

Words by the Chair



Dear colleagues,

During our second meeting this month, ITRE will be debating a considerable number of reports, as various rapporteurs present their drafts for consideration in Committee. Moreover, ITRE will commence its work on 'Clean Energy for All Europeans' a package of energy legislation that will keep the Committee busy for some months.

The Committee's work on the Financial Regulation Omnibus will continue through the consideration of the draft opinion on this proposal. ITRE is exclusively responsible for the relevant parts of CEF, the Telecoms Guidelines Regulation and the Space Surveillance and Tracking support framework.

The European fund for Strategic Investments is once more on the Committee's agenda, as ITRE jointly considers the draft reports on the Implementation of the EFSI and the regulation for the instrument's extension of (EFSI II). For this point, we will have the pleasure of welcoming the EIB permanent representative in Brussels for an exchange of views.

Energy performance of buildings

Exchange of views

Rapporteur: [Bendt Bendtsen](#)

On 28 February, ITRE will hold a first exchange of views on the proposal for a directive amending Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings. The proposal is part of the legislative package 'Clean Energy for all Europeans', which the Commission presented on 30 November 2016. The main objective of the proposal is to accelerate the cost-effective renovation of existing buildings. The meeting will provide a first occasion for the Bendt Bendtsen (EPP), rapporteur for ITRE's report, and for the shadow rapporteurs to present their main ideas in this policy field.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Consideration of draft report: 29-30 May 2017*
- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 8 June 2017, 12.00*
- *Consideration of amendments: 10-11 July 2017*
- *Vote in ITRE: 11 October 2017*
- *Vote in plenary: November II*

Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)

Exchange of views

Rapporteur: [José Blanco López](#)

The transformation of global power markets is ongoing. According to the International Energy Agency, renewable energy surpassed coal as main source of power capacity in 2015. In 2030, half of the EU's electricity generation will come from renewables. By 2050 our electricity should be completely carbon-free. Renewables will play a major role in the transition to a clean energy system.

In October 2014, the European Council agreed the 2030 framework for climate and energy reaffirming the Union's long-term commitment to the ambitious EU strategy in renewable energies. The new framework sets out the European Union target of at least 27% for the share of renewable energy consumed in the EU in 2030. This binding target will be fulfilled through individual Member States' contributions guided by the need to deliver collectively for the EU. In addition, the new framework also enables the collective delivery to be done without preventing Member States from setting their own, including more ambitious, national targets. Member States can support renewable energy, subject to State aid rules.

The Renewable Energy Directive proposal, together with the proposals on the New Electricity Market Design and governance, will set a regulatory framework that leads to investor certainty and allows a level playing field for all technologies without jeopardising our climate and energy targets. The clean energy package also aims at guiding the design for national support by setting out framework principles to facilitate a cost-effective, market-oriented and Europeanized approach. These principles include cross border opening of support schemes, non-retroactivity and long term visibility for the support.

The Committee will also be considering the draft report on protection against dumped and subsidised imports from third countries. This is a very relevant topic to ITRE as the committee responsible for industrial policy, given the implications of the Commission proposals.

On the energy front, ITRE will hold exchange of views on two proposals for directives, namely on energy performance of buildings and on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. They form part of the clean energy package, and work on them is expected to progress in connection with the other proposals in the package. During this meeting, there will also be the presentation of two energy-related studies.

Last but not least, we will vote on ITRE's draft opinion concerning the EU eGovernment action plan 2016-2020 and on the outcome of the inter-institutional agreement on Rules for wholesale roaming markets.

