Dear colleagues,

During our next ITRE meeting, we will have an exchange of views with Mr Michel Van Bellinghen, BEREC Chair 2021, Ms Annemarie Sipkes, BEREC Chair 2022 and Mr László Igneczi, Director of the Agency for Support for BEREC. We will discuss how to reach the full potential for competitive and reliable high-capacity networks (both fixed and wireless) across Europe and reach the full potential of digital markets. We support the focus on the end-users by prioritising work to build trust in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and digital services. We need to provide the European consumer with adequate tools to make better-informed choices.

The European Commission will present its proposal for a Regulation establishing a framework for a European Digital Identity. The proposal will amend the eIDAS Regulation of 2014 with the aim of giving at least 80% of citizens the possibility to use a digital ID solution to access key public services by 2030 and to do so across borders. The European Digital Identity shall also allow citizens to identify and authenticate themselves online without having to resort to providers that raise trust, security or privacy concerns.

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Roaming on public mobile communications networks within the Union (recast)

The ITRE Committee will hear the rapporteur, Ms Angelika Winzig (EPP), who will present her draft report. As the current roaming regulation will expire on 30 June 2022, the Commission adopted on 24 February a new proposal with the main aim of prolonging the current rules by 10 years and amending them where necessary. The main changes proposed by the rapporteur concern the level of wholesale rates, clarification of the provisions on the quality of service when roaming, additions on access to emergency services and a faster review of the roaming regulation.

Single Market For Digital Services (Digital Services Act) and amending Directive 2000/31/EC

The rapporteur, Ms Virkkunen (EPP), will present her draft opinion on the Digital Services Act. Together with the LIBE and JURI Committees, ITRE has shared competence over the whole Commission proposal. In the draft opinion, the rapporteur has focused on ensuring the necessary legal certainty for small and micro enterprises. She has also tried to ensure that the administrative burden set in the Regulation does not go beyond what is strictly necessary. The draft opinion modifies the definition of Very Large Online Platform to include a systemic risk test. It also introduces substantial new conditions regarding out-of-court dispute settlement.

Bridging the gender gap in digital, research and industry: what is the way forward?

ITRE Committee will host a workshop on the gap women face in the digital sector and as entrepreneurs. The Workshop will cover the following aspects:

- Women in STEM
- Female entrepreneurship
- Artificial intelligence

Invited experts will explain how gender stereotypes hinder the participation of women in STEM careers, focus on issues related to digital female entrepreneurship and discuss how to overcome gender bias in AI and solutions and ways to increase the presence of women in AI research and industry. The Workshop will take place on 17 June 2021, 13.45 – 15.25, Room: Paul-Henri Spaak (1A002) and Interactio virtual room.
The Roaming Regulation established the ‘roam like at home’ (RLAH) rule that mandated the end of retail mobile roaming charges as of 15 June 2017 in all EU Member States and EEA countries. Nevertheless, five years after its implementation, the Commission needs to review the Roaming Regulation, with a view to extending the roaming market rules by 10 years. The current roaming regulation will expire on 30 June 2022. The ITRE Committee will hear the rapporteur, Ms Angelika Winzig, who will present her draft report on this subject.

Together with the LIBE and JURI Committees, ITRE has shared competence over the whole Commission proposal on the Single Market for Digital Services (Digital Services Act). During our next meeting, the rapporteur, Ms Virkkunen, will present her draft opinion, which will be a constructive contribution to the final report.

The ITRE Committee will also hold a Workshop on the gap women face in the digital sector. Invited experts will explain how gender stereotypes hinder the participation of women in STEM careers, focus on issues related to digital female entrepreneurship and discuss how to overcome gender bias in AI and solutions and ways to increase the presence of women in AI research and industry.

We are looking forward to hearing four presentations by Mr Stefan Håkansson who is the Global Director City Energy Solutions, E. ON SE and Chief Executive Officer, E.ON Business Solutions, by Dr. Cathryn Klasto, Lecturer from the University of Gothenburg, by Mr Iñaqui Carnicer, Director- General for Solutions, by Dr. Cathryn Klasto, Executive Officer, E.ON Business Global Director City Energy

The Roaming Regulation will hold its annual exchange with BEREC, the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications. ITRE will hear Michel Van Bellinghen, the current BEREC Chair in 2021, Annemarie Sipkes, the incoming BEREC Chair in 2022 and László Igneczki, the Director of the Agency for Support for BEREC. The Chairs will present the BEREC work programme and discuss with ITRE Members about ongoing legislation such as the review of the roaming regulation.

Presentation by the Commission of the proposal for a regulation establishing a framework for a European Digital Identity

The Commission will present its proposal for a regulation establishing a framework for a European Digital Identity, which has been adopted on 3 June. The proposal will amend the eIDAS Regulation of 2014 with the aim of giving at least 80% of citizens the possibility to use a digital ID solution to access key public services by 2030 and to do so across borders. The European Digital Identity shall also allow citizens to identify and authenticate themselves online without having to resort to providers, which raise trust, security or privacy concerns.

Public hearing on the New European Bauhaus initiative

Wednesday 16 June, 16:45 - 18:45

On Wednesday, 16 June 2021, ITRE and CULT Committees will hold a joint public hearing on the New European Bauhaus (NEB), a Commission’s interdisciplinary initiative which helps to deliver the European Green Deal by combining design, sustainability and accessibility while fostering building energy efficiency.

Local communities, who are the depositories of local traditions and cultures, should be also involved in the design and planning phases of construction and renovation projects. In this regard, NEB represents an opportunity to preserve local cultural heritage by renovating it in a sustainable way. Members will exchange with experts from the public and private sectors on how to transform a built environment to make it more beautiful, sustainable and affordable. Speakers’ background will enable a lively discussion on the environmental, social and cultural dimensions laying with the New European Bauhaus initiative.

More info on the event's page
Briefing: Trans-European energy infrastructure guidelines. Updating the current framework