Dear colleagues,

At our next ITRE meeting, we will be voting on the draft report establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking and the draft opinion regarding a reinforced role for the European Medicines Agency. The Committee will also vote on an oral question and motion for a resolution on the EU’s Cybersecurity Strategy for the Digital Decade.

We will have a presentation of the draft report on the proposal for the revision of the NIS Directive (cybersecurity) and the draft opinion on the proposal for the establishment of Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and the Metrology Partnership, and three draft opinions on batteries, the EU strategy to reduce methane emissions and the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe.

We will also hear Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy, during a structured dialogue with our Committee. The main topic of the dialogue is the ongoing preparation of the Fit for 55 Package, which was recently announced by the Commission for 14 of July 2021. The following day, there will be a public hearing on methane emissions, led by ENVI, with ITRE and AGRI as associated Committees.

### Votes on 26 May

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### News and events

**Measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, repealing Directive (EU) 2016/1148**

The ITRE Committee will hear Mr Bart Groothuis (RE), the rapporteur for the proposal on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union (NIS 2), who will present his draft report and the therein included amendments to the committee.

The NIS 2 proposal will replace the NIS Directive of 2016, the very first EU act tackling cybersecurity. The goal of the Commission NIS 2 proposal is to increase the level of cyber-resilience by expanding the scope to new sectors based on their criticality to the economy and society. The NIS 2 proposal also suggested to divide entities - public or private - into "essential" and "important" entities. That division triggers different supervisory regimes: an ex-ante supervisory regime for essential entities and an ex-post supervisory regime for important entities.

The rapporteur welcomes the NIS 2 proposal and even suggests to widen its scope in order to include also research and academic institutions. While maintaining cybersecurity at its highest level, notably through automated sharing of information regarding cybersecurity incidents, threat and vulnerabilities, the rapporteur also addresses the particular needs of enterprises. In this vein, the rapporteur proposes to include positive incentives for SMEs through guidance, need-based services and tailored assistance. The rapporteur also tabled several amendments.
Methane is the second biggest contributor to climate change, after carbon dioxide. Tackling methane emissions is therefore essential to reaching the 2030 climate targets and the 2050 climate neutrality goal, as well as contributing to the Commission’s zero-pollution ambition. The strategy sets out measures to cut methane emissions in Europe and internationally. It presents legislative and non-legislative actions in the energy, agriculture and waste sectors, which account for around 95% of methane emissions associated with human activity worldwide.


The ITRE Committee will hear the rapporteur, Ms Patrizia Toia (S&D), who will present her draft opinion at the meeting. The ITRE Committee is associated to the ENVI Committee (Rule 57) on the Commission proposal to modernise EU legislation on batteries. Batteries that are more sustainable throughout their life cycle are key for the goals of the European Green Deal. They promote competitive sustainability and are necessary for decarbonising the transport and energy sectors and to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The proposal addresses the social, economic and environmental issues related to all types of batteries.

**An EU strategy to reduce methane emissions**

The ITRE Committee will hear the rapporteur, Mr Cristian Busoi (EPP), who will present his draft opinion. The ITRE Committee is associated to the ENVI Committee (Rule 57) on the INI on the EU Strategy to reduce methane emissions. Methane is the second biggest contributor to climate change, after carbon dioxide. Tackling methane emissions is therefore essential to reaching the 2030 climate targets and the 2050 climate neutrality goal, as well as contributing to the Commission’s zero-pollution ambition. The strategy sets out measures to cut methane emissions in Europe and internationally. It presents legislative and non-legislative actions in the energy, agriculture and waste sectors, which account for around 95% of methane emissions associated with human activity worldwide.

**Resilience of critical entities**

The ITRE Committee will hear Mr Nils Torvalds (RE), who will be presenting his draft opinion to the proposal for a Directive on the resilience of critical entities, led by the LIBE Committee. The proposal aims at the creation of an all-hazards framework to support Member States in ensuring the reliable provision of services fundamental for societal or economic activities in many different sectors. The rapporteur for opinion has focused his draft mainly on the interactions between this proposal and the proposal for the NIS2 Directive.

**Exchange of views on the draft reports for Partnerships under Horizon Europe: Joint Undertakings and Metrology Partnership**

The ITRE Committee will have an exchange of views on two draft reports presented by Ms Maria da Graça Carvalho (EPP) concerning the establishment of joint undertakings under Horizon Europe and the participation of the Union in the European Partnership on Metrology jointly undertaken by several Member States. The proposal for a Council Regulation establishing joint undertakings under Horizon Europe contains a set of horizontal provisions common to all joint undertakings and nine chapters containing the specific provisions of each individual joint undertaking. This approach differs from joint undertakings established under Horizon 2020 where each one was set up by an individual basic act. The EU will provide nearly €10 billion of funding that the public and private partners will match with at least an equivalent amount of investment. This combined contribution is expected to mobilise additional investments. The proposal for a public-public partnership on Metrology is the continuation of EMPIR and EMPIR 2 partnerships, established under FP7 and Horizon 2020. It aims to accelerate Europe’s global lead in metrology research by pooling national resources and establishing self-sustaining European metrology networks.

**A Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe**

The ITRE Committee will hear Mr Marc Botenga (The Left), the rapporteur, who will present his draft opinion. The Commission adopted in November 2020 its Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe as part of its initiative to revise the EU general pharmaceuticals legislation. Taking into account the weaknesses exposed by the coronavirus crisis, the revision aims to strengthen the European regulatory framework and address market failures. The new strategy has four overarching objectives: 1) ensuring access to affordable medicines for patients, and addressing unmet medical needs, 2) supporting competitiveness, innovation and sustainability of the EU’s pharmaceutical industry, 3) enhancing crisis preparedness and response mechanisms, diversified and secure supply chains, addressing medicines shortages and 4) promoting a high level of quality, efficacy and safety standards.
Structured dialogue with Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy

The ITRE Committee will have a structured dialogue with Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy, on the activities within her portfolio. This will be a good opportunity for the Commissioner to update all Members on the ongoing preparation of the Fit for 55 Package, which the Commission has recently announced it will be presented next 14 July.

Public Hearing on methane emissions

On 27 May a public hearing entitled “The EU strategy to reduce methane emissions” is organised by the ENVI Committee with the association of ITRE and AGRI Committees. The hearing, structured in two sessions, the first one on the waste and energy sectors and the second one on agriculture, aims at receiving input from scientists and representatives of civil society and professional organisations, as well as from the European Commission, on the actions needed to combat methane emissions.

The hearing is organised in the framework of an INI report on the Commission Communication on the EU strategy to reduce methane emissions, led by ENVI with AGRI and ITRE as associated Committees.

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