



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET  
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAIMINT NA HEORPA PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EIROPAS PARLAMENTS  
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT  
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN  
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROPAPARLAMENTET

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

THE CHAIRMAN

203503 21.10.2014

TRAN/D/49686

ACCES RESERVE

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Jerzy BUZEK  
Chairman  
Conference of Committee Chairs

Dear Mr Buzek,

Following the reshuffle of the incoming Commission, announced by the President-elect Mr Jean-Claude Juncker on 15 October 2014, and the nomination of Mr Maroš Šefčovic as Vice-President designate for Energy Union, the Committee on Transport and Tourism, in accordance with Rule 118 and Annex XVI of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, held a public hearing on Monday 20 October 2014 with Ms Violeta Bulc, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be responsible for Transport.

First of all, the TRAN Committee wishes to express its utmost dissatisfaction about the procedure that led to the replacement of Mr Maroš Šefčovic at a very short notice and without prior consultation of the Committee. We had promptly informed the President-elect of our firm wish to maintain Mr Šefčovic as Commissioner-designate for Transport and Space, as he had demonstrated, during his successful hearing of 30 September 2014, a clear political vision for the future development of EU transport policy. We deplore that the request of the TRAN Committee was unfortunately not respected. My committee wishes to emphasise that transport is a key policy area, and it should not be the victim of last minute changes to accommodate other political considerations.

Prior to the hearing of Ms Violeta Bulc, Parliament had sent the Commissioner-designate a written questionnaire with two general questions addressed to all Commissioners-designate and three policy-related questions drafted by the TRAN Committee. My committee noted that Ms Bulc answered those questions satisfactorily, even if some points would have benefited from more specific commitments regarding the future initiatives she intends to put forward.

In her opening statement, Ms Bulc stressed that her work as a Commissioner will evolve around the need to create jobs and growth and maintain social fairness, integrating those goals into every aspect of transport policy. She promised that she will work to turn the Trans-European Transport Network into a reality, and insisted on the need to promote innovation

and intelligent transport systems. She also underlined that transport has an important role to play in making sure that the EU meets its wider commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions, by promoting renewables and alternative fuels. She also committed herself to developing policies to promote integration across different transport sectors based on the principle of general infrastructure costs being funded by those who use them. Ms Bulc also stressed the need to make transport an attractive profession, especially for younger people, guarantee equal working conditions, and prevent social dumping.

During the subsequent debate, Members asked a wide range of questions covering inter alia the following subjects:

- White Paper on Transport, Single European Transport Area, Europe 2020 strategy, jobs and investment, social standards in transport, digitalisation, freight transport, integration of public health into transport policy, Posting of Workers Directive;
- Sustainable transport (COP21, climate package, internalisation of external costs, cycling);
- Rail (4th railway package, interoperability, Shift2Rail, ERTMS, ERA, transport of dangerous goods, safety and GSM communication);
- Road (cabotage, social dumping, social security, driving time and rest periods, enforcement of legislation, gicaliners/eco-combis, road safety, noise, road agency, effect of Russian embargo on road hauliers);
- Waterborne (environmentally-friendly ports, port competitiveness and state aid, development of ports in remote and insular areas, inland waterways, EU Danube strategy and neighbouring countries, development of Slava and Drava rivers);
- Air (Single European Sky, Siberian overflight charges, connectivity of outermost regions and islands, state aid for regional airports, airport safety measures with regard to Ebola, ETS for aviation, Gibraltar airport);
- Infrastructure (TEN-T Guidelines, CEF, Cohesion Fund, Core Network Corridors, road charges and toll systems, road maintenance, economic feasibility of projects, 'use it or lose it' principle, Lyon-Turin, Baltic-Adriatic Corridor, links with neighbouring third countries);
- Urban mobility (safety in built-up areas, smart cities, noise and air pollution, unfair competition in taxi sector);
- Passenger rights (persons with reduced mobility, review of Air Passenger Rights Regulation).

During the hearing, Ms Bulc reaffirmed a number of general commitments also made in her written replies to the TRAN questionnaire, inter alia:

#### Institutional

- engage in regular reporting to Parliament and share information on the activities under her responsibility;

### Horizontal transport issues

- assess the environmental, economic, technical and social impact of proposed legislation;
- look into the implementation of the 2011 Transport White Paper, evaluate it and propose changes where necessary;
- give priority to the completion of the Single European Transport Area making sure that, in all modes of transport, services can operate across the whole EU without being limited by national boundaries;
- ensure that working conditions guarantee equality of treatment and fairness, and ensure that social dumping is not allowed in any transport mode, in particular as regards road cabotage; continue dialogue with social partners across all transport modes;
- make sure that transport policy participates in the greening of our economy through the development of sustainable networks;
- fully support the application of the 'polluter-pays' and 'user-pays' principles in transport policies, as well as the 'internalisation' of external costs;
- work intensively to promote the use of ITS across all modes of transport;

