Dear colleagues,

We find ourselves half way through this legislature having faced important challenges, which we have successfully addressed together, with a steady outlook towards the future.

Despite the pandemic, we have been able to go forward with our work and achieve concrete results in all the sectors covered by our Committee (industry, research and innovation, energy, ICT and space). We have closed very important files under the new MFF, such as Horizon Europe, Digital Europe, the Connecting Europe Facility, the Space programme and the European Defence Fund. We have concluded agreements with the Council for new rules on Roaming and revised guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure.

We have also asked for a comprehensive and future oriented industrial strategy for Europe, a new strategy for European SMEs and a European strategy for data. In the energy sector, we have advocated for a European strategy for Energy System Integration, an EU strategy for Hydrogen and a new strategy for offshore renewable energy.

The constitutive meeting of the ITRE Committee will take place in Brussels on 26 January, following the appointment of the Committee members during the plenary sitting of 17-20 January. During this meeting, ITRE will elect its Bureau, made up of the Chair and four Vice-Chairs, for the next two and a half years. The Committee will then immediately resume its work.

Votes on 26 January

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I would like to stress the importance of the next two and half years, where we will focus even more in our legislative work. We have already started working on the Fit for 55 package, paving the way towards climate neutrality by making our industry and energy sectors fit for 55.

During our next meeting of 26-27 January, we will first elect the Bureau of our Committee (made up of the Chair and four Vice-Chairs) for the next two and a half years.

Our work will resume with a vote on the provisional agreements resulting from inter-institutional negotiations on Roaming and the Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure. On our agenda, we also have several considerations of draft opinions in the context of the Fit for 55 package.

We also look forward to welcoming in our Committee the French Presidency. We anticipate a very interesting exchange of views with Ms Barbara Pompili, Minister for the Ecological Transition, Ms Frédérique Vidal, Minister Delegate for Industry, Ms Agnès Pannier-Runacher, Minister for the Ecological Transition, and Mr Cédric O, Minister of State for the Digital Transition and Electronic Communication.

Cristian-Silviu Buşoi

Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Regulation (EU) No 347/2013

Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations

Consideration of draft opinions

Amending Decision (EU) 2015/1814 as regards the amount of allowances to be placed in the market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme until 2030

In 2018 the European Union established, further to the Decision 2015/1814, the Market Stability Reserve (MSR) to support the effectiveness of its Emission Trading Scheme (ETS). This mechanism allows putting allowances in the reserve and releasing them if needed. To avoid a weakening of the ETS due to low carbon prices, the volume of the allowances to be placed in the MSR was doubled when the ETS was last revised and that would remain in place until 2023. The Commission now proposes maintaining the intake rate of 24 % and the minimum amount of allowances to be placed into the reserve of 200 million allowances and to do so as soon as possible to ensure market predictability and prevent any harmful increase of the surplus of allowances.

For these reasons, the rapporteur proposes six amendments that would only affect the Recitals.


Parliament has highlighted the need to address the development of alternative fuel infrastructure in several resolutions. There is a connection between the availability of alternatively fuelled vehicles, the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure and consumer demand for these technologies. In its resolution on the European Green Deal, Parliament welcomed the proposal to review the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive, and called on the Member States 'to commit to proper funding and step up the pace for the deployment of innovative strategies, charging infrastructure and alternative fuels' outlining its view on how to tackle the coronavirus impact. Some Member States have developed their electricity recharging infrastructure, others have focussed on CNG/LNG filling stations. There are substantial differences between Member States in regard to available infrastructure.

Amending Regulation (EU) 2019/631 as regards strengthening the CO2 emission performance standards for new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles in line with the Union’s increased climate ambition

EU must reduce emissions across all sectors, including road transport, which accounts for 20% of total emissions, with cars and vans responsible for three quarters of that volume. This transition will, meanwhile, affect households, regions, workers and the car industry, while requiring significant public and private investment. Mr Riquet, the rapporteur in ITRE, will present his draft opinion on the proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/631 as regards strengthening the CO2 emission performance standards for new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles in line with the Union’s increased climate ambition.

Amending Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a system for greenhouse gas emission trading within the Union, Decision (EU) 2015/1814 concerning the establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme and Regulation (EU) 2015/757

The draft opinion on the revision of the EU Emission Trading Scheme focuses on the key issues that relate to the remit of ITRE, such as the Innovation Fund, the Modernisation Fund, the fairness of the obligation to conduct energy audits, the calculation of the amount of free allocation based on product-specific benchmarks, and the prevention of carbon leakage. The rapporteur also draws attention to the problem of the extension of the ETS to the maritime sector that could affect disproportionately ships navigating in icy conditions. Altogether, the rapporteur introduces 24 amendments to the Commission proposal.
Amending Regulations (EU) 2018/841 as regards the scope, simplifying the compliance rules, setting out the targets of the Member States for 2030 and committing to the collective achievement of climate neutrality by 2035 in the land use, forestry and agriculture sector, and (EU) 2018/1999 as regards improvement in monitoring, reporting, tracking of progress and review

The objective of the proposal for a ‘Review of the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation’ is to improve the rules on land use, land use change and forestry sector, combined with agriculture non-CO2 greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to the EU climate policy framework. Ms Virkkunen, the rapporteur in ITRE, will present her draft opinion to the Committee.

Events

Exchange of views with Ms Barbara Pompili, Minister for the Ecological Transition (energy), Ms Agnès Pannier-Runacher, Minister Delegate for Industry (industry, SMEs, space), Ms Frédérique Vidal, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (research, innovation) and Mr Cédric O, Minister of State for the Digital Transition and Electronic Communication (telecommunications, ICT)

The ITRE Committee will meet representatives of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union to discuss its priorities in relation to the Committee’s areas of responsibility. The French Presidency started in the beginning of January and will run until the end of June.

Interinstitutional negotiations

The rapporteurs of the following files will report back to Committee on the negotiations:

- Measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, repealing Directive (EU) 2016/1148 - rapporteur: Bart Groothuis
- Roaming on public mobile communications networks within the Union (recast) - rapporteur: Angelika Winzig

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the ITRE secretariat or visit ITRE website. The Committee meetings are web-streamed and can be watched live on the EP website or on Europarl TV.

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