



INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY

ITRE Newsletter

ITRE



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

This week's committee meeting agenda is full and varied. We will be welcoming two members of the Commission: First

Vice-President Timmermans with whom we will discuss better regulation in the context of ITRE policy areas; and Commissioner Oettinger, with whom we will discuss upcoming Commission action in the field of the digital economy and society. These regular meetings are crucial to Parliament's work of holding the Commission to account. Let's make the most of this opportunity!

Another highlight of this week's meeting is a public hearing on the impact of the transatlantic free trade agreement, TTIP. Members will be able to exchange views with experts on the challenges and opportunities that this important trade agreement presents, in particular in relation to ITRE's policy areas.

In addition to this, we will discuss amendments to the report on a European Energy Security Strategy, and will consider the report on green growth and business opportunities for SMEs, as well as discussing a number of other opinions.

[Jerzy Buzek](#)

EU has a pivotal role to play in supporting national policies on forest management.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

[Vote in Plenary: April 2015 \(tbc\)](#)

European Energy Security Strategy

(Rapporteur: [Algirdas Saudargas](#))

[Consideration of amendments](#)



In the meeting on 24 February the Committee will consider the amendments that have been tabled to the draft report of Mr Saudargas on the European Energy Security Strategy. In total, Members have tabled 821 amendments, many of which put emphasis on energy efficiency and energy from renewable energy sources as the main way forward towards more energy security for the EU. Many amendments also stress the importance of increasing interconnection between Member States' energy systems and calls for funding from the European Fund for Strategic Investments in support of energy security measures.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

[Vote in ITRE: 14 April 2015](#)

[Vote in Plenary: May I 2015](#)

MEETING OF 23-24 FEBRUARY 2015

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

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

[Adoption of a draft opinion](#)

On 24 February the Committee will vote on the draft opinion and amendments on 'A new EU forest strategy'. In total, 65 amendments have been tabled to the draft opinion of Mr Gróbarczyk. The opinion and most of the amendments are supportive of the strategy outlined in the Commission Communication and acknowledge that the



Green growth and Business Opportunities for SMEs

(Rapporteur: [Philippe De Backer](#))

[Consideration of a draft report](#)



On Monday afternoon Mr De Backer will present his draft report on green growth and business opportunities for SMEs.

The report is based on the Commission's Green Action Plan for SMEs which is an initiative to further stimulate SMEs to develop the benefits of green growth.

The report reflects many of the issues that were raised by stakeholders during the consultations that were made during the redaction of this report.



In particular, on the one hand consultations showed a very broad consensus that green growth has a wide range of benefits, but at the same time many entrepreneurs, SMEs and industry associations pointed out several large problems they currently face such as financing, research and development and innovation, acquiring the right knowledge and the regulatory framework in place.

The report elaborates these different aspects and addresses some recommendations to the Commission.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Deadline amendments: 26 February 2015, 12.00

Consideration of amendments: 23-24 March 2015

Vote in ITRE: 14 April 2015

Investment Plan Package

(Draftsperson: [Kathleen Van Brempt](#))

Exchange of views



ITRE will hold its first exchange of views on the Regulation setting up the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and the accompanying Amending Budget. The European Commission is proposing backing up the EFSI with an EU Guarantee, itself underwritten by a Guarantee Fund of EUR 8 billion. The bulk of this fund, according to the proposed Regulation, will come from budget lines from Horizon 2020 and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). As the Committee that was in the lead in the adoption of Horizon 2020 and, jointly with TRAN, in the CEF, ITRE will be looking closely at the impact that these cuts will have on the multiannual framework programmes. Moreover, the Committee is also expected to focus on the objectives of EFSI, ensuring that the funds taken from the multiannual framework programmes deliver in terms of research, innovation and energy and telecoms infrastructures.

In view of its competences, ITRE is an Associated Committee in the adoption of this legislation under Rule 54 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, with exclusive competences on the Articles 5.2, 18 and 19.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Consideration of a draft opinion: 9 March 2015

Deadline amendments: 13 February 2015, 12.00

Vote in ITRE: 14 April 2015

Recommendations to the EC on negotiations for TTIP

(Draftsperson: [Jerzy Buzek](#))

[Consideration of a draft opinion](#)



The Committee will be considering the draft opinion on the European Parliament's recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)". Together with twelve other committees, the ITRE Committee has been associated to this report as opinion giving committee.

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a free trade agreement currently being negotiated between the European Union and the United States. The agreement has three main elements: market access, improved regulatory coherence and cooperation and improved cooperation when it comes to setting international standards.

The negotiations formally started in July 2013 and now eight rounds of formal negotiations have taken place. The last negotiation round took place in Brussels on 2-6 February 2015.

The ITRE draft opinion focuses in particular on the impact of TTIP on ITRE policy areas.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Deadline amendments: 27 February 2015, 12.00

Vote in ITRE: 24 March 2015



Vote in INTA (lead committee): 7 May 2015

Vote in Plenary: May 2015

Investment for jobs and growth

(Drafter: [Neoklis Sylikiotis](#))

[Consideration of a draft opinion](#)



ITRE will deliver an opinion to the lead REGIO committee who intends to respond to the Commission's Sixth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion: investment for jobs and growth.