Jerzy Buzek

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT A

Recent publications:

Study on "[Cyber Security Strategy for the Energy Sector](#)"

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Study on "[Boosting Building Renovation: What Potential and Value for Europe?](#)"

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?](#)"

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Consideration of draft report: 29-30 May 2017*
- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 9 June 2017, 12.00*
- *Vote in ITRE: 11-12 October 2017*
- *Vote in plenary: November II*

Promotion of Internet connectivity in local communities

Consideration of [draft report](#)

Rapporteur: [Carlos Zorrinho](#)

The draftsman for the ITRE opinion, Carlos Zorrinho (S&D), will present his draft report on the promotion of Internet connectivity in local communities. ITRE is the lead committee, and TRAN, BUDG and REGI are opinion-giving committees under Rule 53. The Rapporteur is supportive of the overall aim of the proposal, but highlights the need for geographical balance across Member States in accessing the resources should be guaranteed. He underlines that the service should be universal and free of charge, and it is also important to ensure that the administrative procedures are streamlined. To ensure sustainability of projects, Member States may use own funds or structural funds to develop complementary services and offers. The Rapporteur also underlines that the Commission should ensure a monitoring system for the initiative, including the dissemination of implementation reports.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 1 March 2017, 12.00*
- *Consideration of amendments: 22-23 March 2017*
- *Vote in ITRE: 25 April 2017*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

Protection against dumped and subsidised imports from countries not members of the EU

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)

Draftsman: [Paloma López Bermejo](#)

ITRE will be considering the draft report of Paloma Lopez-Bermejo (GUE) on the Commission's proposal to amend the anti-dumping and the anti-subsidy regulations. This proposal is in response to the need to react to the relevant provisions in the accession agreement of China to the WTO. In her report the Rapporteur insists on a balanced approach to trade that benefits both the EU and its trading partners while upholding the standards underpinning the Union's social and environmental model. She is particularly in favour of maintaining a clear distinction between 'market-economies' and 'non-market economies' within the WTO.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 15 March 2017, 13.00*
- *Vote in ITRE: 11 May 2017*
- *Vote in INTA (lead committee): June 2017*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

Financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)

Draftsman: [Jerzy Buzek](#)

The so-called Omnibus proposal on the financial rules aims to achieve simpler and more flexible rules which should help to optimise the spending and impact of the current MFF running until 2020. ITRE has exclusive competence on the parts that amend the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the Telecom guidelines Regulation and the Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) support framework. The draftsman, Jerzy Buzek (EPP), estimates that these proposed changes seem rather limited and of technical nature, and the proposed amendments aim at clarifying the purpose and expectations of this modification.

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Next ITRE meeting:
22-23 March 2017, Brussels

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 9 March 2017, 12.00*
- *Vote in ITRE: 25 April 2017*
- *Vote in CONT/BUDG (lead committee): 3-4 May 2017 (tbc)*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

Joint debate on EFSI:

- **The implementation of the European Fund for Strategic Investments**

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)

Draftsperson: [Marian-Jean Marinescu](#)

- **Extension of the duration of the European Fund for Strategic Investments as well as the introduction of technical enhancements for that Fund and the European Investment Advisory Hub**

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)

Draftsperson: [Eva Kaili](#)

In a joint debate on EFSI, ITRE will be considering the draft reports of Eva Kaili (S&D) on the extension of EFSI (EFSI II) and of Marian-Jean Marinescu (EPP) on the implementation of EFSI. The ITRE rapporteurs have agreed to align their respective timetables and the debates in order to produce more coherent and relevant reports, given the obvious links.

In his report, Mr Marinescu welcomes the investment mobilised by EFSI to date, but, amongst other things, asks for more detailed information about the actual multiplier effect of the programme. The Rapporteur would also like to see the budgetary deficit suffered by H2020 and CEF in relation to EFSI redressed and insists that EFSI should be financed from sources independent from EU programmes that have already been approved.

In her report, Ms Kaili focuses on what she believes is necessary for EFSI II to be successful. In particular she refers to more additionality, better geographical diversification, a stronger role for National Promotional Institutions, a more relaxed approach towards the Stability and Growth Pact, special emphasis on projects in remote areas or in less-developed regions, crossborder projects, and a special focus on digital technologies. The Rapporteur also reestablishes the CEF envelopes for the telecommunication and energy sectors to their previous amounts.

