

## Newsletter

### TRAN Committee meetings of 14 February and 4 March 2024

#### Editorial by Karima Delli

Dear Colleagues and friends,

In our past two committee meetings we adopted the reports on maximum weights and dimensions of road vehicles, on the Single European railway area and the text of the European Declaration on Cycling! We have hosted the ENVI Committee, with whom we adopted our joint report on accounting of greenhouse gas emissions of transport services. We have also endorsed various provisional agreements with the Council on important files such as TEN-T, occasional passenger transport, ship-source pollution, and maritime accident investigation.

The workshop on the suitability of existing post and parcel delivery legislation highlighted the need for an updated regulatory framework that governs accessibility, taking into consideration sustainability and new market trends. In the context of the Tourism Task Force, we welcomed the European Commission's presentation of the 2023 stocktaking report on the progress of the Transition pathway for tourism. During the public hearing on how to boost public transport and deal with the challenges faced by the sector, Members discussed with experts the key role of public transport for future sustainability, in particular the challenge of providing public transport in rural areas.



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- *Amending Directive 2005/35/EC on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties, including criminal penalties, for pollution offences*
- *Meeting of the Tourism Task Force (TTF) - Transition pathway for tourism: Presentation by the European Commission of the 2023 stocktaking*

### Meeting of 14 February 2024

#### **Vote on guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 and Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulation (EU) 1315/2013**

Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations

**Co-Rapporteurs: Barbara Thaler (EPP) / Dominique Riquet (Renew)**

Result of the vote: 35 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions

[Procedure file](#)

#### **Vote on amending Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 as regards minimum requirements on minimum breaks and daily and weekly rest periods in the occasional passenger transport sector**

Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations

**Rapporteur: Henna Virkkunen (EPP)**

Result of the vote: 33 in favour, 5 against, 1 abstentions

[Procedure file](#)

#### **Vote on amending Council Directive 96/53/EC laying down for certain road vehicles circulating within the Community the maximum authorised dimensions in national and international traffic and the maximum authorised weights in international traffic**

Adoption of draft report

**Rapporteur: Isabel García Muñoz (S&D)**

Result of the vote: 26 in favour, 11 against, 1 abstention

[Procedure file](#)

#### **Vote on amending Directive 2013/11/EU on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes, as well as Directives (EU) 2015/2302, (EU) 2019/2161 and (EU) 2020/1828**

Adoption of draft opinion

**Rapporteur: Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (EPP)**

*report. Looking ahead: What next for the tourism ecosystem?*

- *Presentation of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) special report 29/2023: The EU's support for sustainable biofuels in transport: An unclear route ahead, by the Rapporteur, Mr Nikolaos Milionis*

Result of the vote: 23 in favour, 1 against, 15 abstentions

[Procedure file](#)

#### **Vote on adoption of the agreed text on the European Declaration on Cycling**

**Rapporteur: Delli Karima (Greens/EFA)**

Result of the vote: 34 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

[Procedure file](#)

#### **Workshop on the suitability of existing post and parcel delivery legislation**

The TRAN Committee welcomed 4 experts in a workshop dedicated to the topic of the state of postal services and related regulatory frameworks. The presentations covered the subjects of the changing postal market and its current regulatory framework, the various existing business models, the challenges faced by regulatory authorities and future scenarios for the sector in 2040. The experts presented the key market trends, citing a decline of letter deliveries but a substantial growth of parcel deliveries, fuelled by the increasing popularity of e-commerce and large investments made by key platforms. This results in the decline of Universal Service Providers (USPs) and their service obligations, but significant growth of the private sector, bringing more options and greater affordability of parcel deliveries to customers, but also issues linked to labour conditions and accessibility of letter deliveries.



TRAN Members discussed with the experts different areas where regulatory frameworks need to be updated, notably with regard to environmental sustainability, growing e-commerce and the state-of-play of national USPs.

