Dear colleagues,

The second part of this parliamentary term has just started. I would like to stress the importance of the next two and a half years, where our Committee will focus even more on our legislative work.

We have already started working on the Fit for 55 package, paving the way towards climate neutrality through the transformation of our industry and energy sectors. In our meeting of 2-3 February, several significant files of the Fit for 55 package are up for consideration in the Committee (Social Climate Fund, Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, ReFuelEU Aviation, FuelEU Maritime).

Given the current problems of soaring energy prices in the EU, an exchange of views with Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy, will be a key point in the agenda of our Committee meeting. The Commissioner will also present the new EU framework to decarbonise gas markets, promote hydrogen and reduce methane emissions and the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

We will also hold a public hearing on the European Digital Identity Wallet and Trust Services, in the context of the legislative proposal establishing a framework for a European Digital Identity.

In our meeting, we will also have a presentation of a study commissioned by ITRE on the cost of Non-Europe of digital Votes on 2 and 3 February

---

**Exchange of views**

**Joint ITRE-CULT meeting on New European Bauhaus**

On 1 February, CULT and ITRE are jointly organising an exchange of views on the New European Bauhaus. This creative and interdisciplinary initiative, launched in early 2021, aims to connect the European Green Deal to our living spaces and experiences with transformative projects anchored on three core values: sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion.

In addition to the two co-rapporteurs, Mr Christian Ehler (ITRE) and Mr Marcos Ros Sempere (CULT), the speakers include also Ms Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth; the French Presidency of the Council; two experts from the High-Level Roundtable on Bauhaus and representatives from other Institutions. Members from the REGI and EMPL committees will also take part in the event. This exchange of views constitutes the first step in the process of adopting a joint CULT-ITRE own-initiative report on the topic.

---

**Guidelines for the 2023 Budget - Section III**

The guidelines are the first resolution that the Parliament adopts in a budgetary procedure. It is aimed at laying down Parliament’s expectations for the budget of the following year. The resolution will be adopted in plenary in March and shall give guidance to the European Commission before adopting the Draft Budget. 2023 will be a critical year for the budget since it will be the last year for the Next Generation EU (NGEU).

Members will discuss the draft opinion tabled by Christian Ehler (EPP).

---

**The use of renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport and amending Directive 2009/16/EC**

By contributing to around 75% of EU external trade volumes and 31% of EU internal trade volumes, maritime transport is an essential component of Europe’s transport system and plays a critical role for the European economy. Achieving significant reductions in CO2
of Non-European digital transformation.

A joint ITRE-CULT meeting is also planned that is dedicated to an exchange of views with the European Commission, the Council Presidency and various experts on the New European Bauhaus.

Cristian-Silviu Busoi

emissions of international maritime transport requires using both less energy (increasing energy efficiency) and cleaner types of energy (using renewable and low-carbon fuels). Currently, the fuel mix in the maritime sector relies entirely on fossil fuels.

Members will discuss the draft opinion tabled by Rasmus Andresen (The Greens/EFA).

Establishing a Social Climate Fund

As part of the Fit for 55 package, the Commission has included a proposal for a regulation establishing a social climate fund to help vulnerable households, micro-businesses and transport users meet the costs of the green energy transition in the buildings and road transport sector.

Members will discuss the draft opinion tabled by Beata Szydło (ECR).

Establishing a carbon border adjustment mechanism

As part of the Fit for 55 package but also strongly related to the new industrial strategy, the proposal for a regulation aims to put a carbon price on imports of a targeted selection of products so that ambitious climate action in Europe does not lead to ‘carbon leakage’.

Members will discuss the draft opinion tabled by Izabela-Helena Kloc (ECR).

Ensuring a level playing field for sustainable air transport

A well-functioning and competitive aviation internal market is essential for the mobility of European citizens and for the European economy as a whole. In 2018, the aviation and aeronautical industries employed an estimated 0.4 million people directly in the EU and contributed to the EU’s GDP by an estimated 2.1% in 2017. Aviation is a strong driver for social and regional cohesion that boosts tourism, stimulates business and connects people. In particular, it is essential to ensure a level playing field across the EU air transport market, when it comes to the use of aviation fuel.

Members will discuss the draft opinion tabled by Jutta Paulus (The Greens/EFA).
Events

Exchange of views with Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy, on energy prices in the EU

Commissioner Simson will have an exchange of views with Members on the short and medium term forecast of the energy prices in the EU. Members will also hear input from the Agency for Cooperation of Energy Regulators on the same matter.

Presentation by Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy, of the new EU framework to decarbonise gas markets, promote hydrogen and reduce methane emissions and the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Fit for 55 package)

Commissioner Simson will present the package of legislative proposals on the new EU framework to decarbonise gas markets, promote hydrogen and reduce methane emissions as well as on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, all part of the Fit for 55 package.

Public Hearing on the European Digital Identity Wallet and Trust Services

The public hearing on “European Digital Identity Wallet and Trust Services” will evolve around the current legislative proposal to establish a framework for a European Digital Identity - 2021 /0136 (COD).

The panelists will discuss topics such as the impact of the proposal on the protection of personal data, the interplay of the private and the public sector on issuing and using the European Digital Identity Wallet and Trust Services and their interoperability, usability and cybersecurity.

Presentation of a Study on the Cost of Non-Europe of Digital Transformation

The study commissioned by the European Parliament Research Service follows the approach of the Cost of Non-Europe series of measuring what would be the effects of an absence of EU and Member States coordination and harmonisation efforts in the digital domain. It does this by presenting alternative policy options scenarios and comparing those with a baseline scenario using a computable general equilibrium model. Through this method, the study indicates that if no EU-level action is taken in support of digital transformation, the cost expressed as impact on GDP at constant 2020 prices could be up to EUR 1.3 trillion in 2033. Expressed in employment it could impact positively nearly 8 million people by 2033.
Disclaimer: The items contained herein are drafted by the secretariat of the European Parliament and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. This document may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The secretariat does not necessarily endorse the view(s) expressed on these websites.