For this point ITRE will also be welcoming Mr Mikolaj Dowgielewicz, Director General and EIB Permanent Representative in Brussels. This will be an opportunity for ITRE to hold an exchange views with the main actors in the implementation and management of EFSI.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 2 March 2017, 12.00*
- *Vote in ITRE: 25 April 2017*
- *Vote in BUDG/ECON (main committee): 15 May 2017*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

EU eGovernment action plan 2016-2020

Adoption of [draft opinion](#)

Draftsperson: [Angelika Mlinar](#)

ITRE will vote on the EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020, which the Commission published in April 2016.

The Action Plan seeks to make public administration more efficient and effective through ICT, make digital public services seamless across borders, and make digital interaction between administrations and citizens/businesses easier. Parliament is preparing an own-initiative report on the Action Plan, with IMCO leading and ITRE/JURI as associated committees under Rule 54.

A total of 74 amendments were tabled to the draft opinion. Agreement has been reached on 9 compromise amendments, covering majority of the tabled amendments.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in IMCO (main committee): 25 April 2017*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

Rules for wholesale roaming markets

Adoption of text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations

Draftsperson: [Miapetra Kumpula-Natri](#)

On 31 January the Parliament and Council reached through trilogue negotiations a provisional agreement on the proposal for a regulation as regards rules for wholesale roaming markets. This provisional agreement was endorsed by COREPER on 8 February and next 28 February ITRE Committee will confirm its position by single roll-call vote. The proposal, still subject to revisions by the legal linguists of both Institutions, is expected to be voted in Plenary the week of April 3 with a view to enter into force by 15 June 2017.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in plenary: April I*

Study on "European Energy Industry Investments", presentation by Luc Van Nuffel and Jessica Yearwood

Mr Luc Van Nuffel and Ms Jessica Yearwood from Trinomics, an economic policy consultancy, will present a study for the ITRE committee on European Energy Industry Investments.

The study provides an overall assessment of European investments in the electricity sector. The authors have analysed the estimated investment needs in the electricity sector under different technology scenarios required to reach the EU energy and climate targets. Afterwards they identified the drivers and barriers for investments. An overview of EU schemes and policies to foster investments in energy infrastructure, in particular the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity's (ENTSO-E) Ten Year Network Development Plans (TYNDP) and the Projects of Common Interest, as well as findings from specific case studies covering Germany, the Iberian Peninsula and the Baltic States, are provided. Furthermore, market-based arrangements that can encourage investments are identified. The study concludes with an assessment of a number of possible policy options to foster the required investments in the electricity sector that have been identified or proposed (with their pros and cons) and a set of recommendations for policy makers.

The study provides an overall assessment of European investments in the electricity sector. It concludes by providing policy recommendations to facilitate the investments in the electricity sector which are needed to enable a transition to a low carbon energy supply, while realising a fully integrated and interconnected electricity system, enhancing competitiveness and ensuring security of electricity supply.

Study on "Energy Consumption and Energy Efficiency Trends in the EU-28 (2000-2014)", presentation by Paolo Bertoldi (Joint Research Centre)

This report aims at showing the present status of energy consumption in the EU-28, in the four main energy consuming sectors: residential, tertiary, transport and industry. During the last years, there have been efforts by the European Union to cut down on energy consumption and improve energy efficiency. From 2000 to 2014, there have been various initiatives that aim at reducing final energy consumption.

The EU final energy consumption registered the lowest value over the period from 2000 to 2014 in 2014. Per first time the EU final energy consumption is below the EU energy targets for 2020. Energy indicators such as energy intensity and energy consumption per capita have reduced, turning the EU into a more competitive actor. Four EU Member States (i.e. Germany, France, United Kingdom and Italy) consumed over 50% of the final energy consumption and fourteen EU Member States consumed more than 90% of the total final energy consumption in 2014.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

European Parliament

Directorate General for Internal Policies of the Union
Industry, Research and Energy Committee
Head of Unit / Editor: Klaus Baier
Administrator: Andre Corrado
Layout: Laurence Watrin / Perlie Yu

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