



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 5 September 2013

13379/13

**PE 384
ENER 403
ENV 808
IND 243
MI 730
RECH 391
COMPET 628
ESPACE 58
BUDGET 44
TRANS 462
COSDP 827
RELEX 786**

NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations

Subject: Summary record of the meeting of the **Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)**, held in Brussels on 2 September 2013

The meeting was chaired by Ms Sartori (EPP, IT) (chair). She informed Members that the ENVI Committee had accepted only two out of forty five ITRE amendments on the report on the proposal for a directive relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. It was agreed by group coordinators (with the exception of the Greens/EFA) that these amendments would be tabled in the plenary in line with Article 50.

- 1. Implementation report 2013: Developing and applying carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology in Europe**
ITRE/7/13221, 2013/2079(INI)
Rapporteur for the opinion: Vicky Ford (ECR, UK)
Responsible: ENVI

The rapporteur stated that the CCS was the only large-scale and practicable technology currently available to capture carbon when using fossil fuels to generate low-carbon electricity. In addition, in several industrial sectors, emission reductions could only be achieved through it. She was concerned that failing to include CCS within a long-term energy strategy would endanger the EU's industrial competitiveness and hamper efforts to address climate change. She also believed that the EU's mandatory renewable energy target had undermined CCS investments and she called for a technology neutral approach to the EU's energy goals.

Mr Davies (ALDE, UK), rapporteur in ENVI, considered that the Member States, as key players, should be required to submit roadmaps detailing the development of CCS, as the EU had been a front-runner in the field, but was now falling behind. He added that CCS was becoming less expensive compared to wind and solar power, even at the development stage. He stated that he would find helpful if the CCS flagship projects could be included in renewable targets. As to financing, in the short-term, he thought that Horizon 2020 was not sufficient and proposed a new industrial innovation fund. In the long-term, he suggested the introduction of CCS certificates from 2020.

Several Members considered that the EU should amend its policy and should support not only renewables (Mr Vidal-Quadras (EPP, ES), Ms Riera Madurell (S&D, ES)), but also CCS technology (Mr Marcinkiewicz (EPP, PL), Mr Březina (EPP, CZ)). Ms Kolarska-Bobińska (EPP, PL) believed that CCS could be used for wide array of purposes, if the problem of public opposition were solved. As regards financing, Ms Herczog (S&D, HU) thought that CCS should not be financed from Horizon 2020 and called for flexible financing shared between countries that were directly and indirectly involved. She also inquired about the EUR 1 billion available for demonstration projects from the recovery programme. Mr Marcinkiewicz called for greater funds to be made available to help raise more awareness of the issue. Mr Rübiger (EPP, AT), on the other hand, thought that CCS was not the only way how to deal with CO₂ emissions and favoured its reuse, instead of storage.

With regard to recovery programme funds, the Commission representative informed Members that two of six contracts had been cancelled in view of the issue of public acceptance and insufficient transposition of the CCS Directive. As regards the remaining four contracts, she expressed hope that the final investment decision would be made soon. The Commission would report on these projects in the near future.

The rapporteur reiterated that the CCS could be cost-effective compared to renewables. She emphasised the need for a technology-neutral approach and for removal of barriers to technology. She also considered that it could be financed through Horizon 2020.

Timetable:	deadline for amendments:	5 September 2013
	consideration of amendments:	25 September 2013
	vote in ITRE:	14 October 2013

2. The European Defence Technological and Industrial Base

ITRE/7/13067, 2013/2125(INI)

Rapporteur for the opinion: Jean-Pierre Audy (EPP, FR)

Responsible: AFET

In his presentation, the rapporteur focused on the need to end the fragmentation of the defence market and expressed support for the dual-use potential of products in space, maritime and civil aviation. He also expressed the view that the special characteristics of the defence sector should be recognised in respect of its confidentiality requirements, and in respect of supply and demand and its clientele (consisting mostly of governments). He called on the European Council to support the technological and industrial base of the EU's defence industry and that this was necessary in order to maintain strategic autonomy and operational capacity. He stated there was a need to develop guidelines on how it could be strengthened. He also mentioned employment and the issue of maintaining production in the EU, research and innovation, ICT and data security in respect of cyber attacks and the importance of interoperability and standardisation.

Mr Gierak (S&D, PL) agreed with the need to coordinate policies on the industrial base used for defence purposes. He spoke in favour of stepping up R&D in defence and called for harmonisation and standardisation of ammunition, as well as in the areas of aircraft and motor vehicles. He also raised the issue of confidential research for defence purposes and proposed the creation of an institute or joint research centre independent of Horizon 2020. Mr Prodi (S&D, IT) believed that the defence industry needed the courage and will to develop a common defence strategy.

