Dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me to write these words for the first time as chair of the ITRE Committee. I want to welcome you all back after the Christmas holidays and wish you all the best for 2020 – a year filled with challenges and opportunities both for the EU and for our committee.

We will begin this first committee meeting of 2020 with the vote on a draft motion for resolution rejecting the Commission delegated act setting the Fourth Union list of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs).

The vote will be followed by the exchange of views on an ITRE own-initiative report on a comprehensive European approach to energy storage, which is crucial for a successful energy transition, as the integration of increasing shares of intermittent renewables in the electricity system requires energy storage solutions.

Later on, the Croatian Presidency will present its priorities related to ITRE competences, and we will hold an exchange of views with Commissioner Simson on the European Green Deal.

The Committee will also welcome the representative of the European Agency Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) for the exchange of views on its organisation as well as past and current activities.

Finally, the Committee will hold the public hearing on the Strategic Planning of Horizon Europe with a focus on the Missions and Partnerships.

Cristian-Silviu Bușoi

Votes on 22 January

Commission Delegated Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the Union list of projects of common interest

ITRE committee will vote on a draft motion for resolution rejecting the Commission delegated act setting the Fourth Union list of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs).

Exchange of views on files

A comprehensive European approach to energy storage

Rapporteur: Claudia Gamon

Exchange of views

Energy storage is crucial for a successful energy transition, as the integration of increasing shares of intermittent renewables in the electricity system requires energy storage solutions. The ITRE committee has therefore decided to draw up an own-initiative report on a comprehensive European approach to energy storage. In preparation of this report, the ITRE committee will hold a first exchange of views without document. The Rapporteur (Claudia Gamon, Renew) will present her priorities for the draft report, followed by an exchange of views with the Shadow Rapporteurs, other interested Members and the Commission.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

• Deadline for tabling amendments: 23 March 2020
• Vote in ITRE: 23 June 2020

News and events

Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU visits ITRE

On 22 January, the ITRE Committee will welcome four Ministers who will present the priorities of the Croatian Presidency in the Committee’s policy areas:

• Mr Tomislav Ćorić, Minister of Environment and Energy, will present the Presidency priorities in the field of energy.
• Mr Josip Bilaver, State Secretary in the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, will outline the Presidency priorities in the fields of ICT, digital and cybersecurity.
• Mr Darko Horvat, Minister of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, will present the Presidency priorities in the fields of industry and SMEs.
• Ms Blaženka Divjak, Minister of Science and Education, will outline the Presidency priorities in the fields of research, innovation and space.
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

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

New challenges and opportunities for the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators

More

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)

Digital platforms and security issues especially in relation to 5G networks - BEREC presents the Work Programme for 2020

More

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)

The state of Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities 2018-2019

More

Euratom Supply Agency (ESA)

The Euratom Supply Agency concludes contract of nuclear fuel supply to Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant, Bulgaria

More

Fusion for Energy (F4E)

F4E and AVS-TECNALIA consortium to produce the beam line components of MITICA

More

European Global Navigation Satellite System Gnss Agency (GSA)

EC project showcases benefits of EGNSS for drones

More

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council: A more efficient and democratic decision making in EU energy and climate policy

Massimo Garribba, acting deputy Director General in DG ENER, will be presenting this communication, which sets out the rationale for more efficient and democratic decision-making in some energy policy areas, including in the nuclear area. It examines options for:

• enhanced qualified majority voting and ordinary legislative procedure under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), as already pointed out in the Communication “Towards a more efficient and democratic decision making in EU tax policy”. Currently the TFEU requires that in the field of energy the Council acts with unanimity, and after consulting the European Parliament, when adopting provisions that are primarily of fiscal nature.

• stronger democratic accountability under the Euratom Treaty.

Exchange of views with the European Agency Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)

As part of the usual exercise consisting of inviting, at the beginning of the legislative term, all agencies falling under the responsibility of the ITRE committee, the ITRE committee will welcome the representative of the European Agency Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Agency providing a general presentation on its organisation as well as past and current activities.

Public hearing on "Strategic Planning of Horizon Europe: Missions and Partnerships"*

On 23 January 2020, the ITRE Committee will hold a public hearing on the Strategic Planning of Horizon Europe with a focus on the Missions and Partnerships. This hearing is organised in light of the current work towards the design of these large funding priorities for Horizon Europe and the finalisation of the first Strategic Plan of the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The focus will be on the needs and challenges of two missions and four different kinds of partnerships.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

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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.

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