



TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

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



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3 & 7 DECEMBER 2015



MEETING OF 3 DECEMBER 2015

ADOPTION OF DRAFT OPINION

Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA)

Rapporteur: Wim Van de Camp (EPP)
Opinion to INTA, Recommendation International Agreement

The opinion emphasises the significance of transport, tourism and delivery services for Europe's economy. It supports the inclusion of these services in the Agreement. However, it also emphasises that the EU's existing regulatory standards must apply to all providers. Several amendments were adopted calling for the implications of the Agreement for customers, employees and the environment to be taken into account.

The opinion was adopted with 27 votes in favour, 14 against and 1 abstention.

Timetable foreseen	
Vote in plenary	January/February 2016



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PRESENTATIONS

By the Commission of a comitology measure on classification of serious infringements in road transport

After its first proposal was rejected by Parliament on 17 December 2014, the Commission submitted a new draft measure. It establishes a common list of categories, types and degrees of serious infringements of Union rules in commercial road transport which may lead to the haulier's loss of good repute. It also stipulates when repeated serious infringements shall be regarded as more serious.

During the debate, Members acknowledged that the Commission had addressed concerns expressed in 2014. They appreciated improvements concerning the transportation of dangerous goods and the 12-day rule. However, it was pointed out that enforcement and implementation is a weak point in the EU's road transport market. Members invited the Commission to tackle infringements leading to unfair competition (such as illegal cabotage and falsified documents). The Commission will make appropriate proposals in the forthcoming revision of Regulations 1071/2009 and 1072/2009.

The Parliament's deadline for rejection expires on 28 February 2016.

By the European Maritime Safety Agency Executive Director, Markku Mylly

Mr Mylly set out the main priorities and challenges for EMSA in the coming year. Ship safety, particularly concerning passenger ships, was a key task with a review of the existing legislation underway. EMSA had also recently published an overview of marine casualties and incidents. This database made it possible to learn from mistakes and avoid them occurring in the future.

The Agency was also active in preventing pollution from ships including monitoring sulphur



and CO2 emissions. There had been very few violations of the sulphur emission rules and most of these were of an administrative nature.



EMSA would soon have 19 large pollution response vessels on stand-by stationed along the EU coast. As well as supporting Member States' Port State Control inspections, it was assisting neighbouring countries to approximate their standards and legislation to the EU's.

EMSA was providing tailored maritime surveillance services to Frontex, the external borders Agency. A pilot project was underway to see if drones could allow easier identification of the small boats being used by asylum seekers. Such drones could also contribute to monitoring emissions and detecting oil pollution.

Mr Mylly noted that EMSA had received a number of new tasks in recent years at a time when, like other EU bodies, it was being required to reduce staff by five per cent. This meant that only a few people were working on important issues such as pollution from oil and gas installations. Any further reduction in human resources would mean prioritising between its existing tasks.

Members, including those who had recently visited EMSA in Lisbon, applauded its professionalism and expressed concern about the constrained resources. They noted that a number of the new tasks arose from Parliamentary

initiatives. Questions focused on ship safety, the use of new technology including drones, sulphur limits and the response to the refugee crisis.

Tourism Task Force: exchange of views with the World Tourism Organization Secretary General, Taleb Rifai

Mr Rifai recalled the need for a cooperative approach in view of the recent terrorist attacks, the ongoing refugee crisis, the fight against climate change and the impact of new technology.

Despite such growing challenges, he was optimistic about the future of tourism in Europe and its capacity to deliver economic growth. Europe was the world's most visited destination and the number of international tourists had grown by five per cent in the first eight months of 2015.



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To take full advantage of its position, Europe should address three key areas:

- responding effectively to the pressing challenge of climate change by developing policies, including inter-modality and more sustainable intra-regional travel;



- promoting entrepreneurship and business competitiveness, in particular with regard to the technological revolution. For the so-called "sharing economy", progressive solutions were needed to safeguard consumer rights and quality standards; and
- developing the growing Asia and Latin America markets.

Priority actions the EU should observe included:

- believing in the power of the tourism industry;
- setting the rules correctly; and
- promoting quality jobs in tourism.

The Committee Chair recalled that Parliament had taken clear positions on many of the challenges mentioned by Mr Rifai when it adopted a resolution in October. The Vice-Chair of the Tourism Task Force explained that a "Tourism for Growth and Jobs" Manifesto had been drawn up by European tourism stakeholders. This highlights policy priorities for the sector in the coming years.

Members welcomed the idea of closer cooperation with the World Tourism Organization. They focused on:

- European tourism's expectations of more support from Parliament and the EU;
- the call for an International Year of Tourism and Cultural Heritage in 2018;
- regulation of the sharing economy sector to create a level playing field for traditional service providers;
- visa facilitation and security and safety concerns;
- the importance of creating high quality jobs with adequate professional training;
- the need to improve transport connections to tourist destinations;
- measures to reduce seasonality; and
- the importance of balancing mass and exclusive tourism.

