



TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

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# TRAN NEWS

Newsletter from the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism



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23-24 February 2015



## ADOPTION OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

### Weights and dimensions

Rapporteur: Jörg Leichtfried (S&D; AT)  
Ordinary legislative procedure, second reading

The committee approved the deal with the Council on safer and greener lorries. Changes to the Weight and Dimensions directive (1996) will allow manufacturers to introduce newly designed lorries, which may exceed current weight and length limits to improve the truck's overall environmental and safety performance. Additional 15 cm length extensions would be allowed for intermodal transport of 45-foot standard containers to ease delivery of goods using several modes of transport.

## ADOPTION OF DRAFT OPINIONS

### Discharge 2013: European Commission and Agencies

Rapporteurs: Georgi Pirinski (S&D; BG)  
Dominique Riquet (ALDE; FR)  
Discharge procedure, opinions to CONT

The five opinions were adopted with the following majorities:

EMSA - 37 votes in favour, 6 against and 0 abstentions  
EASA - 38 votes in favour, 5 against and 0 abstentions  
ERA - 37 votes in favour, 6 against and 0 abstentions  
SESAR - 38 votes in favour, 5 against and 0 abstentions  
Commission - 37 votes in favour, 6 against and 0 abstentions.

## PRESENTATION OF DRAFT OPINION

### Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage in Europe

Rapporteurs: Miltiadis Kyrkos (S&D; GR)  
Own initiative procedure, opinion to CULT



The Commission's Communication seeks to help develop a strategic approach to the protection of cultural heritage. In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur highlights the link between cultural heritage and cultural tourism, which accounts for about 40% of European tourism.

One of its main messages is that any cultural tourism agenda must be based on European diversity, authenticity, sustainability and be of the highest quality. Such an agenda should aim to promote synergies between tourism and culture and contribute to economic growth and employment. Members agreed with the draft's orientation.





## **PRESENTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF VIEWS**

### **Maritime surveillance - by DG MARE**

In its presentation, the Commission stressed the importance of interoperable surveillance systems. This means developing standards for exchanging information. Members were generally supportive of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) initiative but expressed concerns about the voluntary basis for cooperation between Member States. They questioned whether a more structured way of cooperation between Member States could be established.

Some Members believed that social partners should be involved in defining best practice for surveillance, while others called for transparency with regard to possible cooperation with military authorities. The issue of funding the European Maritime Safety Agency adequately was also raised.

### **Latvian Presidency tourism priorities - by Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Economics**



Latvian Presidency  
of the Council of the  
European Union

Ms Zaiga Liepiņa presented three priority fields of action: maintaining the EU as the world's number one tourist destination; developing innovative tourist products; and creating a sustainable regulatory framework. As appropriate tools, the Council Presidency envisages: further developing

European Branding; stimulating exchanges of good practice between Member States; supporting transnational projects; promoting digital techniques; reinforcing the quality of products with a strong emphasis on personalised and environmentally friendly products; and supporting the sustainability of the sector.

Members touched upon current challenges and opportunities for tourism policy including: security issues and visa facilitation; the importance of infrastructure and access to destinations, particularly for persons with disabilities; financial resources; the need to support SME; interoperability; and the mainstreaming of tourism in all relevant discussion forums.

### **Environmental pressures from long-distance transport - by the European Environment Agency Executive Director**

Professor Hans Bruyninckx reported that while the overall environmental performance of transport was improving, it was the only major economic sector which emitted more greenhouse gas (GHG) than in 1990 due to increasing demand. Freight and long-distance passenger transport together accounted for up to three-quarters of transport's GHG emissions. Members acknowledged that efforts were still needed to reach the EU long-term objective of a 60% cut in transport emissions by 2050 compared to 1990. In order to improve mobility patterns, a change in citizens' and decision-makers' mind sets would be needed.

Members stressed that, to reach the set objectives, EU transport policies such as the Single European Sky should be implemented urgently. In addition, they emphasised the need for all existing transport modes to improve their environmental performance as mobility patterns could not change completely. Many Members'



comments also focused on urban mobility, in particular on the need to re-think urban planning, implement new technologies and use soft mobility means. They called for reflection on transport pricing at an EU level.

### **Aviation security - by DG MOVE**

The Commission representatives presented the main policy goals and the regulatory framework of the EU aviation security policy. By mandating common aviation security rules and standards across the whole European Union, Regulation (EC) 300/2008 has permitted the creation of a "One Stop Shop" Security in Europe.

They also explained the work carried out by the Regulatory Committee for Civil Aviation Security and the involvement of stakeholders in the process through the Stakeholders' Advisory Group on Aviation Security. They also noted that the Commission is preparing an aviation strategy that will cover aviation security.

Some key policy issues, including passenger checkpoints, screening of cargo and the development of technology were also addressed. In response to Members' questions, the Commission's active role in international forums (including the International Civil Aviation Organisation) and with major trading partners (such as the United States) was clarified.

