



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



This month the ITRE committee will hold two public hearings: one on nuclear energy and possible ways of developing the community framework on nuclear safety; and another on the future of European research policy and the challenges of transition from the 7th Framework Programme to Horizon 2020.

Indeed besides the public hearing, Horizon 2020 is continuing to keep our committee busy. Last month we adopted ten files directly linked to the implementation of the Horizon programme, and this month we consider a report on another important part of that same Innovation Investment Package: the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking. The joint undertaking will be a public-private partnership in the rail sector providing a platform for the rail sector to work together to drive innovation in the years ahead. Director General Smits will also be here to update the committee on the state of play of working programmes under Horizon 2020.

Apart from these discussions, there will be several votes. We will vote on the agreement reached by Parliament and the Council on a draft decision on space surveillance and tracking; and on the extension of the EC-USA Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation.

[Amalia Sartori](#)

MEETING OF 12-13 FEBRUARY 2014

Shift2Rail

(Rapporteur: J. [Andrés Barea](#))

Consideration of a [draft report](#)



The Rapporteur welcomes the Commission proposal establishing the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking as an important part of the Innovation Investment Package under Horizon 2020.

In her draft report she has entirely taken on board the horizontal amendments, voted in the other 10 files on 23 January in ITRE, notably the amendments on discharge, budget, midterm evaluation, duration and dissemination.

Furthermore she has introduced some amendments in line with the spirit of the H2020 framework programme asking for open and transparent internal governance and functioning of the Joint Undertaking but also strengthening these principles as regards the involvement of partners in Shift2Rail through competitive calls for proposals.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Deadline amendments: 20 February 2014

Vote in ITRE: 18 March 2014

Vote in plenary: April 2014

Consumption of light plastic carrier bags

(Draftsperson: [F. Bertot](#))

Consideration of a [draft opinion](#)



ITRE will be considering the Draft Opinion on the Amendment to Directive 94/62/EC concerning lightweight plastic bags for which ENVI is the lead Committee.

The Draftsperson is proposing a distinction between very lightweight plastic bags (those smaller than 10 microns) and other lightweight plastic bags (11 to 49 microns).

This distinction is based on the fact that very lightweight plastic bags are those used by customers to pack fruit and similar products at the point of purchase and for which there is not yet a suitable biodegradable alternative.

The Draftsperson, therefore, fears that a fast withdrawal from the market of these very lightweight plastic bags might lead to over-packaging at source as the industry seeks to satisfy customer expectations. He is therefore proposing a longer transition period for the bags.

He is also recommending that lightweight plastic bags that conform to standard EN



13432 of Directive 2008/98/EC on Waste should be excluded from the scope of the Directive as they reused as containers for organic waste.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Deadline amendments: 17 February 2014

Vote in ITRE: 24 February 2014

Extension EC-USA Agreement

(Rapporteur: [A. Sartori](#))

*Adoption of a [draft report](#)
(Simplified procedure)*



On 13 February the ITRE Committee will vote on the extension of the EC-USA Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Vote in plenary: March 2014



Space Surveillance tracking support programme

(Rapporteur: [A. Andersdotter](#))

Adoption of consolidated text

Parliament and the Council reached an agreement on the space surveillance and tracking (SST) file at the trilogue of 31 January 2014.

The decision will provide the framework for the establishment of an EU SST capability. It constitutes the first step in ensuring the protection of EU and national space infrastructures as well as private satellites

Hearing on 'The European Research Area – from Framework Programme 7 to H2020

On 12 February from 10:00 to 12:00 the ITRE Committee will hold a public hearing on the European Research Area - from Framework Programme 7 to Horizon 2020.

The public hearing will stress the future challenges of the European research policy discussing the expectations from the European Research Area in the transition from Research Framework Programme 7 to Horizon 2020?

Hearing on 'Proposal for a Council Directive amending the current nuclear safety Directive (NSD)'

On 12 February from 15:00 to 17:00 the ITRE Committee will hold a public hearing on European Commission proposal for a Council Directive amending the current nuclear safety Directive (NSD).

The public hearing will focus on lessons learnt from the Japan's nuclear disaster and possible ways to develop the nuclear safety community framework in order to improve the trust of the EU citizens in the safety of EU nuclear plants.

The state of play of Horizon 2020

Director General Robert Jan Smits will present the work programmes in line with the Commission statement N° 12, attached to the H2020 framework programme, which states: Upon request, the Commission will present the adopted work programmes to the responsible Committee in the European Parliament. Now, that the Work programmes have been published and calls have been launched, Mr Smits will inform the ITRE committee about the actual state of play.

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

ACER publishes its Opinion on the 'Proposal for Operation of the ENTSO-E Central Information Transparency Platform'. [More](#)

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)



BEREC Stakeholder Workshop on Relevant Markets [More](#)

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)

Energy: cyber security is crucial for protection against threats for smart grids which are key for energy availability claims EU cyber security Agency in new report. [More](#)

COMING SOON

Upcoming Report votes:

- Telecom package - *24/02*
- Nuclear Safety - *18/03*
- Shift2Rail - *18/03*
- Electr. identification & trust services (eIDAS) (consolidated text - CT) - *18/03*
- Innovative Medicines Initiative (CT) - *18/03*
- Bio-Based Industries (CT) - *18/03*
- Clean Sky (CT) - *18/03*
- ECSEL (CT) - *18/03*
- Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (CT) - *18/03*
- SESAR (CT) - *18/03*
- Active and Assisted Living (CT) - *18/03*
- Clinical Trials (CT) - *18/03*
- Supporting research performing small and medium-sized enterprises (CT) - *18/03*
- European Metrology Programme (CT) - *18/03*

Upcoming opinion votes:

- Consumption of light plastic carrier bags - *24/02*

Amendments deadline:

- Consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags - *17/02*
- The nuclear safety of nuclear installations - *18/02*
- Shift2Rail - *20/02*



Watch online

The Committee meetings are web-streamed and can be watched live on the [EP website](#) or on [Europarl TV](#). Past meetings can be watched or extracts downloaded via the [EP Live Multimedia Library](#). Speeches and presentations held during ITRE meetings are available on the [ITRE website](#).

ITRE Newsletter

If you wish to receive the ITRE Newsletter, please send an e-mail with your contact details and "Newsletter" in the subject field to: itre-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu

Further information

For further information please contact: itre-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu or visit [ITRE website](#).

Next ITRE meetings:

24 February 2014, Strasbourg
17 and 18 March 2014, Brussels

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

Information contained herein is accurate at the time of publication but may be subject to change at any time. Photos: Credit © European Parliament