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19.03.2014 mr

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Press Release

Deadlock on aviation ETS in the European Parliament's ENVI committee

Peter Liese: I am optimistic that the plenary will support the compromise / compromise better for the environment than the Commission proposal

The European Parliament's environment committee didn't give support for the compromise on the inclusion of aviation in the EU ETS on Wednesday. The controversial vote ended 29 to 29, which means that the committee rejected the proposal. If the plenary in two weeks approves this position, the ETS for aviation will snap back to its full scope on the 1st of May. This would create a lot of problems because member states are not willing to implement it because of the resistance from third countries. "I understand that many colleagues are unhappy with the attitude of member states and the poor ambition of the EU environment and transport ministers in this issue. But in politics you need to live up with reality. European Parliament itself cannot enforce the legislation and many colleagues who now reject the compromise raised concerns in a debate that even a more limited approach could be implemented. Many of my colleagues unfortunately have not been very coherent in this debate. The Parliament's delegation achieved a lot in the negotiation with the Council. Compared to the Commission proposal, the compromise is more ambitious because we go back to full scope in 2016 (The Commission proposal has foreseen airspace until 2020):

Different scopes for aviation in the EU ETS – Parliament achieves better environmental integrity until 2020

Airspace from 2014 until 2016:

40%

Airspace from 2017 until 2020:

40%

Only Intra-European scheme from 2014 until 2016:

30%

Full scope from 2017 until 2020:

100 %

Note:

- All percentages in comparision to coverage of aviation emissions under full scope of EU ETS
- Environmental effect of EU ETS after 2016 even higher due to future growth rates of international aviation.

In the long fight on more control over the revenues, we achieved a big step ahead. Member states are obliged to report how they spend the revenues and the Commission will make this information available for Parliament, Council and the public. I am confident that my political group will table the compromise to plenary and we will support it with an overwhelming majority. Given that colleagues from the other political groups in TRAN committee supported an even less ambitious proposal, I am very optimistic that we will have a majority in the plenary. The right signals from Commission and Council would be helpful in this respect," said Peter Liese (EPP – Christian democrats), who is the responsible rapporteur for the dossier in the European Parliament and led the negotiations with the member states on the respective file.