

Newsletter

TRAN Committee meeting with remote participation of 12 October 2020

Editorial by Karima Delli

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

With the COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately rearing its head again in our countries, the TRAN Committee keeps a close and watchful eye on the impact of the pandemic on the transport and tourism sectors. This was of course also a major topic at the European Tourism Convention that took place on 12 October and brought together all the major tourism stakeholders in Europe.

The past weeks have been especially busy for the TRAN Committee. The Members adopted their position on the 2021 European Year of Rail. Now negotiations should start swiftly with the Council in order to roll-out the programme as soon as possible. Members also had a first discussion with Commissioner Vălean on the recently adopted amended proposal regarding the Single European Sky. This is a long-awaited proposal that will hopefully break the current deadlock in Council. And finally, negotiations with the Council on the rail passengers' rights came to a conclusion, though not as ambitious than what the Parliament would have wanted, it is good news to all rail passengers that will have their rights strengthened compared to the current situation. Wishing you all a good health and take good care of yourself and your dear ones.



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European Year of Rail (2021)

Vote on draft report

- Rapporteur: Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg (Verts/ALE)
- Plenary: November 2020 (tbc)

Result of the final vote: 45 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions

Decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations: 47 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

Establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility

Vote on draft opinion

- Rapporteur: Roberts Zīle (ECR)
- Responsible: BUDG/ECON
- Vote in BUDG/ECON: 26 October 2020 (tbc)

Result of the final vote: 32 in favour, 6 against, 9 abstentions

A new strategy for European SMEs

Vote on draft opinion

- Rapporteur: João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)
- Responsible: ITRE
- Vote in ITRE: 27 October 2020 (tbc)

Result of the final vote: 47 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

Connectivity and EU-Asia relations

Exchange of views

- Rapporteur: Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)
- Responsible: AFET

In the presentation of his draft report, the Rapporteur stressed the need for an effective governance mechanism to ensure proper implementation of the EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy. He welcomed the ongoing extension of the EU's Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries. The Rapporteur further called on the Commission to review the external dimension of the TEN-T and to come up with a comprehensive transport initiative to connect TEN-T with strategic networks in Asia.

In the ensuing debate, the Shadow Rapporteurs highlighted the importance of updating the EU connectivity strategy following disruptions in transport as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. They also

expressed their intention to emphasise in the TRAN report the role of rail and its potential in EU-Asia connections. Members agreed with the rapporteur's call for the promotion of EU principles in the connectivity strategy with Asia such as transparency, good governance and sustainability, with a particular focus on reciprocity in public procurement and level playing field.

The Rapporteur and the Shadows also acknowledged the importance to engage with Asian partners at EU level in mitigating the effects of climate change in all modes of transport.

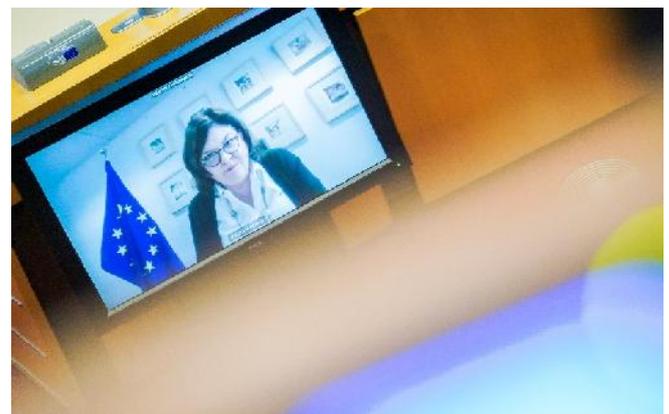
Update on progress in the EU-UK negotiations on transport related issues

Exchange of views with the European Commission

The Commission representatives from the UK Task Force and DG MOVE updated TRAN Members on the state of negotiations on the transport chapter of the EU-UK relationship agreement. For reasons of confidentiality, the discussion was held behind closed doors.

