

## Words by the Chair



Dear colleagues,

The Energy Union package is one of the EU's main priorities, and so it is no surprise that energy issues will take centre-stage in the ITRE Committee over the coming months. The present meeting is no exception, and it will kick off with an exchange of views on the special report by the Court of Auditors on "EU support for nuclear decommissioning". That will be followed by the discussion of the draft report on the proposal for a revised directive on the energy performance of buildings. This could be a game-changer, bearing in mind that – according to the Commission – buildings are responsible for 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the EU.

Our next theme is aviation. This industry is a strategically important sector, which makes a significant contribution to the EU's economy and employment, supporting close to 5 million jobs and contributing about €300 billion to European GDP. First, the committee will debate the draft opinion on the so-called EU ETS aviation proposal. Second, we have the pleasure of welcoming Patrick Ky, Executive Director of the European Aviation Safety Agency, for what will no doubt be a vibrant debate.

## Energy performance of buildings

Consideration of [draft report](#)

Rapporteur: [Bendt Bendtsen](#)

At the meeting of 29-30 May the rapporteur, Mr Bendtsen (EPP), will present his draft report on the proposal for a revised directive on the energy performance of buildings.

The rapporteur's draft report contains 58 amendments to the Commission's proposal, which concern, inter alia, strengthening of the requirements as regards the content of the national long-term renovation strategies in order to deliver the needed renovations, in particular of the existing building stock. With regard to the proposal on electro-mobility requirements the rapporteur suggests focussing on either pre-cabling or pre-tubing to ensure a proportionate cost-level, and to limit this requirement to renovations related to the electric infrastructure or the parking lot. The rapporteur also proposes a common general framework methodology for the calculation of a 'smartness indicator'.

## PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 8 June 2017*
- *Consideration of amendments: 10-11 July 2017*
- *Vote in ITRE: 11 October 2017*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

## Continuing current limitations of scope for aviation activities and to prepare to implementing a global market-based measure from 2021

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)

Rapporteur: [Werner Langen](#)

The draftsman for the ITRE opinion, Werner Langen (EPP), will present his draft opinion on the so called EU ETS aviation proposal. Mr. Langen supports the main approach of the Commission, most importantly that the limited-scope application should remain in place, i.e. the EU ETS should continue, as of 2017, to cover only intra-EEA flights. However, the draftsman would also like to see some amendments to the Commission proposal so as to simplify and accelerate its implementation.

## PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 1 June 2017*
- *Vote in ITRE: 21 June 2017*
- *Vote in ENVI: 11 July 2017*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

## Participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States

Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations

Rapporteur: [Sofia Sakorafa](#)

On 30 May ITRE will vote on the text agreed during inter-institutional negotiations with the Maltese Presidency of the Council.

Votes-wise, several crucial files will be decided upon. Following successful negotiations with the Council, it is to be hoped that the committee will endorse the provisional agreements on PRIMA (Union participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) and on the Security of Gas Supply regulation. The committee will also vote on the draft report on the assessment of Horizon 2020 implementation. This report also prepares the ground for the Ninth Framework Programme, which will be one of the key legislative files in the last part of the parliamentary term, so the outcome of the vote will be of great importance.

Finally, the meeting will be wrapped up with an exchange of views with Vice-President Ansip, whose presence is particularly timely, since the committee is hard at work on the Commission's proposal for a new European Electronic Communications Code and the proposal on the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications. A fascinating discussion is guaranteed.

Jerzy Buzek

#### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in plenary: June 11 2017 (tbc)*

#### Measures to safeguard the security of gas supply

Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations

Rapporteur: [Jerzy Buzek](#)

The ITRE Committee will vote on the provisionally agreed text of the Regulation on the security of gas supply. The draft agreement establishes four groups of Member States to serve as a basis for cooperation. The Regulation also establishes a solidarity mechanism in cases of supply crises. Finally, gas undertakings will have to notify supply contracts to allow regulatory authorities and the Commission to assess the situation in terms security of supply.

#### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

#### Assessment of Horizon 2020 implementation in view of its interim evaluation and the Framework Programme 9 proposal

Adoption of [draft report](#)

Rapporteur: [Soledad Cabezón Ruiz](#)

On 30 May ITRE will vote on Ms Cabezón Ruiz's (S&D) report: Assessment of Horizon 2020 implementation in view of its interim evaluation and the Framework Programme 9 proposal. A total of 372 amendments have been tabled to the report and 38 compromise amendments have been agreed upon.

#### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in plenary: June 2017*

#### NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT A

##### Recent publications:

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Periodicals: [Audiovisual Media Services Directive: Fact Sheets compilation](#)

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

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The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

#### Inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry into the 2030 climate and energy framework and amending Regulation No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and other information relevant to climate change

Adoption of [draft opinion](#)

Rapporteur: [Marisa Matias](#)

ITRE will vote on the opinion to the LULUCF proposal, for which the lead committee is ENVI. 176 amendments have been tabled to the Commission proposal. Political groups have proposed a total of 12 compromise amendments, covering nearly all of the individual amendments.

#### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in ENVI: 22 June 2017*
- *Vote in plenary: September 2017*

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**Next ITRE meeting:**  
21-22 June 2017, Brussels

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

Adoption of [draft opinion](#)

Rapporteur: [Paloma López Bermejo](#)

ITRE will vote on its opinion to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1036 on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Union and Regulation (EU) 2016/1037 on protection against subsidised imports from countries not members of the European Union, for which the lead committee is INTA. 100 amendments have been tabled to the Commission proposal.

#### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in INTA: 20 June 2017*
- *Vote in plenary: tbc*

## Presentation of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) special report on "EU support for nuclear decommissioning", Exchange of views with Phil Wynn Owen, Member of the ECA

The ITRE Committee will welcome Mr Phil Wynn Owen, responsible for Sustainable use of natural resources.

Mr Phil Wynn Owen will debrief the Committee on the ECA special report on EU support for nuclear decommissioning, specifically concerning programmes in Lithuania, Bulgaria and Slovakia. The presentation will be followed by an exchange of views with Members.

## Exchange of views with Mr Patrick Ky, Director of the European Aviation Safety Agency

The ITRE Committee will hold an exchange of views with Patrick Ky, Director of the European Aviation Safety Agency. The aviation industry is a strategically important sector that makes a significant contribution to the EU's overall economy and employment, supporting close to 5 million jobs and contributing about €300 billion to European GDP. Members will have the opportunity to engage with Mr Ky, to explore how to strengthen the sector, which is also linked to space policy, since the aviation sector should fully benefit from European satellite-based technologies, such as EGNOS and Galileo.

## ITRE mission to BEREC and BEREC Office, Riga, Latvia (20-21 April), Debriefing

The ITRE Committee recently sent a three-person delegation to Riga to visit the BEREC Office, which is the EU Agency that supports the work of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC). The delegation looked at how the Agency, which is the smallest EU Agency, is functioning and held exchanges of views on the current Commission proposal on BEREC, which is the subject of a report going through the committee.

## ITRE mission to Germany and Poland (20-22 February), Debriefing

Ms Barbara Kudrycka (EPP) and Ms Cabezon Ruiz (S&D) co-head of the delegation will report on the ITRE mission to Germany and Poland from 20 to 22 February 2017. Five members participated in the mission, which involved meetings with companies, funding bodies, universities and research institutes active in Horizon 2020 as input for the finalisation of ITRE's implementation report on Horizon 2020.

## Exchange of views with Mr Andrus Ansip, Vice-President for the Digital Single Market, as part of the Structured Dialogue

The ITRE Committee will hold an exchange of views with Mr Andrus Ansip, Vice-President for the Digital Single Market, who will give an update on the implementation of his part of the Commission Work Programme 2017, and look ahead to the priorities for 2018 in the field of digital policy. Among recent developments certain to be discussed is the Commission's new European Electronic Communications Code, proposed in September 2016 and expected to be voted by the Parliament in July 2017. The new Code would streamline existing telecoms rules in order to improve competition in the electronic communications sector by making progress in the fields of services, access, spectrum and institutional governance. Proposed changes to make a fully-fledged Agency out of BEREC and the future changes to ENISA are also likely to be discussed. Members will have the opportunity to engage with Mr Ansip, to explore how to strengthen the electronic communications sector and to boost an enhanced European digital single market.

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#### ABOUT THE EDITOR

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