

Newsletter of TRAN Committee meeting of 24 July 2019

Editorial by Karima Delli

Dear colleagues and friends,

The TRAN Committee is back in business after the elections and I would like to warmly welcome all Members and readers in this new legislature. The TRAN Committee deals with a wide range of issues which are close to everyday lives of EU citizens.

The Committee elected its new bureau and engaged in an Exchange of views with Ministers Marin and Kulmuni on the priorities for transport and tourism during the Finnish Presidency. We continued with a lively debate on the on-going legislative files and future challenges for transport and tourism with Commissioner Bulc.

The Committee also started deliberations on budget 2020 which will be the last annual budget within the current Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020.

I wish you and your families pleasant and relaxing summer holidays!



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Finnish presidency priorities by Minister Sanna Marin, Minister of Transport and Communication, and Katri Kulmuni, Minister of Economic Affairs (in charge of tourism)

Exchange of views

Ms Marin's, Minister of Transport and Communications, primary focus was to deliver results addressing the main challenges facing the EU.

Ms Marin highlighted the following challenges for the transport sector: improving the infrastructure, reducing emissions, and making best use of new technologies and digitalisation.

For the Finnish Presidency, the four key strategic areas are: digital transport services, the automation of transport, carbon-free transport and the data economy.

The Minister outlined the following strategic priorities in the transport sector:

- Road transport: rail passenger rights and the Eurovignette, with the aim of adopting a common approach, as well as standing ready to start negotiations on the social and market mainstays of the first Mobility Package.

- Intermodal questions and networks: continuation of work on the proposal for a smart Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), with the goal of reaching an agreement on a general approach, as well as aiming at concluding negotiations on the proposal for electronic freight transport information.
- Aviation: facilitating the conclusion and signature of agreements with third countries and putting the issue of air passenger rights back on the agenda.
- Shipping: coordinating the EU's positions for the meetings of the International Maritime Organisation and strengthening the EU's global role in sustainability, digitalisation and automation.

TRAN members asked a wide range of questions covering the whole range of transport modes. Environmental issues in the transport sector were an overarching theme.

In this context, the importance of promoting the key role played by rail and inland waterways was mentioned. Divisions on the Mobility package remain a cause for concern, and Members called for achieving a better balance between ensuring social rights and safeguarding EU market freedoms.



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The implementation of transport networks and the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), in particular Connected Europe Facility, was the focus for many.

Members agreed that work must be restarted on passenger rights in the rail and aviation sectors, as well as on other pending areas in aviation. Whilst appreciating the Presidency's ambitions regarding digitalisation and automation, Members called for not neglecting the more person-related aspects.

Ms Kulmuni, Minister of Economic Affairs, indicated that boosting digitalisation remains a key priority for

the Finnish Presidency in the tourism sector, especially as this would significantly contribute to the EU's sustainable growth. This would not only be in keeping with, but also further advance the Council Conclusions on tourism adopted last May.

The following steps were mentioned towards achieving this goal: first, enabling more effective data management in the tourism sector; second, increasing the presence of the tourism sector in digital networks; third, boosting the levels of digital competency and skills in businesses within the tourism sector, especially SMEs.

A broader discussion is being planned as to how to make sure that appropriate steps are taken to further develop the European Union's tourism sector – at both Member State and EU levels. The European Tourism Forum taking place on 9-10 October in Helsinki aims to feed into this broader discussion.

The Members asked further questions on improving accessibility, where digitisation must play an essential role; on environmental issues caused by cruise ships, on possible regulations in the area of holiday rentals, as well as on the need to create a separate budget line for sustainable tourism within the next MFF.

Study on Modal Shift

Presentation by the Policy Department

This study discusses the progress and potential of modal shift from road to more sustainable transport modes. Despite an increase in freight volumes, the modal shares of road, rail and inland waterway transport have remained substantially unchanged between 1996 and 2016.

