



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 30 January 2014**

**5904/14**

**PE 45  
ENER 38  
ENV 83  
IND 38  
ESPACE 16  
COMPET 61  
RECH 42**

**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council  
to: Delegations

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Subject: Summary record of the meeting of the **Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)** of the European Parliament, held in Brussels on 22 - 23 January 2014

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**One of the main items was the presentation of the Presidency's priorities by Ministers Chrisochoidis, Hatzidakis, Maniatis and Arvanitopoulos. The Committee also discussed the telecoms package and adopted a number of files (including Copernicus and innovation package) and rejected the ETS back-loading (opinion to ENVI report).**

The meeting was chaired by Ms Toia (S&D, IT) (Vice-Chair).

- 1. Presentation of Presidency's priorities by Ministers Chrisochoidis (Infrastructure, Transport and Networks), Hatzidakis (Development and Competitiveness), Maniatis (Environment, Energy and Climate Change) and Arvanitopoulos (Education and Religious Affairs).**

With the digital single market as a top priority of the Hellenic Presidency in the area of telecommunications, Minister Chrisochoidis focused on the European single market for electronic communications, e-identification and trust services, the reduction of broadband costs and network security. Members welcomed the focus on the digital single market, which was fundamental to EU competitiveness and growth.

On the telecoms package, the Minister thought that the proposal struck enough of a balance to be universally acceptable. He would support the rapporteur's results in order to make progress on the file. Work would continue on the digital single market files, which were a top EU priority.

Regarding broadband costs, the rapporteur stressed that, irrespective of which legal instrument was adopted (directive/regulation), it should be implemented as rapidly as possible. The Minister assured her that the Presidency would try to achieve the best solution for its swift implementation into the national networks. As to data protection, the problems encountered (NSA) were of major concern and the Presidency promised to work for better cyber security. He underlined that the system had to be rules-based, with constant vigilance, and have a proper institutionalised system of controls and monitoring. He hoped to obtain results on the file by June 2014.

In his presentation, Minister Hatzidakis stressed that the new industrial policy was a key priority and a key tool for addressing competitiveness problems. It had to be viewed as part of an integrated approach. The Presidency would focus on five objectives: reducing red tape; mitigating the negative impact of high energy costs; improving access to finance; stimulating investment in innovation; and developing the skills needed in emerging industrial sectors and markets. Some Members pointed out that so far much had been said but not much had been undertaken in the area of industrial policy.

Minister Hatzidakis acknowledged this observation, but was reluctant to risk promising something that he could not deliver. Nevertheless, he assured Members that the Presidency would try to take legislative action, and mentioned two Competitiveness Councils and the European Council dedicated to industrial policy. Answering the criticism that having an industrial policy created additional red tape, he stressed the need for coordination, synergies and exchange of best practices. Nevertheless, he advocated a cautious approach to allow the EU to keep up with major competitors. In the context of environmental protection, he said that industry and entrepreneurial policy had been neglected and the Presidency would make its contribution to limiting that damage.

Minister Maniatis identified six priorities for the Hellenic Presidency within his portfolio – the EU 2030 framework for climate and energy policies; competitiveness of the EU economy, including the question of energy prices; European citizens, including the issue of energy poverty; completion of the internal energy market; identifying developments in the field of pipelines and energy sources coming from the Caspian region, Azerbaijan and East Mediterranean; and external energy relations.

Members raised various issues, such as the balance between competitiveness and environmental protection, the 2030 climate and energy framework and related targets, energy prices, energy poverty and shale gas. Minister Maniatis said that it was difficult to find solutions in these areas as the Presidency was faced with conflicting objectives (2C target and competitiveness, growth and jobs) and needed to seek compromises. Regarding the 2030 climate and energy package, he had not analysed it yet, but it could be a vehicle for opening up aspirations to meet the challenges. The Presidency would listen to all views. He also restated the need for available energy at affordable prices. Nevertheless, he pointed out the difference between energy costs and energy bills. The real cost was the impact on the economy. Regarding the Caspian supply lines, the region was a promising future source of gas. He also mentioned energy savings and energy efficiency as major neglected factors which had the potential to make a real difference. As to shale gas, the Commission had decided to proceed with a recommendation only. No decision had been taken yet in the Council, but he believed that Member States would give an indication on the way forward at the March Summit.

Minister Arvanitopoulos presented priorities for research, innovation and space. In the area of R&I, the Innovation Union was central to the EU. He emphasised the need to complete the ERA by 2014, improving mobility and ensuring targeted and efficient spending of the budget. The Presidency would pursue Horizon 2020 and wanted to make progress on the innovation package. They also wanted to start a political dialogue on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in R&D. In the field of space, the Minister highlighted Galileo, the completion of Copernicus, cooperation with the ESA, protection of space infrastructure and the plan to complete negotiations on the space surveillance and tracking (SST) file.

