

### CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI meetings will take place on the 27th and on the 28th of November, in Brussels.

The EU and the Swiss Confederation have recently finalised negotiations on linking their respective emissions trading systems (ETS). We will discuss and vote on the draft recommendation on this matter, as the European Parliament's consent is required before adoption of the

formal Council decision on the agreement. The ETS is a major carbon market, and works on the 'cap and trade' principle. The overall volume of greenhouse gases that can be emitted by the entities covered by the system is subject to a cap set at EU level. Within the cap, companies receive or buy emission allowances which they can trade. Based on the agreement to be formalised soon, participants in the EU ETS will be able to use units from the Swiss system for compliance purposes and vice versa. The agreement is mutually beneficial for the two parties, allowing them to attain their emissions reduction targets, especially commitments taken under the Paris Agreement.

The EU has a long tradition in framing its long term policy objectives in the field of environment and climate change into Action Programmes. We will discuss the draft report on the implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme, which assesses the progress made so far towards the 2020 objectives, while stressing, inter alia, the need for infrastructure projects to fully consider environmental impacts at regional level and for further reform of the common agricultural policy to incentivise a sustainable food production system.

Following the Communication from the Commission and the High Representative on "International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans", we will vote on the related draft report. The report welcomes the set of actions announced in the Communication, and urges the Member States to make more efforts for the timely implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and for the Commission to support international efforts to protect marine biodiversity.

We will also vote on a new objection to the revised Commission act which proposes approval of the highly-controversial glyphosate, this time for five years. Glyphosate-based pesticides are used as herbicides in agriculture, horticulture and in some non-cultivated areas, and the current approval for glyphosate expires in December this year. The European Parliament has already objected to previous version of the Commission draft act, which was proposing renewal of the substance until 2027.

Finally, on 28 November in the afternoon, we will have a public hearing on "The impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on the environment, public health and food safety", with the participation of notable experts in those policy areas. This hearing will also be an opportunity to demonstrate the EU's actions to the benefit of its Member States.

Follow our discussions live and get involved in the debate at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/envi/home.html>

[Adina-Ioana Vălean](#)

### MEETING ITEMS

#### Votes:

- Agreement between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation on the linking of their greenhouse gas emissions trading systems
- International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans in the context of the 2030 SDGs
- Cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments
- European Solidarity Corps
- A global end to animal testing for cosmetics
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: phosphates in meat
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: the use of sweeteners in fine bakery wares
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: Technical standards for the establishment and operation of a traceability system for tobacco products

#### Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

7 December 2017 (Brussels); For future meetings see [2017 meeting dates](#).

#### Watch online

Watch the Committee meeting live on the [EP web site](#) or on [Europarl TV](#). Past meetings are available via the [EP Live multimedia library](#) and you can also download the extracts of speeches.

#### More information

Contact the ENVI Secretariat: [envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu) or visit the [website](#) of the ENVI Committee.

#### Subscription

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#### Further information sources

The EP Policy Departments [publish](#) studies, notes, information notes and workshop proceedings; to contact them, write to [Poldep-Economy-Science@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:Poldep-Economy-Science@europarl.europa.eu). The European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) provides research publications in the area of environment, public health and food safety. You can find all the latest publications on the European Parliament website's [Think Tank](#) pages.

- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: Technical standards for security features applied to tobacco products
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106 : Renewing the approval of the active substance glyphosate (revised Commission draft act)

### Considerations:

- Agreement between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation on the linking of their greenhouse gas emissions trading systems
- Implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme
- The next MFF: Preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020
- A European strategy on Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems
- 2016 discharge: EU general budget Commission; EEA; EMA; EFSA; ECDC; ECHA

### Public hearing:

- "The impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on the environment, public health and food safety"

The co-legislators reached a provisional agreement at the sixth informal trilogue on the revision of the emissions trading system (ETS) - phase IV.



