



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations

Subject: Summary of the meeting of the **Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)**, held in Brussels on 3 September 2012

The meeting was chaired by Ms Sartori (Chair) (EPP, IT) and Mr Rohde (Vice-Chair) (ALDE, DK).

1. Presentation of the study on "The attractiveness of the EU for top scientists"

The study can be found at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/studiesdownload.html?languageDocument=EN&file=74891>

*** *Electronic vote* ***

2. Conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on cooperation in science and technology

2011/0175(NLE), ITRE/7/06513

Rapporteur: Amalia Sartori (EPP, IT)

Opinions: AFET (no opinion)

The draft report was adopted in a simplified procedure (29 for, 0 against, 3 abstentions).

3. Renewal of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil

2012/0059(NLE), ITRE/7/09181

Rapporteur: Amalia Sartori (EPP, IT)

Opinions: INTA (no opinion), BUDG (no opinion)

The draft report was adopted in a simplified procedure (32 for, 0 against, 1 abstention).

4. Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs): competitiveness and business opportunities

2012/2042(INI), COM(2011)0642, ITRE/7/08280

Rapporteur: Paul Rübig (EPP, AT)

Opinions: INTA, ECON, EMPL, ENVI, IMCO, REGI

The vote on the draft report was postponed to 17-18 September 2012.

5. Completing the Digital Single Market

2012/2030(INI), COM(2011)0942, ITRE/7/08636

Rapporteur for the opinion: Aldo Patriciello (EPP, IT)

Committee responsible: IMCO

The draft opinion was adopted as amended (35 for, 1 against, 0 abstentions).

6. General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013 - all sections

2012/2092(BUD), ITRE/7/09528

Rapporteur for the opinion: Reinhard Bütikofer (Greens/EFA, DE)

Committee responsible: BUDG

The draft opinion was adopted as amended (32 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions).

*** *End of electronic vote****

7. Interim report in the interests of achieving a positive outcome of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 approval procedure (2011/0177(APP))

2011/0177(APP), COM(2011)0398, ITRE/7/09788

Rapporteur for the opinion: Edit Herczog (S&D, HU)

Committee responsible: BUDG

The rapporteur, Ms Herczog, said that the Parliament would not be ready to vote on the MFF final numbers unless related files under the ordinary legislative procedure (e.g. Horizon 2020, COSME and CEF) had advanced further. She underlined three key issues: the size of the budget, own resources and the correction mechanisms. She gave a brief overview of her suggestions,

highlighting in particular a need for EUR 1 600 billion for the competitiveness sector; the European added value (EAV) offered by the EU budget; the simplification of funding procedures for Horizon 2020; large infrastructure projects and related risks of cuts and overrun costs; and the project bonds and risk-sharing financing instrument. She also inquired about the unused revenues and margins.

Members raised the issues of greater support for SMEs (Ms Sartori (EPP, IT), Mr Kelly (EPP, IE)), including the transfer of company property (Ms Sartori), a need to mobilise private capital, support for the project bonds and expansion of COSME (Mr Rübzig (EPP, AT)) through the reallocation of funds from less effective programmes (Mr Creutzmann (ALDE, DE)), guaranteed funding for large-scale projects (Ms Sartori), including opposition to the removal from the MFF of spending on ITER and GMES (Mr Creutzmann, Mr Prodi (S&D, IT)), budget expenditure to be focused on EAV and increasing competitiveness (Mr Creutzmann), and own resources (Mr Rübzig, Mr Kelly).

The Commission representative informed members that an extraordinary European Council meeting dedicated to the MFF would take place in November. Therefore he advised the Parliament to have its position ready by then.

The rapporteur concluded that the objective was to secure an amount for the competitiveness heading which was at least equal to the amount proposed by the Commission.

Timetable: deadline for amendments: 4 September 2012, 12:00

8. The role of EU cohesion policy and their actors in implementing the new European energy policy

2012/2099(INI), ITRE/7/09419

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ioan Enciu (S&D, RO)

Committee responsible: REGI

The rapporteur, Mr Enciu, focused on the energy efficiency as a factor in cohesion policy, the use of renewables, in particular in the housing sector, the allocation of financial resources to even out regional disparities, energy poverty, and the simplification of access to the structural funds.

During the discussion, members highlighted energy efficiency as a tool for tackling energy poverty and controlling costs (Mr Turmes (Greens/EFA, LU)), a better use of structural funds, in particular in the building sector (Ms Țicău (S&D, RO)), the role of structural funds in the development of

certain geographical areas to mitigate the effects of climate change (Mr Prodi (S&D, IT)), renewables (Mr Prodi, Ms Țicău) as a means of local development, the subsequent need for local grids and the related flexibility for regions in selecting projects (Ms Kolarska-Bobińska (EPP, PL)), incentives for young entrepreneurs (Mr Rübzig (EPP, AT)), biomass (Mr Prodi, Mr Helmer (EFD, UK)), and shale gas and its exploration in the EU and the US (Mr Helmer, Mr Turmes, Mr Goebbels (S&D, LU)).

The Commission representative also acknowledged the win-win effect of investment in energy efficiency and renewables for SMEs in the construction sector; in creating local jobs, helping to fight energy poverty etc. Concerning the financing instruments, she said that the objective was greater use of instruments other than loans in the next programming period. With regard to queries on flexibility, she underlined the advantage of combining two policies, allowing investments to be tailored to specific local circumstances.

Timetable: deadline for amendments: 10 October 2012, 12:00

9. Debriefing from the ITRE delegation to Cyprus

Mr Goebbels (S&D, LU), the head of delegation, briefly informed members about the visit. He gave an overview of the situation resulting from the recent discovery of gas fields in Cyprus, explaining that Turkey was contesting Cypriot sovereignty over these. He considered that the EU should show solidarity with Cyprus, saying that it had an absolute right to exploit the gas. In this context, he informed members about the Presidency initiative to invite Egypt, Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian Authority (and not Turkey) to the ministerial meeting on 9 November 2012 to discuss the future of energy dialogue in the Mediterranean. He also raised the issue of the Council decision on the Schengen evaluation mechanism, noting that Cyprus initially wanted to vote against it, but had eventually decided to vote in favour.

Dates of the next meeting:

- 17 September 2012, 15:00 – 18:30 (Brussels)
- 18 September 2012, 09:00 – 12:30 and 15:00 – 18:30 (Brussels)