Concerning the implementation of programmes, the Presidency had limited time given the forthcoming EP elections, but the Minister said that intensive efforts would continue to achieve progress. Regarding SMEs, he pointed out that their guarantees and prospects were included in the programmes. With regard to the innovation package, participation was important and practicalities needed monitoring to achieve the best possible results. Regarding its budget, he noted the call to distribute it in a balanced way between different sectors. As to the SST, it was a priority file and work would continue on it. However, if the programme was to be turned into a major policy area, it needed enough financing.

## 2. European single market for electronic communications

ITRE/7/13786, 2013/0309(COD), COM(2013)0627

Rapporteur: Pilar del Castillo Vera (EPP, ES)

Opinions: IMCO, REGI, CULT, JURI, LIBE

The rapporteur underlined that the proposal could have a very positive impact if the right decisions were taken and its measures implemented. In this context, she highlighted the optimal use of spectrum, reducing red tape, having a single authorisation, strengthening the role of BEREC, having an open and inclusive internet and abolishing roaming charges. Commenting on the amendments, she saw broad scope for agreement in all areas and for a strong position of the Parliament in the negotiations with the Council.

During the discussion, Members in general supported the report. They raised in particular the issues of: roaming charges (date and competition in the wholesale sector); spectrum allocation (including unlicensed use); net neutrality and open internet; coordination, single authorisation and the role of BEREC; interferences; specialised services; and the level playing field.

The Commission representative was in favour of reinforcing the EU's role in granting and withdrawing the single authorisation. Regarding the spectrum, he welcomed Members' support and any additional proposals related to duration and greater use of tradability. As to the unlicensed spectrum, the proposal also aimed to facilitate the provision of services on an unlicensed basis and the Commission was currently working on identifying a suitable spectrum for that use. Concerning the open internet, a clear definition of specialised services was important. Regarding BEREC, he shared the view that it should be strong.

The rapporteur commented on the great convergence among political groups and saw good chances of reaching an agreement.

Timetable:        vote in ITRE:    24 February 2014  
                          vote in plenary: February 2014

**3. Exchange of views with László István Ignéczi, candidate for administrative manager of BEREK**  
ITRE/7/15008

Mr Ignéczi introduced himself and explained why he had applied for the position. He also presented his idea on how the BEREK administrative manager should conduct himself in the role and committed himself to perform the tasks in an effective and efficient way.

Members considered that the candidate had an appropriate profile, in line with the responsibilities, and hoped to meet him again once the appointment was made. They were interested in particular in how he wanted to work with similar bodies and national regulatory authorities (NRAs) and facilitate coordination with them to improve efficiency.

Mr Ignéczi expressed his satisfaction about Members' recognition of BEREK's achievements. Regarding cooperation with NRAs, he reminded them that BEREK's task was to facilitate the work of these expert groups. He would focus on developing coordinating mechanisms that were already operational, document sharing, exchange of best practices, etc. A similar reply was given to the queries on improving efficiency.

**4. Commission Regulation (EU) No ..../. of XXX amending Regulation (EU) No 1031/2010 in particular to determine the volumes of greenhouse gas emission allowances to be auctioned in 2013-2020**

Members held a very short discussion on whether the Committee would deliver a positive or a negative opinion on the ENVI draft report on back-loading. A clear division emerged between the political groups (S&D and Greens/EFA vs. EPP and ECR)

(NB. On the following day the Committee voted against back-loading, see below).

**5. Amendment to Council Directive 2009/71/EURATOM of 25 June 2009 establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations**

ITRE/7/14357, 2013/0340(NLE) COM(2013)0715

Rapporteur: Romana Jordan (EPP, SI)

Opinions: ENVI

The rapporteur agreed to a great extent with the Commission proposal. However, she would like to be more ambitious in several fields, such as Article 8 items and periodic safety reviews. For the latter, she considered that the results of the topical peer reviews should be used to foster discussions which could lead to the development of a set of harmonised Community nuclear safety criteria.

Concerning the increase of Commission powers, she would limit them to implementation,

without influencing the content. She supported the strengthening of competent human resources and independence of competent regulatory authorities.

Most Members reiterated the need for independent regulatory authorities. In this context, they thought that the issue of conflict of interest was not stressed enough. Some of them also underlined the need to change the legal basis, as the Parliament had no co-decision powers under the Euratom treaty. They also raised the issues of liability and responsibility, harmonised safety levels and the role of the Commission, which could reduce subsidiarity.

