

**ITRE**

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Newsletter - issue 6

20-21 April 2016

Use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the UnionRapporteur: [Patrizia Toia](#)

ITRE will hold its first exchange of views on the Commission's proposal for a Decision on the use of the UHF band. The main objective of the proposal is to free up additional spectrum for wireless broadband in light of the exponential growth in mobile traffic and in preparation for the arrival of 5G in the next few years. The 700 MHz band is currently used in most Member States for digital terrestrial television, so under the proposal these broadcasting services would have to be migrated to the sub-700 MHz band. The exchange of views will prepare the ground for the draft report by Ms Patrizia Toia (S&D), which she will present in June.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Consideration of draft report: 27 June 2016*
- *Deadlines of amendments: 30 June 2016, 12.00*
- *Consideration of amendments: 5 September 2016*
- *Vote in ITRE: 13 October 2016*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

Measures to safeguard the security of gas supplyRapporteur: [Jerzy Buzek](#)

Committee Members will have a first exchange of views on the proposal for a Regulation on measures to safeguard the security of gas supply. The proposal was adopted by the Commission on 16 February as part of an "energy security package", which sets out a range of measures to strengthen the EU's resilience to gas supply disruptions. The purpose of the proposed Regulation is to ensure that all Member States put in place appropriate tools to prepare for, and manage, the effects of a gas shortage due to a possible disruption in supply or exceptionally high demand. The rapporteur is expected to present his draft report in June.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Consideration of draft report: 13 June 2016*
- *Deadlines of amendments: 15 June 2016, 12.00*
- *Consideration of amendments: 11 July 2016*
- *Vote in ITRE: 13 October 2016*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

Establishing an information exchange mechanism with regard to intergovernmental agreements and non-binding instruments between Member States and third countries in the field of energy and repealing Decision No 994/2012/EURapporteur: [Zdzisław Krasnodębski](#)

During its next meeting, ITRE will be holding the first exchange of views on the new proposal of the Commission on Intergovernmental Agreements in the field of energy. This proposal for a Decision was presented by the Commission in February 2015 as part of the "energy security package". Its main purpose is to ensure the compliance of intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) with EU law and to give the Commission the possibility of making an ex-ante assessment of the agreements - thus redressing the current situation which makes it difficult to amend IGAs ex-post. The proposal is being adopted under the ordinary legislative procedure (OLP). The aim of this exchange of views is to hold a debate on this important topic before the rapporteur, Mr. Zdzisław Krasnodębski (ECR) drafts his report.

A Word From The Chair

Dear Colleagues,

We will hold an exchange of views with Commissioner Oettinger this week to discuss the Commission's progress on its many Digital Single Market-related actions. It is fitting that he should appear before our committee one day after publishing a package of measures to digitise European industry. This package is timely – we need a new industrial revolution driven by fast connectivity, big data and high-performance cloud computing. Our innovators need common technical standards, our citizens count on new jobs and e-government services, our SMEs expect the digital tools to be reliable and trustworthy. By strengthening digital innovation and technology we will boost every sector of the European economy – from energy to farming, from education to health, from transport to culture. A digitized Europe means a smart, competitive and prosperous Europe. I look forward to a fascinating discussion.

Jerzy Buzek

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Consideration of draft report: 27 June 2016*
- *Deadlines of amendments: 30 June 2016, 12.00*
- *Consideration of amendments: 5 September 2016*
- *Vote in ITRE: 13 October 2016*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

Liability, compensation and financial security for offshore oil and gas operations

Draftsperson: [Nicolas Bay](#)

The rapporteur, Mr Nicolas Bay (ENF) will present his draft opinion on liability, compensation and financial security measures for offshore oil and gas operations. JURI is the lead committee on this file, but the topic is also of interest to ITRE, as it was the responsible Committee for the Offshore Safety Directive. In his draft opinion Mr Bay underscores that EU Member States already have the world's best performing offshore regimes. Hence, according to the rapporteur, there is currently no need to consider further legislation, since overregulation might harm the competitiveness of the industries.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 22 April 2016, 12.00*
- *Vote in ITRE: 5 September 2016*
- *Vote in JURI (lead): tbc*