The agreed package includes, inter alia, the doubling of the Market Stability Reserve's intake rate until 2023 and limiting the validity of allowances in the MSR as of 2023, a linear reduction factor of 2.2% from 2021, kept under review with a view to increasing it, the conditional lowering of the auction share by up to 3% in order to avoid the application for the cross-sectoral correction factor, 450 million allowances for the Innovation Fund with a possible additional 50 million allowances, and a possible increase of the Modernisation Fund by 0.5% of the total cap if the cross-sectoral correction factor does not "use up" the entire 3%.

Adoption of the agreed text is foreseen in February 2018.

Rapporteur: [Girling \(ECR\)](#)

Shadows: [Belet \(EPP\)](#), [Guteland \(S&D\)](#), [Gerbrandy \(ALDE\)](#), [Konečná \(GUE\)](#), [Eickhout \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Evi \(EFDD\)](#)

## VOTES

### International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans in the context of the 2030 SDGs

Vote on draft report (see [meeting documents](#))



The report follows up the Joint communication "International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans" in which the Commission and the High Representative present a set of actions as part of the EU response

to the global commitment indicated in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that identified conservation and sustainable use of oceans as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

In his draft, the rapporteur urges the Member States to make further efforts for the timely implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Commission to support international efforts to protect marine biodiversity.

267 amendments were tabled in ENVI and 13 compromise amendments were negotiated.

Rapporteur: [Faria \(EPP\)](#)

Shadows: [Wölken \(S&D\)](#), [Gericke \(ECR\)](#), [Meissner \(ALDE\)](#), [Omarjee \(GUE/NGL\)](#), [Engström \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Goddyn \(ENF\)](#)

### Cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments

Vote on provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations (see [meeting documents](#))

### Objection pursuant to Rule 106: phosphates in meat

Consideration and vote on draft motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))

Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 lays down a Union list of food additives approved for use in food and their conditions of use. The draft implementing act provides that it is appropriate to amend Annex II as regards the use of phosphoric acid – phosphates – di – tri – and polyphosphates (E 338-452) in frozen vertical meat spits.

The objectors, Christel Schaldemose and Bart Staes, oppose the draft measure on the grounds that there are serious concerns around the potential health effects of phosphates, and they do not see the technological need of the proposal. They also believe it could mislead consumers.

This is a measure falling under the Regulatory Procedure with Scrutiny (RPS); EP has veto right within the deadline set by the Commission - the deadline for this act is 19 December 2017.

Co-Rapporteurs: [Schaldemose \(S&D\)](#), [Staes \(Greens/EFA\)](#)

Shadows: [Sommer \(EPP\)](#), [Gerbrandy \(ALDE\)](#)

### Objection pursuant to Rule 106: the use of sweeteners in fine bakery wares

Consideration and vote on draft motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))

Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 lays down a Union list of food additives approved for use in food and their conditions of use. Based on the Commission draft act, the authorisation of those sweeteners in 'fine bakery products for special nutritional uses' is no longer justified, and those products should not continue to be marketed. The objector opposes the draft measure on the grounds that the draft measure fails to respect the principle of proportionality as the proposition to ban sweeteners in fine bakery products for special nutritional uses will no longer permit to maintain those bakery products on the EU market, and that it could threaten access to those

products for people with special dietary requirements and especially those in need of a low-sugar diet.

This is a measure falling under the Regulatory Procedure with Scrutiny (RPS); EP has veto right within the deadline set by the Commission - the deadline for this act is 9 January 2018.

Rapporteur: [Grossetête \(PPE\)](#)

### Objections pursuant to Rule 106: Technical standards for the establishment and operation of a traceability system for tobacco products and Technical standards for security features applied to tobacco products

Consideration and vote on draft motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))



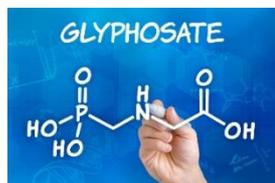
The two draft Commission Implementing acts set out technical standards for the establishment and operation of a traceability system for tobacco products, and technical standards for security features applied to tobacco products placed on the Union market.

