measures. If so, the current rules on flight time limitations will stand. The date for the Plenary vote has yet to be confirmed.

PRESENTATION OF DRAFT OPINION

Regional Quality Branding

Rapporteur: Alfreds Rubiks (GUE/NGL; LV)
Own Initiative report, Opinion to AGRI

This report seeks official recognition for European regional quality brands, with a view to opening up new markets for the goods and services produced by territories involved in a global development process.

The Rapporteur focused on tourism. He

considered that this had a key role in the development and promotion of regional quality brands, but that any duplication with existing quality brands and labels had to be avoided.

In his view, regional quality branding not only stimulates local economies but also contributes to sustainable tourism. In addition, it leads to new partnerships between local governments, industry and the tourism sector. In this regard, the Rapporteur called on Member States to stimulate the creation of co-operation platforms for exchanges of experience and know-how for regional branding and local product development.

The Committee welcomed the Rapporteur's proposals. Some Members considered the linkage of tourism with economic output as an additional tool to help rural economies. Networking activities, synergies, exchange of good practices were looked at as further assets in developing regional quality branding. Some concerns were raised as to how far such branding can and should be embedded in Union legislation.

The Commission representative confirmed that it backs any measures that promote rural development, tourism and economy. It is against introducing a new European regional quality brand as this could confuse the consumer and have a negative impact on existing quality systems that currently work well.

Timetable foreseen	
Deadline for amendments	8 October 2013
Vote in TRAN Committee	5 November 2013
Vote in plenary	(tbc)



CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS

Maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management

Rapporteur: Gesine Meissner (ALDE; DE)
 Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Ms Meissner supported most of the amendments that would leave Member States more flexibility to address their particular interests at a national, regional or local level. She also sought to avoid intervening in already well-performing practices of integrated coastal management.

The Rapporteur welcomed amendments seeking to improve cross-border cooperation and to promote multiple use of the same maritime space by different sectors. However she opposed those seeking to modify the legal base. She also added that she would like to conclude as soon as possible.



Some concerns were raised about ports, tourism, safety at sea, cooperation in the framework of international law and Member States' role. There was general agreement that the proposal does not touch on land and country planning.

Timetable foreseen	
Vote in TRAN Committee	5 November 2013
Vote in plenary	December 2013

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

on Port Services Regulation

Rapporteur: Knut Fleckenstein (S&D; DE)
 Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

In its presentation, the Commission insisted that this is not the "third ports package". The proposal seeks to contribute to a more efficient, interconnected and sustainable Trans European Network for Transport by creating a framework which improves the performance of ports and helps them to cope with changes in transport and logistics requirements. It seeks to modernise port services and operations and to attract investment for ports. The Regulation will apply to all the seaports identified in the TEN-T guidelines, although Member States may also decide to apply it to other ports.

Mr Fleckenstein presented his concerns about transparency, the public/private balance with regards to safety and the need to avoid extra bureaucracy. These issues were subsequently echoed by many of the Shadow Rapporteurs, as was the importance of flexibility when it comes to differences between Member States. The Commission's wish for harmonisation should not become standardisation. Many Members agreed that port charges should be non-discriminatory; however this should not go against a port's commercial strategy.

Some Members welcomed the Commission's proposal, whereas several others called for it to



be rejected in its entirety. The need for this Regulation was questioned as was the respect of the Treaties' subsidiarity clause.



The Rapporteur for the opinion from the European Economic and Social Committee, Mr Simons, believed this is a good Commission proposal and that it would provide a level playing field. The Rapporteur for the opinion from the Committee of the Regions, Mr Cosimi, was less welcoming of the proposal, suggesting that a Directive would be more appropriate than a Regulation in this case.

All in all, according to the Rapporteur, the proposal was a sound basis to build on, making sure that this Regulation does not impose a one size fits all approach.

Timetable foreseen	
Mini-Hearing	5 November 2013
Presentation of draft report	25 November 2013
Deadline for amendments	3 December 2013
Vote in TRAN Committee	11 February 2014
Vote in plenary	March 2014 (tbc)

on eCall

Rapporteur: Philippe De Backer (ALDE; BE)
Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Following Parliament's own initiative report on the subject, the Commission presented two proposals concerning an EU-wide 112 emergency number based assistance call system (eCall).

The Regulation concerns type-approval requirements for the deployment of the eCall system (on which the Committee gives an opinion). There is also a decision on the deployment of the interoperable EU-wide eCall (for which TRAN takes the lead).

The Rapporteur thought that the scope of the application should be extended to older vehicles over time (retrofitting). Themes for further discussion include the triggering of the system, data protection, the price and the coexistence with third party systems.



Members raised the following points: the system should be accessible to all drivers; a minimum data set should be sent with the eCall system; the



need for interoperable standards; and that the system should be free and accessible in all of Europe.

The Commission representative agreed with these comments, underlining that they had acted on the strong mandate given by the own initiative report. While there could be points for improvement, he advised against setting retrofitting as a requirement.

Timetable foreseen	
Presentation of draft report	5 November 2013
Deadline for amendments	13 November 2013
Vote in TRAN Committee	17 December 2014
Vote in plenary	February 2014 (tbc)

TRAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2013, BRUSSELS

Monday, 4 November, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 5 November, 9h00-12h30

Tuesday, 5 November, 15h00-18h30

Thursday, 14 November, 9h00-12h30

Thursday, 14 November, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 25 November, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 26 November, 9h00-12h30

Tuesday, 26 November, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 16 December, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 17 December, 9h00-12h30

Tuesday, 17 December, 15h00-18h30

NEXT TRAN COMMITTEE MEETING, BRUSSELS

Provisional agenda:

Monday, 14 October 2013, afternoon

- 4th Railway Package - consideration of amendments (6 reports: governance and interoperability) - El Khadraoui/ Grosch/ Bilbao/ Cramer/ Zile/ Kohlicek



USEFUL LINKS

TRAN website:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=TRAN>

Policy Department Studies in the European Parliament:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/searchPerform.do>

European Aviation Safety Agency newsletters:

<http://easa.europa.eu/communications/general-publications.php>

European Railway Agency newsletters:

<http://www.era.europa.eu/Communication/Newsletter/Pages/home.aspx>

European Maritime Safety Agency newsletters:

<http://emsa.europa.eu/emsa-documents/emsa-publications.html>

SESAR Joint Undertaking news

<http://www.sesarju.eu/news-press/news>

Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency newsletters:

http://tentea.ec.europa.eu/en/news_events/newsletter/

DG MOVE newsletter:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/newsletter/index_en.htm

Lithuanian Presidency:

<http://www.eu2013.lt/en>

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