

Newsletter

TRAN Committee meetings of June 2022

Editorial by Karima Delli

Dear colleagues and friends,

During our last committee meetings, the war in Ukraine was once again at the centre of our work. The TRAN Committee welcomed the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine, Mr Mustafa Nayyen, and discussed current military situation in Ukraine. The Commission also presented recent proposals related to the situation in Ukraine as well as the proposal for temporary rules concerning Ukrainian driver documents. We equally held an exchange of views with the Director-General of Eurocontrol on the impact of the war in Ukraine on the European air traffic.

Our Committee voted on the report on RefueIEU Aviation, one of the files of the Fit for 55 package. We also adopted the opinion on the Implementation of the Updated New Industrial Strategy for Europe.

TRAN members also discussed several ongoing legislative and non-legislative files (such as draft reports on Action plan to boost long-distance and cross-border passenger rail, and on Intelligent Transport Systems; and draft opinions on Upscaling the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, on Energy performance of buildings (recast), and on Improving working conditions in platform work).

Moreover, the TRAN Committee held a public hearing on Delivering multimodal ticketing for smarter travel and welcomed the Commission to present the results of the 2021 CEF Transport call for proposals and the RePowerEU plan. Finally, during the meeting of the Tourism Task Force, TRAN members had the opportunity to listen to various experts on the promotion of "Destination Europe".



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Ensuring a level playing field for sustainable air transport

Adoption of draft report

- Rapporteur: Søren GADE (Renew)
- Vote in plenary: 07 July 2022

Result of the vote: 25 in favour, 6 against, 3 abstentions.



Alexis HAULOT © European Union 2022 - Source : EP

Implementation of the Updated New Industrial Strategy for Europe: aligning spending to policy

Adoption of draft opinion

- Rapporteur: Carlo FIDANZA (ECR)
- Vote in main committee (ITRE): 13 July 2022

Result of the vote: 37 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstentions.

Action plan to boost long distance and cross border passenger rail

Consideration of draft report

- Rapporteur: Annalisa TARDINO (ID)
- Vote in TRAN: 26 September 2022

The Rapporteur, Ms Tardino, presented her report whose structure follows that of the Commission's action plan. Ms Tardino indicated her support to this plan general orientation and highlighted the priorities of her report: boosting connectivity across borders but also for remote regions, island and less populated

Tourism Task Force update: *Tourism Task Force meeting of 15 June: Exchange of views on the promotion of "Destination Europe"*

areas and improving the last mile connection, multi modal ticketing, the protection of passenger rights and actions directed towards young people.

In the ensuing discussion, Shadows and members thanked the Rapporteur for her report and echoed her priorities. Several members insisted on the importance of investment in high-speed trains but also in smaller missing links. They also highlighted the importance of a Level playing field between transport modes and among rail operators. In its response, the Commission focused on three aspects of its action plan: friendly ticketing, a more efficient of the network and an efficient use of public service contracts.

Amending Directive 2010/40/EU on the framework for the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems in the field of road transport and for interfaces with other modes of transport

Consideration of draft report

- Rapporteur: Rovana PLUMB (S&D)
- Vote in TRAN: October 2022 TBC

The Rapporteur, Ms Plumb, welcomed the EC proposal, reminding that Intelligent Transport Systems are essential to improve significantly safety and security and achieve environmental and economic benefits for EU citizens. She highlighted the main important elements of her report, such as inclusion of ITS development to cover the needs of rural areas, the need for easily readable and commonly understood data shared by the National Access Points (NAPs) and the emphasis on the principles of interoperability and backward compatibility, to ensure the capability for ITS systems to work with existing systems that share a common purpose.

Members expressed their support to the report and pointed out the importance to link ITS with AFIR, to have a consistent approach, make mobility more inclusive and accessible, extend the scope to the most vulnerable road users, such as bikers and pedestrians, focus on cross-border areas to eliminate possible barriers and involve regional and local authorities in the execution plan.

