NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT A

Recent publications:

At a glance: What if policy anticipated advances in science and technology?

Briefing: Policy Department Services (ITRE in Focus)

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

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

Electricity wholesale markets: important efforts needed to meet the cross-zonal capacity target established by the Clean Energy Package More

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)

BEREC seeks stakeholder input to update of Guidelines on Net neutrality – now - Open Internet More

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)

CyLeEx19: Inside a simulated cross-border cyber-attack on critical infrastructure More

Meeting of 12 November 2019

During ITRE’s next meeting, Members will have exchanges of views with BEREC’s 2019 & 2020 Chairs together with the Director of the Agency for Support for BEREC, the President of the European research Council who will be joined by an ERC Grantee and, also, with the current ACER Director who will present their Annual Market Monitoring Report (2018) and will hear a statement by its future Director that will take office as of 1st January 2020. In addition, the European Commission’s DG ENER will give a presentation on the state of play of the Energy Community. To conclude the meeting, the European Commission has been invited to present its annual competition policy report (2018) as it contained a significant part of its content dedicated to actions in the Digital and Energy sectors.

Presentation on the Energy Community and the ongoing revision of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community

The meeting will start with a presentation by the Commission on the Energy Community and the ongoing revision of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community. The Energy Community is an international organisation which brings together the European Union and its neighbours to create an integrated pan-European energy market. The organisation was founded by the Treaty establishing the Energy Community signed in October 2005 in Athens, Greece, in force since July 2006. The key objective of the Energy Community is to extend the EU internal energy market rules and principles to countries in South East Europe, the Black Sea region and beyond on the basis of a legally binding framework.

Exchange of views with BEREC Chair 2019, Mr Jeremy Godfrey, BEREC Chair 2020, Mr Dan Sjöblom and the Director of the Agency for Support for BEREC, Mr László Ignécz

ITRE will hold an exchange of views with BEREC Chair 2019, Mr Jeremy Godfrey, BEREC Chair 2020, Mr Dan Sjöblom and the Director of the Agency for Support for BEREC, Mr László Ignécz. Issues expected to be touched on include early experiences in practice with the new BEREC Regulation and the various BEREC work streams going on under the European Electronic Communications Code.

Exchange of views with the President of the European Research Council, Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon and with an ERC Advanced Grantee, Professor Antje Boetius, Director of the Alfred Wegener Institute

Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President of the European Research Council (ERC) has been invited to the ITRE Committee meeting to present his reflections on the European funding landscape and to exchange views more broadly with ITRE Members on Science and Innovation policies. His 6-year mandate as ERC President will end in December 2019. To illustrate the impact of ERC actions, he will be accompanied by an ERC Grantee, Prof. Antje Boetius, Director at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research. She will showcase how research at the frontiers of knowledge is needed to deal with problems society is facing.

Presentation of the Annual Market Monitoring Report and exchange of views with Mr Alberto Pototschnig, Director of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

According to Regulation (EU) 2019/942 the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), in close cooperation with the Commission, the Member States and the national regulatory authorities, shall monitor the wholesale and retail markets in electricity and natural gas, in particular the retail prices of electricity and natural gas. For this purpose, the Agency prepares an annual market monitoring report. ACER will present to the ITRE Committee the newly released latest edition of the report.
Statement of the ACER Director-designate, Mr Christian Zinglersen, and exchange of views with ITRE Members

On 26 September 2019 the Administrative Board of the EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), following a favourable opinion from the ACER Board of Regulators, designated Mr Christian Zinglersen as the new Director of the Agency. His term of office is five years as of 1 January 2020 (renewable once for up to five years). In accordance with Article 23 of the ACER Regulation (EU) 2019/942 Mr Christian Zinglersen will, before appointment, make a statement before the ITRE Committee followed by an exchange of views.

Presentation by the Commission of the Report on Competition Policy 2018, in particular digital and energy sectors and state aid guidelines for energy

EU competition policy has always been a key policy tool to respond to economic and financial challenges. Competition policy contributes both to fairness in markets and to delivering fair outcomes for EU citizens, by ensuring that businesses can compete on equal terms in the Single Market, which consequently benefits consumers. The Report on Competition policy, published annually, provides detailed information on the most important policy and legislative initiatives, and on decisions adopted by the European Commission in application of EU competition law during the previous year. The report is composed of two documents: a Communication from the Commission (available in 23 languages from 2013 on) and the Commission Staff Working paper describing the developments in more detail (available in English, French and German).

In 2018 EU competition policy continued to support key EU policies and initiatives of particular interest for the ITRE committee, such as the Digital Single Market and the Energy Union.

Annual Report on Competition Policy 2018

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