



INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY

ITRE Newsletter

ITRE

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



I want to welcome you all back after the Christmas holidays and wish you all the best for 2015 – a year that will see all the EU institutions back up to full speed after all the changes of 2014.

We are particularly happy to have with us three Ministers from the Latvian presidency for an exchange of views on the next six months' priorities. Their presidency's three overarching priorities – "Competitive Europe", "Digital Europe" and "Engaged Europe" – are all linked with the work of the ITRE committee, which means that we will be cooperating very closely with them over the coming months. All the more reason to make our discussion frank and lively!

We are also delighted to welcome another trio of speakers this week: three young participants from last year's European Youth Event. That was an event that saw 6000 young people come together in the Parliament to discuss their ideas for a better Europe. This week they will present the ideas that emerged from that event on the topics of energy and digital society. We look forward to hearing these fresh ideas and to an open exchange of views.

Besides this, as the committee responsible for industry and SMEs, we will present our point of view on the ETS reform and the MSR: a matter of key importance for energy prices, carbon leakage and competitiveness of the whole economy.

And in addition to our regular meetings, we will hold an extraordinary ITRE session on 26 January where Commission Vice-President Šefčovič will present the content of the Energy Union. A clear sign that the year will be of enormous importance in many crucial fields of our interest.

[Jerzy Buzek](#)

MEETING OF 21-22 JANUARY 2015

ETS

(Draftsperson: [Antonio Tajani](#))

[Adoption of a draft opinion](#)



ITRE will adopt its opinion on the proposal to establish a Market Stability Reserve (MSR) to tackle the imbalance between supply and demand in the EU's ETS.

A total of 130 amendments have been tabled on a variety of issues.

Many of the amendments concern the starting date for the stability reserve, ranging from 2016 to 2023.

Others aim to change the thresholds and number of allowances to be added to or withdrawn from the reserve and the handling of back-loaded allowances.

The issue of carbon leakage as well as the proposed reviews of the MSR and of the ETS Directive itself are also addressed by a number of amendments.

ISA2

(Rapporteur: [Carlos Zorrinho](#))

[Exchange of views](#)



The rapporteur will present his first considerations on the Commission proposal for a decision on Interoperability solutions for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA2).

The Commission proposal consists of a programme to finance solutions that allows interoperability between public administrations in Europe, both cross-border or cross-sector, and between public administrations and enterprises and citizens.

The financial envelope for the duration of the ISA2 Programme (2016-2020) is 130 928 000 EUR. The solutions covered by the programme will address issues faced by



public administrations such as lack of frameworks, ICT architectures and tools enabling interoperability.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Deadline amendments: 26 February 2015, 12.00

Vote in ITRE: 16 June 2015

Vote in Plenary: September 2015

**European Energy Security Strategy**

(Rapporteur: [Algirdas Saudargas](#))

[Consideration of a draft report](#)

In the meeting of 21 January the rapporteur will present his draft report on the European Energy Security Strategy.

The rapporteur welcomes the Commission's communication. He notes that equal energy security, competitiveness and sustainability in a fully integrated energy market constitute the main pillars of the Energy Union.

The rapporteur recalls that moderation of energy demand through energy efficiency is triply crucial, impacting positively on the EU's energy security, competitiveness and sustainability, and points to the need to reduce energy demand in buildings. He also emphasises the need for a long-term strategy for developing indigenous energy resources and to increase the participation of European industry and technology in the entire energy production chain.

As regards energy diversification the rapporteur stresses that priority must be given to those projects that diversify not only routes but also sources.

He also emphasises that the diversification of routes must be directed towards reliable suppliers and expresses the opinion that Russia can no longer be considered a reliable partner.

In his report, the rapporteur invites the Commission to analyse the potential structure of a collective purchasing

mechanism and its impact on the functioning of the internal gas market and contribution to ensuring security of gas supply.

He highlights the need to enhance the EU's ability to speak with one voice in order to deliver a more coherent energy diplomacy in partner countries and in multilateral fora.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Deadline amendments: 28 January 2015, 12.00

Consideration of amendments: 23 February 2015

Vote in ITRE: 14 April 2015

Vote in Plenary: May I 2015

Trade Secrets

(Draftsperson: [Michele Rivasi](#))

[Consideration of a draft opinion](#)



The Committee will be considering the draft opinion on the Directive concerning the protection of trade secrets (2013/0402(COD)), for which JURI is the lead Committee.