MEETING OF 7 DECEMBER 2015

PRESENTATION

By Commissioner Bulc of the aviation package



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Ms Bulc underlined the importance of the aviation sector and said that the package was very much in line with Parliament's November resolution on aviation. It aimed to maintain Europe's leading position in aviation. The Commission intended to conclude a number of comprehensive international aviation agreements with countries such as China and the Association of South East Asian Nations.

At the EU level, Ms Bulc noted that a number of legislative files were currently blocked in the Council (Single European Sky II+, allocation of landing slots, passenger rights). She emphasised that the congestion of both air traffic and airports needed to be addressed.

The Commissioner announced an annual €430 million investment in SESAR, the European air traffic management system, until 2020. The package also included a modified regulation for the European Aviation Safety Agency, taking account of the developing drones sector and ensuring the Agency's early involvement in innovations.

She also underlined her intention to strengthen social dialogue and called for an international approach to environmental issues.



Although Members welcomed the adoption of the aviation package, some noted that issues such as intermodality and modal shift had been left aside. Ms Bulc replied that the intention of this package was to concentrate on aviation. Intermodal aspects would be dealt with by separate, targeted Commission proposals.

There was widespread backing for supporting growth, innovation and investment in the aviation sector. Members showed particular interest in the issue of fair competition. Several speakers underlined that the regulation on unfair practices had never been applied by Member States.

Commissioner Bulc replied that the comprehensive international aviation agreements ought to tackle issues such as market access, reciprocity and ownership/control to create a level playing field. She also announced that the regulation would be reviewed in early 2016.

Though Members could agree that environmental issues should be tackled at the international level, there was no common view on specific solutions. Some Members mentioned alternative fuels or a kerosene tax. Ms Bulc recalled that CO₂ emissions would be addressed by the International Civil Aviation Organization in 2016.

A number of Members made it clear that they would oppose any reduction in social standards

for the aviation sector. They were concerned about practices involving social dumping.

Commissioner Bulc considered that the focus should be on enhancing legal certainty by applying existing legislation. She was committed to social dialogue.

NEXT TRAN COMMITTEE MEETING, BRUSSELS

Planned draft agenda - To be confirmed

Monday, 21 December, afternoon:

- Presentation by DG MOVE of Commission report on common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organisations;
- Presentation by the Policy Department of the Study on "The Results and Efficiency of Railway Infrastructure Financing within the EU";
- Exchange of views with the Commission and stakeholders on Uber;
- Discharges 2014: European Commission and Agencies - presentation of draft opinions.

Monday, 22 December, afternoon:

- Scrutiny of Commission's implementing powers: presentation by DG MOVE of Commission implementing act concerning rules for the use of rear aerodynamic devices ("rear flaps");
- Scrutiny of Commission's implementing powers: presentation by DG MOVE of draft Regulatory Procedure with Scrutiny measures on aviation (pilot training, testing and periodic checking, airborne collision avoidance, certificate of data services providers);
- Hearing on competition in international aviation.

Meeting room: JAN 6Q2



TRAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2016, BRUSSELS

Monday, 25 January, 15h00-18h30
Monday, 15 February, 15h00-18h30
Tuesday, 16 February, 9h00-12h30
Tuesday, 16 February, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 14 March, 15h00-18h30
Tuesday, 15 March, 9h00-12h30
Tuesday, 15 March, 15h00-18h30

Thursday, 7 April, 9h00-12h30
Thursday, 7 April, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 25 April, 15h00-18h30
Tuesday, 26 April, 9h00-12h30
Tuesday, 26 April, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 23 May, 15h00-18h30
Tuesday, 24 May, 9h00-12h30
Tuesday, 24 May, 15h00-18h30

Wednesday, 15 June, 9h00-12h30
Wednesday, 15 June, 15h00-18h30
Thursday, 16 June, 9h00-12h30

Monday, 11 July, 15h00-18h30
Tuesday, 12 July, 9h00-12h30
Tuesday, 12 July, 15h00-18h30
Thursday, 1 September, 9h00-12h30
Thursday, 1 September, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 26 September, 15h00-18h30

Monday, 10 October, 15h00-18h30
Tuesday, 11 October, 9h00-12h30
Tuesday, 11 October, 15h00-18h30

Wednesday, 9 November, 9h00-12h30
Wednesday, 9 November, 15h00-18h30
Thursday, 10 November, 9h00-12h30

Monday, 5 December, 15h00-18h30



USEFUL LINKS

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<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/>

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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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