Improving working conditions in platform work

Consideration of draft opinion

- Rapporteur: Marianne VIND (S&D)
- Vote in TRAN: 26 September 2022

On behalf of the Rapporteur, Ms Vind, Ms García Muñoz presented the draft opinion with a special focus on the following elements: the need to ensure fair working conditions and social protection to the 28 million platform in the EU, the protection of their health, safety (via protective equipments) and fundamental rights. Ms García Muñoz also highlighted the importance of transparency in algorithmic management and of an effective social dialogue.

Shadow rapporteurs welcomed the Rapporteur's draft opinion and expressed support for her priorities. Several members insisted on the importance of legal certainty while others welcomed the reversal of the burden of proof. The Commission also welcomed the draft opinion and further explained its horizontal, sector neutral approach.

Upscaling the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework: a resilient EU budget fit for new challenges

Consideration of draft opinion

- Rapporteur: Isabel GARCÍA MUÑOZ (S&D)
- Vote in TRAN: October 2022

The Rapporteur, Ms García Muñoz, presented her opinion and underlined that the transport and tourism sectors have been, and still are, severely affected by the pandemic, the Russian war against Ukraine and the resulting energy crises. She welcomed the Commission's REPowerEU Plan as a good step to rapidly reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels, while also warning against disrupted supply chains and social division due to soaring energy prices. In this context, she called for an in-depth revision of the MFF with a stronger CEF, increased budget for military mobility and concrete measures for the reskilling of transport workers.

Shadow Rapporteurs and other Members expressed their support for the opinion. They highlighted the need to adapt the MFF to changing circumstances, including the ambitious climate objectives and the war

context. Among the main points raised were the need to tackle the energy price policy, to increase flexibility in state aid as well as the importance of completing the TEN-T network. Some Members deplored the worrying situation of the tourism sector and its workers and notably insisted on a dedicated budget line for tourism.

Energy performance of buildings (recast)

Consideration of draft opinion

- Rapporteur: Andreas SCHIEDER (S&D)
- Vote in TRAN: October 2022

In the TRAN Committee meeting on 27 September the Rapporteur, Mr Andreas Schieder, presented his draft opinion on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). The Rapporteur welcomed the Commission's proposal for a revised EPBD and its updated provisions on sustainable mobility and electric charging. He stressed that the Directive will provide a key tool for the decarbonising of transport given that about 90% of recharging of electric vehicles takes place at home or at the workplace. In order to harness the EPBD's potential to deliver a significant contribution to the Union's climate objectives the Rapporteur believed that the ambition of the Commission's proposal should be raised. In the ensuing discussion, most Members expressed general support for the Commission's proposal, while emphasising the need for simple and cost-efficient measures and for providing charging opportunities also for citizens who cannot charge at home. Some divergence of opinion were noted as regards the level of ambition in Member States where electric vehicles are less widely spread.

Presentation by the Commission on the recent proposals related to the situation in Ukraine

Deputy Director-General of DG Move Maja Bakran first presented the Action Plan for EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes to facilitate Ukraine's agricultural export with the EU, with an objective is to direct 3 million tons of grains per month outside of Ukraine through new modal routes (Black Sea ports being currently blocked by Russia) such Danube/Constanta, Polish, Baltic and Adriatic ports as important corridors. She then presented the Trans European transport networks revision process, the extension of European transport corridors to Ukraine and Moldova being a further step in these countries' integration within the EU. She also

updated MEPs on the state of play of the negotiations on the road agreements with Ukraine and Moldova, which have been signed on 30th June. She concluded with the Contingency plan for transport adopted on 23 May, a toolbox for emergency crisis response, with a first concrete example being the Solidarity Lanes Action Plan.



