

Newsletter

of TRAN Committee meeting of January 2020

Editorial by Karima Delli

Dear colleagues and friends,

The start of 2020 was mostly a continuation of our work in this legislature. But we also had a symbolic beginning and a regrettable closure. We welcomed the Croatian Presidency, who presented the main priorities for the coming 6 months.

This is the first Council presidency for Croatia, an exciting milestone since joining the Union in 2013. It also marks a certain maturity of the Union, as all its Members now have had the opportunity to take on this important leadership role. We look forward to close cooperation with the Presidency on the ambitious agenda ahead of us.

Sadly, this was also the last meeting with our British colleagues, following the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the Union on 31 January. I would like to express my gratitude to all the British Members I had the pleasure to work with through the years. You will be missed.

Nevertheless, every end is a new beginning. We must now focus our efforts to ensure that the very close and efficient cooperation in the fields of transport and tourism is maintained as we start to redefine the relations between the European Union and the United Kingdom. TRAN committee will certainly play a key role in this challenging process ahead.



In this edition...

- *Discharge 2018 Commission + agencies votes*
- *E-freight confirmation vote*
- *Mobility Package confirmation votes*
- *Aviation agreement EU Morocco vote*
- *Bilateral agreements of Germany and Italy with Switzerland authorising cabotage*
- *BREXIT - adoption of opinion*
- *Budget 2021*
- *Light Vehicles Emissions*
- *Matthew Baldwin, European Coordinator for Road Safety*
- *Postal services in the EU*
- *Croatian Presidency priorities*
- *European Coordinators of the TEN-T*

Discharges 2018 – Agencies and joint undertakings and the Commission

Presentation of the opinions and votes

- **Rapporteurs:**
 - Monteiro de Aguiar (EPP) - Commission
 - Maria Grapini (S&D) - Agencies
- Discharge procedures
- Vote in CONT: 19-20/02/20
- Vote in plenary: March 11 2020

Ms Monteiro de Aguiar presented the tabled amendments and compromise amendments that she proposed for the discharge to the Commission.

The shadow rapporteurs welcomed the work of the Rapporteur and generally welcomed the amendments.

However, some of them expressed their opposition to the addition of the military mobility pillar to TEN-T, suggesting that the funds could be spent on more pressing issues, such as tackling climate change instead.

Among the issues also highlighted were delays in completion of TEN-T, better coordination of work programmes and the need to increase the awareness of passengers about their rights. Ms Grapini was in favour of granting discharges to the transport Agencies (EMSA, ERA and EASA), the European air traffic management system Joint Undertaking (SESAR), the Clean Sky 2 and Shit2Rail Joint Undertakings.

Aviation agreement EU Morocco

Vote

- Rapporteur: Sven Schulze (EPP)
- Non-legislative enactment
- Vote in plenary: February 2020

The agreement was voted with 40 in favour, 5 against and 4 abstentions.

Mobility Package

Confirmation vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations

Enforcement requirements and specific rules for posting drivers in the road transport sector

- Rapporteur: Kateřina Konečná (GUE/NGL)

The agreement was voted with 27 in favour, 22 against and 0 abstentions.

Amending Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 as regards minimum requirements on maximum daily and weekly driving times, minimum breaks and daily and weekly rest periods and Regulation (EU) 165/2014 as regards positioning by means of tachographs

- Rapporteur: Henna Virkkunen (EPP)

The agreement was voted with 27 in favour, 17 against and 5 abstentions.

Amending Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009 and Regulation (EC) No 1072/2009 with a view to adapting them to developments in the sector

- Rapporteur: Ismail Ertug (S&D)

The agreement was voted with 32 in favour, 17 against and 0 abstentions.

E-freight

Confirmation vote

- Rapporteur: Andor Deli (EPP)

The agreement was voted with 47 in favour, 2 against and 0 abstentions.

BREXIT - Adoption of opinion in the form of a letter

Vote

- Rapporteur: Karima Delli (TRAN Chair)

The opinion was voted with 40 in favour, 4 against and 5 abstentions.

Bilateral agreements of Germany and Italy with Switzerland authorising cabotage operations in the course of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus

Presentation of amendments and vote

- Rapporteur: Markus Ferber (EPP)
- Vote in plenary: March 2020

The Rapporteur presented his amendments regarding the legal base of the proposed decision, enabling an early agreement with the Council. He noted the approval of the Committee on Legal Affairs for this change. The shadow rapporteurs were unanimously in favour of the Rapporteur's proposal. The Commission also accepted the change and expressed its hope that the adoption of the decision would be completed quickly.