### [Summary and presentations](#)

## Public hearing on How to boost public transport and deal with the challenges faced by the sector

The public hearing allowed the TRAN Members to have a discussion with four stakeholders and the Commission on very pertinent transport related issues. Mr Thomas Avanzata, Spokesperson of the European Union Committee of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) made a presentation on “Empowering public transport as the backbone of urban mobility”; Mrs Delphine Grandsart Senior Researcher of the European Passengers’ Federation (EPF) addressed the question of “How to unleash the potential of the public transport sector in Europe: EPF’s priorities”; Mr Heinz Högelsberger Geologist and employee of the Arbeitskammer Wien (AK-Wien) presented “Eight steps to meet the reduction goals set out in the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy”; and Mr Koos Fransen Guest professor in Sustainable Mobility Transitions at the University of Ghent (U-Gent) spoke on the following topic: “An introduction to transport-related social exclusion: challenges for public transport in Flanders”.

**Mr Avanzata** (UITP) pointed out that the development of public transport is an opportunity to provide mobility for all while working towards the main European objectives such as economic development, job creation, improving health, and fostering greater environmental, social and territorial cohesion.

In modern societies, he argued, daily mobility will have public transport as its backbone, complemented by active mobility and personalised shared mobility options. If citizens are offered sustainable, efficient, modern, comfortable and reliable mobility options, they will prefer cities filled with life instead of cities filled with cars.

For UITP it is crucial to rally all the different levels of governance behind the common goal of promoting and strengthening the use of public transport and in its

view, many actions could be taken at the EU level, such as:

- to continue EU support for the development of local public transport in the next Multiannual Financial Framework;
- making modal shift to public transport and active mobility a clear and undisputed priority objective of the Union;
- a European declaration on public transport similar to the one on cycling;
- a European Year of local public transport.



**Ms Delphine Grandsart** (EPF) presented several drivers of mobility behaviour and stressed that passengers want public transport to be affordable, reliable, accessible, sustainable and with sufficient capacity. She advocated for a seamless European passenger transport system with access for passengers to dynamic, unbiased multimodal journey information.

**Mr Heinz Högelsberger** (AK-Wien) presented his Mobility Strategy in 8 steps with railways as the backbone of the mobility transition. He strongly argued for a fundamental change in mobility habits and mindset as well as for more attractive jobs to counter the shortage of qualified workers. In addition, he stressed the need for sufficient funding for public transport as well as affordable tickets. Last but not least, he underlined the importance of certain ‘push’ measures for other transport modes in order to achieve a level playing field, e.g. reduced speed limits, initiatives for car free cities as well as kerosene taxation.



**Mr Koos Fransen** (U-Gent) presented the result of a study on transport-related social exclusion and explained the interplay between transport disadvantages and social disadvantages which is impacted by external factors such as social norms and practices (e.g. the 'car culture'), governance and decision frameworks (e.g., top-down decision models) as well as economic and political structures. He also shed light on how inefficient spatial structures lead to inefficient mobility systems.

In the ensuing debate, Members welcomed the opportunity to discuss this topic. They highlighted the crucial role of public transport for achieving a modal shift towards sustainable transport modes. During the discussion, it became clear that fostering public transport in rural areas will be one of biggest challenges to come.

### Meeting of 4 March 2024

#### **Vote on amending Directive 2005/35/EC on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties, including criminal penalties, for pollution offences**

Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations

**Rapporteur: Marian-Jean Marinescu (EPP)**

Result of the vote: 27 in favour, 1 against, 0 abstentions

[Procedure file](#)

#### **Vote on amending Directive 2009/18/EC establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector**

Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations

**Rapporteur: Caroline Nagtegaal (Renew)**

Result of the vote: 29 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

[Procedure file](#)

#### **Vote on use of railway infrastructure capacity in the single European railway area, amending Directive 2012/34/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) No 913/2010**

Adoption of draft report

**Rapporteur: Tilly Metz (Greens)**

Result of the vote: 30 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

[Procedure file](#)

#### **Vote on accounting of greenhouse gas emissions of transport services**

**Joint Committee procedure Rule 58 TRAN/ENVI**

Adoption of draft report

**Co-Rapporteurs: Pascal Canfin (Renew) & Barbara Thaler (EPP)**

Result of the vote: 58 in favour, 19 against, 1 abstention



[Procedure file](#)

#### **Amending Directive 2009/16/EC on port State control and amending Directive 2009/21/EC on compliance with flag State requirements**

Reporting back to committee on the negotiations (Rule 74(3))

**Rapporteur: Vera Tax (S&D)**

Ms Rovana Plumb, talking on behalf of the Rapporteur, Ms Vera Tax, highlighted the main elements of the agreement found with the Council on both Flag State requirements and Port State control.