The main aim of this Directive is the protection of undisclosed know-how and business information against unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure.

In her draft opinion, the ITRE draftsperson, advocates a balanced approach which protects trade secrets while avoiding the creation of unjustifiable barriers that would choke information exchange.

Her approach is based on four lines of action:

- clarifying the definitions so as to make the directive more precise and avoid confusion with IPR legislation,
- ensuring rightful access to information, especially in cases where this information is legitimately required by public authorities and in instances where public good has an over-riding priority (eg. consumer and worker protection, protection of the environment, safeguard of fundamental rights etc),



c) ensuring that the protection of trade secrets is not used as a reason unjustly inhibit the mobility of employees and

d) providing a litigation process that is fair and not prohibitive for small businesses.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Deadline amendments: 30 January 2015, 12.00

[Vote in ITRE: 24 February 2015](#)

A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector

(Draftsperson: [Marek Józef Gróbarczyk](#))

[Consideration of a draft opinion](#)



The draftsperson will present his draft opinion on a new EU forest strategy.

While acknowledging that the EU has a role to play in supporting national policies the draftsperson stresses that the responsibility for forestry rests solely with the Member States, that the principle of subsidiarity must be upheld, and that the differences in regional conditions, ownership models and priorities across the Member States must be respected.

The draftsperson supports the carrying out of a cost assessment of all EU legislation affecting the value chains of forest-based industries, with a view to cutting out all unnecessary and burdensome bureaucracy and increasing the industry's long-term competitiveness in a sustainable manner.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Deadline amendments: 29 January 2015, 12.00

[Vote in ITRE: 24 February 2015](#)

**Reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants**

(Draftsperson: [Adam Gierek](#))

[Consideration of a draft opinion](#)

The proposal is part of the Clean Air Policy Package and aims to review and update existing EU legislation (Directive 2003/35/EC) to address the highly significant remaining health risks and environmental impacts posed by air pollution in the Union, and to align Union law with new international commitments following a revision of the Gothenburg Protocol in 2012.

As well as setting out that further emission cuts are needed, it addresses some of the shortcomings in the implementation of the Union air policy framework and the need for enhanced co-ordination between emission reductions and air quality as well as climate change and biodiversity protection.

The proposal is intended to reinforce the Europe 2020 objectives on smart, inclusive, and sustainable growth, by stimulate innovation that will help support green growth and maintain the competitiveness of the European economy whilst assisting the transition to a low carbon economy.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Deadline amendments: 29 January 2015, 12.00

[Vote in ITRE: 24 February 2015](#)

Hearing on ISA2

The hearing will allow the ITRE Committee to discuss with invited experts the current challenges and opportunities for making public administration more interoperable in the context of the proposal for a programme on interoperability solutions for European public administrations, business and citizens (ISA2).

Two cases of the application of the current programme ISA in Portugal and Poland will be presented as examples. These examples could give the floor to an exchange on what has worked until now and what can be improved for the current proposal.



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Presentations by the Latvian Presidency-in-office

The ITRE Committee will welcome three Ministers of the Latvian Presidency of the Council - Mr Anrijs Matīss (Minister of Transport), Ms Māriņa Seile (Minister for Education and Science) and Ms Dana Reizniece-Ozola (Minister for Economics) - for an exchange of views on the Presidency priorities that fall within the remit of the ITRE Committee.

The work of the Latvian Presidency will focus on three overarching priorities: 'Competitive Europe', 'Digital Europe' and 'Engaged Europe', all of which are closely linked with the work of ITRE Committee.

In the area of Competitive Europe, the Presidency will commit to fast-tracking procedures in the Council on the Investment plan for Europe, prioritise work on strengthening the Single Market as well as advance the Energy Union.

To bring forward the Digital Europe, the Presidency's priority is the development of Digital Europe via building trust in the Digital Single Market, digitalisation of the public sector and increasing safety and security in the digital environment.

Finally, under the Engaged Europe priority, the Presidency will focus on agreements on scientific and technology cooperation, as well as support solid energy diplomacy with external suppliers.

EP delegation to in Lima, Peru (COP20 - 8-13 Dec. 2014), Debriefing

Between 8-12 December 2014 an ad hoc European Parliament delegation attended the 20th Conference of Parties of the UN Climate Change Conference in Lima, Peru. The delegation was composed of ENVI and ITRE members and it was chaired by MEP La Via, Chair of the ENVI Committee. ITRE Chair Jerzy Buzek (EPP), MEPs Kathleen Vab Brempt (S&D), Elisabetta Gardini (EPP), Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE) and Ian Duncan (ECR) participated as ITRE Member or substitute Member.