Update of SES 2+ legislation

Presentation by Adina-Ioana Vălean, European Commissioner for Transport



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Commissioner Vălean presented a much anticipated newly updated proposal for the Single European Sky reform. The reform is aiming at further liberalising certain ATM services in the Union in order to facilitate more direct routing for carriers, decrease the EU aviation environmental footprint by 10% and make the whole system more resilient to future capacity crises such as the current one. Some new key concepts include introduction of market mechanism for data services provision and single per-unit rate for ATM

services in order to incentivise airlines to use more direct routes. The Commissioner's presentation was welcomed by the TRAN Members, who confirmed their readiness to engage in a constructive discussion with the Council to adopt the proposal as quickly as possible. MEPs underlined the fact that previous reform, called SES2+, has been blocked in the Council due to lack of political will from the governments. Some speakers expressed concern about opening the market for data provision to competition, viewing it as very sensitive and therefore crucial to aviation safety. Despite concerns about negative effects of COVID-19 pandemic on the industry, Members agreed that SES reform is long overdue and much needed to make the European aviation more efficient, environmentally friendly and resilient for the future.

Rail passengers' rights and obligations (recast)

Reporting back to committee on the negotiations (Rule 74(3))

- Rapporteur: Bogusław Liberadzki (S&D)

Johan Danielsson (S&D) updated the TRAN Committee on behalf of the rapporteur Boguslaw Liberadzki (S&D), on inter-institutional negotiations on rail passenger rights. An agreement was reached at the 4th trilogue held on 1 October under the German Presidency. The rapporteur thanked all shadow rapporteurs and highlighted the progress achieved in terms of passenger rights compared with the existing regulation: a complete system will now be in place for persons with reduced mobility that will be able to travel with assistance after a 24h pre-notification compared with 48h before. Passengers will have to be offered rerouting options after 100 minutes of delays whatever the circumstances and trains will be better equipped for bike transport. Shadows and members that took the floor mostly agreed with that analysis while some regretted that the deal is not as ambitious as the Parliament's position adopted in first reading.

Tourism Task Force update

The European Tourism Convention, organised by the European Commission took place virtually on 12 October to launch a dialogue on sustainable recovery and the strategic orientations for the tourism of tomorrow, and to guide future work and cooperation on tourism (towards a European Agenda for Tourism 2050). Discussions focused on three main themes: resilience; sustainability/green transition; digital transition, data and innovation.

The TRAN Chairwoman Karima Delli represented the EP at the plenary debate and MEP Istvan Ujedyi in one of the thematic workshops. The Members of the Tourism Task Force published a written statement to the Convention, highlighting that the Tourism sector is in urgent need of:

-)] EU-level coordination of travel restrictions, hygiene and health protocols;
-)] Consistent and transparent criteria to assess risks across the EU;
-)] Direct and dedicated financial support.

The TTF considers that this Convention has to be a first step on the path towards a genuine EU policy for sustainable tourism, whereby it has to be looked at the following aspects:

-)] Crisis Management Mechanism, for possible future crisis situations;
-)] EU Tourism Strategy for sustainable tourism, proposing that Member States set clear, strategic and results-oriented objectives;
-)] Governance in the tourism sector to measure sustainability criteria (economic, social and environmental impacts) with clear metrics, control and monitoring;
-)] clear action plan to help the sector manage the twin transition to digital and greener, including a safety component.

More information available here: <http://www.tourism-convention.eu/statements/>

Next TRAN Committee meeting: planned draft agenda

Wednesday 28 October 13.45-15.45 and Thursday 29 October 9.00-11.00 and 13.45-15.45

-) Consideration of draft report on Establishing EU Strategy for Sustainable Tourism
-) Consideration of draft report on Technical and operational measures for more efficient and cleaner maritime transport
-) Consideration of draft report on EU and Japan on civil aviation safety
-) Consideration of amendments on Revision TEN-T Guidelines
-) Consideration of amendments on Circular economy plan for cleaner and more competitive Europe
-) Exchange of views with Executive Director of EASA, Patrick Ky
-) Exchange of views with Elisabeth Kotthaus (European Commission, DG Move) on Gender equality in Transport
-) Scrutiny: Delegated act on Slot waiver extension and EC report presentation
-) Report back on interinstitutional negotiations

TRAN Committee meetings 2020

Please note that **all dates are still to be confirmed** depending on room and interpretation resources

Tuesday 10/11/2020 9.00-11.00 and 13.45-15.45
Monday 30/11/2020 13.45-15.45
Tuesday 01/12/2020 9.00-11.00 and 13.45-15.45

Useful links

TRAN website: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/tran/home/highlights>

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

German Presidency of the Council: <https://www.eu2020.de/eu2020-en>



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