

Words by the Chair



Dear colleagues,

I want to welcome you all back after the Christmas holidays and wish you all the best for the New Year. 2020 was indeed a year filled with challenges but also opportunities both for the EU and for our committee. We proved that, in spite of all, we could prevail. We will begin this first committee meeting with an exchange of views with Mr. Massimo Garribba, Deputy Director-General in DG Energy of the European Commission, on the ongoing EU peer review concerning the safety of the nuclear power plant in Ostrovets, Belarus. Further, Members of the Commission's UK Task Force will de-brief us on the content of the agreements in the ITRE remit. We shall also be voting on four very important provisional agreements about the European Defence Fund, Establishment of the Space Programme, the Digital Europe Programme for the next period as well as the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres.

[Cristian-Silviu Buşoi](#)

Votes on 14 January

Dossier	Rapporteur	Vote in lead com/Plenary
Establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations	Rasmus Andresen	Lead committee (ITRE): 14 January 2021
Establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations	Massimiliano Salini	Lead committee (ITRE): 14 January 2021
Establishing the European Defence Fund Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations	Zdzisław Krasnodębski	Lead committee (ITRE): 14 January 2021
Establishing the Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027 Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations	Valter Flego	Lead committee (ITRE): 14 January 2021

News and events



Amending Decision 2008/376/EC on the adoption of the Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel and on the multiannual technical guidelines for this programme

The Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel ('RFCS Research Programme') supports research and innovation projects in the areas of coal and steel. Around €40 million every year help universities, research centres and private companies to fund projects.

Study: Budget and staffing needs at the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

Study: Disinformation and Science: Report of an investigation into gullibility of false science news in central European countries

Briefing: COVID-19: List of the measures taken in relation to the ITRE remit May-June 2020

Study: Energy-intensive industries

Study: Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence

Study: SME focus - Long term strategy for the European industrial future

The purpose of the Commission's proposal is to update the RFCS Research Programme objectives, in line with the EU climate, energy and environmental targets. It also aims at achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and the 'do no harm principle', enshrined in the European Green Deal Communication. It supports as well a fair and just transition for coal regions in line with the principles of the Just Transition Mechanism; and, finally, it revises the steel research objectives in order to prioritize near zero carbon steelmaking technologies, applications and use.

The EP draft report will be presented in the ITRE Committee on 14 January while, the deadline for tabling amendments is the 20 January 2021, at 12.00.

Exchange of views on nuclear power plant in Ostrovets, Belarus

The Committee will have an exchange of views with Mr Massimo Garribba, Deputy Director-General in DG Energy of the European Commission, on the ongoing EU peer review concerning the safety of the nuclear power plant in Ostrovets, Belarus. ITRE is currently preparing on that matter an oral question with a motion for resolution to be submitted to plenary.



Debriefing from the European Commission's Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom, including on the nuclear energy agreement

On 24 December 2020, EU and UK negotiators agreed on a EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, a EU-UK Security of Information Agreement and a EU-UK Agreement for cooperation

on the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Members of the Commission's UK Task Force will de-brief the ITRE committee on the content of the agreements in the ITRE remit. ITRE will scrutinise the agreements in the framework of the European Parliament's consent procedure.

News and events

Feedback from ongoing negotiations

The ITRE Committee Members will receive an update on the ongoing negotiations for the following files:

- **Establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres** (2018/0328(COD) COM(2018)0630 – C8-0404/2018) - Rapporteur: Rasmus Andresen (Verts/ALE)
 - **Establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme** (2018/0236(COD) COM(2018)0447 – C8-0258/2018)- Rapporteur: Massimiliano Salini (PPE)
 - **Establishing the European Defence Fund** (2018/0254(COD) COM(2018)0476 – C8-0268/2018) - Rapporteur: Zdzisław Krasnodębski (ECR)
 - **Establishing the Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027** (2018/0227(COD) COM(2018)0434 – C8-0256/2018) - Rapporteur: Valter Flego (Renew)
 - **Establishing the Connecting Europe Facility** (2018/0228(COD) COM(2018)0438 – C8-0255/2018) Rapporteurs: Henna Virkkunen (PPE), Marian-Jean Marinescu (PPE), Dominique Riquet (Renew)
 - **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast)** (2019/0151(COD) COM(2019)0331 – C9-0042/2019) Rapporteur: Marisa Matias (The Left)
 - **Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe** (2019/0152(COD) COM(2019)0330 – C9-0043/2019) Rapporteur: Maria da Graça Carvalho (PPE)
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