Emilie GOMEZ © European Union 2022 - Source : EP

TRAN Members expressed their full approbation for the solidarity lanes and the extension of maps to Ukraine and Moldova, alongside the importance of developing a clear action plan for Poland and Romania as efficient corridors. Various Members expressed their concerns for the food shortages outside of Europe, for example in Africa, and Ms Bakran answered that priority was to get the grains to European ports and to then distribute them outside to those “who desperately need it”. On staffing issues in transports discussed, she stressed the need to add employment possibilities in the transport sector alongside encouraging initiatives on women in transport. She finally answered that around 50% to 70% of agricultural machinery may be destroyed for this year’s harvest.

Presentation by the Commission on the results of the 2021 CEF Transport call for proposals

The Commission presented the results of the first calls for proposals. The Commission presented the results of the first calls for proposals from the transport pillar of the new Connecting Europe Facility Regulation (CEF), which had been launched in September 2021.

Members welcomed the prompt start of the calls for proposals after the new CEF came into force,

underlining the importance of providing swift support for mature projects for the timely completion of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) core network by 2030 as well as for an accelerated deployment of alternative fuel infrastructure on the TEN-T. Speakers also stressed the need for strongly investing in interoperable railways and multimodality. Moreover, speakers inquired about the means to boost dual-use infrastructure projects through the CEF, highlighting the urgent need for enhancing military mobility in the EU in view of the new geopolitical context borne out by the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine. Noting the fact that already the first calls for proposals showed that available funds can only support about 25% of the submitted projects,

Feedback on TRAN mission to Romania, 23-25 May 2022

A delegation of TRAN Members visited Romania from 23-25 May. In reporting back to the Committee, MEP Marinescu, who had headed the delegation, explained that the mission had scrutinized the progress in the implementation of the Rhine-Danube TEN-T core network corridors, including the port of Constanta and the lower Danube, and moreover gathered timely insights into cross-border transport issues linked to the Ukraine war crisis, in particular measures for safeguarding Ukrainian crop exports. Delegates highlighted the constructive political exchanges with the Prime Minister of Romania as well as the Romanian Senate committees responsible for transport infrastructure and for tourism. A number of site visits, carried out together with Members of the Romanian Senate committees, looked into the situation on the ground at the border crossings of Romania with Ukraine and Moldova in the Danube delta. Meetings in Constanta and Tulcea furthermore served to discuss sustainable mobility and tourism topics in the region.

Public Hearing on Delivering multimodal ticketing for smarter travel Public Hearing

Members of the TRAN Committee debated the deployment of Multimodal Ticketing for smarter travel in the EU on Wednesday 15 June, following the hearing of transport stakeholders.

Mr Mazzola, Executive Director of CER, presented the CER Ticketing Roadmap for seamless international

passenger rail travel to be implemented in the rail sector by 2025 and with other transport modes by 2030. With this, passengers could access up-to-date multimodal travel information when planning and traveling, buy tickets from companies all over Europe and use them across all modes in a digitalised way and be able to reach their destination without purchasing new tickets in case of disruption. Mr Mounier, Secretary General of EU Travel Tech, detailed the elements that would allow multimodal platforms to play their role. These include access to the content of transport operators to allow them to transparently distribute all modes of transport, access contents of transport operators within “fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND)” distribution agreements, and a strong enforcement framework. Ms Wittwer discussed the benefits of combining public with private mobility offers in terms of CO2 emission reductions and congestion reduction. This Cooperation between Public Transport Operator (PTO) services and ride-hailing platforms has to do with ticketing. It means that the distribution of public transport operators tickets should be allowed to other MaaS platforms, such as ride-hailing. The cooperation could be based on licensing agreements. Ms Buscke, Head of the EU Office of the Federation of German Consumer Organisations, presented 5 barriers to overcome to make multimodality a reality: single set of passenger rights for multimodal travel, real-time travel information across modes, obligation to provide multimodal through tickets, the use of digital possibilities for claiming passenger rights and “mobility guarantee” allowing journey continuation until arrival at the final destination. During her presentation, Ms Romero Pozo, Deputy and spokesperson for Mobility and Territorial Cohesion in the provincial council of Guipuzkoa (Spain), introduced the main features of the MUGI Card. The MUGI is progressive, the more passengers use it, the less they pay.

