

**ITRE**

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Newsletter - issue 11

9-10 November 2015

Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA)Draftsperson: [David Borelli](#)

The ITRE Committee will debate its draft opinion on the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA). The main focus of the opinion is on the telecoms chapter, calling inter alia on the Commission to ensure that TiSA brings clear advantages to EU consumers and businesses and that TiSA signatories respect the principle of open and non-discriminatory internet access for service providers. With respect to general principles, it calls on the Commission to ensure the highest standard of transparency and accountability. If seven or more Members of the Committee object to the draft opinion, it will be put to the vote on 1 December; otherwise, it will be deemed to have been approved.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE*Vote in ITRE: 1/12/2015**Vote in Plenary: January 2016 (tbc)***Towards a Digital Single Market Act**Draftsperson: [Kaja Kallas](#)

In its meeting on 10 November the Committee will consider the amendments that have been tabled to the draft report of Ms Kallas and Ms Gebhardt titled "towards a Digital Single Market Act". In total, Members have tabled 1287 amendments on all the aspects of the impact that the digital revolution has on the economy and on society. Issues recurrently tackled in the amendments relate to the reform of the telecoms rules, the convergence of consumer rights on-line and off-line, the role of platforms, the digitalisation of the industry and the fight against the digital gap.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE*Vote in ITRE/IMCO: 14 December 2015**Vote in Plenary: January 2016 (tbc)***Nominations to ACER Administrative Board**

According to Regulation (EC) No 713/2009 establishing the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), the European Parliament must appoint two full and two alternate Members to the Agency's Administrative Board. Since the terms of office of one existing full Member and one existing alternate Member will come to an end in January 2016, Parliament will have to make new appointments to fill the vacancies. Therefore, the Committee will adopt a list of eligible candidates which will be transmitted to the Conference of Presidents who will make the final nominations.

10% electricity interconnection targetRapporteur: [Peter Eriksson](#)

The Committee will vote on Mr Eriksson's draft report on achieving the 10 % electricity interconnection target.

Members tabled a total of 205 amendments, which put different emphasis on the benefits of interconnection and the value of the 10% interconnection target. Other amendments highlight the necessity of taking a holistic approach when assessing the need for

A Word From The Chair

This week's meeting has a variety of highlights.

We will be voting on a very important report that is high on our committee's agenda: the own-initiative report on Energy Union, a strategy which is among the main priorities of the Juncker's Commission. It will set out objectives and measures in areas such as security of supply, the internal energy market, energy efficiency, lowering emissions as well as research, innovation and competitiveness. We look forward with interest to the outcome of this vote but also to further steps towards the Energy Union – a process in which full engagement of the Parliament will be of key importance.

We are also working with determination towards a Digital Union. In particular, we will be looking ahead to the digital priorities for 2016 on Monday evening as we exchange views with Günther Oettinger, Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society. Commissioner Oettinger will

reinforcing cross-border and national connections, speeding up permit granting process, strengthening ACER's role and resources and point to the financial instruments available and priorities for regional cooperation.

Political groups have negotiated 23 compromise amendments.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Vote in Plenary: December 2015 (tbc)

Towards a European Energy Union

Rapporteur: [Marek Józef Gróbarczyk](#)

The ITRE Committee will vote on an important own-initiative report entitled "Towards a European Energy Union". The report outlines Parliament's position on all major pillars of the Commission framework strategy such as security and diversification of supply, internal market, energy efficiency, decarbonisation and research and innovation.

Members tabled 1162 amendments and four Committees (ENVI, TRAN, INTA, AFET) delivered opinions. The amendments concern a variety of issues. Numerous amendments emphasise the importance of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Furthermore, several amendments concern security of supply aspects such as the possibility of establishing a common purchasing mechanism, the diversification of sources and supply routes and the realisation of related infrastructure projects. Other amendments stress the need for a more decentralised European Energy system and a better involvement of consumers. Finally some amendments call for a democratic and stable governance system for the Energy Union that is fully inclusive of the European Parliament.

