

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI meeting will take place on the 27th of February, in Brussels.

We start the meeting with votes on two essential files in the area of clean mobility, that contribute to the EU delivering on its commitments under the Paris Agreement: CO2 emission reduction targets for lorries, and promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles. The EU co-legislators concluded earlier this month the negotiations on Europe's first-ever rules which set CO2 emission reduction targets for lorries; accordingly, between 2025 and 2029, new trucks will emit on average 15% less CO2 compared to 2019 emissions, while from 2030 they will be required to emit approximately 30% less CO2. Members will also vote on the provisional agreement on a reform which will encourage the use of zero- and low-emission vehicles in public procurement; minimum procurement targets are thus set for clean light-duty vehicles, trucks and buses for 2025 and 2030.

We will continue the meeting with exchanges of views on topical matters for our Committee's work. The European Court of Auditors prepared a briefing paper on the EU reaction to the Dieselgate scandal related to vehicle emissions. The paper describes amongst others, the changes made to the system for measuring vehicle emissions after September 2015, such as the empowerment for the Commission to review the work of national type-approval authorities, test vehicles, withdraw or suspend type-approvals, and impose penalties, or the testing of vehicles in circulation now being mandatory in the Member States. We will discuss with the reporting member of the European Court of Auditors the findings of the briefing paper and other aspects of the EU actions after the Dieselgate.

Issues related to faulty and fraudulent medical devices have been investigated for some years up to now, and last year, the first-ever global examination of the medical devices industry and its overseers released "Implant Files". Journalists from the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and a team of more than 250 reporters and data specialists from 58 news organizations in 36 countries examined hundreds of cases from all over the globe. According to the examination, the US Food and Drug Administration's data alone revealed more than 80,000 deaths and 1.7 million injuries possibly linked to medical devices in the past decade. At EU level, the incident concerning fraudulent production of the PIP silicone breast implants, amongst others, triggered two new pieces of legislation, on medical devices and on in vitro diagnostic medical devices, with the aim of establishing a modernised and robust EU legislative framework and thus better protection of patient safety. ENVI Members will exchange views on the results of the Implant Files examination and the challenges ahead with distinguished representatives from the ICIJ, the trade organization for medical device and IVD medical device industry in Europe, and the European Commission.

Finally, the last debate of the day will be dedicated to a proposal for a Union act, submitted by several ENVI Committee Members, on enhancing plasma collection in the European Union. Plasma is a component of blood that has the role of carrying other blood components throughout the body. In the context of more and more patients being diagnosed with rare plasma-related disorders, which leads to a growing clinical need for

plasma-derived medicinal products, the proposal notes that the current Union legal framework does not ensure that enough plasma is donated in order to keep pace with the increasing clinical need for plasma-derived treatments. We will discuss this proposal with the ENVI Members and with the Commission; the authors of the proposal consider that the EU legal framework should encourage all Member States to establish national programmes for the collection of plasma, and request that the Commission submit a proposal for an act revising the Blood Directive accordingly.

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

Adina-Ioana Vălean,
Brussels – 26 February 2019

European Elections 2019

European Elections 2019 - "This time I'm voting.eu"

European elections will take place between 23 and 26 May across the EU. As elections are fast approaching, Parliament's services are using both traditional and digital campaign tools to inform European



citizens about past achievements and the challenges ahead, to allow for informed debate on what makes the EU valuable to them and where it needs change to deliver benefits for all - at local, regional, national and cross-border levels. A non-partisan platform "[This time I'm voting.eu](http://thistimeimvoting.eu)" has been set up to encourage open public debate and motivate more people to get involved, get informed and make their voices heard in the May 2019 European elections. You can also find more information on the dedicated [European Elections](#) page on the EP website. ENVI invites you to join the project and spread the word.

MEETING ITEMS

Results of the votes of the last ENVI meeting are available [here](#).

Votes DEVE/ENVI (joint committee procedure (Rule 55)):

- Annual strategic report on the implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Votes:

- CO2 emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles
- Promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles

Exchange of views:

- with the European Court of Auditors on "EU system of measuring vehicle emissions"
- with Mr Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on the hunting of protected species
- on the findings of the investigation of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) on "Implant Files", published on 25 November 2018
- with the European Commission on the independence of the European system for tracking and tracing the parallel trade in tobacco from the tobacco industry
- with the authors of the proposal for a Union Act on enhancing plasma collection in the European Union

ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

Draft agendas of the Plenary are available [here](#).

- Definition, presentation and labelling of spirit drinks and protection of geographical indications thereof ***I (A8-0021/2018 - 150)
- Annual strategic report on the implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (DEVE/ENVI)

VOTES DEVE/ENVI

Annual strategic report on the implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Vote on the draft report (Rule 55) on the implementation and delivery of the SDGs (2018). ([see meeting documents](#))

At UN level, monitoring and review of progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) takes place in July each year at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government (which will take place for the first time in September 2019).

