

## Newsletter

of TRAN Committee meeting of November 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.

With its new Tourism Task Force, and the exchange of views on the situation of European Tourism Industry, with Ms Elżbieta Bienkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, the Committee will continue to work towards ensuring responsible and sustainable growth in the tourism sector. Tourism plays now a major role in the European economy, not only in terms of economic growth, through visitor spending, but also by contributing to regional development and employment. Tourism has impacts and interdependencies in many areas of government, including transport, environment, consumer protection and regional development. It 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 and become a leading destination for sustainable tourism. 2019 was a really successful year for European tourism, with significant growth in the number of travellers hosted and jobs created.



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### Elections of TRAN 1st and 3rd Vice-Chairs

#### Election

The Committee elected two new vice-chairs on 6 November.

Mr Ujhelyi (S&D) was elected 1st vice-chair by acclamation. He is replacing Mr Danielsson who had stepped down as 1st vice-chair to become coordinator of the S&D group.

Mr Ameriks (S&D) was elected to replace Mr Ujhelyi as 3rd vice-chair. The election took place by electronic vote as Ms Lechanteux (ID) was also a candidate. Mr Ameriks obtained 34 votes in favour and Ms Lechanteux 9 votes in favour.

### International road passenger transport services coach and bus:

- **Cabotage between border regions of Germany and Switzerland - 2019/0107(COD)**
- **Cabotage between border regions of Italy and Switzerland - 2019/0108(COD)**

#### Exchange of views

- Rapporteur: Markus Ferber (EPP)
- Ordinary legislative procedure
- Deadline amendments: 18/11/19
- Vote in TRAN: 21/01/20

The Rapporteur presented two draft reports concerning the empowerment of Germany and Italy to

negotiate with Switzerland with a view to authorising cabotage operations in the course of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between Switzerland and respectively Germany and Italy. He proposed to support the Commission proposal. The shadow rapporteurs shared his view, noting that the bilateral agreements reached would need to respect EU legislation and ensure fair working conditions and non-discrimination of operators.

### Recommendation on air services agreements between EU and China

#### *Exchange of views*

- Rapporteur: Tomasz Piotr Poręba (ECR)
- Non-legislative enactments
- Deadline amendments: 12/11/19
- Vote in TRAN: 03/12/20

All groups approved the principle of giving the Parliament's consent for this agreement. It is an important achievement for the EU.

After long negotiations, China agreed to recognise the EU as a sole entity with regard to international air connections and approved the inclusion of a European designation clause in bilateral agreements with EU Member States.

This will allow European carriers to operate to China from any airport within the Union without discrimination based on nationality.

### Commission and stakeholders on Thomas Cook

#### *Exchange of views*

During the afternoon session, the Chairwoman welcomed on stage the outgoing Commissioner on Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurships and SME's Ms Bienkowska for an exchange of views on the current status of the European tourism Industry and on the chain of events regarding Thomas Cook' financial crash. Members and Coordinators of the Committee showed intense participation and shared views over the impacts of the company's financial disaster and on the future of the EU tourism strategy.

Shortly after having greeted Commissioner Bienkowska for the achievements of past endeavours and for the positive steps taken within the transport and tourism European strategies, the Chairwoman introduced the leading questions focused on the necessity of establishing a Comprehensive and Coordinated

Strategy for Tourism and on obtaining clarification from the Commission about the capacity of current legal and financial frameworks to respond to serious negative repercussions on workers and consumers, of such a scale as of those observed in the Thomas Cook case.

The scope of the debate was then broadened to the urgency of ensuring uniform and effective implementation, at National level, of available measures for the socio-economic protection of workers and remediation of consumers' rights affected by the bankruptcy. On this line, several members of the Committee highlighted the need for prioritizing the granting of financial and social aids to laid workers and affected citizens (Mr Danielsson, S&D; Ms Deparnay-Gutenberg, Greens/EFA) and for increasing Community resources in support of those regions of the Union whose economies entirely relied on the tourism industry (Ms Kountoura, GUE/NGL).



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Concerns were also expressed over the ineffectiveness of publicly available data of the company's financial performances in preventing the financial crash (Ms Thaler, EPP; Mr Bauzà Diaz, Renew Europe).

The debate then developed to its conclusions efficiently, with Commissioner Bienkowska expressing optimism towards the incoming successor and on the likelihood of additional financial support to the future tourism strategy.

### Debriefing on conclusions from International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly

#### *Exchange of views with Filip Cornelis, Director for aviation DG MOVE*

The Commission provided an in-depth overview of the EU's actions at the 40th ICAO general assembly (GA): Regarding aviation safety, the EU aimed to make the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) more robust in the future and thereby rise the

international safety level. On the security side, the Commission believed that more needed to be done and as regards air traffic management, innovations needed to be implemented more rapidly. The Commission also felt that the issue of foreign investments in airlines should be tackled. Finally, the Commission reported about the outcome of the CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation) discussions, where it has been possible to ensure a global agreement on the scheme and simultaneously assure the EU's autonomy. This important though fragile global agreement was an important first step for the aviation sector.

