Words by the Chair

Dear colleagues,

I want to welcome you all back after the Christmas holidays and wish you all the best for the New Year. 2020 was indeed a year filled with challenges but also opportunities both for the EU and for our committee. We proved that, in spite of all, we could prevail. We will begin this first committee meeting with an exchange of views with Mr. Massimo Garribba, Deputy Director-General in DG Energy of the European Commission, on the ongoing EU peer review concerning the safety of the nuclear power plant in Ostrovets, Belarus. Further, Members of the Commission's UK Task Force will de-brief us on the content of the agreements in the ITRE remit. We shall also be voting on four very important provisional agreements about the European Defence Fund, Establishment of the Space Programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme, the European Defence Fund, Establishing the Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027, and the Network of National Coordination Centres.

Cristian-Silviu Bușoi

Votes on 14 January

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News and events

Amending Decision 2008/376/EC on the adoption of the Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel and on the multiannual technical guidelines for this programme

The Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (‘RFCS Research Programme’) supports research and innovation projects in the areas of coal and steel. Around €40 million every year help universities, research centres and private companies to fund projects.
The purpose of the Commission’s proposal is to update the RFCS Research Programme objectives, in line with the EU climate, energy and environmental targets. It also aims at achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and the ‘do no harm principle’, enshrined in the European Green Deal Communication. It supports as well a fair and just transition for coal regions in line with the principles of the Just Transition Mechanism; and, finally, it revises the steel research objectives in order to prioritize near zero carbon steelmaking technologies, applications and use.

The EP draft report will be presented in the ITRE Committee on 14 January while, the deadline for tabling amendments is the 20 January 2021, at 12.00.

**Exchange of views on nuclear power plant in Ostrovets, Belarus**

The Committee will have an exchange of views with Mr Massimo Garribba, Deputy Director-General in DG Energy of the European Commission, on the ongoing EU peer review concerning the safety of the nuclear power plant in Ostrovets, Belarus. ITRE is currently preparing on that matter an oral question with a motion for resolution to be summed to plenary.

**Debriefing from the European Commission's Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom, including on the nuclear energy agreement**

On 24 December 2020, EU and UK negotiators agreed on a EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, a EU-UK Security of Information Agreement and a EU-UK Agreement for cooperation on the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Members of the Commission's UK Task Force will de-brief the ITRE committee on the content of the agreements in the ITRE remit. ITRE will scrutinise the agreements in the framework of the European Parliament's consent procedure.
Feedback from ongoing negotiations

The ITRE Committee Members will receive an update on the ongoing negotiations for the following files:


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