

Newsletter

of TRAN Committee meeting of 20 February 2019

Editorial by Karima Delli

Dear colleagues and friends,

The TRAN Committee has taken significant steps in the direction of shaping a coherent European tourism policy.

The meeting opened with an exchange of views with the Romanian Minister of Tourism, Mr Bogdan Trif, who gave an overview on Romanian Presidency priorities with regards to tourism. During the discussion many Members took the opportunity to reiterate the importance given by the TRAN Committee to the tourism sector.

The TRAN Committee, with its Tourism Task Force, will continue to work towards ensuring responsible and sustainable growth in the tourism sector. Tourism should be fully integrated in the EU policies in order to maintain Europe's ranking as the world's number one tourism destination. Europe is and must remain a single brand destination. 2018 was a really successful year for European tourism, with significant growth in the number of travellers hosted and jobs created.



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Proposal for a directive of the EP and of the Council discontinuing seasonal changes of time and repealing Directive 2000/84/EC

Consideration of amendments

- Rapporteur: Marita Ulvskog (S&D)
- Ordinary legislative procedure
- Vote in TRAN: 4 March
- Vote in Plenary: March/April

Following up on an EP resolution from 2018 and a public consultation that attracted a lot of attention from citizens, President Juncker announced in his State of the Union, the Commission's proposal to discontinue the mandatory seasonal changes and to allow each Member State to decide on their standard time.

The Rapporteur presented to the Committee the amendments tabled to her draft report and the state of play of the negotiation of possible compromise amendments.

In the debate that followed, several Members showed to be supportive of the Commission's proposal to abolish the bi-annual change of the clock, but many of them also indicated the need for a longer implementation period in order to create certainty and long term predictability for economic operators, as well as concrete mechanisms to avoid a patchwork of different times in the EU and to have a harmonised approach between the Member States.

Romanian Minister of Tourism, Mr Bogdan Trif, on Romanian Presidency priorities

Exchange of views

The minister outlined the detailed objectives of the Romanian Presidency for the Tourism sector: given the importance of tourism for EU, economic growth and regional development, Mr Bogdan Trif intends to make tourism more visible on the EU agenda.



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By activating the “Working Group on Tourism, Council and Competitiveness”, he wishes to obtain the agreement of the Member States to adopt thematic Conclusions on tourism at the COMPET Council at the end of May 2019 (27-28 May).

He also believes that it is necessary to update and adapt the Commission's 2010 Communication on Tourism (practically EU strategy in the field) so that the new document includes more precise references to a number of issues of current interest such as the role of tourism digitisation, the collaborative economy, new challenges in the field (stronger competition from outside Europe, especially from Asia, seasonality, climate change, overcrowding of established destinations, etc.)

The Minister also aims to organise three informal events related to tourism in the margins of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union:

- Sustainable Tourism - Common Policies of EU Member States, in Bucharest, 1-4 April 2019, ministerial conference;
- Meeting of the EDEN Network, Piatra Neamt, 10-12 April 2019, addressed to EDEN destinations representatives;

- Danube Strategy - Instrument for Economic Development - Tulcea, 11-14 June 2019, ministerial conference addressed to SUERD member states.

Members welcomed the realistic approach of the Council Presidency given the particular time constraints due to the European elections.

However, more support would be appreciated for instance to the European Parliament's request for a budget line on “sustainable tourism” in the negotiations for the next MFF 2021-2027.

Finally, a number of Members also underlined the importance to push forward topics as the multimodal travel, the passenger's rights, and visa.

EMSA newly appointed Executive Director, Ms Maja Markovčić Kostelac

Exchange of views

TRAN welcomed the newly appointed Executive Director of European Maritime Safety agency (EMSA), Ms. Maja Markovčić Kostelac, who took up her duties on 1 January 2019.

She joined the Agency after having served as the State Secretary for Croatia's Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure since 2016, as well as a Member of the EMSA Administrative Board.

Ms Markovčić Kostelac stressed the key contribution of the Maritime transport sector to the EU economy, with European ships accounting for 40% of the world's merchant fleet.



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She touched upon both the operational and institutional remits of the agency. Work on the new 5-year strategy is in progress, and will be presented by the end of this year.

Further building of a solid knowledge base and keeping up with new technologies are both essential. This will ensure the ongoing ability to provide top quality services and its commitment as a reliable partner.

The EMSA Director mentioned the potential of autonomous shipping in reshaping maritime transport and shipping. Any possible environmental impact during this evolution needs to be carefully thought through and monitored.

The protection of marine environment lies at the heart of EMSA activities, with intense commitment and work planned in such areas as alternative fuels, reduction of marine litter and prevention of pollution.

Social agenda and human factors are other key aspects of EMSA work, with a programme of training courses being further developed. EMSA also successfully serves as an ambassador to third countries in promoting EU solutions.

Members put a wide range of questions on the cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard agency, use of drones, fight against marine litter, especially plastics, Brexit and EMSA's international impact.

Group photo of TRAN Members and substitutes



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Next TRAN Committee meeting: planned draft agenda - To be confirmed

Monday 4 March, 15h00-18h30

- Tourism Task Force: achievements & future perspectives
- Proposal on discontinuing seasonal time changes - vote
- Proposal for a Decision amending Directive 96/53/EC as regards the time limit for the implementation of the special rules regarding maximum length in case of cabs - confirmation vote
- Protocol amending the Agreement on Maritime Transport with China, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the EU - vote
- Road infrastructure safety management - confirmation vote
- European Maritime Single window - confirmation vote
- CEF 2014-2020: withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union - confirmation vote
- Minimum level of training of seafarers - confirmation vote
- Brexit preparedness: common rules ensuring basic air connectivity - confirmation vote
- Brexit preparedness: common rules ensuring basic road freight connectivity - confirmation vote
- Scrutiny: Presentation by the Commission of draft Delegated Act on specifications for Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems

Meeting room: PHS 1A002

TRAN Committee meetings 2019

Monday, 18 March, 15h00-18h30

Thursday, 11 April, 09h00-12h30

Thursday, 11 April, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 8 April, 15h00-18h30

Useful links

TRAN website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/TRAN>

Policy Department Publication in the European Parliament:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/supporting-analyses.html>

European Aviation Safety Agency newsletters: <http://easa.europa.eu/communications/general-publications.php>

European Railway Agency newsletters: <http://www.era.europa.eu/Communication/Newsletter>

European Maritime Safety Agency newsletters: <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/news-a-press-centre/newsletters.html>

SESAR Joint Undertaking news: <http://www.sesarju.eu/newsroom/all-news>

Innovation & Networks Executive Agency: <http://ec.europa.eu/inea/en>

DG MOVE newsletter: <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/newsletter>

Austrian Presidency of the Council: <https://www.eu2018.at/>



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