

## Words by the Chair



Dear colleagues,

ITRE continues the autumn season with a dynamic, intense and extremely interesting meeting, focussing mostly on Multiannual Financial Framework and quite a few nuclear-related files.

On Monday ITRE will hold a Public Hearing on "Horizon Europe - EU research and innovation excellence" focused on the preparation of the content of the world's largest funding programme for research and innovation expected to start as of 2021. Sector experts and a representative of the European Commission have been invited to speak at the hearing.

ITRE will also be considering five draft reports. The first on the agenda is the report on the regulation establishing the nuclear decommissioning assistance programme of the Ignalina nuclear power plant in Lithuania; and its budget for the period 2021-2017. Its consideration will be followed by the draft report establishing a dedicated financial programme for decommissioning of nuclear facilities and management of radioactive waste. This proposal aims to assist Member States in the process of winding and shutting down those nuclear installations in the final step in their lifecycles.

## Establishing a dedicated financial programme for decommissioning of nuclear facilities and management of radioactive waste

Consideration of [draft report](#)

Rapporteur: [Peter Kouroumbashev](#)

The EU's nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes aim to assist Member States in the process of winding and shutting down those nuclear installations in the final step in their lifecycles, while keeping the highest level of safety.

As a condition for their accession to the EU, Bulgaria and Slovakia took the commitment to close and to subsequently decommission six Soviet designed first generation nuclear reactors. Correspondingly, the EU committed itself to financially support the decommissioning.

Mr Kouroumbashev (S&D) will present his draft report on 9 October. The Council will adopt this Regulation after consulting the European Parliament but without being obliged to follow its opinion.

### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 18 October 2018*
- *Vote in ITRE: 3 December 2018*
- *Vote in Plenary: tbc*

## European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy

Consideration of [draft report](#)

Rapporteur: [Marian-Jean Marinescu](#)

The rapporteur will present his draft report concerning the Commission proposal amending Council Decision 2007/198/Euratom establishing the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy.

Fusion is expected to play an important role in the future European and global energy landscape as a potentially inexhaustible, safe, climate-friendly, environmentally responsible and economically competitive source of energy. Europe has from the start played a leading role in the ITER project, developed in close collaboration with the non-European signatories to the ITER Agreement (the US, Russia, Japan, China, South Korea and India).

The Commission proposal seeks to amend Council Decision 2007/198/Euratom in order to secure funding for continued European participation in the ITER project for the whole duration of the next Multiannual Financial Framework in order to provide continuity for the project aiming at key scientific breakthroughs in the development of fusion.

The rapporteur calls on the Council to approve the Commission proposal while introducing a number of modifications.

### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 11 October 2018*
- *Vote in ITRE: 21 November 2018*
- *Vote in Plenary: January 2019*

Then, the committee will consider the draft report establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe, which foresees a Euratom Research and Training Programme for 2021-2025, along the lines of the current programme but with some adjustments. ITRE will also consider the draft report (recast) on the Re-use of public sector information as well as the own-initiative draft report on the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy.\*

ITRE will also consider two draft opinions. One opinion concerns the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund, merging two previously separate funds into one new single regulation on the ERDF and CF. The other opinion concerns the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics, - an MFF programme which brings together four existing programmes all with a very different nature under one umbrella, including the existing COSME programme.

The Committee will further continue its work by considering the amendments on three MFF legislative files and namely the Space Programme, the Digital Europe Programme and the Defence Fund. ITRE is making considerable efforts to deliver quality texts in a short timeframe.

The Committee will also be voting on its opinion on the Interim report on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, as well as the own-initiative opinion on Education in the digital era: challenges, opportunities and lessons for EU policy design.

The agency regulator ACER will hold a Presentation of annual Market Monitoring Report and exchange of views. As part of its Third Energy Package tasks ACER monitors the internal markets for electricity and gas. For this purpose, the Agency prepares an annual market monitoring report consisting of four volumes, namely electricity wholesale markets; gas wholesale markets; electricity and gas retail markets; consumer protection and empowerment. As latest 2018 edition of report on the first two volumes was released on 3 October, the gas wholesale markets and the preliminary part covering electricity and gas retail markets will be presented.

## **Proposal for a Council regulation establishing the nuclear decommissioning assistance programme of the Ignalina nuclear power plant in Lithuania (Ignalina programme); and repealing Council Regulation (EU) No 1369/2013**

Consideration of [draft report](#)

**Rapporteur:** [Rebecca Harms](#)

The nuclear decommissioning assistance programme of the Ignalina nuclear power plant in Lithuania is part of the MFF 2021-2027. The Parliament is consulted on this file. The rapporteur will present her draft report which consists of 18 amendments. This presentation will be followed by a debate with other committee members.