The objector, Mr Pedicini (on behalf of EFDD) considers that the European Commission should lay down the requirement for the traceability system as provided for under Article 8 of the World Health Organization - Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Protocol and therefore establish rules to make sure that the authentication providers and the providers of repository services and anti-tampering devices are independent in terms of legal form, organisation and substantial decision making procedures as well as in financial terms of tobacco manufacturers and importers and are under the control of the Member States.

Rapporteur: [Pedicini \(EFDD\)](#)

### Objection pursuant to Rule 106 : Renewing the approval of the active substance glyphosate (revised Commission draft act)

Consideration and vote on draft motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))



The approval of the active substance glyphosate, as set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011, expires on 15 December 2017. An application for the renewal of the inclusion of the active substance glyphosate was submitted. The

European Parliament objected on 24 October this year against renewal of glyphosate and called on the substance to be phased out entirely by December 2022.

A revised Commission draft act renews the approval of the active substance glyphosate until 15 December 2022 (based on the previous version of the draft act, approval of this substance was renewed until 15 December 2027).

The objector, Kateřina Konečná (on behalf of GUE/NGL) considers that the Commission's revised draft implementing regulation fails to ensure a high level of protection of both human and animal health and the environment, fails to apply the precautionary principle, and exceeds the implementing powers provided for in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. The draft resolution calls Commission and Member states to adopt immediate ban of the active substance glyphosate, as requested by the European citizens' Initiative: "Ban glyphosate" and to adopt necessary transitional measures in order to phase out completely the substance from the EU.

Rapporteur: [Konečná \(GUE\)](#)

## CONSIDERATIONS

### Agreement between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation on the linking of their greenhouse gas emissions trading systems

Consideration and vote on draft recommendation (see [meeting documents](#))

After several years of negotiations, the European Commission has finalised negotiations on linking the EU ETS with the ETS of Switzerland. The Agreement foresees that, once in force, participants in the EU ETS can use units from the Swiss system for compliance purposes and vice versa. The Agreement was initialled on 13 January 2016 by the Swiss and EU relevant services. Entry into force of the Agreement will require the signature and ratification by both Parties.

On 10 November 2017 Council adopted a decision authorising the signing of the Agreement on behalf of the EU. The Swiss ETS already meets two of the three fundamental requirements for making the agreement a reality. Firstly, large and energy-intensive installations under the Swiss ETS have been obliged to comply with the system since 2013 and secondly, it has an absolute emissions cap. The third condition applies to aviation activities which are not yet part of the Swiss ETS. Switzerland is currently working on measures to extend its system to this sector. Implementing those rules will be mandatory for the agreement to formally enter into force.

Rapporteur: [Fjellner \(EPP\)](#)

Shadows: [Pargneaux \(S&D\)](#), [Girling \(ECR\)](#), [Gerbrandy \(ALDE\)](#), [Konečná \(GUE\)](#), [Eickhout \(Greens/EFA\)](#)

### Presentation of the EPRS study – Implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme

Consideration of draft report (see [meeting documents](#))

The 7th Environment Action Programme ("7th EAP") sets out binding objectives for the European Union and its Member States to achieve in the field of environment by 2020. The study presented by EPRS assesses the implementation of the 7th EAP in order to provide a factual basis to the ENVI



implementation report and allow to make evidence-based recommendations for any future EAPs.

The draft implementation report assesses the implementation of the 7th EAP so far and the likelihood of achieving the Programme's objectives by 2020 and offers recommendations for improved implementation and suggestions for any future EAP.

In particular, it underlines that progress towards the 2020 objectives has so far been mixed: it is unlikely that objective 1 (protecting natural capital) will be met, but likely that some of the sub-objectives under objective 2 (low carbon economy and resource efficiency) will be met.