The Commission representative said that the change of the legal basis was a recurrent topic and he underlined that the Commission had based its proposal on the existing legal basis. He welcomed amendments designed to reinforce the peer review system. Concerning the role of the Commission in these reviews, he believed that its involvement in methodology and implementation offered a fundamental guarantee. He mentioned divergent views on how to establish the power of regulatory authorities and their legal independence. In this context, he also welcomed the calls to support the role of ENSREC. As to the conflict of interest, he recalled that Article 5 of the amended directive called for the avoidance of such a conflict. The proposal also contained provisions on subcontracting.

The rapporteur stressed that different responsibilities needed to be clearly defined and she opposed any sharing of responsibilities between designers, operators and regulatory authorities. She repeated that the Parliament had no co-decision powers in this area, but she also specified that they lacked know-how on some technical and specific issues. Consequently, it should stay in the competence of experts.

Timetable: deadline for amendments: 18 February 2014, 12:00

## **6. Presentation of the study 'The Consequences of REACH for SMEs'**

The study can be found at:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/507486/IPOL-ITRE\\_NT\(2013\)507486\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/507486/IPOL-ITRE_NT(2013)507486_EN.pdf)

\*\*\* *Electronic vote* \*\*\*

### **Adoption of compromise texts as agreed with the Council**

## **Copernicus Programme**

ITRE/7/13114, 2013/0164(COD), COM(2013)0312

Rapporteur: Vittorio Prodi (S&D, IT)

(48 in favour, 2 against, 3 abstentions)

## **Adoption of draft reports**

### **Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking**

ITRE/7/13392, 2013/0240(NLE), COM(2013)0495

Rapporteur: Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D, ES)

(45 in favour, 4 against, 4 abstentions)

### **Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking**

ITRE/7/13375, 2013/0241(NLE), COM(2013)0496

Rapporteur: Lambert van Nistelrooij (EPP, NL)

(46 in favour, 1 against, 5 abstentions)

### **ECSEL Joint Undertaking**

ITRE/7/13407, 2013/0234(NLE), COM(2013)0501

Rapporteur: Paul Rübiger (EPP, AT)

(49 in favour, 1 against, 0 abstentions)

### **Clean Sky 2 Joint Undertaking**

ITRE/7/13341, 2013/0244(NLE), COM(2013)0505

Rapporteur: Christian Ehler (EPP, DE)

(34 in favour, 4 against, 6 abstentions)

### **Fuel Cells and Hydrogen 2 Joint Undertaking**

ITRE/7/13344, 2013/0245(NLE), COM(2013)0506

Rapporteur: Vladko Todorov Panayotov (ADLE, BG)

(36 in favour, 0 against, 6 abstentions)

### **Joint Undertaking to develop the new generation European air traffic management system (SESAR) as regards the extension of the Joint Undertaking until 2024**

ITRE/7/13338, 2013/0237(NLE), COM(2013)0503

Rapporteur: Britta Thomsen (S&D, DK)

(41 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions)

### **Participation of the Union in a Research and Development Programme jointly undertaken by several Member States aimed at supporting research performing small and medium-sized enterprises**

ITRE/7/13411, 2013/0232(COD), COM(2013)0493

Rapporteur: Miloslav Ransdorf (GUE/NGL, CZ)

(42 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions)

**Participation of the Union in a European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research jointly undertaken by several Member States**

ITRE/7/13403, 2013/0242(COD), COM(2013)0497

Rapporteur: Niki Tzavela (EFD, EL)

(41 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions)

**Participation of the Union in a second European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership Programme jointly undertaken by several Member States**

ITRE/7/13414, 2013/0243(COD), COM(2013)0498

Rapporteur: Vicky Ford (ECR, UK)

(40 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions)

**Participation of the Union in the Active and Assisted Living Research and Development Programme jointly undertaken by several Member States**

ITRE/7/13397, 2013/0233(COD), COM(2013)0500

Rapporteur: Claude Turmes (Greens/EFA, LU)

(38 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions)

**Adoption of draft opinions**

**Indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts**

ITRE/7/14313, 2013/0314(COD), COM(2013)0641

Rapporteur for the opinion: Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL, PT)

(48 in favour, 8 against, 0 abstentions)

**Amendment to Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community, in view of the implementation by 2020 of an international agreement applying a single global market-based measure to international aviation emissions**

ITRE/7/14382, 2013/0344(COD), COM(2013)0722

Rapporteur for the opinion: Eija-Riitta Korhola (EPP, FI)

(29 in favour, 22 against, 3 abstentions)

**Objection to a RPS**

**Commission Regulation (EU) No ../.. of XXX amending Regulation (EU) No 1031/2010 in particular to determine the volumes of greenhouse gas emission allowances to be auctioned in 2013-2020**

(30 in favour, 19 against, 0 abstentions)

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



### Next meeting(s)

- 12 February 2014, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
  - 13 February 2014, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
  - 24 February 2014, 19.00 – 21.00 (Strasbourg)
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