In the ensuing debate, the Members thanked the experts for their presentations and welcomed the opportunity to discuss such an important topic. They highlighted that multimodal ticketing will help to achieve a modal shift toward sustainable transport modes as well as develop tourism by making touristic destinations more accessible. Some members insisted on the importance of safeguarding passengers’ rights for multimodal tickets and on data availability and access to allow third-party ticket vendors to sell tickets.

Exchange of views with Eamonn Brennan, Director General of Eurocontrol, on the consequences of the situation in Ukraine

Director General of Eurocontrol, Mr Eamonn Brennan, presented the impact of Ukraine invasion on European air traffic, namely on long-haul flights, fuel inflation and aircraft theft by Russian federation.

The ensuing debate stressed that airports were the hardest hit by the COVID-19 recovery with staffing shortage crisis as airport jobs were no longer attractive due to low wages and security clearances. On the other hand, airline companies are recovering fairly quickly and will achieve 90% of 2019 levels by the summer 2022. Airports received very few state aid compared to airline companies during the COVID-19 crisis. Some speakers mentioned that as China is not applying a ban from flying over Russian Federation airspace, its airline companies are becoming more competitive compared with European ones. Indeed, prices are fairly higher for European airlines due to the extension of their flight routes to avoid Russian Federation airspace.

Exchange of views with Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Infrastructure

Deputy Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine, Mr Mustafa Nayyen updated Members on the recent military situation in Ukraine and about his country’s efforts to export goods, mainly grain but also steel and chemicals, out of Ukraine, despite its ports being blocked by the Russian forces. As close to 70% of all Ukrainian pre-war exports were shipped by the sea, he warned that current blockage of the harbours risked to cause international food crisis. While Ukraine was doing its best to rebuild its roads and bridges in order to increase transport by rail and road, Mr Nayyen asked the EU for support to improve the capacity of the check-points on the EU-Ukraine borders as well as the EU warehouses, harbours and transport infrastructure.



Eric VIDAL © European Union 2022 - Source : EP

Members welcomed the update and praised Ukraine for its courage and efforts. They underlined the importance of proper implementation of solidarity lanes and creating a list of priorities in terms of possible actions to be taken by the EU, both from financial and logistical perspective. In addition, they also stressed imminent plans to include Ukraine in the TEN-T revision. They also asked about cyber-attacks and other disruptions to domestic and international transport, including urgent need to rebuild destroyed infrastructure. Mr Nayyen concluded by thanking the EU and its Member States for their support so far and called on the Commission to temporarily ease the rules on customs controls to further facilitate the exports.

Presentation by the Commission on the RePowerEU plan and its implications for the transport sector

The representative of DG ENER, Mr Gil Tetre, presented the RepowerEU Plan adopted by the Commission on 18 May 2022, with the aim of rapidly reducing EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels. He detailed the various measures of the plan: energy savings and diversification of supply in the immediate term; investments to complete the missing links for energy infrastructure in the short term; accelerating Europe's clean energy transition with the acceleration of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the medium to long term. He concluded by outlining the two 'pillars' of the plan: on the one hand, regulatory actions and, on the other hand, additional financing solutions.

In the ensuing debate, Members asked about the best way to accelerate the transition in the transport sector towards more sustainable fuels and to achieve the

dependence on Russian fossil fuels more quickly. Members also addressed questions about the link between RepowerEU and the Fit for 55 proposals, such as FuelEU Maritime, and the role that alternative fuels and biofuels could continue to play in the transport sector.