On Flag State requirements, the final agreement introduces a mandatory flag State inspection regime to verify whether the actual condition of the ship and its



crew conforms to the certificates it carries and establishes a database for E-certificates, which is a push for digitalization. Parliament also managed to strengthen the wording on the importance of working and living conditions, and in particular, the existence of a genuine link between vessel and flag State, as a core component of maritime safety. The final agreement also updates and aligns EU law with changed international rules.

On Port State Control, Parliament managed to secure that the environmental shortcomings of ships are given more weight in determining their risk profile. The final agreement also includes the establishment of a voluntary Port State Control regime for fishing vessels longer than 24 meters and the establishment of a Quality Management System within 5 years of transposition.

### Amending Directive 2005/35/EC on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties, including criminal penalties, for pollution offences

Reporting back to committee on the negotiations (Rule 74(3))

#### Rapporteur: Marian-Jean Marinescu (EPP)

Mr Marinescu expressed satisfaction with the agreement reached at the trilogue held on 15 February. He stressed that the EP's objectives had largely been met, notably reaching a high level of verification of pollution alerts and achieving greater harmonization of penalties in the EU and imposing these on companies.

### Meeting of the Tourism Task Force (TTF) - Transition pathway for tourism: Presentation by the European Commission of the 2023 stocktaking report "Looking ahead: What next for the tourism ecosystem?"

Mr Hubert Gambs, Deputy Director-General of DG GROW, was invited to discuss the Transition pathway for tourism and the progress achieved by 2023.

In his introduction, Mr Gambs reviewed the EU actions carried out so far and emphasized that:

- The Commission's assessment of the progress of the Transition pathway confirmed its first concrete results which were achieved in less than 2 years after its launch;
- The Commission has made progress in several policy areas, such as the Short-Term Rentals Regulation and

the Tourism Data Space (a key action to accelerate digital transition), and provided funding through various sources involving services active in different fields of policy;

- considering a high level of activity in both public and private sectors in the Member States, the Commission should focus its efforts on supporting the synergies between them and on the multiplication of the resulting impact.

- Tourism is on its way to full recovery, back to creating jobs and economic growth, but still faces challenges in terms of attractiveness for job seekers, seasonality and over-crowding in specific touristic areas.



During the ensuing debate, TRAN MEPs largely expressed their appreciation of the Commission's work, although some called for more EU initiatives and funding. In that context, Members renewed their call for the Commission to take additional measures to create a budget line dedicated to sustainable tourism, again raised the question of creating a European Tourism Office and addressed the need for a sustainable crisis mechanism. Some Members stressed the importance of making the sector more attractive and focused on new digital (especially AI) and green skills. In particular, they asked how the Commission could support SMEs to deal with the shortages of staff, especially seasonal staff, and what instruments it could use to promote inclusive tourism.

### Presentation of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) special report 29/2023: The EU's support for sustainable biofuels in transport: An unclear route ahead, by the Rapporteur, Mr Nikolaos Milionis

The Rapporteur, Mr Milionis, presented the ECA report, which focused on the design of EU biofuels policy, the main challenges it faces and the results

currently achieved. The main conclusions of the report are that the 2020 targets have not been reached by most Member states and that the EU biofuel policy lacked stability. In the absence of predictability and of a specific biofuel policy, the actors of the sector had difficulties to scale-up and lower their costs. Biofuels also face issues in terms of sustainability and biomass availability. This led to less than half of Member States achieving relevant targets in 2020. The ECA

recommendations are to provide more policy stability through a long term strategic approach, to improve guidance on advanced biofuels categorisation and improve data relevance and transparency of reporting. The ensuing debate tackled the issue of financing biofuels production and the competition of different industries for the use of biomass (e.g. food production and pharmaceuticals).

**Next TRAN Committee meeting is planned for Wednesday, 20 March 2024, 09.00-12.30 and 14.30-18.30 (Brussels)**

**A Joint TRAN & AGRI Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19 March 2024 15.00 -16.00**

### Useful links

- [TRAN website](#)
- [TRAN Meetings calendar 2024](#)
- [Policy Department Publication in the EP](#)
- [European Aviation Safety Agency news](#)
- [European Railway Agency newsletters](#)
- [European Maritime Safety Agency newsletters](#)
- [SESAR Joint Undertaking news](#)
- [European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency news](#)
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