



TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

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



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14-15 September 2015



ADOPTION OF DRAFT REPORTS

Remotely piloted aircraft systems

Rapporteur: Jacqueline Foster (ECR; UK)
Own initiative report

The adopted report calls for new global and European rules to boost the sector without overregulating. The Rapporteur recalled that the object was to put together a framework of ideas indicating the direction the Committee wants the Commission, Member States and other stakeholders to take.

The report recommends a "risk based approach" in line with the Riga Declaration. The future rules should address issues such as airworthiness, commercial and recreational use, the identity of drones and of the owner/operator, insurance, "geofencing" and no-fly zones.



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Members insisted that unmanned aircraft must be equipped with technology in order to detect aircraft using the same airspace, so as not to risk the safety of manned aircraft. Densely-populated areas, airports, power plants, nuclear and

chemical plants and other critical infrastructure should be taken into account.

The report also calls for privacy and data protection guarantees to be embedded in the development of EU policy on drones. Members considered this to be vital to ensure broad public support for the use of civil drones.

The report was adopted with 45 votes in favour, 1 against and no abstentions.

Timetable foreseen	
Vote in plenary	October 11 2015

Promotion of Tourism in Europe

Rapporteur: Isabella De Monte (S&D, IT)
Own initiative report

This report provides input to the Commission's reflections to be presented at the Annual European Forum on Tourism. It proposes action in the fields of the sharing economy, digitisation, sustainable and responsible tourism as well as the promotion of Europe as the world's number one tourist destination. It also calls for better cooperation between the Member States and the Commission. With regard to actions undertaken since 2010, the report asks the Commission to report to Parliament on the use of funds allocated for tourism under the Structural Funds and relevant EU programmes.

The Committee endorsed amendments on:

- The need to promote, protect and preserve Europe's cultural heritage;
- Professional training and education which plays a key role in employment;



- Budget issues, calling on the Commission to consider a separate budget line for tourism in the next multiannual financial framework;
- The importance of coastal and maritime tourism; and
- Accessibility and affordability issues, endorsing the "tourism for all" principle.

The report suggests specific tourism products to counteract seasonality and welcomes existing initiatives, such as Calypso to promote social tourism.



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The report was adopted with 42 votes in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention.

Timetable foreseen	
Vote in plenary	October III 2015

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT OPINION

Situation in the Mediterranean and need for a holistic EU approach to migration

Rapporteur: Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL; FI)
Opinion to LIBE own initiative report

This opinion addresses the transport policy challenges arising from refugees and migrants seeking to cross the Mediterranean. The Rapporteur underlined the significant role of merchant vessels in recent search and rescue operations.

She was concerned about safety risks for both refugees and seafarers as merchant ships and their crew are not adequately prepared to be systematically involved in rescue operations. Against this background, the Rapporteur called for increased funding and for improved coordination between maritime authorities in carrying out and supporting rescue operations.

Focusing on transport aspects, Members supported more resources for rescue operations. They suggested strengthening the operational capacities of coast guards and involving the European Maritime Safety Agency.

Making rescue missions more permanent as well as closer coordination of rescue and border protection measures, including third countries, were mentioned as additional issues. Members agreed that merchant vessel operators involved in a rescue operation should be compensated for losses or damage. Crews also needed protection against accusations of assisting illegal entry.

Timetable foreseen	
Vote in TRAN Committee	13 October 2015
Vote in LIBE Committee	November 2015
Vote in plenary	December 2015



Towards a Digital Single Market Act

Rapporteur: Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL; FI)
Opinion to ITRE and IMCO own initiative report

The draft opinion welcomes the Commission's perspective presented in its Communication "A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe". The Rapporteur emphasised that the implementation of digitisation and the enhanced deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems will be key tools to make the European transport system more efficient and productive. She called for an assessment of how the EU's regulatory framework was adapted to the new digital age.

Ms Kyllönen highlighted of digital technologies' importance for transport. She emphasized that they will provide new business opportunities and jobs. The Shadow Rapporteurs and other Members supported the overall orientation of the draft opinion. They also called for:

- The integration of new digital technologies in the transport sector;
- A high level of data protection;
- Recognition of the importance of education and training;
- Geo-blocking of transport linked services to be prevented;
- Unrestricted access to new technologies for all (including people with disabilities); and
- Free internet access in public spaces such as airports, train stations and motorways.

Timetable foreseen	
Deadline for amendments	22 September 2015
Vote in TRAN Committee	10 November 2015
Vote in ITRE and IMCO Committees	December 2015 (tbc)
Vote in plenary	October 2015

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS

Sustainable Urban Mobility

Rapporteur: Karima Delli (Greens/EFA; FR)
Own initiative report

The Rapporteur recalled the main challenges associated with sustainable urban mobility. She emphasised that efforts were needed at the European level to improve air quality, urban planning and the safety of vulnerable users. She also stressed that 25% of the greenhouse gases were emitted by cars. Old diesel-powered vehicles should be replaced by more sustainable ones including bicycles.

