

# TRAN NEWS

Newsletter from the European Parliament  
Committee on Transport and Tourism  
Number 79, 2 March 2011

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## TRAN Committee meeting 28 February 2011, Brussels

### Adoption of draft recommendations

#### **Air transport agreement EC and USA** **Rapporteur: Mr Artur Zasada (EPP, PL)** **Consent procedure**

Notwithstanding some concerns about the unbalanced nature of the agreement, in particular the restrictions on foreign ownership and control of US airlines, Mr Zasada's recommendation to approve the protocol was endorsed by a large majority.

The recommendation was adopted by 23:3:0.

Timetable foreseen:

- Adoption in plenary: March 2011 (mini-plenary).

#### **Air transport agreement EC and Canada** **Rapporteur: Ms Silvia-Adriana Țicău (S&D, RO)** **Consent procedure**

This agreement allows EU airlines to operate direct flights to Canada from anywhere in Europe as well as to enter commercial arrangements such as code-sharing. It could accurately be described as the most ambitious air transport agreement between the EU and a major partner.

The recommendation was adopted by 27:0:0.

Timetable foreseen:

- Adoption in plenary: March 2011 (mini-plenary).

#### **Air transport agreement EC and Vietnam** **Rapporteur: Mr Dominique Riquet (EPP, FR)** **Consent procedure**

At present, 17 Member States have bilateral air agreements with Vietnam. By recommending the conclusion of the agreement, TRAN supported extending rights stemming from those bilateral agreements to all EU carriers established in the Member States concerned.

The recommendation was adopted by 27:0:0.

Timetable foreseen:

- Adoption in plenary: March 2011 (mini-plenary).

### Adoption of draft opinions

#### **Discharge 2009 Agencies and SESAR** **Rapporteur: Mr Giommara Uggias (ALDE, IT)** **Opinions to CONT Committee**

Following the adoption of several amendments, including some calling for more detailed reports on underspends from each Agency, the Rapporteur's recommendations to give a favourable opinion on granting discharge to all four Executive Directors were approved with substantial majorities.

The opinion on the European Maritime Safety Agency was adopted by 26:1:0.

The opinion on the European Aviation Safety Agency was adopted by 23:4:0.

The opinion on the European Railway Agency was adopted by 23:1:3.

The opinion on the SESAR Joint Undertaking was adopted by 26:1:0.

Timetable foreseen:

- Adoption in CONT: March 2011.
- Adoption in plenary: May 2011.

#### **Discharge 2009 Commission** **Rapporteur: Mr Mathieu Grosch (EPP, BE)** **Opinion to CONT Committee**

After adopting amendments calling for more clarity about TEN-T and other EU funding while noting the contribution priority projects made to European economic, social and territorial cohesion, the Committee approved, by a large majority, Mr Grosch's recommendation to give a favourable opinion on granting discharge to the Commission for the transport and tourism aspects of the 2009 budget.

The opinion was adopted by 25:1:1.

Timetable foreseen:

- Adoption in CONT: March 2011.
- Adoption in plenary: May 2011.

## Presentation of draft reports

### **Tourism in Europe** **Rapporteur: Mr Carlo Fidanza (EPP, IT)** **Own-initiative report**

The Commission's policy strategy formed a solid basis from which to develop an EU policy on competitive, modern, high quality and sustainable tourism, in the Rapporteur's view. Mr Fidanza presented his draft report on the new framework for EU tourism policy, which responds to a recent Commission Communication.

He pointed out that the policy's primary objective should be to strengthen the competitiveness of the European tourism industry, including by fostering training and innovation. Furthermore, Europe should be promoted under a common label, thus attracting tourism flows, in particular from emerging economies such as the BRIC countries. The Rapporteur also called for the creation of a 'European quality tourism' label, which should complement, rather than replace, existing national labels. Finally, he emphasised the need to promote sustainable tourism and to diversify tourism offers.

Members welcomed Mr Fidanza's draft report and largely agreed with his views. Some, however, pointed out the need for strict respect of the subsidiarity principle in order to avoid interfering with Member States' responsibilities. Other issues referred to during the debate included social tourism, seasonality, accessibility for Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM), safety standards for tourist accommodation, the forthcoming revision of the Package Travel Directive and the links between tourism and other policy areas, in particular transport. Finally, Members emphasised the need to provide sufficient and specific financial resources for this new policy area within the EU budget.

Timetable foreseen:

- **Deadline for amendments: 8 March 2011.**
- Adoption in TRAN: May 2011.
- Adoption in plenary: June 2011 (mini-plenary).

### **Towards a European road safety area** **Rapporteur: Mr Dieter-Lebrecht Koch** **(EPP, DE)** **Own-initiative report**

Mr Koch suggested a new Road Safety Action Programme in place of the (relatively weak) policy orientations contained in the Commission's Communication on road safety policy 2011-2020. He supported the measures proposed by the Commission in principle, as well as the need for a coherent, holistic and integrated approach. However, the Rapporteur also proposed two additional EU road safety targets: reducing the number of children killed by 60 % and the number of critically injured road users by 40 %, both by 2020. He advocated an additional 'Vision Zero' in the long term, stretching beyond the current 10 year horizon.

