Dear colleagues,

At our next ITRE meeting, we will be discussing the current problems in the energy sector. It is clear that the increased costs are burdening industries and consumers alike with higher bills. This is affecting all Member States. Fluctuations in gas prices, declining domestic production, outdated infrastructure, and the increased need for imported gas are only part of the story. We have solutions at hand to stop the avalanche of rising energy prices. We will be debating the toolbox of measures proposed by the Commission with Ms Kadri Simson, our Commissioner for Energy. A European definition of the vulnerable consumer and support, including European funds, as well as centralised gas procurement through a European platform, with benefits for both planning and supply coordination, will be among the points we will be touching upon. Finally yet importantly, there is a discussion about reducing VAT, reducing taxes and excise duties on energy.

We will also have a presentation by Ms Mechthild Wörsdörfer, Deputy Director-General at DG ENER, of the Commission proposals and impact assessments for the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Renewable Energy Directive as part of the Fit for 55 package. ITRE is the lead Committee for those proposals.
Presentation of the Cost of Non-Europe (CoNE) reports in the area of energy
Under the helm of the European Parliament Research Service, a study was prepared by experts in the energy policy area to measure what would be the effects of the absence of Member States' coordination and harmonisation in the energy area. The effects of "non-Europe" can of course be measured both in economic terms and environmental terms. This exercise took into account in particular the increased targets of greenhouse gas emissions reduction, the European Green Deal and the Fit-for-55 package. The EPRS and the authors of the study will present the methodology and the results of the study against this political background.

Presentation by the Commission on the SME Performance Review
The ITRE Committee will welcome Ms Outi Slotboom, Director for Strategy and Economic Analysis at DG GROW. The SME performance review is one of the main tools the European Commission uses to monitor and assess countries' progress in implementing the SME strategy and the Small Business Act (SBA). Ms Slotboom will present the Commission's Annual Report on European SMEs 2020/2021, providing a synopsis of the size, structure and importance of SMEs to the European economy and an overview of the past and forecasted performance of SMEs from 2008 to 2021.

203 amendments were tabled to the draft report of Mr Kelly (EPP). This own-initiative report assesses the implementation of the EPBD, in particular the national long-term renovation strategies and its effects in view of the high building renovation rate required for the Union to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets. Those encompass a number of remarks concerning Member States' implementation of their obligations. The main politically sensitive issues, such as possible mandatory renovation rates, are to be found under the recommendations to the Commission ahead of its proposal for the revision of EPBD as well as to Member States to improve how they deal with energy efficiency of buildings and improve their performance in that area.

Exchange of views with the European Commission on the future of Euratom
The ITRE Committee will have an exchange of views with Mr Massimo Garribba, Deputy Director-General at DG ENER, on the future of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community. ITRE is the Committee responsible for nuclear energy and the Euratom Treaty.
NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT A

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At a glance: Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - April 2021

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