Presentation by the Commission on the proposal for temporary rules concerning Ukrainian driver documents

The Commission presented the proposal aiming at allowing Ukrainian refugees residing in EU Member States to continue using their Ukrainian driving license without the need to exchange it for an EU driving license or to sit a new driving test, after their licence expires. The regulation, once adopted, would also enable Ukrainian truck and bus drivers under temporary protection in the EU to extend the validity of their Ukrainian-issued Certificates of Professional Competence after a short training course and a test. Overall, this legislation, which is closely linked with the temporary protection directive, should enable Ukrainian refugees to work in the EU and to contribute to efforts towards easing obstacles to Ukraine's exports. Members welcomed the proposal as necessary and timely, expressing their support for treating it with utmost urgency. However, some groups voiced their concerns about the duration of its application, suggesting a need for a review clause or other mechanism, which would provide an evaluation of the impact of these temporary measures. Following the meeting, the Committee requested the application of the urgent procedure and send the proposal directly to plenary.



Tourism Task Force meeting: Exchange of views on the promotion of 'Destination Europe'

The experts provided their perspectives on the existing, planned and possible actions dedicated to and benefits of jointly promoting the Union as destination

for tourism to third country markets. They presented the Destination Europe campaign which has a goal to convince travelers from long-haul journeys to stay longer in Europe and tries to reach a larger target group beyond European borders. They explained that new marketing approach is shifting from a geography based EU segmentation to a global interest-based campaign and stressed the need to advocate for the trends common in Europe such as ecotourism (nature and outdoors activities), history, ancestry, and culture. While highlighting that tourism sector was heavily hit by COVID and is not likely to reach 2019 levels before 2025, they stressed that in order to build it back it is important to rely on consumers from outside Europe.

In the context of the current political and economic environment, the experts presented the potential of cryptocurrency and block chains in the tourism industry.

During the debate, Members expressed a wide range of views starting with criticism for lack of focus on the Green Deal objectives and ending with disapproval of insufficient progress in promoting Destination Europe. They stressed the importance of shifting the focus from geographical locations to experience driven travel, the need to support European diversity, local, regional and European tourism and better connectivity.

Next TRAN Committee meeting: planned draft agenda

Monday 11 July 15.00 – 18.30 and Tuesday 12 July 10.00 – 12.30 and 14.30 – 18.30

- Vote on:
 - Harmonised rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain Union Legislative Acts
- Consideration of draft opinion on General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2023 - all sections
- Exchange of views on Amending Directive 2003/25/EC as regards the inclusion of improved stability requirements and its alignment with stability requirements defined by the International Maritime Organisation
- Presentation of the Study on the Future of transport in the context of the recovery plan
- Visit of Czech Presidency
- International Maritime Organisation: Feedback from the 105th session of the Maritime Safety Committee and the 78th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee, Exchange of views with Director Magda Kopczynska, DG MOVE
- Presentation by the Commission on its report on the implementation of the Maritime Spatial Planning directive
- Meeting of the Tourism Task Force: Exchange of views on the Framework of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) in travel and tourism sector
- Joint meeting with the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on "Solidarity Lanes to facilitate Ukraine's agricultural export"

Useful links

TRAN website: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/tran/home/highlights>

TRAN Meetings calendar 2022: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/244947/TRAN_Calendar_2022.pdf

Policy Department Publication in the EP: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/supporting-analyses.html>

European Aviation Safety Agency newsletters: <http://easa.europa.eu/communications/general-publications.php>

European Railway Agency newsletters: <http://www.era.europa.eu/Communication/Newsletter>

European Maritime Safety Agency newsletters: <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/news-a-press-centre/newsletters.html>

SESAR Joint Undertaking news: <https://www.sesarju.eu/news>

European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/index_en

DG MOVE: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/home_en

French Presidency of the Council: <https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/en/>



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Download the "Your Passenger Rights" app

The Commission Communication team in DG MOVE developed an app explaining the rights passengers have while travelling with different modes of transport.

A new version of the app was recently released which might be useful to all of us travelling this summer.

More information here:

https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/passenger-rights/index_en.htm