The EU has committed to report jointly in 2019 on EU efforts related to the Agenda, in addition to the Voluntary National Reviews that nearly all EU Member States have already undertaken. Within Parliament, the DEVE and ENVI Committees have decided to cooperate more closely on SDGs to make its voice heard at a time when multilateral cooperation for people, the planet and prosperity - for climate action, solidarity and peace - cannot be taken for granted. The two committees are currently working on an annual strategic own-initiative report, which will be adopted before the European elections.

The Commission is preparing a Joint Synthesis Report on EU support to developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda, with input from EU Member States. It also allows Parliament to react to the Commission Reflection Paper 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030', in time for the forthcoming Council Conclusions and discussion at the Sibiu Summit of EU leaders scheduled for May 2019.

278 amendments were tabled, 35 compromise amendments were negotiated.

Co-Rapporteurs: [Theocharous](#) (EPP, DEVE), [Gambús](#) (EPP, ENVI).
Shadows ENVI: [Kadenbach](#) (S&D), [Piecha](#) (ECR), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Javor](#) (Greens/EFA), [Hazelkamp](#) (GUE/NGL), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)
Shadows DEVE: [Sonik](#) (EPP), [Schlein](#) (S&D), [Goerens](#) (ALDE), [Hautala](#) (Greens/EFA), [Sanchez Caldentey](#) (GUE/NGL).

VOTES

CO2 emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles

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

On 17 May 2018, the Commission presented its last proposal from the Clean Mobility Package setting for the first time ever CO2 emissions performance standards for lorries. Collectively, HDVs are responsible for ¼ of total road transport CO2 emissions, or 6% of the total EU CO2 emissions.



The proposal sets targets for 15% reduction by 2025 on the 2019 levels, and at least 30% reduction for 2030. The proposal includes a mechanism of super-credits to incentivize the uptake of zero- and low-emission vehicles (ZLEVs).

At the last trilogue held on 18 February 2019, co-legislators concluded the negotiation process through which the Commission text was overall improved. During negotiations the Parliament and the Council agreed, inter alia, to introduce a benchmark system for ZLEV incentives as from 2025 and to strengthen provisions on governance (real world CO2 emissions, in service testing, robustness of reference period and third party verification), monitoring and reporting period and lifecycle analysis.

Rapporteurs: [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA)
Shadows: [Fjellner](#) (EPP), [Zoffoli](#) (S&D), [Procter](#) (ECR), [Torvalds](#) (ALDE), [Eck](#) (GUE), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Mélín](#) (ENF)

Promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles

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



The Commission proposal amends Directive 2009/33/EC on the promotion of clean, energy-efficient road vehicles ("Clean Vehicles Directive") with the aim to promote the clean transport, fostering new and clean technologies and in the long-term reduce emissions of air pollutants and CO2.

The file was voted in ENVI on 10 October 2018 and in Plenary on 25 October 2018. During the second informal trilogue on 11 February, an agreement was found between the co-legislators on the key political issues. The agreement includes an extension of the scope to include mail and parcel delivery services as requested by Parliament and a review clause to assess the need to further increase the scope to include 2/3 wheel vehicles for the post-2030 period. In addition, the Council's definition of clean vehicles has been revised to specify that use of high ILUC (indirect land use change impacts of biofuels) - risk biofuels should be excluded. As regards the minimum procurement targets, Council agreed to increase by 10% its proposed targets for light-duty vehicles and to maintain Parliament's backstop to ensure that post-2030 targets are at least as ambitious as those for the second reporting period.

Rapporteurs: [Grzyb](#) (EPP)
Shadows: [Dance](#) (S&D), [Matthews](#) (ECR), [Huitema](#) (ALDE), [Taylor](#) (Greens/EFA), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Mélín](#) (ENF)

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

European Court of Auditors on "EU system of measuring vehicle emissions"

As part of its annual work programme, the Court of Auditors prepared a briefing paper examining the EU reaction to the Dieselgate scandal related to vehicle emissions.

ECA's reporting Member will present the findings of the paper, which sets out the actions taken, at the level of the EU and Member States, and describes changes made to the system for measuring vehicle emissions after September 2015 without assessing whether the actions taken and proposed have solved the problem. Some of the legislative changes that came into effect following the scandal are:

- empowerment for the Commission to review the work of national type-approval authorities, test vehicles, withdraw or suspend type-approvals, and impose penalties;
- testing of vehicles in circulation now being mandatory in the Member States, either by means of in-service conformity checks or in the framework of market surveillance activities;
- the new laboratory test, the Worldwide Harmonized Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP), has been introduced to tackle the large gap between CO₂ emission levels as measured in the laboratory and on the road;

Mr Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on the hunting of protected species



As regards the hunting of birds, the Birds Directive creates a comprehensive scheme of protection for all wild bird species naturally occurring in the EU. It lays down the principles for the protection, management and control of birds and lays down rules for their exploitation. Birds may not

be hunted during the various stages of reproduction or during their return to rearing grounds, unless certain conditions are fulfilled.

