Words by the Chair

Dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me to write these words for the first time as chair of the ITRE Committee. The Committee's key policy areas of energy, digitisation, industry (including competitiveness and SMEs) and research & innovation are essential components of a strong European economy that can compete globally with the biggest economic blocs. As a result, ITRE's work can influence greatly the lives and wellbeing of millions of European citizens.

This week we are holding our first ordinary meeting in the EP's 9th legislative term. It is a term that will see major issues on our agenda in particular the final agreement of the Multiannual Financial Framework that affects several important legislation under ITRE remit, Artificial Intelligence, the gas market as well as various industry areas. We begin already this week with the Consideration of ITRE's budgetary opinion for the year 2020 which will be adopted in September followed by the exchange of views with the Finnish Presidency which will be represented by the Ministers of Economic Affairs and of Transport & Communications. Our Members will also have Presentation of the activities of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) by its Director Mr Alberto Pototschnig and an exchange of views with the newly selected Executive Director candidate of the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), Mr Juhan Lepassaar.

Consideration of opinion

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020 - all sections

Consideration of opinion

Rapporteur: Adina-Ioana Vălean

The European Commission presented its Draft Budget for the financial year 2020 beginning of June. It will be the last budget of the current MFF. The Commission proposed to increase commitment appropriations in Heading 1a - 'Competitiveness for growth and jobs' - by 5.5% and payment appropriations by 7.7%. However, the Commission stays EUR 474,6 million below the ceiling set by the MFF.

The Council (Coreper on 10 July) cut the commitment appropriations proposed by the Commission for Heading 1a by EUR 747,4 million. The cuts in particular concerned the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) for Research and Innovation (-EUR 424.90 million, of which -EUR 413.00 million on Horizon 2020 and -EUR 11.90 million on the Euratom Research and Training Programme), the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) (-EUR 197.00 million, of which -EUR 169.00 million on Transport and -EUR 28.00 million on Information and Communication Technology (ICT)), the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) (-EUR 90.00 million) and Competitiveness of enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME) (-EUR 20.00 million).

It is now for the Parliament to define its position, to be voted in Plenary in the October II session. ITRE will contribute with an opinion and budgetary amendments. In her draft opinion the Rapporteur calls for an ambitious budget in Heading 1a by reversing the Council's cuts and making use of the available ceiling. The Rapporteur furthermore notes the oversubscription of various programmes such as Horizon 2020 and COSME which could easily absorb additional funds.

PROVISONAL TIMETABLE

• Deadline for tabling amendments: 24 July 2019 (cob)
• Vote in ITRE: 3 September 2019
• Vote in main Committee (BUDG): 14 October 2019

Other news and events

EU2019.FI Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union visits ITRE

On 23 July, the ITRE Committee will welcome two Ministers who will present the priorities of the Finnish Presidency in the Committee's policy areas.

Ms Katri Kulmuni, Finnish Minister of Economic Affairs, will present the Presidency priorities in the fields of energy, industry, SMEs, research & innovation and space.

Ms Sanna Marin, Minister of Transport and Communications, will outline the Presidency priorities in the fields of ICT, digital agenda and cybersecurity.
After the recess, we will begin the preparations for the important hearings of our future Commissioners-designate that will take place in October.

All in all an engaging week ahead with a lot of food for thought during the summer recess, for all of us. Autumn will be busy but most of all interesting and crucial for the years to come. Have a great time wherever you may be this August. Sunny days!

Adina-Ioana Vălean

Presentation of the activities of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), by its Director Mr Alberto Potoschnig

On Tuesday 23 July Mr Alberto Potoschnig, Director of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) will present the activities of the Agency. The presentation will be followed by an exchange of views with members of the Committee.

Consolidated Annual Activity Report of the Agency for 2018 can be consulted here.

Exchange of views with the newly selected Executive Director candidate of the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA)

On 16 July 2019, the Management Board of the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) selected Mr Juhan Lepassaar to be the new Executive Director of the Agency. Prior to being appointed by ENISA’s Management Board, and pursuant to Article 36 of the Cybersecurity Act (EU Regulation No 2019/881), Mr Juhan Lepassaar must do a statement before the Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Committee of the European Parliament and answer its Member’s questions.

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

ACER publishes annual report on the progress of infrastructure Projects of Common Interest More

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)

Joint BEREC and IIC conference in Riga, Latvia More

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)

ENISA Management Board selects new Executive Director More

European Global Navigation Satellite System Gnss Agency (GSA)

Update on the availability of some Galileo Initial Services More

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent publications:

In-depth analysis: A just energy transition, opportunity for EU industries, the role of hydrogen in the future and the example of energy transition in Germany

Study: How to tackle challenges in a future-oriented EU industrial strategy?

Study: Europe – the Global Centre for Excellent Research

In-depth analysis: 5G Deployment: State of play in Europe, USA and Asia

In-depth analysis: Brexit and Horizon Europe

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SUBSCRIPTION

If you wish to receive the ITRE Newsletter, please send an e-mail with your contact details and "Newsletter" in the subject field to the ITRE secretariat.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the ITRE secretariat or visit ITRE website. The Committee meetings are web-streamed and can be watched live on the EP website or on Europarl TV.