Most Shadow Rapporteurs insisted on the principle of subsidiarity and stressed that the main actions to be undertaken at European level would be to share good practices. The EU mobility week would allow such exchanges. Members also underlined that urban planning, the use of intelligent transport solutions and new technologies would substantially improve urban mobility. However, such measures should be taken at a local level.

Others drew attention to health and safety issues, insisting on binding targets, in particular regarding speed limits in cities. They emphasised that public authorities should be encouraged to purchase cleaner vehicles.

Timetable foreseen	
Vote in TRAN Committee	13 October 2015
Vote in plenary	November 2015 (tbc)



PRESENTATIONS

DG MOVE, Commission - scrutiny of Commission's implementing powers

The Commission presented implementing measures, currently under Parliamentary scrutiny, concerning flight recorders, underwater locating devices and aircraft tracking systems as well as noise standards for new aircraft. It also explained an implementing measure related to port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residue. All measures involve incorporating international standards in the European legal order.

Members were satisfied that requirements regarding tracking aircrafts were improved, in particular regarding recording the duration or power of batteries. They asked whether the Commission was also working on improving technologies that would prevent crashes such as the MH17 in Ukraine. They also wanted to know whether the adoption of binding noise standards at a European level could affect the competitiveness of the European aviation industry.

Regarding port reception facilities, Members enquired whether ports could compete in providing facilities and whether ports could be required to have minimum waste capacities. They also asked about control authorities and enforcement. A Member asked whether there were specific requirements for the capacity of vessels equipped with incinerators and waste generated by scrubbers. The Commission announced that, in 2017, it might present a proposal to revise the Port Reception Facilities Directive.

DG EPRS - cost of non-Europe report on passenger rights

This report aims to determine the benefits from a consolidated framework for passenger rights. In particular, it analyses regulatory gaps and inconsistencies in the current passenger rights legislation, and their cost to citizens and society. This Cost of Non-Europe report also looks at the costs and benefits of the main codification options.

The reports' authors responded to questions from Members about the different obligations faced by rail and air companies. The Commission representative highlighted difficulties with seeking to codify regulations applying to different transport modes.

The authors explained that codification had been one of the options they had been asked to examine.

DG MOVE on Commission report 'Exemptions granted by MS under Regulation on rail passengers' rights and obligations'

Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations entered into force on 3 December 2009. Its aim is to protect EU rail rights passengers, particularly when travel is disrupted, and to improve the quality and effectiveness of services.

The Regulation allows Member States to exempt domestic long distance rail passenger services as a transitional measure. In view of the specific character of urban, suburban and regional rail passenger services, it also allows Member States to exempt these services.



The report demonstrates that only four Member States are applying the Regulation in full, while 22 have granted exemptions, to varying degrees. Member States do not have to justify these exemptions, but they must be transparent and non-discriminatory.

Members deplored the extensive use of exemptions. This has led to a patchwork of different rights for rail passengers. The wide use of exemptions is a serious obstacle improving the quality and effectiveness of rail passenger services. They prevent the creation of a level playing field for railway undertakings across the EU. They also deprive rail passengers of legal certainty and the full enjoyment of their rights.

The Commission explained that it is currently carrying out an impact assessment which will be looking at options for improving the application of the current Regulation. This may lead to a review of the Regulation.

NEXT TRAN COMMITTEE MEETING, BRUSSELS

Planned draft agenda - To be confirmed

Monday, 12 October, afternoon:

- Presentation by the Luxembourg Secretary of State for Tourism, Ms Francine Cloeser, on Presidency priorities
- Situation in the Mediterranean - consideration of amendments/Kyllönen
- Visa Package - two opinions: touring visa and visa code - consideration of amendments/Ujhelyi

Tuesday, 13 October, morning:

- Situation in the Mediterranean - vote/Kyllönen
- Visa Package - two opinions: touring visa and visa code - vote/Ujhelyi
- Sustainable Urban Mobility - vote/Delli

- Péter Balázs, European Coordinator for the North Sea-Mediterranean Corridor
- Pawel Wojciechowski, European Coordinator for the Rhine-Alpine Core Network Corridor
- Ports services - consideration of amendments /Fleckenstein

Tuesday, 13 October, afternoon:

- Inter-parliamentary meeting with National Parliaments on "Ten-T including cross-border links"

Meeting room: ASP 1G2 & JAN 4Q2

TRAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2015, BRUSSELS

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

Tuesday, 22 December, 15h00-18h30 (tbc)



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://ec.europa.eu/inea/en>

DG MOVE newsletter:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/newsletter/index_en.htm

Luxembourg Presidency of the Council:

<http://www.eu2015lu.eu/>

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