Newsletter - issue 1 11 January 2016

Exchange of views with Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy - Debriefing on the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP 21) leading to the international agreement on climate change

The ITRE Committee will welcome Commissioner Arias Cañete, responsible for climate action and energy. Commissioner Arias Cañete will debrief the Committee on the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP 21) leading to the international agreement on climate change. The presentation will be followed by an exchange of views with Members.

Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Visit of Minister Kamp and Secretary of State Mr Dekker.

The visit of the Minister and the Secretary of State takes place in the usual context of contacts between the ITRE Committee and the incoming Presidency of the Council. It is expected that a wide range of subjects will be discussed between the Presidency for the first semester of 2016 and the ITRE Committee. The Ministry of Mr Kamp has a very wide view on the economy, with competences even wider that the remits of the ITRE Committee

This means that many issues could be discussed. As one of the strategic goals of the Commission concerns the realisation of a true Energy Union, Members of the ITRE Committee will address the progress in the work on the Energy Union. Although oil and gas prices are low at the moment, much of it comes from outside the EU and this could be a threat to security of supply. There are also wider aspects of sustainability and measures to combat climate change which have to be taken into account in the field of energy and industrial policy.

From the side of the Industry, concerns are raised on the competitiveness of the production in Europe and this might be raised too.

The ITRE Committee also deals with research and innovation, the digital market, mass data, and new technologies. Much of this also falls within the portfolio of the Minister, but the important subject matter of research falls within the remits of the Secretary of State.

Members of the ITRE Committee are committed to the Horizon 2020 research framework programme, concerning the legislative and programming aspects as well as concerning the budgetary means which are necessary to keep Europe on track with its main competitors. Research and Innovation are considered vital for economic growth and prosperity.

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

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A Word From The Chair



Dear Colleagues,

I want to welcome you all back after the Christmas holidays and wish you all the best for 2016 – a year that is bringing serious challenges but may also bring opportunities both for our continent and for our committee.

We will start the year with the Minister for Economic Affairs of the Netherlands, who will present the Dutch Presidency's priorities for the coming six months. Among them are a range of ITRE-related issues: from promoting a strong European Internal Energy Market and innovative services in the Digital Single Market, to evaluating Horizon 2020 and improving collaboration in the use of satellite data.

At this year's first meeting we will also hold a debriefing with Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete on the climate change agreement reached in Paris last December.

I look forward to fruitful discussions on all these important topics.

Jerzy Buzek

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NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT A

Recent publications:

- 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"

Watch online

The Committee meetings are web-streamed and can be watched live on the <u>EP website</u> or on <u>Europarl TV</u>. Past meetings can be watched or extracts downloaded via the <u>EP Live Multimedia Library</u>. Speeches and presentations held during ITRE meetings are available on the <u>ITRE website</u>.

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Next ITRE meeting:

· 28 January in Brussels