### **PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 11 October 2018*
- *Vote in ITRE: 21 November 2018*
- *Vote in Plenary: tbc*

## **Establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation**

Consideration of [draft report](#)

**Rapporteur:** [Miapetra Kumpula-Natri](#)

The rapporteur will present her draft report on a proposal for a Council decision establishing a Euratom Research and Training Programme for 2021-2025, which is part of the legislative package for the 'Horizon Europe' Framework Programme. The report is drawn up in the framework of a consultation procedure under the Euratom Treaty. The rapporteur broadly welcomes the content and structure of the proposed programme and only proposes minor adjustments. Most importantly, she has tabled a number of amendments to allocate a bigger share of the overall financial envelope to nuclear safety research.

### **PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 11 October 2018*
- *Vote in ITRE: 21 November 2018*
- *Vote in Plenary: tbc*

## **Re-use of public sector information (recast)**

Consideration of [draft report](#)

**Rapporteur:** [Neoklis Sylikiotis](#)

The rapporteur, Mr Sylikiotis (GUE/NGL), will present his draft report on the recast of the Public Sector Information Directive. The EU has been promoting the re-use of public sector information, like e.g. meteorological data, digital maps or statistics since 2003 (Directive 2003/98/EC). The present proposal is a recast of the PSI Directive with the objective to contribute to the strengthening of the EU's data-economy by increasing the amount of public sector data available for re-use, ensuring fair competition and easy access. In particular, the Commission wants to encourage the dissemination of dynamic data and use of APIs, increase the supply of high-value data sets and limit the exceptions to the principle of charging marginal costs. The rapporteur is supportive of the re-use of PSI, while underlining that not only businesses, but also society as a whole should profit from the information. He is sceptical of the Commission's approach to add public undertakings to the scope of the directive. He also calls to support local authorities when providing dynamic data. The rapporteur is furthermore proposing a new annex listing categories of high-value data sets.

### **PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 11 October 2018*
- *Vote in ITRE: 3 December 2018*
- *Vote in Plenary: tbc*

And lastly, ITRE will be informed on the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations, specifically two recasts - Internal market for electricity, and Common rules for the internal market in electricity.

Jerzy Buzek

\*the report is an EP's response to the Commission proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 2007/198/Euratom establishing the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy.

## NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT A

### Recent publications:

Study: [European Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) leadership, the path for an integrated vision](#)

Study: [Brexit and ICT Policy - Workshop Proceedings](#)

Study: [Brexit and Energy Policy - Workshop Proceedings](#)

At a glance: [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - June 2018](#)

At a glance: [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - May 2018](#)

## NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

### The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

ACER publishes its analysis on the Swedish Tariff Code implementation for gas [More](#)

### The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)

BEREC initiates study on Investments in Very High Capacity Networks [More](#)

### European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)

Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility: 2018 European Cyber Security Month kicks off [More](#)

### European Global Navigation Satellite System Gns Agency (GSA)

GSA and JRC launch test for maritime receivers [More](#)

## European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)

Rapporteur: [João Ferreira](#)

The ITRE committee will consider a draft opinion, prepared by the rapporteur, Mr Ferreira (GUE) to the lead Committee REGI. The Rapporteur is proposing several amendments to the text of the Commission. In his draft opinion the rapporteur believes in a more balanced approach of setting specific objectives of the funds, ensuring that they will reduce disparities between levels of development in the various European regions. The rapporteur also questions the positive impact of 'thematic concentration' and asks for a cautious approach on this matter.

### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 10 October 2018*
- *Vote in ITRE: 21 November 2018*
- *Vote in lead Committee (REGI): 3 December 2018*

## Establishing the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)

Rapporteur: [Patrizia Toia](#)

On 9 October ITRE will consider the draft opinion on the proposal for a Programme on the Single Market, Competitiveness of enterprises including SMEs and Statistics. This MFF Programme brings together four existing programmes from very different nature under one umbrella, including the existing COSME programme which is attributed 1 billion euros in support for SMEs in the Commission proposal. In this legislative proposal, ITRE has exclusive competence for any matter related to SMEs and shared competences with IMCO, ENVI/AGRI and ECON on other overarching parts of the proposal. Deadline for amendments is 15 October and the vote is scheduled for 22 November.

### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Deadline for tabling amendments: 15 October 2018*
- *Vote in ITRE: 21 November 2018*
- *Vote in lead Committee (IMCO): tbc*

## Establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme

Consideration of [amendments](#)

Rapporteur: [Massimiliano Salini](#)

ITRE will consider the amendments tabled to the Commission proposal aiming at defining the new Space programme. The 619 amendments, including the rapporteur's draft report, cover most of the issues addressed in the Commission proposal, and in particular, governance, access to space and operation of the individual components of the Programme (Galileo, Egnos, Copernicus, SSA, SST).

### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in ITRE: 21 November 2018*
- *Vote in Plenary: tbc*

## Establishing the Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027

Consideration of [amendments](#)

Rapporteur: [Angelika Mlinar](#)

ITRE will be discussing the amendments tabled to the draft report of Ms Mlinar (ALDE) on the Digital Europe Programme (DEP). The Digital Europe Programme is a new funding programme that combines research and industrial innovation and stems in a large portion from the HPC Joint Undertaking. A total of 365 amendments have been tabled to the Commission's proposal, including 78 by the rapporteur in her draft report.

### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in ITRE: 21 November 2018*
- *Vote in Plenary: tbc*

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## Establishing the European Defence Fund

Consideration of [amendments](#)

Rapporteur: [Zdzisław Krasnodębski](#)

ITRE will be discussing the amendments tabled to the draft report of Mr. Krasnodębski (ECR) on the European Defence Fund (EDF). The European Defence Fund is a new funding programme that combines research and industrial innovation for defence purposes. It is a Specific Programme under Horizon Europe for which the European Commission is proposing EUR 13 billion. A total of 457 amendments have been tabled to the Commission's proposal, including 98 by the Rapporteur in his draft report.

### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in ITRE: 21 November 2018*
- *Vote in Plenary: tbc*

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## Establishing the Connecting Europe Facility

Consideration of [amendments](#)

Rapporteurs: [Henna Virkkunen](#), [Marian-Jean Marinescu](#) and [Pavel Telička](#)

On 9 October a Joint ITRE-TRAN Committee will discuss the amendments to the Commission's proposal on establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, the aim of which is to support investments in the trans-European networks (TEN) in the transport, energy and the digital sectors.

Members tabled more than 1200 amendments to the proposed regulation covering various aspects of the proposed regulation, such as the level of funding, eligibility criteria, synergies among the transport, energy and digital sectors, cross-border cooperation, the adaptation of TEN infrastructure to military mobility needs, the use of blending in co-financing projects and simplification of rules and procedures.

### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in ITRE: 22 November 2018*
  - *Vote in Plenary: tbc*
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Adoption of [draft opinion](#)

Rapporteur: [Tamás Deutsch](#)

ITRE will vote on its opinion to the CULT own-initiative report on the proposed Parliament's position on the potential impact of digital transformation on education. 61 amendments have been tabled by the Members of the Committee.

#### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in lead Committee (CULT): 20 November 2018*
- *Vote in Plenary: tbc*

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#### Interim report on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 – Parliament's position with a view to an agreement

Adoption of [draft opinion](#)

Rapporteur: [Jerzy Buzek](#)

ITRE will vote on its opinion to the BUDG interim report on the MFF 2021-2027. 70 amendments have been tabled by the Members of the Committee.

#### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- *Vote in lead Committee (BUDG): 5 November 2018*
- *Vote in Plenary: November I 2018*

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#### ACER Presentation of annual Market Monitoring Report and exchange of views

The Third Energy Package tasks the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) with monitoring the internal markets for electricity and gas. For this purpose, the Agency prepares an annual market monitoring report in close cooperation with the European Commission, National Regulatory Authorities and other relevant organisations. The legal basis for the Agency's market monitoring duties is in Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No. 713/2009. ACER will present to the ITRE Committee the newly released latest edition, which consists of four volumes covering electricity wholesale markets, gas wholesale markets, electricity and gas retail markets and consumer protection and empowerment, respectively.

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### HORIZON EUROPE EU'S RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE



#### Hearing on Horizon Europe: EU's research and innovation excellence

On 8 October 2018, the ITRE Committee will hold a public hearing on Horizon Europe - the next framework programme for research and innovation. This hearing is organised in light of the current work on Commission's proposal to establish Horizon Europe for the financial period 2021-2027.

The focus will be on the ongoing strategic planning process, in particular partnerships and missions, and more broadly the best way to shape Horizon Europe in order to maximise EU's competitiveness and societal benefits.

[More information](#)

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## Feedback from ongoing negotiations

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

- Internal market for electricity (recast) (COM(2016)0861 - C8-0492/2016 - 2016/0379(COD)) (Rapporteur: Mr Kariņš)
  - Common rules for the internal market in electricity (recast) (COM(2016)0864 - C8-0495/2016 - 2016/0380(COD)) (Rapporteur: Mr Kariņš)
  - Risk-preparedness in the electricity sector (COM(2016)0862 - C8-0493/2016 - 2016/0377(COD)) (Rapporteur: Mr Zanonato)
  - European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (recast) (COM(2016)0863 - C8-0494/2016 - 2016/0378(COD)) (Rapporteur: Mr Petersen)
  - Regulation on ENISA, the "EU Cybersecurity Agency", and repealing Regulation (EU) 526/2013, and on Information and Communication Technology cybersecurity certification ("Cybersecurity Act") (COM(2017)0477 - C8-0310/2017 - 2017/0225(COD)) (Rapporteur: Ms Niebler)
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### ABOUT THE EDITOR

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