Both reports were adopted with 47 votes in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

Type approval of motor vehicles with respect to emissions from light passenger and commercial vehicles (Euro 5 and Euro 6) and on access to vehicle repair and maintenance information

Presentation of the opinion

- Rapporteur : Sven Schulze (EPP)
- Deadline amendments: 29/01
- Vote in TRAN: 20/02

The Committee heard the presentation of the draft opinion by its Rapporteur, Mr Sven Schulze (EPP).

Mr Schulze welcomed the Commission's intention to ensure legal certainty and reliability for manufacturers and consumers through this legislative proposal. He indicated that he proposed an amendment so that the conformity factor be clearly separated from error margins.

The shadow rapporteurs welcomed the work of the Rapporteur. There were however divergent views on whether the conformity factor was only a technical measure to be left to comitology or a political one to be discussed in the Parliament.

Presentation by Croatian State Secretary Josip Bilaver, Sea, Transport and Infrastructure and Croatian State Secretary Frano Matušić, Ministry of Tourism on HR Presidency priorities

Presentation on HR Presidency priorities

The TRAN Committee welcomed the Croatian Transport State Secretary, Mr Bilaver, and the Croatian State Secretary for Tourism, Mr Matušić, who presented the priorities of the Croatian Presidency to the Committee.



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In the field of transport, the Croatian Presidency's main priorities include the improvement and finalisation of Trans-European Transport Network, as a prerequisite for the functioning of the EU single market and the sustainable development of maritime activities, which includes the protection of the marine environment from pollution caused by ships, and the further digitalisation of the maritime sector.

The Presidency will start a debate on the new EU strategy for a competitive and sustainable shipping sector that should respond to the challenges at both EU and global levels. The objective of this debate is to adopt a declaration at an informal meeting of maritime affairs ministers.

In the area of air transport, the Presidency's priorities include topics such as air transport sustainability, and air and land transport capacities. An aviation summit in Dubrovnik will be organised on this topic.

The Secretary of State indicated that the Croatian Presidency aims at starting interinstitutional negotiations on the proposals on "smart TEN-Ts" and on railway passenger rights.

At the Council, the Croatian Presidency will work towards reaching a General Approach on the Eurovignette proposal and to try to advance a number of aviation-related files, such as air passenger rights and Single European Sky (on which the Commission is expected to adopt a revised proposal).

In the field of tourism, The Croatian Presidency will support responsible and sustainable tourism development policies, placing special emphasis on encouraging diversity of the tourism offer, in order to boost the development of areas that are underdeveloped in terms of tourism. Furthermore, its efforts will centre on achieving synergy between the local community and tourists, reducing the seasonality of tourist demand, and encouraging the application of information and communication technologies as well as digitalisation within the tourist system.

As far as the integrative and cohesive dimension of tourism for the EU is concerned, the Croatian Presidency believes that tourism should be better recognised in the EU's policies and institutions and should be addressed more systematically at European level. The Croatian Presidency will propose the establishment of a European tourism brand for joint promotion of Member States in distant markets.

Matthew Baldwin, European Coordinator for Road Safety

Exchange of views

TRAN welcomed Mr Baldwin, European Coordinator for Road Safety, who presented EU road safety targets and the results achieved.

The data collected by the EC showed that there are 25.000 deaths and 135.000 serious injuries on EU roads per year. Although Europe has done relatively well in recent decades, the number of accidents is still high and it has not decreased that significantly in the past years.

This is the reason why the Commission intends to implement the Safe System approach, aimed at Vision Zero and has set an interim target for reducing serious injuries, namely to halve their number by 2030.

Many MEPs attended the meeting and a lively debate followed. Issues that were raised included: the role of distractions during driving (such as phone or advertising), speed and alcohol limits, quality of vehicles and road infrastructure, protection of vulnerable users, pilot projects outcome and the future role of automated cars.

Mr Baldwin replied to all questions extensively, committing to take into consideration all challenges ahead, but also reminding that some issues, such as speed and alcohol limits, fall under the competence of Member States.

Budget 2021

Exchange of views with BUDG Chair Larroutourou

The Committee heard the presentation of the Rapporteur General for the Budget 2021, Mr Larroutourou, on the approach he intended to take in the negotiations for the Budget 2021.

Mr Larroutourou underlined the importance of Parliament's unity in these negotiations. Members indicated their wish to quickly start the work on the content of the Parliament's guidelines for budget 2021, as committees are required to provide the Budget committee with their contributions very rapidly.

Postal services in the EU

Study by the Policy department

The study "Postal services in the EU" provided the TRAN Committee with an overview of the main developments, trends and challenges in the postal sector as well as with recommendations to Members on what could be done at EU level to further stimulate growth and competitiveness in postal services.

