

Words by the Chair



Dear colleagues,

For our May meeting, we will have an agenda filled with varied topics, ranging across the whole spectrum of ITRE's remit.

ITRE will welcome Roberto Viola, Director-General of DG CNECT, who will present the recently adopted Commission Digital initiatives in the run-up and beyond 2020 - including artificial intelligence and dot eu top-level domain as well as online platforms and the review of the directive on the re-use of public sector information.

During this meeting ITRE will also move ahead with its legislative work. The Committee will consider the draft recommendation on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of Amendment 1 to the Memorandum of Cooperation NAT-I-9406 between the United States of America and the European Union, with the aim of giving its consent to the conclusion of the agreement. The Committee will also consider the Extension of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Government of the United States of America. The Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the EU and the USA has been in force since 1998 and extended three times.

Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of Amendment 1 to the Memorandum of Cooperation NAT-I-9406 between the United States of America and the European Union

Consideration of [draft report](#)

Draftsperson: [Rolandas Paksas](#)

Sharing the common goal to develop safer and more efficient air transport, in 2011, the European Union and the United States of America signed the Memorandum of Cooperation between the United States of America and the European Union in civil aviation research and development (MoC). The cooperative activities carried out so far under the MoC mainly address air traffic management (ATM) systems, particularly the cooperation in the field of research and development (R&D) between SESAR and NextGen. Cooperation under the MoC, in particular between SESAR and NextGen, has reached a high level of maturity and has delivered important results in terms of promoting global interoperability of ATM systems. This led the two parties to explore the potential for extending the scope of cooperation to topics relating to the deployment of ATM systems. The amendment to the MoC was negotiated between the Commission and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and, on the basis of a corresponding Council Decision, has been signed on behalf of the Union while the present Decision follows its adoption process. On the basis of Article 100(2) and Article 218(6)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the European Parliament is now invited to give its consent to this renewal. The ITRE Rapporteur for the recommendation, Mr Paksas (EFDD), acknowledges that the extension of the scope of cooperation between the Union and the USA to all phases of ATM modernisation including deployment represents the natural evolution of the work successfully carried out under the current MoC. The Rapporteur will therefore recommend the committee to give its consent to the conclusion the agreement.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 23 May 2018*
- *Vote in ITRE: 19 June 2018*
- *Vote in Plenary: September 2018*

Extension of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Government of the United States of America

Consideration of [draft report](#)

Draftsperson: [Rolandas Paksas](#)

The EU's relationship with the US in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is stronger than with any other country outside Europe. The US is by long the most active country in Horizon 2020 by the amounts of mutual research and development (R&D) investment, flows of scientists, volumes of cooperative activities and the number of co-authored publications and patents. The strategic partnership for research between the European Union and the United States of America is in force since 1998. The 'Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the United States of America' ('the Agreement') was signed on 5 December 1997 and entered into force on 14 October 1998. It has been renewed three times since then, in 2003, 2008 and 2013. It will expire on October 2018, therefore an extension needs to be agreed upon by both parties before that date. The EP, therefore, needs to provide its consent to Council Decision 2018/0067 (NLE).

It is expiring in October 2018 and the EP is required to give consent to its extension. The Committee will consider the draft opinion on the Regulation on health technology assessment (HTA) and amending Directive 2011/24/EU, with the aim of a reinforced EU cooperation system for certain HTA maximising efficiency and the EU-added value.

The Committee will also consider the draft opinion on the Regulation on health technology assessment (HTA) and amending Directive 2011/24/EU, with the aim of a reinforced EU cooperation system for certain HTA maximising efficiency and the EU-added value.

ITRE will also be holding an exchange of views on the international cooperation through the 9th Framework Programme in cooperation with STOA and the STS forum - 'Science and innovation - open to the world', as well as a workshop on 'Brexit and Energy policy'. ITRE will also hold an exchange of views with Alberto Pototschnig, Director of ACER, to give an update on the Agency's ongoing work, and in particular the implications of the clean energy package.

Finally, the Committee will vote on "Distributed ledger technologies and blockchains" and "Definition of SMEs".

Jerzy Buzek

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 23 May 2018*
- *Vote in ITRE: 19 June 2018*
- *Vote in Plenary: July 2018*

Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on health technology assessment and amending Directive 2011/24/EU

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)

Draftsperson: [Lieve Wierinck](#)

After more than 20 years of voluntary cooperation on Health Technology Assessments (HTA), the European Commission has proposed to reinforce the cooperation amongst Member States in this area. Currently, more than 50 HTA bodies are operating in the European Union (EU), conducting assessments using different methodologies in different HTA capacities. The Commission proposal aims to promote a better convergence in HTA tools, procedures and methodologies, to reduce duplication of efforts for HTA bodies and industry and to ensure the long-term sustainability of EU HTA cooperation. The ITRE Rapporteur for the opinion, Ms Wierinck (ALDE), will present her draft opinion on this proposal, for which ENVI is lead committee. The Rapporteur acknowledges that the aim of this legislative proposal is limited to the clinical aspects of HTA, leaving the socio-economic aspects linked more closely to the national context, out of the scope of this proposal. With a reinforced cooperation system for certain HTAs, all EU countries would benefit from efficiency gains and make better use of their resources, thus maximising the EU-added value. The Rapporteur underlines that the methodologies within this legislative proposal are not clearly defined and should be further developed in the future. In addition, the Rapporteur stresses that the European Commission should act in a supportive capacity in the execution and choice of methodologies. The standardisation of methodologies on joint HTAs should harmonise the quality and reliability of HTAs throughout the EU.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 23 May 2018*
- *Vote in ITRE: 9 July 2018*
- *Vote in lead Committee (ENVI): September 2018*