The delegation participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Union event on climate change policies with parliamentarians from all around the world. After meeting the President of the Congress of the Republic of Peru, Ms Ana María SOLÓRZANO FLORES, there are currently talks about a possible Memorandum of Understanding between The Congress of Peru and the European Parliament.

The delegation exchanged views with important actors on Climate Change such as Dr Rajendra K. PACHAURI, Chair of IPCC, Ms Christiana FIGUERES, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC or representatives of the Australian and Russian delegation. It was the occasion as well to encounter congressmen from Mexico and Brazil.

This year, the European Parliament's side event was dedicated to the topic of "How to finance the global climate agreement?". The presence of high level panellists drew considerable attention to the interesting discussions.



European Youth Event speed hearing

At last May's European Youth Event (EYE2014), 6000 young people came together in the European Parliament in Strasbourg to discuss their ideas for a better Europe. They suggested more than 600 ideas and addressed them to the new Members after the elections.

Today's speed-hearing is part of the follow-up to this event. Three young people have been selected from the EYE to present their ideas on energy and digital society to ITRE Members, and to respond to Members' reactions.

You can contribute to the discussion live on Twitter, using the hashtag #EYEHearings.



Study on 'TTIP Impacts on Europ. Energy Markets & Manufacturing Industries'

The study will evaluate how the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership currently negotiated by the EU and the US will affect the EU energy sector. It will identify energy-related issues (e.g. oil sands, US oil and gas exports) in the future free trade agreement and their potential consequences. The study will be presented by Mr. Koen Rademaekers (Triple Consulting).

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

ACER publishes its first Implementation Monitoring Report on Gas Congestion Management Procedures (CMP). In the first implementation monitoring report of its kind, the Agency finds incomplete implementation and limited application of congestion management procedures across the EU. [More](#)

Subscribe to ACER news [here](#)

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)

BEREC has adopted a BEREC Opinion on Phase II investigation pursuant to Article 7 of Directive 2002/21/EC as amended by Directive 2009/140/EC on 29 December 2014. [More](#)

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)

ENISA maps the Threat Landscape for Internet Infrastructure in 2014 and provides a Good Practice Guide for enhanced security. [More](#)

European Global Navigation Satellite System GnsS Agency (GNSS)

Registration for Galileo Service Operation Industry Day now open [More](#)

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT A

- In-Depth Analysis - Recent Trends in EU Energy Prices
- Study on 'TTIP Impacts on European Energy Markets and Manufacturing Industries'
- Briefing note on 'Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) - Key Studies'

Upcoming publications:

- Briefing note on 'Ocean Research in Horizon 2020: The blue growth potential'
- Briefing note on 'Recovery of Rare Earths from electronic wastes'
- Briefing note on "EU Energy governance: How does it work?"

To contact the Policy Department A or to subscribe to its newsletter please write to: Poldep-Economy-Science@europarl.europa.eu or visit [Policy Department Intranet](#) (NEW)

COMING SOON

Upcoming opinion votes

- Reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC - **24/02**
- Protection of undisclosed know-how and business information (trade secrets) against their unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure - **24/02**
- A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector - **24/02**

Amendments deadlines:

- European Energy Security Strategy - **28/01**



- Reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC - [29/01](#)
- A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector - [29/01](#)
- Protection of undisclosed know-how and business information (trade secrets) against their unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure- [30/01](#)
- Interoperability solutions for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA2) Interoperability as a means for modernising the public sector - [26/02](#)



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Watch online

The Committee meetings are web-streamed and can be watched live on the [EP website](#) or on [Europarl TV](#). Past meetings can be watched or extracts downloaded via the [EP Live Multimedia Library](#). Speeches and presentations held during ITRE meetings are available on the [ITRE website](#).

ITRE Newsletter

If you wish to receive the ITRE Newsletter, please send an e-mail with your contact details and "Newsletter" in the subject field to: itre-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu

Further information

For further information please contact: itre-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu or visit [ITRE website](#).

Next ITRE meetings:

26 January 2015, Brussels

23/24 February 2015 in Brussels

This Newsletter is produced in advance of ITRE Committee meetings by the Committee Secretariat.

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