After intense negotiations shadows agreed on 62 compromise amendments which cover a majority of the originally tabled amendments. They include a compromise on shale gas which was one of the controversial subjects discussed by the shadows. On other controversial issues such as binding targets for energy efficiency and renewable energy alternative compromises will be put to the vote as major groups could not agree on a common text.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Vote in Plenary: December 2015 (tbc)

Bringing transparency, coordination and convergence to corporate tax policies in the Union

Draftsperson: [Massimiliano Salini](#)

The Committee will vote on the draft opinion on bringing transparency, coordination and convergence to Corporate tax policies in the Union.

In total 89 amendments were tabled to the draft opinion of the rapporteur and 8 compromise amendments have been proposed by the rapporteur ahead of the vote.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Vote in Plenary: January 2016

TTIP negotiations

European Commission will brief the ITRE Committee in relation to ITRE policies on the 11th round of EU-US trade talks that took place in Miami on 19-23 October 2015.

The transatlantic trade and investment partnership (TTIP) is a free trade agreement currently being negotiated between the European Union and the United States.

During this round, substantial progress on market access for EU and US companies has been made after intensive negotiations.

The next round of negotiation is likely to be end of January or beginning of February.

present the Commission's work programme for digital policy, in the context of the broader Digital Single Market strategy that was published earlier this year. On Tuesday afternoon we will work on the Digital Single Market Act in another joint meeting with the IMCO committee.

SMEs are another priority for the ITRE committee, as they constitute the backbone of the EU's employment and economy, and are the key drivers of long-term economic growth. This is why we are holding a public hearing on a Green action plan for SMEs, which will look at the opportunities presented by the environmental goods and services sector.

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

ACER publishes study on how best monitor the effects of the implementation of the network codes [More](#)

Subscribe to ACER news [here](#)

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)

"Europe needs a competitive telecom sector which invests for quality services" emphasizes the EU Commissioner at the BEREC Stakeholder Forum [More](#)

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)

ENISA Work programme for 2016 adopted: Agency builds on successful activities and broadens scope in 'smart' studies and IoT security [More](#)

European Global Navigation Satellite System Gnss Agency (GNSS)

13 H2020 projects focused on the EGNSS applications development selected for funding [More](#)

NEWS FROM THE

POLICY DEPARTMENT A

Recent publications:

Structured Dialogue European Parliament - European Commission, Exchange of views with Günther Oettinger, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society on Digital economy priorities 2016

The Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Günther Oettinger, will exchange views with Members on the priorities for the digital economy in 2016. On 27 October, the Commission published its work programme for 2016 which sets out some of the key priorities for the coming year, including the large-scale review of the EU's telecoms rules and a legislative proposal on the free flow of data, as well as action on copyright, geo-blocking and audiovisual services. The legislative priorities for 2016 are set in the broader context of the Digital Single Market strategy, which was published by the Commission in May and which announced other initiatives such as Commission communications on ICT standards and the launch of a cybersecurity public-private partnership.

Public hearing on 'Green Action Plan for SMEs: opportunities and challenges'

ITRE is organising a Public Hearing on the "Green Action Plan for SMEs: opportunities and challenges" as part of its annual programme of Public Hearings. These hearings allow Members to exchange views with experts concerning issues which fall within the areas of competence of the ITRE Committee.

SMEs constitute the backbone of the European Union's employment and economy, and are the key drivers of European long-term economic growth. Employment in the environmental goods and services sector has been growing steadily despite the overall economic instability and this sector presents new opportunities for SMEs.

The Committee has invited four experts to participate in the hearing, namely Mr Carsten Foldager from Danske Commodities, Dr Christoph Pohl from etajopt, Mr Dirk Theuns, IKO group Europe and Dr Katharina Reuter, ECOPRENEURS.

- Study on "[Energy Storage: Which Market Designs and Regulatory Incentives Are Needed?](#)"

- Study on "[Open innovation in industry, including 3D printing](#)"

- Proceedings of the Workshop, "[Cross Competition among Information \(Digital\) Platforms](#)"

COMING SOON

[Upcoming report vote:](#)

- Towards a Digital Single Market Act -10/12/2015

[Upcoming opinion vote:](#)

- Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA)- 1/12/2015

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 meeting:

- 30 November - 1 December 2015 in Brussels