

July-Sept. 2014

## Developments in EU Transport Law

*By Mélanie Bruneau and Antoine de Rohan Chabot*

### Policy News

#### European Commission:

**Violeta Bulc as new Transport Commissioner-designate** - On 15 October 2014, the Council of the European Union today adopted the list of Commissioners-designate amended by President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker the previous day to include the name of the new Slovenian candidate. Mrs. Violeta Bulc has been designated to the Transport portfolio in replacement of Maroš Šefčovič, who will be allocated the portfolio of Vice-President for Energy Union. Mrs. Violeta Bulc will now need to take part in a hearing in the appropriate parliamentary committees at a date to be determined. [For more information](#)

**Jean-Claude Juncker announces the composition of the new European Commission** - On 10 September 2014, President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker unveiled the proposed composition of the new European Commission. In a next step, the European Parliament has to give its consent to the entire College of Commissioners, following hearings of the Commissioners-designate in the relevant parliamentary committees. [For more information](#)

**Jean-Claude Juncker elected as European Commission President** - With 422 votes in favor, the European Parliament elected Jean-Claude Juncker in a secret ballot on 15 July 2014 as President of the new European Commission to take office on 1 November 2014 for a five year term. The minimum number of votes required was 376. [For more information](#)

#### European Parliament:

**MEPs elect chair and vice-chairs of the Transport and Tourism Committee** - On 8 August 2014, after the election of a President, Vice-Presidents and Quaestors of the European Parliament in Strasbourg the previous week, the new members of the European Parliament elected Mr. Michael Cramer (Greens/EFA, Germany) as Chair of the Transport and Tourism Committee (TRAN). Vice-Chairs are: Dominique Riquet (ALDE, France), Dieter-Lebrecht Koch (EPP, Germany), Tomasz Piotr Poreba (ECR, Poland) and István Ujhelyi (S&D, Hungary). [For more information](#)

**New European Parliament elected** - Following the European elections held from 22 to 25 May 2014, a new European Parliament has been elected and held its first plenary session on 1 July 2014, during which MEPs re-elected Martin Schulz as President of the European Parliament for another two and a half year term. [For more information](#). [For more information](#)

### Air

**Consultations regarding a policy initiative on opening the market for remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS or civil drones)** - On 14 August 2014, the European Commission launched a consultation on an initiative to regulate appropriately the development and use of RPAS within the context of the single aviation market. The results of this consultation will feed

## Developments in EU Transport Law

into the Commission impact assessment which will accompany a possible policy initiative on RPAS. The consultation shall last until 24 October 2014. [For more information](#)

**Single European Sky: European Commission urges eighteen Member States to make a decisive move towards common airspace management** - On 10 July 2014, the European Commission has formally requested Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and United Kingdom, members of six different Functional Airspace Blocks (FABs) to improve their FABs, a common airspace arranged around traffic flows rather than state boundaries.

[For more information](#)

**Air Transport: European Commission starts the deployment phase for air traffic management of the future** - The European Commission adopted on 1 July 2014 a first set of essential changes for the modernization of the European Air Traffic Management (ATM) system known as the "Pilot Common Project". This is the first of a series of projects resulting from SESAR, the technological pillar of the Single European Sky. The projects focus in particular on the improvements of air traffic to and from airports, the increase of aircraft flexibility to fly more direct and more efficient routes as well as enhanced sharing of more precise information among all actors and better coordination with the military. [For more information](#)

## Rail

**Call for expressions of interest to become associated member of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking** - On 6 October 2014, the European Commission published a call for expressions of interest to become an associated member of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking, the new public-private partnership that will invest just under €1 billion in research and innovation (2014-2020), to get more passengers and freight onto Europe's railways. The aim of the call is to identify the core partners who will work hand in hand with the Commission and the eight founding members of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking to deliver new technologies that will help to increase the quality, reliability and punctuality of rail services while also slashing their costs and facilitating cross-border travel. Interested candidates have until 12 November to submit their applications. The Commission foresees that the final selection of associated members should be known in early 2015. [For more information](#)

## Shipping

No recent news.

## Postal Services

No recent news.

## Space

No recent news.

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### Other Transport News

**Clean fuels for transport: Member States now obliged to ensure minimum coverage of refueling points for EU-wide mobility** - New EU rules have been adopted by the European Commission on 29 September 2014 to ensure the build-up of alternative refueling points across Europe with common standards for their design and use, including a common plug for recharging electric vehicles. Member States must set and make public their targets and present their national policy frameworks by end-2016. [For more information](#)

**Transport: €11.9 billion to improve European connections** - On 11 September 2014, the European Commission has invited possible applicants to propose projects to use €11.9 billion of EU funding to improve European transport connections. The funding will be concentrated along 9 major transport corridors which, taken together, will form a core transport network and act as the economic life-blood of the Single Market. It will also remove bottlenecks, revolutionize East West connections and streamline cross border transport operations for businesses and citizens throughout the EU. Applicants have until 26th February 2015 to submit their bids. [For more information](#)

**Transport: European Union supports key TEN-T infrastructure projects with over €320 million** - In the last Calls of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) Programme the European Commission selected a total of 106 projects that will benefit from over €320 million in EU support for improving transport infrastructure across Europe. The 52 projects selected from the 2013 Multi-Annual Call and the 54 from the 2013 Annual Call will use the EU's financial support to bring forward the completion of the TEN-T network as well as studying innovative ways of reducing the transport sector's carbon footprint. These last TEN-T selection decisions pave the way for the first Calls for Proposals which will be issued under the transport part of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) in September 2014. [For more information](#)

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