The Habitats Directive ensures the conservation of a wide range of rare, threatened or endemic animal and plant species. It forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy together with the Birds Directive and establishes the EU wide Natura 2000 ecological network of protected areas. All the large carnivore species as well as their habitats are strictly protected under the Habitats Directive.

Wolves and brown bears, but not lynx, are additionally designated as priority species. Historically these species have all suffered dramatic declines in numbers and distribution as a consequence of human activity. Due to increases in their prey and forest cover and favourable legislation, the last few decades have seen most populations stabilizing or increasing again. Concerning wolves, there have been proposals, including by Switzerland, in the context of the discussions on the Bern Convention, to lower their level of protection.

Exchange of views on the findings of the investigation of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) on "Implant Files"

Implant Files is the first-ever global examination of the medical device industry and its overseers. Journalists from the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and a team of more than 250 reporters and data specialists from 58 news organizations in 36 countries examined hundreds of cases from all over the globe. The investigation was planned over a full year and executed over another year:

- more than 8 million device-related health records were examined - the Implant Files team collected recall notices, safety warnings, legal documents and corporate financial filings.
- most of the data comes from US FDA records (and European ones) - FDA data alone revealed more than 80,000 deaths and 1.7 million injuries possibly linked to medical devices in the past decade
- ICIJ and its media partners submitted more than 1,500 requests for information to governments around the world - many countries in Asia, Africa and South America do not regulate medical devices at all but rely on US and European regulators.

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications:

- Workshop proceedings on [Cardiovascular diseases and lifestyle](#)
- Briefing on [European energy and climate policies towards 2020, 2030 and 2050](#).
- Workshop proceedings on [Brain, A New Approach to Brain Diseases](#)
- Study on [International Climate Negotiations in view of COP24 in Katowice](#)

Upcoming Publications:

- Study on Sampling points for air quality – Representativeness and comparability of measurements in accordance with Directive 2008/50/EC
- Workshop proceedings on Robots in Healthcare: A Solution or a Problem?"

Upcoming Events:

- Policy Hub on the measurement of outcomes in healthcare and for programming and managing public health services (22/03/2019).

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



European Aviation Environmental report 2019

Improving technology, more efficient operations, better airports and market-based measures have not been enough to mitigate the aviation sector's growing impacts on the environment, climate and people's health. These are the key findings of a new report, published jointly by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the European Environment Agency (EEA) and EUROCONTROL. More info [here](#).

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA's proposal for a restriction on microplastics

As part of the EU's strategy on plastics, ECHA has recently proposed to restrict the use of intentionally added microplastics. Microplastics are small pieces of plastic, which can be intentionally added to a variety of products. From these products, they may be released to the environment, where they are likely to persist for thousands of years. ECHA found that the risks arising from the intentional use of microplastics are not adequately controlled and proposed to restrict their use. More info [here](#).

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



ECDC/EFSA Regional workshop on One Health approach against antimicrobial resistance in EU pre-accession countries

ECDC together with EFSA, in close collaboration DG SANTE and DG NEAR, and WHO/Europe is organising a Regional workshop on One Health approach against AMR for EU

pre-accession countries. The overall aim of the workshop is to boost the advancement in this field, to reflect on the work done by countries, and to identify key priority areas that need to be addressed at regional level in Western Balkans. On 26 February 2019, the first day of the workshop will be web streamed: <https://ecdc.efsa.intergroup.rs/>. More info [here](#).

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



On 21 February, EFSA launched a public consultation on the draft update of its 2005 risk assessments of five phthalates which are authorised for use in plastic food contact materials. Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the draft opinion via the dedicated consultation page. The deadline for comments is 14 April 2019. More info [here](#).

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



EU and Switzerland to improve information-sharing on good manufacturing practice through use of the EudraGMDP database

The Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products has started in 2019 to enter information on Good manufacturing practice (GMP) compliance as well as on manufacturing authorisations related to Swiss manufacturers into the EU's EudraGMDP database. This should lead to easier information-sharing and efficiency gains for all stakeholders. The EudraGMDP database is the EU's database on manufacturing, import and wholesale-distribution authorisations, and GMP and Good distribution practice certificates. More info [here](#).

Next meetings of the ENVI Committee : 14 March (Strasbourg)

Future meetings: [2019 meeting dates](#).

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

More information: envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu or [website](#) of the ENVI Committee.

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