The Commission representative reiterated the need for a collective effort to achieve progress in this area, improve competitiveness and strengthen the EU defence industry.

Mr Langen (EPP, DE) considered that some amendments, such as voluntary transfer of data, would weaken the overall project. Compromise had to be found as to whether all or only large installations would be subjected to notifications. Mr Correia de Campos (S&D, PT) supported the expansion of the scope of notification requirements for coal (with Mr Vidal-Quadras (EPP, ES)) and gas facilities (Mr Jadot (Greens/EFA, FR)). Nevertheless, there was a need to avoid double notification and red tape. Mr Correia de Campos and Mr Vidal-Quadras also thought that the gaps and shortfalls in interconnections needed to be identified. As regards confidentiality, Mr Correia de Campos thought that amendments were excessive and over-regulative. He expressed support for the initial proposal. Mr Vidal-Quadras advocated caution as regards commercially sensitive information. Mr Jadot suggested lowering the thresholds for wind power farms and commented on infrastructure investments in third countries.

The Commission representative said the Commission was open to the inclusion of both projects where a final investment decision had been made, or was pending. As regards double reporting on the notification of infrastructure, the Commission had already published a working document mapping out what had already been covered by other legislation. Renewables and small installations, as well as investment projects on extraction of coal were not covered. For the latter, she recommended waiting for the review in 2016.

<u>Timetable:</u>	vote in ITRE:	18 September 2013
	vote in plenary:	December 2013

6. EU Space Industrial Policy, releasing the Potential for Growth in the Space Sector
ITRE/7/12756, 2013/2092(INI), COM(2013)0108
Rapporteur: Angelika Niebler (EPP, DE)
Opinions: AFET, INTA, IMCO

On behalf of the rapporteur, Mr Ehler (EPP, DE) gave a brief overview of the objectives and measures proposed by the Commission. He said that the rapporteur saw a need to set priorities in respect of these measures and spoke of the cooperation between EU, the European Space Agency (ESA) and Member States, Galileo and Copernicus, the aerospace industry, access to space, the role of research and development, financing in the light of the need for planning security and certainty for companies, satellite communications and space debris and the need for global governance and anti-collision systems.

Mr Glante (S&D, DE) drew attention to the issue of better exploitation of synergies based on improved cooperation of Member States with the ESA. He expressed the view that there was a need to protect investment in space. Mr Johansson (ALDE, SE) thought that as an innovative sector, space could be a major impetus for growth and jobs. As the sector was dominated by large consortia, he saw a need to support SMEs so as to promote innovation. As to the challenges facing the sector, he identified a gap between space research and product development. Mr Prodi (S&D, IT) reiterated the leading role of the EU in space research and spoke of the resources that were needed. He also emphasised the need for Internet data security in the use of satellite systems, as well as the need for satellite tracking and research on the reduction of space waste. In this regard, he would work towards encouraging international agreement focusing on the avoidance of potential collisions. Ms Andersdotter (Greens/EFA, SE) welcomed the publication of data on space debris and raised the issue of radio spectrum scarcity.

The Commission representative reiterated the need to promote a closer and strengthened relationship between the EU, ESA and the Member States with a view to making the best possible use of resources in the space sector.

Timetable: deadline for amendments: 18 September 2013
 vote in ITRE: 14 October 2013

7. Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 912/2010 setting up the European GNSS Agency
ITRE/7/11892, 2013/0022(COD), COM(2013)0040
Rapporteur: Amalia Sartori (EPP, IT)
Opinions: BUDG, CONT, TRAN

The rapporteur gave a brief overview of the background to the establishment of the GNSS agency and its objectives. With Galileo close to completion, she emphasised the need for independence of the Security Accreditation Board (SAB). She expressed concern about the prevention and management of a potential conflict of interest. She advocated greater transparency and the Parliament's supervisory function over the Executive Director and the President of the SAB. She also her wish to bring the text into line with the common approach on decentralised agencies. She also mentioned transparency, seconded national experts and agency staff.

The Commission representative clarified that funding would not serve the purpose of establishing the service. Instead it would finance a programme designed to support Member States' efforts to set up these systems, which also impacted on the level of detail of the proposal. He welcomed the approach of the rapporteur, as it was important to set up the necessary cooperation to develop the system. He also supported ideas on the free availability of data.

<u>Timetable:</u>	consideration of a draft report:	14 October 2013
	deadline for amendments:	5 November 2013
	vote in ITRE:	18 November 2013

Next meeting

- 18 September 2013, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