### **The Effectiveness of EU-supported urban transport projects - by European Court of Auditors**

Ms Ivanova, the ECA member responsible for the special report, presented the outcome of the performance audit. This should not to be confused with the annual financial audit report. The special report clarified the Court of Auditors' recommendations to the Commission, in

particular on improving monitoring tools and linking funding decisions to a sound mobility policy.

Members generally supported these recommendations and agreed that urban mobility would be a major challenge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many believed that a policy framework regarding urban mobility should be set in place at the EU level – taking into account subsidiarity – to ensure sound EU investments.

Members were concerned with some bad investment examples highlighted by the report including the underutilisation of some of the funded projects. They indicated that awareness campaigns to share good practices should be set in place and that transparency should be improved.

### **New financial schemes for European transport infrastructure projects - by authors, Christophersen-Bodewig-Secchi**



At the Informal Transport Council of 16-17 September 2014 in Milan, the Italian Presidency asked former Commission Vice-President Henning Christophersen and European Coordinators Kurt Bodewig and Carlo Secchi to prepare a report identifying projects along the TEN-T corridors that





were particularly suited for an investment plan. An interim report was presented to the Transport Ministers' Council in December.

The final report will be presented this spring. However, the results published so far are also relevant to the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI). The three authors presented their interim report, emphasising that these were their personal views and not those of the Commission.



Members asked about:

- the selection criteria for projects to be financed under the EFSI;
- the 15-fold times leverage expected for the EFSI;
- why investors would choose unprofitable areas, such as bottlenecks in the TEN-T corridors;
- national barriers to investments;
- non-financial obstacles, such as the quality and the maturity of projects and the regulatory framework;
- the role of private investors including how to free up money in pension funds to invest in infrastructure projects;
- the proposed cut in the Connecting Europe Facility budget; and
- concerns about the fact that with more money to invest, the target becomes the

realisation of ever bigger projects, without first finishing the smaller ones.

The authors stressed that, while they understood these concerns, their role was to make recommendations rather than to enforce anything on Member States. The EU could only act within its field of responsibility; many concerns raised by Members were settled at the national level.

However, they were optimistic about the success of the EFSI and the investment plan. The current practice of the European Investment Bank proved that a leverage of 15 was feasible while the creation of the single market showed that national barriers could be eliminated if there was sufficient driving force behind it.

They mentioned that pension funds and insurance companies were already investing in infrastructure projects such as road tolls, ports and airports. They nevertheless warned that unless projects were open for private investors and an attractive and secure environment was created for them, some projects would simply not be realised.

## **NEXT TRAN COMMITTEE MEETING, BRUSSELS**

### **Planned draft agenda - To be confirmed**

Monday, 16 March 2015, afternoon

- Recommendations to the Commission on negotiations of TTIP - consideration of amendments / Van de Camp
- Procedures and practices regarding Commissioner hearings: lessons to be taken from the 2014 process - consideration of draft opinion / Cramer
- Presentation by the Commission of Report on the functioning of Directive 2010/65/EU on reporting formalities for ships arriving/departing from ports of MS - COM(2014)0320



Tuesday, 17 March 2015, morning

- White Paper on Transport - presentation of a Working Document / Van de Camp
- European Fund for Strategic Investments - consideration of draft opinion / Ayala Sender / Riquet

Tuesday, 17 March 2015, afternoon

- Hearing on the White Paper on Transport: taking stock and the way forward towards sustainable mobility

Meeting room: JAN 2Q2

Monday, 12 October, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 13 October, 9h00-12h30

Tuesday, 13 October, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 9 November, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 10 November, 9h00-12h30

Tuesday, 10 November, 15h00-18h30

Thursday, 3 December, 9h00-12h30

Thursday, 3 December, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 21 December, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 22 December, 9h00-12h30

## **TRAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2015, BRUSSELS**

Thursday, 26 March, 9h00-12h30

Thursday, 26 March, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 13 April, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 14 April, 9h00-12h30

Tuesday, 14 April, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 4 May, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 5 May, 9h00-12h30

Tuesday, 5 May, 15h00-18h30

Thursday, 28 May, 9h00-12h30

Thursday, 28 May, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 15 June, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 16 June, 9h00-12h30

Monday, 13 July, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 14 July, 9h00-12h30

Tuesday, 14 July, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 14 September, 15h00-18h30

Tuesday, 15 September, 9h00-12h30

Tuesday, 15 September, 15h00-18h30



## USEFUL LINKS

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TRAN website:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/TRAN/home.html>

Policy Department Studies in the European Parliament:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/searchPerform.do>

European Aviation Safety Agency newsletters:

<http://easa.europa.eu/communications/general-publications.php>

European Railway Agency newsletters:

<http://www.era.europa.eu/Communication/Newsletter/Pages/home.aspx>

European Maritime Safety Agency newsletters:

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

SESAR Joint Undertaking news

<http://www.sesarju.eu/newsroom/all-news>

Innovation & Networks Executive Agency:

<http://inea.ec.europa.eu/>

Innovation & Networks Executive Agency:

<http://inea.ec.europa.eu/>

DG MOVE newsletter:

[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/newsletter/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/newsletter/index_en.htm)

Latvian Presidency of the Council:

<http://www.es2015.lv/en/>

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