Distributed ledger technologies and blockchains: building trust with disintermediation

Adoption of question for oral answer and motion for a resolution

Rapporteur: [Eva Kaili](#)

ITRE will vote on its question for oral answer and motion for a resolution on the distributed ledger technologies and blockchains. A total of 192 amendments have been tabled, including those of the Rapporteur, while an agreement has been found on 19 compromise amendments.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in Plenary: June 2018*

The definition of SMEs

Adoption of question for oral answer and motion for a resolution

Rapporteur: [Markus Pieper](#)

ITRE will vote on an Oral Question to the Commission and an accompanying resolution on the "Definition of SMEs". 153 amendments have been tabled to the resolution. Negotiations amongst the political groups have resulted in 16 compromise amendments.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in Plenary: July 2018*

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT A

Recent publications:

Briefing: [Review of the Directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information \(Directive 2013/37/EU\)](#)

Study: [National strategies for renewables: energy efficiency, building renovation and self-consumption](#)

Briefing: [Mutual recognition of goods lawfully marketed in another Member State](#)

Briefing: [An EU intellectual property policy to boost innovation](#)

Study: [Energy and the MFF](#)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

ACER adopts a decision on intraday cross-zonal gate opening and closure time [More](#)

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)

Gungl speaks at the Western Balkan Digital Summit [More](#)

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)

Happy birthday European Union! [More](#)

European Global Navigation Satellite System Gnsa Agency (GSA)

GSA takes part in Europe Day celebrations in Prague [More](#)

Exchange of views with ACER

The ACER Director will appear before the ITRE Committee to give an update of the Agency's ongoing work. Issues for discussion will also include the current review of ACER's legal framework and implications of the clean energy package for the Agency's activities. Finally, the Director will give an insight into the Agency's budgetary situation and discuss its needs in terms of financial and human resources for the coming budgetary cycle.

'Science and innovation - open to the world', Exchange of views on the international cooperation through the 9th Framework Programme in cooperation with STOA and STS forum

The ITRE Committee, together with the STOA Panel and STS forum, will hold an exchange of views on the international cooperation in the European research programme on 17 May 2018, from 15.00 to 18.15. The event will start with the presentation of the international dimension in the recently unveiled Horizon Europe framework programme by Commissioner Carlos Moedas, followed by debates on major challenges faced by humankind, as well as on how Horizon Europe could contribute to future scientific breakthroughs.

Digital initiatives in the run-up and beyond 2020 - including artificial intelligence and .eu, Presentation by Director-General Roberto Viola, European Commission

European Commission Director-General Roberto Viola from DG Connect will present to the ITRE Members the latest digital initiatives adopted by the Commission, those currently in the pipeline and an overview of possible future initiatives. Of particular relevance for ITRE are the communication on artificial intelligence, the proposal to review the Directive on the re-use of public sector information ('PSI Directive') and the proposal for a regulation on .eu Top Level Domain that were adopted in April.

Feedback from ongoing negotiations

ITRE members will be debriefed on ongoing negotiations on the following files:

- Establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme aiming at supporting the competitiveness and innovative capacity of the EU defence industry (COM(2017)0294 – C8-0180/2017 – 2017/0125(COD)) (Rapporteur: Ms Grossetête)
- Governance of the Energy Union, amending Directive 94/22/EC, Directive 98/70/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC, Regulation (EC) No 663/2009, Regulation (EC) No 715/2009, Directive 2009/73/EC, Council Directive 2009/119/EC, Directive 2010/31/EU, Directive 2012/27/EU, Directive 2013/30/EU and Council Directive (EU) 2015/652 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 (COM(2016)0759 – C8-0497/2016 – 2016/0375(COD)) (Rapporteur: Ms Rivasi - Mr Turmes)
- Establishing the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) (recast) (COM(2016)0590 – C8-0379/2016 – 2016/0288 (COD)) (Rapporteur: Ms del Castillo Vera)

Brexit and Energy policy - Workshop

Tuesday, 16 May 2018, 14.30 – 16.00

The purpose of the workshop is to give Members the chance to explore in detail the legal and economic impacts of Brexit on the EU27 energy systems.

The workshop will give a general overview of the potential impacts of Brexit on the EU27 energy systems, consider the future EU energy policy and electricity/gas partnership with the UK after Brexit, as well as describe the effects of Brexit on Ireland and outline potential impact of the UK's withdrawal from Euratom.

[Official webpage](#)



ABOUT THE EDITOR

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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