



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Transport Council – 8 October 2014

The EU Council of Transport Ministers will meet in Luxembourg on Wednesday 8 October 2014 under the Italian Presidency of the EU. Vice-President Siim Kallas, responsible for transport and mobility, will represent the European Commission.

Ministers will discuss market and governance related aspects of the 4th Railway Package, and the civil use of drones. They will attempt to reach agreement on the port services proposal, and agree the cross-border enforcement of traffic offences (see below for details).

Ministers are also expected to adopt a progress report on the Commission's Single European Sky 2+ proposals ([IP/14/258](#)), and they will hear information from the Dutch delegation on the follow-up to the crash of [Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17](#) and from the Polish delegation, drawing the attention of Member States to revenue losses for road hauliers due to the Russian ban on EU imports. The Commission will inform ministers about progress on the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking ([IP/13/1250](#)) and on measures to reduce GHG emissions from international shipping ([IP/13/622](#)).

Market and governance aspects of the 4th Railway Package

In January 2013, the Commission adopted a package of measures to deliver better quality and more choice in railway services in Europe (the 4th Railway Package). Rail is a vital part of EU transport, with a key role in addressing rising traffic demand, congestion, fuel security and decarbonisation. But many European rail markets are currently facing stagnation or decline.

The Commission proposed far reaching measures to encourage more innovation in EU railways by opening EU domestic passenger markets to competition, as well as substantial accompanying technical and structural reforms.

After the Council reached a political agreement on the technical aspects of the Package ([IP/14/643](#)), it started the examination of the market-related aspects in July 2014.

The Commission expects the policy debate to focus on domestic market opening, fair and equal access to the network, financial transparency and the competitive award of public service contracts. It expects ministers to give clear political guidance to steer the examination of the legislative texts during the last quarter of the year.

For more information:

[IP/13/65](#)

[MEMO/13/45](#)

[Video: The future of rail in Europe](#)

Port services

The Commission's proposal for a Regulation on port services is part of the general strategy set out in the Communication ["Ports: an engine for growth"](#) from May 2013. It aims to improve port efficiency, attract investments and create a level playing field. In particular, the proposal contains provisions about transparent and easy access to the market of port services and on financial transparency for port authorities, in order to ensure a rational use of public funds and a better control of state aid. Open issues include a possible exemption for private and small ports and the scope of the services covered.

The Presidency aims at agreeing a Council position in the form of a "general approach". It is expected that the EP will also progress on the file this autumn.

For more information:

[IP/13/451](#)

[MEMO/13/448](#)

[Infographics: "Ports – an engine for growth"](#)

Civil use of drones

Civil drones are increasingly being used in Europe, but the rules differ across the EU and a number of key safeguards are not addressed in a coherent way.

The Commission proposed in April 2014 to set tough new standards to regulate the operations of civil drones. The new standards would cover safety, security, privacy, data protection, insurance and liability. The aim is to allow European industry to become a global leader in the market for this emerging technology, while at the same time ensuring that all the necessary safeguards are in place. It is the Commission's intention to propose an EU regulation in early 2015.

The Council is expected to have an open discussion among ministers on how to promote a European policy on the basis of three questions:

1. The overall objective of integration of civil drones in the aviation system;
2. The substance of the future regulation and how to keep rules proportionate to risk; and
3. Safety, security, privacy and data protection challenges.

For more information:

[IP/14/384](#)

[MEMO/14/259](#)

[STATEMENT/14/110](#)

Cross-border enforcement of traffic offences

The "Directive on the cross-border exchange of information on road safety related traffic offences" allows EU Member States to crack down on drivers committing traffic offences abroad including the four "big killers" that cause 75% of road fatalities – speeding, running traffic lights, failure to use seatbelts and drink driving. In a ruling of 6 May 2014 the European Court of Justice considered that the Directive should be based on a transport legal basis rather than police cooperation. The Court maintained the effects of the Directive for 12 months. On 22 July 2014, the Commission presented a new proposal, without any substantial modifications.

It is expected that ministers will adopt a "general approach" and that the EP will also progress quickly on this file in the coming months.

For more information:

[Daily News 22/07/2014](#)

[IP/11/843](#)