

January 2014

## Developments in EU Transport Law

*By Mélanie Bruneau and Antoine de Rohan Chabot*

### Air

#### **Amendments to the European Commission's proposal on revised air passenger rights**

On 17 December 2013, the European Parliament's Transport Committee approved amendments to the European Commission's proposal on revised air passenger rights aiming at closing loopholes that airlines use to deny compensation to passengers delayed for over three hours. These amendments further restrict grounds for denying information, compensation and assistance, and make it easier for national authorities to penalize airlines that do not fulfil their obligations. [For more information](#)

#### **Stakeholder consultation on the establishment of the "Pilot Common Project" supporting the implementation of the European Air Traffic Management Master Plan**

This consultation, that will last until 14 February 2014 is a part of the work the European Commission services are conducting in the context of a future European Commission proposal for the Implementing Regulation on the establishment of the Pilot Common Project (PCP) supporting the implementation of the Air Traffic Management (ATM) Master Plan.

[For more information](#)

### Shipping

#### **Shipping emission controls**

According to a new study published on 9 January 2014, a tightening of the European Commission's proposed regulation on the monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport would bring greater CO<sub>2</sub> cuts as well as lowering operational costs for ship owners by up to €9 million a year. This study follows a Regulation proposed by the European Commission on the monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from maritime transport. [For more information](#) and [Also](#) (pdf)

#### **US Federal Maritime Commission Convenes Global Regulatory Summit with Officials from China and European Commission**

Maritime regulators from the United States, the People's Republic of China (PRC), and the European Commission met and conferred in Washington, D.C. on 17 December 2013 to consider the evolving international maritime landscape. The officials discussed their regulatory frameworks and the potential effects of carrier cooperation on international trade. [For more information](#)

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### Rail

#### **Fourth Railway Package: lifting market entry barriers to improve passenger services**

The European Parliament's Transport Committee approved several measures to improve domestic rail passenger services by opening up public service contracts to more competition, giving operators fairer access to infrastructure and harmonizing safety certification to improve interoperability and get innovative new rolling stock on the rails faster. [For more information](#)

#### **EU triples funding for rail innovation**

On 16 December 2013, the European Commission adopted "Shift2Rail", a new public-private partnership to invest just under €1 billion in research and innovation to get more passengers and freight onto Europe's railways. "Shift2Rail" is an ambitious public-private partnership which will manage a 7-year work programme of targeted research and innovation to support the development of better rail services in Europe. Rail is considered an efficient and climate-friendly form of transport, although it currently carries only about only 10% of European cargo and 6% of passengers each year. [For more information](#)

#### **European Parliament committee paves the way for a single European rail area**

The European Commission has welcomed the adoption, on 17 December 2013, of the reports on the six legislative proposals forming the "Fourth Railway Package" by the European Parliament's Transport and Tourism Committee (TRAN). The TRAN Committee has notably endorsed the objectives of introducing competition on domestic commercial passenger services by 2019, maintained guarantees for an effective independence of the infrastructure manager in the exercise of all of its functions, confirmed clear rules to ensure financial transparency within vertically integrated structures and confirmed that competitive tendering for public service contracts in rail should be a leading principle. [For more information](#)

### Other Transport News

#### **Funding of key TEN-T projects**

The European Commission launched on 11 December 2013 calls for proposals amounting to €350 million to finance European transport infrastructure (TEN-T), for projects in all EU Member States and for all transport modes: air, rail, road, maritime and inland waterways. [For more information](#)

#### **Public consultation on the provision of EU-wide real-time traffic information services**

In the context of Directive 2010/40/EU (the "ITS Directive") this consultation -that will last until 14 March 2014- is targeted at those who have an interest in the issue of provision and usage of real-time traffic information services and other related issues such as the collection, processing and exchange of data required to provide EU-wide real-time traffic information services. Real-time traffic information services aim to provide road users with useful, accurate and up-to-date information on the road network, traffic circulation plans, traffic regulations (such as speed limits and access restrictions), recommended driving routes and real-time traffic data including estimated travel times, information about congestion, accidents, road works and road closures and weather conditions. [For more information](#)

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### **UK Competition Commission to reconsider jurisdiction in the Eurotunnel case**

The UK antitrust regulator is taking a second look at a deal it vetoed last year, i.e. Eurotunnel's purchase of three ferries owned by SeaFrance. This follows a court decision that questioned whether the deal was actually the type of transaction that the authority has powers to review.

[For more information](#)

### **French Competition Authority: new draft law for passenger transport sector**

On 20 December 2013, the French competition authority issued a negative opinion on a draft law relating to car for tourism with drivers (VTC - Véhicules de tourisme avec chauffeur), finding that the proposal is likely to trigger competition distortions. The law would require Paris VTC companies to stick to a 15-minute-delay between reservation and the actual transport of the customer. [For more information](#) (in French)

## Events

### **Upcoming: EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit**

This first EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit will be held on 11 and 12 February 2014 in Singapore. It is organized jointly by the European Commission Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). [For more information](#)

### **Past: Smart, Green and Integrated Transport Information Day 2013**

Documentation regarding the Information Day held by the European Commission's Research and Innovation Directorate-General on 18 December 2013 has been made available. [For more information](#)

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