The authors explained the challenges and emerging opportunities of this fast-changing sector, namely digital communication, growing e-commerce and the sustainability of the Universal Service Obligation (USO). In view of the speakers, the postal regulatory paradigm must be kept in sync with changing market realities, shifting the priority of policies from the promotion of competition to the sustainability of the sector, accounting for national market realities.

Members thanked the authors for the comprehensive study and engaged in a debate on the policy options that could ensure the sustainability and competitiveness of the postal services operators while at the same time guaranteeing the rights of vulnerable users.

European Coordinators of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)

Exchange of views with Mr Kurt Bodewig - Motorways of the Sea, and Mr Matthias Ruete - ERMTS

The European Coordinators on the Motorways of the Sea and the European Railways Traffic Management System (ERTMS) presented the latest developments on these two horizontal priorities of the TEN-T policy, highlighting their overarching importance for the integration of transport flows and bringing about modal shift in the European transport system to make it more sustainable and more efficient. The further implementation of the Motorways of the Sea will therefore focus on fostering a sustainable, seamless and smart European maritime space.

Advancing the implementation of the ERMTS will target trackside deployment and also focus on on-board equipment to increase network coverage and improve cross-border interoperability.

Speakers in the debate enquired about actions to leverage the potential for multimodal transport, develop rail freight capacity in ports as well as ferry connections between Member States. Members also underlined the need for a faster and simplified deployment of ERMTS, including European type approval procedures, and for overcoming the interoperability limitations of the plethora of existing national signalling systems.

Speakers furthermore highlighted the need for stable and adequate financial support for the needed infrastructure investments, including EU grants from the Connecting Europe Facility as well as financing, mobilised through the InvestEU programme.

Next TRAN Committee meeting: planned draft agenda - To be confirmed

Wednesday 19 February 09:00-12:30

- Budget guidelines - Rapp Marinescu
- Global data collection system for ship fuel oil consumption data - Rapp Adamowicz
- Emissions motor vehicles - Rapp Schulze
- Exchange of views with Eamonn Brennan, Director-General of Eurocontrol
- Exchange of views with Joint Research Center (tbc)

Wednesday 19 February 14.30-17.30

- Hearing on “The role of public transport in low-density areas”

Thursday 20 February 09.00-12.30

- Visit of Commissioner Valean
- 2 TEN-T Coordinators C. Trautmann & K. Peijs

Thursday 20 February 15.00-18.30

- Exchange of views with Kitack Lim, IMO Secretary-General (tbc)
- BREXIT format and timing (tbc)

Meeting room: JOZSEF ANTALL - room 4Q1

TRAN Committee meetings 2020 - To be confirmed

Monday 16/03/2020 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 17/03/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 17/03/2020 14.30-18.30

Tuesday 21/04/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 21/04/2020 14.30-18.30

Wednesday 29/04/2020 9.00-12.30

Wednesday 29/04/2020 14.30-18.30

Thursday 30/04/2020 9.00-12.30

Thursday 30/04/2020 15.00-18.30

Wednesday 27/05/2020 9.00-12.30

Wednesday 27/05/2020 14.30-18.30

Thursday 28/05/2020 9.00-12.30

Thursday 28/05/2020 15.00-18.30

Monday 22/06/2020 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 23/06/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 23/06/2020 14.30-18.30

Monday 13/07/2020 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 14/07/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 14/07/2020 14.30-18.30

Wednesday 02/09/2020 9.00-12.30

Wednesday 02/09/2020 14.30-18.30

Thursday 03/09/2020 9.00-12.30

Thursday 03/09/2020 15.00-18.30

Wednesday 28/10/2020 9.00-12.30

Wednesday 28/10/2020 14.30-18.30

Thursday 29/10/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 10/11/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 10/11/2020 14.30-18.30

Monday 30/11/2020 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 01/12/2020 9.00-12.30

Tuesday 01/12/2020 14.30-18.30

Useful links

TRAN website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/TRAN>

Policy Department Publication in the European Parliament: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/supporting-analyses.html>

European Aviation Safety Agency newsletters: <http://easa.europa.eu/communications/general-publications.php>

European Railway Agency newsletters: <http://www.era.europa.eu/Communication/Newsletter>

European Maritime Safety Agency newsletters: <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/news-a-press-centre/newsletters.html>

SESAR Joint Undertaking news: <https://www.sesarju.eu/news>

Innovation & Networks Executive Agency: <http://ec.europa.eu/inea/en>

DG MOVE: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/home_en

Croatian Presidency of the Council: <https://eu2020.hr/>



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