ITRE has a strong interest in following closely the actual implementation of Cohesion Policy not only because it will guide the investment of a third of the EU budget to help achieve the EU-wide goals of growth and jobs and reduce economic and social disparities.

It is also the biggest investment instrument at EU level for pursuing the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and in a number of areas in ITRE competence: SMEs, R&D and innovation, digital, energy efficiency and climate change adaptation.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Deadline amendments: 26 February 2015, 12.00

Vote in ITRE: 24 March 2015

Vote in REGI (lead committee): tbc

Vote in Plenary: July 2015



Limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants

(Drafter: [Fredrick Federley](#))

[Consideration of a draft opinion](#)

Air pollution is a truly trans-boundary problem and many Member States import a significant part of their air pollution from neighbouring countries.

Action at Union level is therefore necessary to establish a coherent and ambitious framework to tackle emissions.

The Commission proposal aims to fill an important gap in current EU legislation. Small new combustion plants are already regulated through provisions implementing Directive 2009/125/EC establishing a framework for the setting of eco-design requirements for energy-related products.

Meanwhile, large combustion plants are covered by Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions and Directive 2001/80/EC on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants (until 31 December 2015).

However, there is currently no specific regulation at EU level of emissions of air pollutants from medium combustion plants (plants with a rated thermal input between 1 and 50 MW) (MCP) and the rapporteur welcomes the Commission proposal's aim of filling this gap so as to create a more coherent regulatory environment.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Deadline amendments: 26 February 2015, 12.00

Vote in ITRE: 24 March 2015

Public Hearing on "Impact of TTIP on ITRE policy areas"

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and Committee on International Trade will hold a public hearing on "Impact of TTIP on ITRE policy areas."

The hearing will allow the committees to discuss with invited experts the current challenges and opportunities as well as the impact of TTIP on ITRE policy areas.

The debate will be streamed live on the Parliament's internet site, and that it will also be possible to access a video recording of the hearing on the same site.





Structured Dialogue, Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society Günther Oettinger

The ITRE Committee will welcome Commissioner Oettinger, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, within the frame of the "Structured Dialogue" between European Parliament and Commission.

The structured dialogue is an official inter-institutional procedure, designed to ensure that the EU institutions work much more closely together in the field of legislative planning. It is an ongoing annual process which begins each year in January and ends in May.

Better Regulation & sustainable development, Presentation by VP Timmermans

The ITRE Committee will welcome European Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans, responsible for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

First Vice-President Timmermans will present the implementation of better regulation agenda in particular in the context of ITRE policy areas. The aim of Better Regulation is to promote the simplification of EU law, reducing the administrative burden, especially for business, and to ensure respect for the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Better Law-Making covers the whole policy cycle from impact assessment to implementation and ex-post evaluation of the legislation.

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators ([ACER](#))

The third edition contains questions and answers concerning the European Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1348/2014 (the 'Implementing Acts') in

addition to the questions and answers concerning REMIT, Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency. [More](#)

Subscribe to ACER news [here](#)

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications ([BEREC](#))

BEREC Workshop on Oligopoly Analysis and Regulation: Updated Agenda and Speakers [More](#)

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security ([ENISA](#))

ENISA is co-organising with the Heraklion Chamber of commerce and Industry, a two-day event on Cyber Security and Privacy Challenges for Law Enforcement. [More](#)

European Global Navigation Satellite System Gnss Agency ([GNSS](#))

Following the recent launch of the Galileo Service Operator (GSOp) procurement procedure, the European GNSS Agency (GSA) invited members of the European GNSS Industry to Prague to learn more about the procurement. Over 100 participants from across all sectors of the space industry participated in the February 3rd Galileo Service Operation Industry Day. [More](#)

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT A

- Ocean Research in Horizon 2020: The Blue Growth Potential
- Recovery of Rare Earths from Electronic Wastes: An Opportunity for High-Tech SMEs
- EU Energy Governance for the Future
- Briefing note on 'Recovery of Rare Earths from electronic wastes'
- Briefing note on 'Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) - Key Studies'



- Study on 'TTIP Impacts on European Energy Markets and Manufacturing Industries'
- In-Depth Analysis - Recent Trends in EU Energy Prices

Upcoming publications:

- Briefing note on 'Ocean Research in Horizon 2020: The blue growth potential'
- • Proceedings on Workshop on Cross-competition among information (digital) platforms.
- • Study on EU Industrial policy: assessment of recent developments and recommendations for future policies

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)

Amendments deadlines:

- Green growth opportunities for SMEs - [25/02](#)
- Interoperability solutions for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA2) Interoperability as a means for modernising the public sector - [26/02](#)
- Limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants - [26/02](#)
- Investment for jobs and growth: promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Union - [26/02](#)
- Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) - [27/02](#)

COMING SOON

Upcoming opinion votes

- Reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC - [24/03](#)
- Protection of undisclosed know-how and business information (trade secrets) against their unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure - [24/03](#)
- Investment for jobs and growth: promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Union - [24/03](#)
- Limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants - [24/03](#)
- Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) - [24/03](#)



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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:

23/24 March 2015 in Brussels

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

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