The majority welcomed the outcome of the ICAO GA and explicitly congratulated the Commission for its work, in particular with regard to CORSIA issue. Yet, there have been also critical voices arguing that the aviation sector did pay its fair share of charges. Other members showed particular interest in the issue of alternative fuels. In this respect, the Commission explained that the eligibility criteria for these fuels still needed to be established and this would require some time. On a more general note, the Commission stressed that a number of measures aiming at reducing emissions were already prepared but still needed the approval of the incoming college. Furthermore, as it stands, the EU preserved its regional decision making autonomy.

## 2019 CEF calls for proposals

### *Presentation by the Commission*

The Commission presented the outcome of the 2019 CEF transport call for proposals which focused on projects to improve cross-border connections in the TEN-T and reducing rail freight noise. The presentation also outlined the state-of-play of the execution of the budget of the current CEF – allocated at 100%, with a share of 71% aimed at projects in sustainable transport modes -- and outlined the new 2019 multi-annual call and an upcoming call of the CEF transport blending facility. Members engaged in a lively debate, inquiring about the progress in reducing rail freight noise as well as aspects the programme's overall implementation, namely timely execution and re-use of funds by the end of the current programme. Regarding political

priorities for the future CEF 2021-2027, Members highlighted the need to ensure connectivity for all regions, meet citizens' daily needs in transport and properly maintain transport infrastructure. Several speakers stressed that CEF should concentrate on decarbonising the transport system. The Commission explained the next CEF would still strengthen the focus on sustainable transport modes. For road transport, this would include infrastructure for alternative fuels but imply only limited scope for support in the area of (re-)building road infrastructure.

## Overtourism - impact and possible policy responses

### *Study by the Policy department*

During the morning session, the study on "Overtourism - impact and possible policy responses" was presented.

The Study was carried out by the Policy Department in collaboration with Mr Paul Peeters, Professor of the University of Breda, and Mr Claudio Milano, Professor of the University of Lleida and Barcelona.

The large part of Members present in the meeting room welcomed this study. The participation in the discussion was very lively because many overtourism issues are related to the (negative) perception of encounters between tourists, residents, entrepreneurs and varying tourist groups, due to the perception of high tourist numbers at certain times and places. Root causes of overtourism may relate to low transport costs and technology developments (i.e. digital platforms, social media).

Although a lack of available data impedes a thorough analysis of the effects of social media platforms on overtourism, there is evidence of their role in causing concentration effects of visitor flows in time and space, as well as pushing additional growth in visitors' arrivals.

Many Members of the committee called to put into practice initiatives such as sustainable development, biodiversity, new technologies, more effective governance in the Tourism sector, to be taken in the committee on Transport and Tourism, establishing a genuine 'road map' focusing on the Tourism component in order to promote this sector, which now accounts for 7 % of the earnings in the European Union.

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

#### Tuesday 3 December morning

- Vote on the recommendation on air services agreements between EU and China
- Exchange of views with Maja Markovčić Kostelac, Executive Director of the European Maritime Safety Agency
- Study on EU funding of transport projects

#### Tuesday 3 December afternoon

- Hearing on Future low-cost air travel
- Aviation agreement EU Morocco
- Discharge 2018

Meeting room: JAN 6Q2

### TRAN Committee meetings 2020 - To be confirmed

Monday 20/01/2020 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 21/01/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 21/01/2020 14.30-18.30

Tuesday 28/01/2020 14.30-18.30

Wednesday 19/02/2020 9.00-12.30

Wednesday 19/02/2020 14.30-18.30

Thursday 20/02/2020 9.00-12.30

Thursday 20/02/2020 15.00-18.30

Monday 16/03/2020 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 17/03/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 17/03/2020 14.30-18.30

Tuesday 21/04/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 21/04/2020 14.30-18.30

Wednesday 29/04/2020 9.00-12.30

Wednesday 29/04/2020 14.30-18.30

Thursday 30/04/2020 9.00-12.30

Thursday 30/04/2020 15.00-18.30

Wednesday 27/05/2020 9.00-12.30

Wednesday 27/05/2020 14.30-18.30

Thursday 28/05/2020 9.00-12.30

Thursday 28/05/2020 15.00-18.30

Monday 22/06/2020 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 23/06/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 23/06/2020 14.30-18.30

Monday 13/07/2020 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 14/07/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 14/07/2020 14.30-18.30

Wednesday 02/09/2020 9.00-12.30

Wednesday 02/09/2020 14.30-18.30

Thursday 03/09/2020 9.00-12.30

Thursday 03/09/2020 15.00-18.30

Wednesday 28/10/2020 9.00-12.30

Wednesday 28/10/2020 14.30-18.30

Thursday 29/10/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 10/11/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 10/11/2020 14.30-18.30

Monday 30/11/2020 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 01/12/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 01/12/2020 14.30-18.30

## 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: <https://www.sesarju.eu/news>

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

DG MOVE: [https://ec.europa.eu/transport/home\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/home_en)

Finnish Presidency of the Council: <https://eu2019.fi/en/frontpage>



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