Words by the Chair

Dear colleagues,

Our first ITRE meeting this month is a short, albeit an important one. Our agenda, in fact, will cover most parts of our remit, particularly telecommunications, the digital single market, energy and industrial policy.

A few days ago the Committee successfully concluded the informal trilogues with the Council, represented by the Maltese Presidency, on the Wholesale Roaming regulation. It is a milestone, in that it now clears the way to the abolition of roaming charges as of June 2017. During the meeting, ITRE will look into the outcome of these trilogues.

We will also consider two draft reports. The first one concerns the regulation on the implementation on European Standards. In this report ITRE is responsible for the ICT priorities and the innovation aspects of the Joint Standardisation Initiative. The second one is the draft report on the European Gigabit society and 5G. In this context, there will also be a follow-up on the public hearing of 26 January, with a presentation on the Review of the Framework for Electronic Communication the European Commission.

European standards - implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012

Exchange of views

Draftsperson: Hans-Olaf Henkel

The draftsperson for the ITRE opinion, Mr Hans-Olaf Henkel (ECR) will present his draft opinion on European standardisation. IMCO is the lead committee on this file, but ITRE is responsible for the ICT priorities and the innovation aspects of the Joint Standardisation Initiative. In his draft opinion, Mr Henkel highlights ICT standardisation as an industrial policy tool for the global competitiveness of the European industry and its role for the digitalisation of the different sectors. The report highlights the necessary characteristics for standardisation if it is to be an effective support for innovation, such as a FRAND system for IPR, timely delivery and the links with research.

> **PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**
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> - *Deadline for tabling amendments: 7 February 2017, 18.00*
> - *Vote in ITRE: 22-23 March 2017*
> - *Vote in IMCO (lead committee): tbc*

The Review of the Framework for Electronic Communication, Presentation by Director Anthony Whelan, European Commission

Exchange of views with Commission representative

Following-up on the public hearing on 26 January, ITRE will have a presentation of the Commission's proposals followed by an exchange of views with the Rapporteurs and Members. Mr Boni will present his draft report on the European Gigabit society and 5G.

Workshop on EU energy independence, security of supply and diversification of sources

On 6 February ITRE is organising a workshop on 'EU energy independence, security of supply and diversification of sources'. The workshop will address the challenges of security of energy supply in Europe in the medium and long term, with a focus on gas supply. Five experts have been invited, representing the International Energy Agency (IEA), academia, energy regulators, and the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG), who will address issues in relation to diversification of gas supplies, the role of LNG, state of play of major infrastructure projects and regulatory issues.

Feedback from ongoing negotiations (Wholesale Roaming/Kumpula-Natri)

A political agreement was reached at the third trilogue on 31 January 2017. Further information is available here.

Finally, ITRE will hold a workshop on EU energy independence, security of supply and diversification of sources, which is very relevant to our work on the two energy packages currently being considered.

Jerzy Buzek

Next ITRE meeting:
27-28 February 2017, Brussels

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Briefing on "Digital Union"

Briefing on "Energy Policy"

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