



TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

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



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13-14 April 2015



ADOPTION OF DRAFT OPINIONS

European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and Amending budget

Rapporteurs: Inés Ayala Sender (S&D; ES)
Dominique Riquet (ALDE; FR)

Ordinary legislative procedure, opinions to ECON and BUDG

All the compromise amendments prepared by the Co-Rapporteurs were adopted. There was broad support for deleting Article 19, meaning that there would be no direct cuts from the budget of the CEF. Instead, gradual budgetary commitments, margins and the flexibility instrument available under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 (MFF) would be used to fund the Juncker Plan.

Subject to the mid-term review of the MFF in 2016, alternative funding options should be identified. Funds from multiannual programmes, such as CEF and Horizon 2020 should only be used as a last resort, if the need is demonstrated and if these programs prove to be under-committed.



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A compromise amendment improves the transparency of the recruitment of Investment Committee members and their accountability to the Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

The opinion welcomes the EFSI proposal and suggests that the EU guarantee should be irrevocable and unconditional, but stresses an urgent need to address the investment deficit. The guarantee fund should be available for third countries as far as cross-border projects are concerned. It should not hamper programmes which already promote investment and aim to foster competitiveness and growth.



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Investment operations backed by EFSI should:

- provide European added value;
- be sustainable;
- have a proven economic and social added value in terms of their impact on job creation, investment and competitiveness; and
- support the development of new, existing or missing transport infrastructure and new technologies in accordance with the CEF and TEN-T regulations.

Timetable foreseen	
Vote in ECON / BUDG Committees	20 April 2015
Vote in plenary	June 2015



Procedures and practices regarding Commissioner hearings: lessons to be taken from the 2014 process

Rapporteur: Michael Cramer (Greens/EFA; DE)
Own initiative procedure, opinion to AFCO

Set deadlines were proposed for Member States' nomination of their candidate Commissioner, as well as for the Commission President-elect to present the new Commission. This would ensure that Parliament has sufficient time to prepare and conduct the hearings properly. Member States should be encouraged to propose at least two candidates, including at least one woman, for consideration by the President-elect.



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The Committee also expressed its dissatisfaction about the procedure that led to the replacement of the Commissioner-designate for Transport at very short notice and without its prior consultation. Members regretted that Violeta Bulc did not enjoy equal and fair conditions in presenting herself to the Committee, as she had very limited time to prepare for the hearing.

The standard rule of 45 three-minute questions, decided by the Conference of Presidents, did not give Committees sufficient flexibility to vary their practices. For example it did not allow a catch-the-eye procedure. Three minutes was considered completely insufficient for a follow-up question. In future, arrangements should give Committees more flexibility, while also ensuring the inquisitorial nature of the hearings through the effective application of the 'ping-pong' principle.

The Committee adopted the opinion with 44 votes in favour, 1 against and no abstentions.

Timetable foreseen	
Vote in AFCO Committee	17 June 2015
Vote in plenary	May 2015

PRESENTATION OF DRAFT REPORTS

Delivering multimodal integrated ticketing in Europe

Rapporteur: Dieter-Lebrecht Koch (EPP; DE)
Own initiative procedure

In June last year, the Commission issued a staff working document which sought the answer to the question: 'Why can't I plan and book my journey through Europe — switching modes of transport — in one go, online?'





The long-term aim is to facilitate the provision of comprehensive information about travel covering both publicly owned and private transport operators. This would offer travellers seamless, multimodal, cross-border, door-to-door mobility options. Despite being in the era of smartphones, social media and vehicles fitted with on-board devices, information services are still fragmented, there is a lack of good quality data and cooperation between stakeholders could be enhanced.

To overcome these hurdles the transport sector needs: an integrated approach; more standardisation; implementation of Horizon 2020 and the CEF; and close cooperation of the EU institutions and the Member States in supporting EU-wide multimodal travel information, planning and ticketing services.



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The Rapporteur believes all transport operators should disclose a specific set of data including all the information necessary to enable EU citizens to select the most sustainable, best-value or fastest connections. However, regarding ticketing services, the Commission should confine itself to creating a framework that gives operators room to launch their own initiatives.

The draft report was generally welcomed in the Committee. Members raised:

- the willingness of the market players to cooperate;
- the good example of ticketing in aviation;
- data protection;
- the danger of monopolies; and
- the need to avoid trade secrets preventing the disclosure of information that is otherwise vital for a traveller to make a well-established choice of travel modes.

