

**ITRE**

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Newsletter - issue 11

5 September 2016

Rules for wholesale roaming markets

Exchange of views

Rapporteur: [Miapetra Kumpula-Natri](#)

ITRE will hold an exchange of views on the Commission's proposal for a Regulation on the rules for wholesale roaming markets, which was published on 15 June 2016. The European Parliament and the Council decided, in the TSM Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2015/2120), that retail roaming surcharges would be abolished as of 15 June 2017. At the same time, however, they recognised that this abolition would not be sustainable without changes to the rules for wholesale roaming markets. Therefore, so the purpose of the new proposal is to make changes to those rules, so that retail roaming surcharges can be abolished as planned. Ms Kumpula-Natri's draft report will be discussed in ITRE on 12 October.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Consideration of draft report: 12 October 2016*
- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 13 October 2016, 18.00*
- *Vote in ITRE: 29 November 2016*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

Civil Law Rules on RoboticsConsideration of [draft opinion](#)Draftsperson: [Kaja Kallas](#)

The Committee will be considering the draft opinion of Ms. Kaja Kallas (ALDE) on the forthcoming report on 'Civil Law Rules on Robotics', for which JURI is the lead Committee.

In her draft opinion, the ITRE draftsperson, advocates a policy approach that would provide legal certainty without stifling innovation. The draftsperson notes that the Commission should assess the need to modernise EU legislation or develop European guidelines to ensure a common European approach in robotics, essential for companies to scale up. Furthermore, she calls on the Commission to promote an open environment, including open standards, innovative licensing models, open platforms and transparency, in order to avoid lock-ins to proprietary systems that restrain interoperability.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline of amendments: 8 September 2016, 12.00*
- *Vote in ITRE: 10 November 2016*
- *Vote in main committee (JURI): 29 November 2016*
- *Vote in plenary: January 2017*

A Word From The Chair

Dear colleagues,

This will be our first meeting after the summer recess and the first of two Committee meetings this month. The Committee will be considering several important files, mostly concerning telecommunication and energy issues.

ITRE will hold an exchange of views on the Commission's proposal for a Regulation on the rules for wholesale roaming markets, which was published in June this year. This piece of legislation is crucial for the abolishment of the retail roaming surcharges planned as of 15 June 2017.

ITRE will also discuss amendments tabled to the proposed decision on the UHF 700 MHz. The main objective of this 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 expected arrival of 5G.

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/EU

Consideration of [amendments](#)

Rapporteur: [Zdzisław Krasnodębski](#)

In his draft report presented in June, Mr. Zdzisław Krasnodębski (ECR) proposed 28 amendments to the Commission's proposal. After the consideration of the draft report, a further 203 amendments were tabled. Most of the amendments strengthen the more 'European approach' taken by the Rapporteur, while others seek to give Member States more freedom in negotiating their IGAs.

This file is part of the "Energy security Package" presented by the Commission in February this year, as a necessary step to enhance 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.

ITRE is expected to vote on its report in October.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in ITRE: 13 October 2016*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

Use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the Union

Consideration of [amendments](#)

Rapporteur: [Patrizia Toia](#)

ITRE will discuss amendments tabled by MEPs to the proposed UHF 700 MHz 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, and therefore, under this proposal, these broadcasting services would have to be migrated to the sub-700 MHz band. Ms Toia's draft report proposes, among other things, some flexibility on the date by which Members States have to make the 700 MHz band available for wireless broadband, and introduces stricter coverage obligations. Members tabled 205 amendments in total, covering all parts of the proposed Decision.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in ITRE: 13 October 2016*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

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

Adoption of [draft opinion](#)

Draftsperson: [Nicolas Bay](#)

ITRE will be voting on its opinion to the Legal Affairs Committee on 'Liability in the Offshore Industry'. The subject is important for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy because liability questions and authorisations and safety are tightly linked. ITRE was previously responsible for the 'Offshore Safety Directive' and the Commission will publish a report on its implementation. According to the draft opinion, the EU already has well-performing offshore safety regimes and there are already a number of instruments, insurances and other tools available.

In the area of energy, ITRE will discuss the amendments tabled to the draft report on Intergovernmental Agreements in the field of energy. This file is part of the "Energy Security Package" and a tool through which the Commission seeks to bring energy-related IGAs in line with EU legislation before they are actually concluded.

The Committee will also vote on its draft opinion to JURI's Legislative Initiative Procedure on 'Civil Law Rules on Robotics'. ITRE's contribution to this initiative is important for an all-rounded policy approach that would provide legal certainty without stifling innovation.

Finally, during the meeting, there will be a presentation on the TREC ("Towards EU Regional Economic Convergence"), Pilot Project, which had been proposed by ITRE under the 2015 Budget, and which was accepted by the European Commission. Mr Joan Guasch Corominas, from EURECAT, and Mr Daniel A. Gottschald, from InSITE BAVARIA will be presenting the outcome on behalf of their respective grantholders.

Jerzy Buzek

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

ACER invites stakeholders to discuss Market Monitoring findings on wholesale electricity and gas markets [More](#)

Subscribe to ACER news [here](#)

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)

Launch of the BEREC Net Neutrality Guidelines [More](#)

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in main committee (JURI): 26 September 2016*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

TREC ("Towards EU Regional Economic Convergence"), Pilot Project proposed by ITRE Committee under Budget 2015, Presentation of the outcome

Each year the Committees have the possibility to present pilot projects to be included for funding from the annual budget, and in this Committee meeting one such successful example proposed by ITRE and accepted by the Commission will be presented. This is significant for ITRE as it shows how a pilot project develops from being tabled and voted in ITRE to the creation of the actual project and the award of a grant to grantholders who then develop it.

"Towards EU Regional Economic Convergence-TREC" is one such successful project funded by the 2015 budget. It aims at bringing together and reinforcing cooperation between industrial clusters and technological centres of different EU regions in order to foster benchmarking, exchange of best practices, innovation and catch-up strategies as well as business opportunities for collaboration across borders and sectors, notably between SMEs from less and more economically advanced regions. It was received with great interest by EC-DG Growth and implemented last year, by launching a call for projects and signing contracts with two consortia last January 2016.

Mr Joan Guasch Corominas (Senior Public Programmes Area Manager at EURECAT) for the grantholder EURECAT and Mr Daniel A. Gottschald Managing Director of the grantholder InSITE BAVARIA will give brief presentations on their activities and outcomes of the pilot project.

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)

Young European white hat hackers meet for the 2nd Cyber Security Challenge competition [More](#)

European Global Navigation Satellite System GnsS Agency (GNSS)

GNSS and the Internet of Medical Things [More](#)

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT A

Recent publications:

- Briefing on "[Digital Union](#)"
- Briefing on "[Energy Policy](#)"
- At a glance on "[Energy Union: Key Decisions for the Realisation of a Fully Integrated Energy Market](#)"
- Workshop on "[Bringing EU-Turkey Trade and Investment Relations Up to Date?](#)"

Next ITRE meeting:

- 26 September 2016 in Brussels

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

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