In Mr Koch's view, the shared responsibility for road safety among all political levels, road users and all other stakeholders required much more coordination. Therefore, he proposed the creation of

the office of an EU Road Safety Coordinator. He also stressed that each road user has not only a right to safe road transport but also a duty to contribute to it.

In order to create an EU-area of road safety, the Rapporteur stressed the need for more harmonisation, e.g. with regard to road signs, data collection, the improvement of road users' training as well as technological improvements for vehicles and infrastructure. However, Mr Koch called for a realistic approach with the aim of maintaining a high level of mobility.

Most Members supported the Rapporteur's approach, while highlighting particular issues including the need for a clear definition of the role of the proposed Road Safety Coordinator, better cross-border enforcement with harmonised penalties, visual tests for all driving licence holders, measures for elderly people as well as an assessment of current road safety legislation. Several Members shared the Rapporteur's assessment of the need for further harmonisation of EU road signs and rules. Some criticised the draft report's failure to mention the need for modal shift and its lack of ambition with regard to 'Vision Zero'. One Member opposed Mr Koch's report, arguing that it would increase bureaucracy and focus too much on new legislation rather than on the exchange of best practice.

Timetable foreseen:

- **Deadline for amendments: 14 March 2011.**
- Consideration of amendments: April 2011.
- Adoption in TRAN: May 2011.
- Adoption in plenary: June 2011 (mini-plenary).

## State of play

### **European statistics on tourism** **Rapporteur: Mr Brian Simpson (S&D, UK)** **Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading**

A proposal aiming to update and improve the regulatory framework for the collection of tourism statistical information is close to being agreed in first reading by Parliament and Council.

The Rapporteur informed the Committee that, during the last trilogue, Parliament's negotiating team reached a provisional deal with Council. He stressed that the outcome of the negotiations was a success for Parliament as 23 out of the 28 amendments TRAN had adopted were either fully or partly included in the text.

These include amendments on delegated acts, the introduction of variables for one-day visits and pilot studies on Tourism Satellite Accounts and on the environmental impact of tourism. The Rapporteur said there was only one outstanding issue: the introduction of a provision requiring the collection of data on the accessibility of tourist accommodation for PRM. Parliament had insisted on this but Council had yet to agree.

Members followed the Rapporteur's recommendation to confirm the agreement, on the condition that the

provision on PRM was included. This would open the door for the adoption of the agreed text in plenary.

Timetable foreseen:

- Adoption in plenary: March 2011 (mini-plenary).

### **TRAN Committee meeting 14 March, Brussels**

Provisional agenda:

#### **Monday, 14 March 2011, afternoon**

- GNSS Applications / Țicău
- International air agreements under Lisbon Treaty / Simpson
- Engine flexibility on tractors / Sehnalová

#### **Tuesday, 15 March, morning**

- GNSS Applications / Țicău **(vote)**
- International air agreements under Lisbon Treaty / Simpson **(vote)**
- Engine flexibility on tractors / Sehnalová **(vote)**
- Eurovignette / El Khadraoui
- Integrated Maritime Policy / Koumoutsakos
- Approval and market surveillance of two- or three-wheel vehicles and quadricycles / Zile

#### **Tuesday, 15 March, afternoon**

- Functional airspace blocks
- Security scanners / De Grandes

#### **Wednesday, 16 March, morning**

- Budget 2012 / Liberadzki
- Statistical returns carriage of goods by road / Simpson

### **TRAN Committee meetings 2011, Brussels**

Monday, 11 April, 15.00-18.30  
Tuesday, 12 April, 9.00-12.30  
Tuesday, 12 April, 15.00-18.30  
Wednesday, 13 April, 9.00-12.30

Monday, 23 May, 15.00-18.30  
Tuesday, 24 May, 9.00-12.30  
Tuesday, 24 May, 15.00-18.30  
Wednesday, 25 May, 9.00-12.30  
Wednesday, 25 May, 15.00-18.30

Monday, 20 June, 15.00-18.30  
Tuesday, 21 June, 9.00-12.30  
Tuesday, 21 June, 15.00-18.30

Monday, 11 July, 15.00-18.30  
Tuesday, 12 July, 9.00-12.30  
Tuesday, 12 July, 15.00-18.30  
Wednesday, 13 July, 9.00-12.30  
Wednesday, 13 July, 15.00-18.30

Tuesday, 30 August, 9.00-12.30  
Tuesday, 30 August, 15.00-18.30  
Wednesday, 31 August, 9.00-12.30  
Wednesday, 31 August, 15.00-18.30

Thursday, 8 September, 9.00-12.30

Monday, 10 October, 15.00-18.30  
Tuesday, 11 October, 9.00-12.30  
Tuesday, 11 October, 15.00-18.30

Monday, 21 November, 15.00-18.30  
Tuesday, 22 November, 9.00-12.30  
Tuesday, 22 November, 15.00-18.30  
Wednesday, 23 November, 9.00-12.30  
Wednesday, 23 November, 15.00-18.30

Monday, 19 December, 15.00-18.30  
Tuesday, 20 December, 9.00-12.30  
Tuesday, 20 December, 15.00-18.30  
Wednesday, 21 December, 9.00-12.30  
Wednesday, 21 December, 15.00-18.30