Towards a New Energy Market Design

Rapporteur: [Werner Langen](#)

The Committee will hold an exchange of views on the amendments to Mr Werner Langen's (EPP) draft report 'Towards a New Energy Market Design'. In total 590 amendments were proposed to the draft report, reflecting the great interest that committee Members have in this topic. Many Members share the rapporteur's view that further European co-operation is the best way to improve the functioning of electricity markets, while there are quite differing views on the instruments that are needed for this co-operation. For example, not all Members seem convinced that abolishing national electricity capacity markets would increase security of supply or that the role of ACER should be further strengthened. Similarly, Members' amendments vary greatly on the issue of feed-in tariffs for renewables or the role of nuclear power in Member States' energy mix. A Commission legislative proposal on electricity markets is expected at the end of 2016.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in ITRE: 24 May 2016*
- *Vote in Plenary: July 2016*

Implementation report on the Energy Efficiency Directive

Draftsperson: [Markus Pieper](#)

ITRE will discuss the amendments and possible compromise amendments to Mr Markus Pieper's (EPP) draft report 'Implementation Report on the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)'. Members tabled 328 amendments to Mr. Pieper's draft report. Many amendments support the overall approach of the rapporteur, but some Members call for stricter binding rules for the implementation of the directive. Energy poverty is one of the issues that many Members want to highlight as a topic to be further emphasized in the implementation of the directive. Some discrepancy exists between Members on whether the implementation has been relatively successful or more of a failure.

The energy efficiency directive was agreed at the end of 2012 and should have been transposed into national law in June 2014. However, several Member States have failed to do so. A proposal to revise the directive is expected in autumn 2016.

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

Second phase of REMIT data reporting has started as planned [More](#)

Subscribe to ACER news [here](#)

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)

Further development of the Internet of Things is a central task with implications not only for economy but also for society in general [More](#)

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)

Secure Cloud 2016 - Draft Agenda announced [More](#)

European Global Navigation Satellite System Gnss Agency (GNSS)

Space solutions for feeding a growing population: 1-day workshop [More](#)

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT A

Recent publications:

- Study on ["Reforming EU Telecoms Rules to create a Digital Union"](#)
- Study on ["Energy Union: Key Decisions for the Realisation of a Fully Integrated Energy Market"](#)
- Study on ["Industry 4.0"](#)
- Study on ["Space Market Uptake in Europe"](#)
- In-depth Analysis on ["Recent Trends in Energy Prices"](#)

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in ITRE: 24 May 2016*
- *Vote in Plenary: July 2016*

Renewable energy progress report

Draftsperson: [Paloma López Bermejo](#)

During the Committee meeting on 20 April, ITRE will consider the amendments to Ms López Bermejo's (GUE/NGL) draft report on the Commission's "Renewable energy progress report" (COM(2015)293). The rapporteur stresses in her report the need to improve national policies in order to meet Member States' 2020 renewable energy objectives. Ms. López Bermejo calls on the Commission to strengthen its role in monitoring and supporting the progress of renewable energies. 345 amendments were tabled to the draft report, covering most areas. They concern, for example, future targets, renewable support schemes, transparency and decentralised generation. The European Commission is expected to publish a new legislative proposal on the review of the renewable energy directive at the end of 2016.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in ITRE: 24 May 2016*
- *Vote in plenary: June 11 2016*

New Deal for Energy Consumers

Draftsperson: [Theresa Griffin](#)

The Committee will vote on Ms Theresa Griffin's (S&D) draft report on "Delivering a New Deal for Energy Consumers". Political groups have agreed on 40 compromise amendments which will cover a majority of the 448 amendment originally tabled. The compromise amendments concern all major aspects of the report, including energy suppliers' possible obligations towards consumers in terms of billing, information requirements and tariff offers, the creation of an inclusive energy system, demand response and measures to fight against energy poverty.