Also in passenger transport, road transport has remained predominant. The study makes a number of recommendations for a more effective modal shift at EU level, including targets differentiated by transport segment, investments in multimodal terminals and measures to level the playing field among different transport modes.

Members in the debate underlined the importance of modal shift for lowering greenhouse gas and other emissions from the transport sector.

They recalled the need to further integrate the trans-European transport infrastructure and to use the potential of new digital technologies in order to boost multimodal transport over long distances and in distribution. Speakers pointed out the potential of inland waterways in multimodal transport from and to sea ports.

Some speakers stressed that the development of a more sustainable transport system should have a focus on strengthening existing rail lines and also promote cycling and walking. The full study is available here: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/629182/IPOL_STU\(2018\)629182_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/629182/IPOL_STU(2018)629182_EN.pdf)

Feedback on Transport Council

Presentation by Commissioner Bulc

Commissioner Bulc underlined that the transport sector continues to face many pressing challenges such as a growing environmental impact, inadequate social conditions, persistent market access restrictions, safety and security threats, digitalisation and automation. All these challenges are inter-related and can only be addressed in an integrated manner – through what she called “Transport Union”.

They imply that we mobilise stakeholders - citizens and businesses - around common objectives, such as Vision Zero: zero pollution, zero fatalities, zero paper by 2050.



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Commissioner Bulc also introduced the outcome of the last Council's meeting of the transport ministers and invited Members to continue working on 16 proposals which have not yet been finalised, in particular on CEF 2.0 and Mobility package I.

Furthermore, Ms Bulc regretted that EU has lost around 2.8 billion of EUR in the aviation sector due to the issue of Gibraltar.

Members engaged in a debate about investments in large infrastructure projects such as Lyon-Turin or Brenner tunnels, smooth functioning of transport corridors, revision of TEN-Ts, application of a "polluter pays" principle and internalisation of external costs in transport. Members also raised questions about climate neutral transport by 2050.

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020 - all sections

Exchange of views

- Rapporteur: Daniel Freund (Greens/EFA)
- Ordinary legislative procedure
- Vote in TRAN on budgetary amendments: 3 September
- Vote on TRAN opinion: 2-3 October (tbc)

The Rapporteur stressed the numerous challenges, in the context of which the budget for transport should be viewed. Bearing in mind the overarching goal of climate-neutral transport by 2050, huge efforts are needed immediately to overhaul the current mobility and the current budget proposal was disconnected from that reality. He criticised the budget cuts made by the Council, seeing as the budget was already small in comparison with the objectives, such as the removal of cross-border bottlenecks. A more fundamental re-shaping of transport financing is necessary, in line with climate benchmarks such as those in InvestEU programme.

The shadow rapporteurs also opposed budget cuts for transport and stressed the importance of completion of large-scale projects and transport corridors. They also reiterated that a separate budget line for tourism was needed.

The Commission reminded that the financing of CEF programmes was back loaded, therefore it was important to ensure that adequate funding was made available for them.

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

Monday 2 September and Tuesday 3 September 2019

- General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020 - all sections
- Exchange of views with European Coordinators of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)
- Presentation of the study on 'The EU single transport area - achievements, current challenges and future prospects'
- Exchange of views with Patrick Ky, Executive Director of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) on Aviation Safety

Meeting room: tbd

TRAN Committee meetings 2019 - To be confirmed

Monday, 23 September, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 24 September, 09h00-12h30

Tuesday, 24 September, 15h00-18h30

Wednesday, 2 October, 09h00-12h30

Wednesday, 2 October, 15h00-18h30

Thursday, 3 October, 09h00-12h30

Wednesday, 6 November, 09h00-12h30

Wednesday, 6 November, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 2 December, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 3 December, 09h00-12h30

Tuesday, 3 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: <https://www.sesarju.eu/news>

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

DG MOVE: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/home_en

Finnish Presidency of the Council: <https://eu2019.fi/en/frontpage>



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