

**ITRE**

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Newsletter - issue 9

4 July 2016

Use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the UnionConsideration of [draft report](#)Rapporteur: [Patrizia Toia](#)

ITRE will discuss Ms Patrizia Toia's (S&D) draft report on the draft UHF Decision. The main objective of the Commission 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 draft report proposes, among other things, some flexibility on the date by which Member States have to make the 700 MHz band available for wireless broadband, and introduces stricter coverage obligations.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadlines of amendments: 1 July 2016, 12.00*
- *Consideration of amendments: 5 September 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/EUConsideration of [draft report](#)Rapporteur: [Zdzisław Krasnodębski](#)

This file is part of the "Gas Package" presented by the Commission in February this year, as a step towards enhancing EU energy security. In its proposal, the Commission, is proposing that Member States inform it "ex-ante" of all energy-related IGAs, in view of the fact that the current "ex-post" practice does not allow for the rectification of those agreements that are in breach of EU law. This proposal has been met with significant resistance in Council, which adopted its position early in June, heavily watering down the Commission's proposal and leaving "ex-ante" notification only for binding agreements on gas.

During the meeting, the ITRE Rapporteur, Mr Zdzisław Krasnodębski (ECR) will be presenting his draft report to the Committee. In his draft report, Mr. Krasnodębski has taken a more 'European approach', and is proposing "ex-ante" notification on all types of energy agreements, including non-binding ones.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadlines of amendments: 1 July 2016, 12.00*
- *Consideration of amendments: 5 September 2016*
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- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

A Word From The Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Our next meeting will be a short but intensive one, as ITRE will discuss files that have impact on both the telecommunications and the energy internal markets.

The Committee will consider its draft report on the use of the UHF frequency band. The Commission is proposing freeing up additional spectrum for wireless broadband as Europe prepares for further growth in mobile traffic and the arrival of 5G.

ITRE will also consider the draft report on Intergovernmental Agreements in the field of energy. This file is part of the "Gas Package" presented by the Commission in February this year and an important component of the enhancement of EU energy security. Through it, the Commission seeks to redress a situation whereby energy-related IGAs which are not compliant with EU legislation are concluded before they can be rectified.

Cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)

Draftsperson: [Carlos Zorrinho](#)

In the meeting on 4 July, the rapporteur, Mr Carlos Zorrinho (S&D), will present his draft opinion on Cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market which comprises a total of 22 amendments to the Commission proposal. This proposal for a Regulation was presented by the Commission in December 2015 and its main purpose is to remove barriers to cross-border portability so that the needs of users can be met more effectively as well as promoting innovation for the benefit of consumers, service providers and right holders. The proposal introduces a common approach in the Union while maintaining a high level of protection for right holders. JURI is the lead committee on this file, but the topic is also of interest to ITRE, as it closely relates to both industry and the digital sector.

The rapporteur's opinion aims to make improvements and clarifications to the content covered, differentiation between payment for services and payment of licence fees, guarantees that providers will be bound by contractual conditions, definitions, technological neutrality and date of application. The addition of entertainment games as a target of the regulation aims to strengthen the basis for its implementation.

The Committee will also consider its opinion on the Cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market. This proposal seeks to remove barriers to cross-border portability in the EU while maintaining a high level of protection for right holders and will be a significant step forward for the digital single market.

Jerzy Buzek

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadlines of amendments: 28 June 2016, 12.00*
- *Vote in ITRE: 26 September 2016*
- *Vote in JURI (lead): 13 October 2016*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

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- Briefing on ["Digital Revolution"](#)
- Briefing on ["TTIP"](#)

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](#).

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Further information

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Next ITRE meeting:

- 11-12 July 2016 in Brussels

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