Structured Dialogue European Parliament - European Commission, Exchange of views with Günther Oettinger, Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society

ITRE will hold an exchange of views with Mr Günther Oettinger, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, on the implementation of the Commission's 2016 work programme and priorities for 2017 in the field of digital policy. Mr Oettinger's appearance before the Committee comes one day after the publication of the Commission's latest package relating to the "Digital Single Market". The package contains measures designed to digitise European industry. Other DSM-related initiatives, such as the Review of the Telecoms Framework, a Cybersecurity public-private partnership, and legislation ensuring the Free Flow of Data are expected later this year.

Exchange of view with ENISA: Cybersecurity as an economic opportunity for the EU

ITRE will hold an exchange of views with ENISA's Executive Director, Prof. Dr. Udo Helmreich on the economic opportunities in the EU for the Cybersecurity industry. The cybersecurity market is one of the fastest growing markets in the ICT sector, creating huge economic opportunities. Strengthening the EU's cybersecurity industry will allow European businesses to seize these opportunities and reinforce trust of citizens and businesses in the digital world, contributing to the goals of the Digital Single Market Strategy.

Presentation of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) report on "European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)", Exchange of views with Alex Brenninkmeijer, Member of the ECA

During the next ITRE meeting, Mr Alex Brenninkmeijer, Reporting Member of the European Court of Auditors, will be presenting to the Committee the ECA's special report on the EIT. The report is entitled "Special Report 4/2016: The European Institute of Innovation and Technology must modify its delivery mechanisms and elements of its design to achieve the expected impact" and is available on line here. The EIT is funded under Horizon 2020, and therefore of particular interest to ITRE. Earlier this year ITRE had the possibility of discussing the EIT with Commissioner Tibor Navracsics as part of the Structured Dialogue and the ECA presentation will be an interesting follow-up. The report is also important in view of the upcoming mid-term review of Horizon 2020.

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 the [ITRE secretariat](#).

Further information

For further information please contact the [ITRE secretariat](#) or visit [ITRE website](#).

Next ITRE meeting:

- 23-24 May 2016 in Brussels

Study on "Energy Union: Key Decisions for the Realisation of a Fully Integrated Energy Market", Presentation by Koen Rademaekers (Trinomics Consulting)

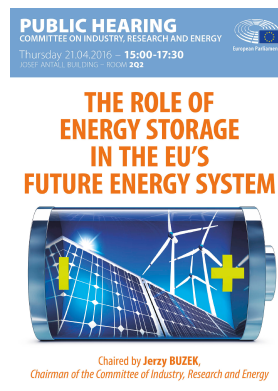
During the second April meeting, a study on the Energy Union, which was prepared at the request of the Committee, will be presented to Members. The study gives an overview and analysis of the main EU policies, measures and instruments that contribute to the realisation of fully integrated and well-functioning electricity and gas markets in Europe. Detailed case studies explore capacity remuneration mechanisms, electricity market coupling, and cross-border gas trade between Hungary and its neighbours. The study also formulates policy recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the integration process based on its key findings.

Public Hearing on 'The role of Energy Storage in the EU's future energy system'

Energy storage will play a key role in contributing to the objectives of the Energy Union – security of supply, energy efficiency, decarbonisation of the economy, research & innovation and competitiveness. Energy storage can supply more flexibility and balancing to the grid, providing a back-up to intermittent renewable energy.

The Committee has invited four experts to participate in the hearing, namely Mr Patrick Clerens, Secretary General of the European Association for the Storage of Energy (EASE); Mr Thomas Hamacher, Professor, Technical University of Munich; Mr Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Secretary General, Hydrogen Europe; Mr Odd-Even Bustnes, Director Business Development, Tesla Motors.

The hearing will provide information to ITRE Members that may help them to prepare future decisions on policy that could foster further cost reduction and further deployment of energy storage technologies.



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