April 2019

In the 2014-2019 parliamentary term, there has been no shortage of legislative proposals to modernise EU transport. To name a few, in May and November 2017 and then in May 2018, the European Commission put forward three sets of ‘Europe on the move’ initiatives to support a clean, competitive, socially fair and digitalised transport sector. On the occasion of the first Young Forum of European Transport Sciences (YFE), organised in the European Parliament by Vice-President Boguslaw Liberadzki, EPRS, the Parliament’s in-house think-tank, proposes a selection of recent publications on transport policies.

Access to the occupation of road transport operator and to the international road haulage market

‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefing by Damiano Scordamaglia, April 2019
On 31 May 2017, the Commission adopted a new proposal to address the main shortcomings of the regulations on admission to the occupation of road transport operator and on access to the international road transport market, such as diverging national application and uneven enforcement of the rules. To improve road haulage’s competitiveness and efficiency, and harmonise conditions between operators, the proposal would clarify the establishment and good repute requirements, and modify the conditions for carrying out cabotage operations.

Road infrastructure safety management

‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefing by Ariane Debyser, April 2019
On 17 May 2018, the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive amending Directive 2008/96/EC on road infrastructure safety management to promote safe mobility. The general objective of the proposal, which seeks to address the shortcomings of the existing legislation, is to reduce both road fatalities and serious injuries, through improving the safety performance of road infrastructure.

Connecting Europe Facility 2021-2027: Financing key EU infrastructure networks

‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefing by Marketa Pape, April 2019
In 2014, the EU set up the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), a dedicated financing instrument to channel EU funding into the development of trans-European infrastructure networks in the area of transport, energy and telecommunications. In June 2018, the Commission proposed to renew the programme under the next financing period. While the structure of the future programme has now been agreed, the final amount allocated to it will depend on the outcome of broader negotiations on the next long-term EU budget.

Artificial intelligence in transport: Current and future developments, opportunities and challenges

Briefing by Maria Niestadt, March 2019
Artificial intelligence is changing the transport sector. From helping cars, trains, ships and aeroplanes to function autonomously, to making traffic flows smoother, it is already being applied in numerous transport fields. Beyond making our lives easier, it can help to make all transport modes safer, cleaner, smarter and more efficient. Artificial intelligence-led autonomous transport could for instance help to reduce the human errors that are involved in many traffic accidents. However, with these opportunities come real challenges, including unintended consequences and misuse such as cyber-attacks and biased decisions about transport.

Electric road vehicles in the European Union: Trends, impacts and policies

Briefing by Maria Niestadt, April 2019
As seen from the graph below, the use of electric cars is currently gaining momentum worldwide. Over recent years, the EU has taken various actions to support electric mobility. For instance, EU-level measures have been
encouraging the use of renewable electricity and smart charging; helping to develop and standardise charging infrastructure; and supporting research on batteries.

**Safeguarding competition in air transport**

‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefing by Ariane Debyser, April 2019

The issue of fair competition between EU and third-country airlines and the importance of guaranteeing a level playing field has been recognised for some years by the various EU institutions as key for the future of European aviation. The 2015 Commission communication on the aviation strategy underlined the importance and legitimacy of EU action to deal with possible unfair commercial practices in international aviation, and announced the revision of existing rules in this field.

**Further reading**

*Artificial intelligence ante portas: Legal and ethical reflections*

Briefing by Mihalis Kritikos, March 2019

*A common EU approach to liability rules and insurance for connected and autonomous vehicles*

Study by Tatjana Evas, February 2018

**Road transport: Enforcement and special provisions for posted workers**

‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefing by Damiano Scordamaglia, April 2019

**Road transport: Driving, breaks, rest times and tachographs**

‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefing by Damiano Scordamaglia, April 2019

**General safety of vehicles and protection of vulnerable road users**

‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefing by Nikolina Sajn, September 2018

**Digitalisation in rail transport – A lever to improve rail competitiveness**

Briefing by Damiano Scordamaglia, February 2019

**More in the EPRS Graphics Warehouse**

Number of electric cars in circulation, 2013-2017 (in millions)

![Number of electric cars in circulation, 2013-2017](image)

Source: Global EV Outlook, 2018.

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