In her draft report, the Rapporteur calls, inter alia, for improving the research on areas such as environmental thresholds, nanomaterials, the impacts of microplastics, the interaction between systemic risks and other health determinants, soil and land use and invasive alien species.

Rapporteur: [Sárbu](#) (S&D)

Shadows: [Polčák](#) (EPP), [Demesmaeker](#) (ECR), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Eck](#) (GUE), [Auken](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Coddyn](#) (ENF)

### PUBLIC HEARING

## "The impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on the environment, public health and food safety"



The aim of this public hearing is to assess and discuss the possible impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on the environment, public health and food safety. The hearing is also an opportunity to demonstrate what the EU does to the benefit of its Member States.

The programme of the hearing includes three panels with presentations by experts, each followed by a Q&A sessions.

## NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

## Recent Publications

- [Workshop proceedings on "Autoimmune diseases – modern diseases"](#)
- [Workshop proceedings on "First results of the LIFE programme 2014-2020"](#)
- [Study on Implementing the Paris Agreement – New Challenges in View of the COP 23 Climate Change Conference](#)
- [Briefing on climate and energy policies in Poland](#)
- [Briefing on the 1st Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on mercury](#)

## Upcoming Publications

- Workshop proceedings on "An Urgent Strong Antimicrobial Action Plan"
- Workshop proceedings on "Complementary and alternative therapies for patients today and tomorrow"

To request a hard copy of any publication please contact:

[Poldep-Economy-Science@ep.europa.eu](mailto:Poldep-Economy-Science@ep.europa.eu)

## NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

## European Environment Agency (EEA)



**European Air Quality Index: current air quality information at your finger tips.** A new European Air Quality Index, launched by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Commission, allows users to check the current air quality across Europe's cities and regions. The Index is accompanied by new country fact sheets that provide updated air quality information for EEA member countries. [More](#)

## European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



**More progress needed to replace animal tests under EU chemicals laws.** An ECHA report states there is progress regarding alternatives to animal testing on the lower tier properties of substances, but a full replacement of

chemical toxicity testing by non-animal approaches is not yet foreseeable. Further dialogue between research and regulatory communities is needed to put scientific developments faster to regulatory use. [More](#)

## European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



The recent detection of *X. fastidiosa* in Italy, France and Spain represents an important change in the geographical distribution of this dangerous plant pathogen, which now poses a serious threat to the

agriculture and environment of Europe and the Mediterranean region. A major scientific conference on the results of European research into *Xylella fastidiosa* and its vectors in support of on-going efforts to control the European outbreaks was held in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, on 15 November 2017. The conference has been organized jointly by EFSA, the University of the Balearic Islands, the [Euphresco](#) network for phytosanitary research coordination and funding, the EU Horizon 2020 projects [PONTE](#)

and XF-ACTORS, and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. [More](#)

## European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



**European Antibiotic Awareness Day 2017.** The 10th European Antibiotic Awareness Day took place on 18 November to raise awareness about the threat to public health of antibiotic resistance and the importance of prudent antibiotic use. On that occasion, the ECDC released its latest EU-wide data on antibiotic resistance, confirming that across the EU the number of patients infected by resistant bacteria is increasing. ECDC launched the social media initiative #KeepAntibioticsWorking, calling for a prudent use of antibiotics to help stop resistant bacteria from developing and help keep antibiotics effective for future generations. [More](#)

## European Medicines Agency (EMA)



**EMA action plan on product information.** EMA released a new action plan to improve the product information for EU medicines (i.e. Summary of Product Characteristics intended for healthcare professionals and the Package Leaflet for patients, that accompany every single medicine authorised in the EU and respective explain how each medicine should be prescribed and used). The action plan follows a report published by the Commission in March 2017 which concluded that despite ongoing efforts to make the product information easy to read and useful, there is a need to improve how information on medicines is conveyed to patients and healthcare professionals. This report was also discussed in ENVI on 29 May 2017. [More](#)

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