Timetable foreseen	
Deadline for amendments	17 April 2015
Vote in TRAN Committee	28 May 2015
Vote in plenary	June II 2015

White paper on transport

Rapporteur: Wim van de Camp (EPP; NL)
Own initiative procedure

The Rapporteur presented his thoughts on the implementation of the White Paper on Transport and the mid-term review planned by the Commission for later this year. A stock-taking exercise is necessary to obtain an overview of the state of play in the implementation of the 40 initiatives and 131 action points listed in its Annex. The purpose of the mid-term review should be to maintain the level of ambition of the objectives set in 2011, and to increase and streamline the efforts to meet them.

The Rapporteur proposes a set of actions needed to achieve the goals set out in the White Paper, including:

- promoting economic growth and maintaining the competitiveness of the European transport industry;
- developing a modern transport infrastructure in Europe;



- putting innovation in the service of transport users;
- mitigating the environmental impact of transport including by decarbonising transport and reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- shifting the balance between modes of transport and ensuring co-modality;
- putting people at the heart of transport policy by promoting safety and quality of transport services; and
- improving social conditions and preventing social dumping.



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The draft report was well received by the Committee. Its presentation was followed by a long and lively debate, as the implementation of the White Paper lies at the heart ensuring the sustainability of the transport system.

Timetable foreseen	
Deadline for amendments	21 April 2015
Vote in TRAN Committee	28 May 2015
Vote in plenary	July 2015

HEARING

How to keep Europe at number one? European tourism's challenges and responses

The hearing was organised in preparation for the own initiative report on Tourism with the focus on new trends, challenges and responses. Eleven experts formed four panels on:

- the digitalisation of SMEs and the Sharing Economy;
- branding Europe as high quality destination;
- sustainable and responsible tourism; and
- coastal and maritime tourism.

The program is published on the Committee website.

PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM
 Tuesday 14.04.2015
 JOSÉFI ANTALL BUILDING - BRUSSELS
 15.00 - 18.30 ROOM: 4Q1

How to keep Europe at number one?
EUROPEAN TOURISM'S CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

Michael CRAMER, Chairman TRAN Committee
Isabella De Monte, Rapporteur



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The Rapporteur, Ms Isabella De Monte, stressed the importance of tourism as an economic and social force which required support for SMEs and investments in infrastructure. She highlighted the need for:

- improved access to the internet;
- a broader choice of specialised tourist products;
- an adequate methodology for branding Europe; and
- an increased awareness for sustainability in tourism including in the cruise sector.



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During the discussion, Members focused on the following issues:

- the digital world and seniors;
- the tourism industry's competitiveness and cooperation between public and private actors;
- the creation of an equal playing field for all businesses with particular support for SMEs, including facilitated access to EU funding;
- support for the joint promotion of Europe and elaboration of an EU tourism strategy;
- the creation of new tourist products;
- the need for tourism indicators and the assessment of sustainability;
- the social and economic dimension in the context of integrated maritime policy; and

- cruise tourism and its impact on the local population, including reducing the environmental impact.

Experts recommended EU support for the following purposes:

- connecting businesses and networking;
- practical application of digital progress;
- intermodality;
- speedy re-orientation of European markets towards international clients, cross border destinations and changed needs of today's tourists;
- promotion of safety and quality as crucial elements for tourism in Europe;
- facilitation of visa procedures and taxation;
- response to our main competitors in the medical tourism market;
- exchange of best practices between actors specialised in sustainable tourism;
- reduction of the negative effects of increased mobility by providing sufficient direct rail links from metropolitan areas to tourist destinations, night trains as alternatives to flights as well as guaranteed rail transport of bicycles;
- promotion of certificates for ecofriendly holidays, including a study on their efficiency; and
- the creation of a single booking portal for sustainable holidays.



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The Commission informed Members of its ongoing work on new initiatives which will be presented in more detail at the annual EU Forum on Tourism in September.

NEXT TRAN COMMITTEE MEETING, BRUSSELS

Planned draft agenda - To be confirmed

Monday, 4 May 2015, afternoon

- Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage in Europe - consideration of amendments/ Kyrkos
- Presentation of the Common Progress Report of the European Coordinators, by Mathieu Grosch and Pat Cox
- Exchange of views with Mr Brenner, Executive Director of Eurocontrol

Thursday, 5 May 2015, morning

- Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage in Europe - **vote** / Kyrkos
- White Paper on Transport - consideration of amendments / van de Camp
- Delivering multimodal integrated ticketing in Europe - consideration of amendments / Koch
- Port Services - Exchange of views / Fleckenstein
- Remotely piloted aircraft systems - exchange of views on working document / Foster
- Reduction of pollutant emissions from road vehicles - consideration of draft opinion

Thursday, 5 May 2015, afternoon

- Hearing on Road Haulage Market
- Exchange of views with Commissioner Bulc on the Commission's Work Programme 2016

Meeting room: JAN 4Q2

TRAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2015, BRUSSELS

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

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



USEFUL LINKS

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

Latvian Presidency of the Council:

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

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