### Transport infrastructure

- work intensively to ensure that the transport sector contributes to the €300 billion package, by taking an innovative approach in leveraging EU funds allocated for the modernisation of EU infrastructure;
- allocate CEF funds on the basis of a competitive process, but also reallocate funds from underprepared or underperforming projects ('use it or lose it'), and put efforts in communication to explain Member States their responsibility to achieve their commitments;

### Modes of transport

- promote the swift adoption of the fourth railway package and do her utmost to keep it as a single package;
- push with great resolve for the deployment of the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS);
- fight for increased funding for the ERA agency when additional tasks are given;
- provide EU guidance to avoid incompatible systems of road charging as well as removing any possible discrimination between users;
- work on the completion of the Single European Sky;
- look into new business models for small regional airports and cooperate with her colleagues in charge of state aid;
- put all efforts into addressing the problem of Siberian overflight charges when meeting with Russian authorities;
- make sure that the ETS legislation is respected;
- maintain the high level of safety and security that characterises the EU transport system;
- promote safety and security through international cooperation;
- pay particular attention to the qualification and training of professionals working in the transport systems and ensure that relevant rules, including those ensuring proper working conditions, are enforced effectively;

- progress towards the vision zero for road safety, by using a full range of instruments, including new technologies to make vehicles and infrastructure safer, soft measures to build a road safety culture, and strategic targets for instance for serious injuries in road accidents;

### Passenger rights

- examine the situation in all modes to identify gaps and shortcomings, and, where necessary, clarify the rules enforced and revise legislation, paying particular attention to the enforcement of passenger rights for the newest legislation, waterborne-transport and coach-passengers;
- consider means to ensure the rights of passengers combining different transport modes, in particular through integrated ticketing for multimodal cross-border trips;
- press for a swift adoption of the revised Air Passenger Rights Regulation;

### Urban mobility

- support local authorities and their partners in tackling together persistent problems such as congestion and pollution, including through Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, and use the different sources of EU funding in the most effective way; ensure that transport contributes to the development of smart cities;
- promote non-motorised forms of transport such as walking or cycling, i.a. through better protecting the most vulnerable road users, and strive to improve the quality of public transport.

Before the end of the hearing, the Commissioner-designate made a brief closing statement in which she reaffirmed that she will use all her energy, spirit of innovation and readiness to work closely and openly with all Members of the European Parliament, and in particular the TRAN Committee, to put transport back at the top of Europe's political agenda.

### *Evaluation*

On the basis of the reactions of the Members present at the hearing, as well as the comments made by my committee's coordinators who met after the hearing under my chairmanship, we hereby give the following assessment:

Ms Bulc is a well-qualified nominee with a high degree of integrity and independence, European commitment, professional aptitude and experience in leadership. During the hearing, she also demonstrated her human qualities and communication skills.

Despite the lack of specific prior experience on transport policy, and the lack of sufficient time to prepare for the hearing, she demonstrated a sufficient degree of preparation and an obvious ability to quickly grasp the main aspects of her future portfolio. She also displayed dedication, enthusiasm, and promised to use her past professional experience to bring about new perspectives and a fresh look at the policy area she has been entrusted.

Whilst freely acknowledging that there were aspects of her future portfolio on which she was not yet fully briefed, she was overall able to respond to many questions in a satisfactory manner. Although her answers were often rather vague and lacked specific commitments regarding the future initiatives she intends to put forward, the Committee appreciated that she didn't deliberately evade any of the questions put to her.

In view of giving the possibility to Ms Bulc to present her future initiatives in more concrete terms, my Committee invites her to present a written outline of her plans, initiatives and priorities for the coming years together with a timetable for their implementation, and to appear before the TRAN Committee for an exchange of views on those within three months from her appointment.

Overall, we expect the Commissioner-designate to demonstrate a strong and decisive leadership of the transport portfolio, and drive forward new initiatives within this key policy area, in close cooperation with the relevant Commissioners and Vice Presidents of the new Commission. Those initiatives should promote sustainable growth and the creation of new jobs.

In conclusion, taking due account of the fact that the Commissioner-designate had very limited time at her disposal to prepare for the hearing, the general outcome of our evaluation is that she gave a sufficient impression of her aptitude to be a member of the college of commissioners and of her possession of the necessary personal and professional skills to carry out the specific tasks assigned to her.

This evaluation represents the consensus of the TRAN Members who attended the hearing, as represented by their coordinators.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Cramer".

Michael Cramer