

ACCES RESERVE



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IPOL-COM-ITRE D (2014) 45787

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**COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY**

CONFIDENTIAL

Jerzy Buzek  
Chair  
Conference of Committee Chairs

Dear Chair,

In accordance with Rule 118 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) held a public hearing<sup>1</sup> on Tuesday, 7 October 2014 with Mr Jyrki Katainen, Vice-President-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness.

After the hearing and in accordance with Annex XVI to the Rules of Procedure, the Coordinators of the ECON, EMPL and ITRE Committees met on 7 and 8 October 2014 to evaluate the Commissioner-designate but were unable to reach a consensus on the evaluation. Therefore and at the request of all the political groups, we convened a full joint committee meeting, which took place on 8 October 2014.

At that meeting, no consensus was reached on the evaluation and therefore the ECON, EMPL and ITRE Committees proceeded to vote by secret ballot. The Committees decided, by 123 votes in favour, 40 against and 5 abstentions that Mr Katainen was qualified to be a member of the College of Commissioners, and by 98 votes in favour, 52 against and 18 abstentions, that he was qualified to carry out the particular duties assigned to him.

<sup>1</sup> The following committees were associated: the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) and the Committee on Regional Development (REGI).

We would be grateful if you could bring this assessment to the attention of the Conference of Presidents.

Yours sincerely,

Roberto Gualtieri



Marita Ulvskog



Jerzy Buzek

Annex: The opinions of the TRAN and REGI Committees

## ANNEX 1

Brussels, 7 October 2014

### **OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM ON THE EVALUATION OF MR JYRKI KATAINEN, VICE-PRESIDENT DESIGNATE FOR JOBS, GROWTH, INVESTMENT & COMPETITIVENESS**

The TRAN Committee welcomed the engagement of Mr Katainen to do his utmost within the remit of his mandate to support economic recovery, strengthen job creation, enhance EU's competitiveness and stimulate investment in the real economy. With regard to investment in the transport sector, the Committee agreed with the objectives expressed by the nominee and made a positive assessment of his vision for the future development of Europe's transport infrastructure. Some of his answers during the hearing would have benefited from more specific explanations with regard to the funding sources and the innovative financial instruments he intends to put forward in order to further promote the implementation of the Trans-European Transport Network, giving priority to projects with the highest value for Europe. In that regard, Mr Katainen admitted serious mistakes in the past when planning and investing in infrastructure projects, for instance big roads with low traffic and airports with very few passengers, and promised to avoid similar mistakes in the future. He also emphasised that the participation of SMEs in infrastructure projects should be improved by more transparent public procurement systems. Although Mr Katainen clearly stated that social dumping has no place in the EU, he might have been more specific in his statements and concrete in his policy commitments regarding the social dimension of transport. In conclusion, the TRAN Committee expects Mr Katainen to steer and coordinate concrete initiatives across the Commission, and cooperate with Member States, to build a modern safe integrated transport system that can also meet the challenges the EU faces in terms of sustainable growth and job creation.

## ANNEX 2

Brussels, 8 October 2014

### **OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE EVALUATION OF MR JYRKI KATAINEN, VICE-PRESIDENT DESIGNATE FOR JOBS, GROWTH, INVESTMENT & COMPETITIVENESS**

The Committee on Regional Development was impressed by the Vice-President-designate's opening remarks, in which he set out his approach to achieving a fully sustainable, social market economy. It welcomes his support for Cohesion Policy, as embodied in the legislative framework adopted for the period 2014-2020, as a major contribution to overcoming the current economic crisis. It notes his determination to drive forward the recently-announced EUR 300 billion investment plan for recovery and to maximise complementarities between Cohesion Policy and EIB-backed instruments. The REGI Committee would have welcomed more complete answers to its questions about macro-economic conditionality, about increasing synergies between the different Union investment tools, about smart specialisation, and about the precise relationship between the EUR 300 billion investment plan and Cohesion Policy expenditure.