

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI meeting will take place on the 21st of March in Brussels.

ENVI Members will vote on a partial provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations on the LIFE Programme. The LIFE Programme is the only EU-funded instrument dedicated solely to environmental and climate action objectives. Since its launch, in 1992, it has financed over 4,600 projects in the EU and in third countries, contributing with over €4.3 billion to environment protection and climate action. The present LIFE programme started in 2014 and runs until 2020. Last week, the EU co-legislators reached a partial agreement on the new LIFE programme as part of the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027. The new LIFE programme will continue to support the transition to a circular economy and enhanced climate change mitigation, with an increased focus on supporting the clean energy transition, as well as nature and biodiversity. This programme is only one of the EU's many actions that contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In 2018, the Commission proposed to mainstream climate action across all EU programmes, with a target of 25% of all EU expenditure contributing to climate objectives.

We will also vote on the ENVI Committee's opinion in letter form, to the general budget for the financial year 2020. Amongst others, the letter points to the need for adequate financing to be allocated in the 2020 budget to the programmes under ENVI's remit; it also stresses the importance of restoring the health programme as a stand-alone programme in the next MFF.

Chromium trioxide is a substance considered by the European Chemicals Agency to be of very high concern, and it is subject to authorisation before it can be used. ENVI Members will vote on an Objection tabled to an authorisation for certain uses of this substance. The Objector expresses concerns about the authorisation being too broad, as it could apply to a large number of downstream users active in industry sectors ranging from cosmetics to aerospace, and thus a large number of workers would be exposed to the chemical if authorised.

At 10.30 tomorrow, we start the Public Hearing on "Climate Change Denial", organised jointly with the Committee on Petitions; I invite you to follow the presentations that distinguished experts will deliver on the issue. In times when the EU institutions are increasing their actions in combatting the scientifically proven causes of climate change, it is of utmost importance that citizens be aware of misleading or incorrect information disseminated through different channels as regards the climate.

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 – 20 March 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:

- Establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
- 2020 Budget - Mandate for the Trilogue
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: Authorisation for certain uses of chromium trioxide (D060095-03)

Considerations:

- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: Authorisation for certain uses of chromium trioxide (D060095-03)

Public Hearing:

- Joint PETI - ENVI public hearing on Climate Change Denial

ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

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

- Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment
- Emission performance standards for new passenger cars and for new light commercial vehicles
- Alignment of reporting obligations in the field of environment policy
- Quality of water intended for human consumption
- Establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (ENVI-ECON)

VOTES

Establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)



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

The LIFE programme is the only EU-funded dedicated solely to environmental and climate objectives. It is targeted at a niche between EU programmes supporting research and innovation on the one hand and EU programmes financing large-scale deployment on the other hand.

The Commission proposal for LIFE 2021-2027 has a general objective to contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, including through the transition to clean energy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, thereby contributing to sustainable development. At the last trilogue held on 11 March 2019, the Parliament and the Council reached a partial agreement. The EP negotiation team secured the principle that the selections criteria should be based on quality and that extensive monitoring and evaluation of the programme should be undertaken by the Commission.

Rapporteur: [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE)

Shadows: [Dantin](#) (EPP), [Caputo](#) (S&D), [Gericke](#) (ECR), [Javor](#) (Greens/EFA), [Omarjee](#) (GUE/NGL), [Evi](#) (EFDD)

2020 Budget - Mandate for the Trilogue

Vote on draft opinion in letter form (see [meeting documents](#))



Each year, ENVI draws up an opinion on the mandate for the budgetary trilogue, traditionally in the form of a letter. The aim of the letter is to present the main budgetary concerns of the ENVI Committee.

The budgetary procedure for 2020 is the last one of the programming period 2014-2020. In this context, the ENVI letter particularly draws the attention of the BUDG Committee to the risk of falling short of meeting the spending target of at least 20 % of the EU budget on climate-related action between 2014 and 2020. It also points to the need for adequate financing to be allocated in the 2020 budget to the programmes under ENVI's remit, and to pilot projects and preparatory actions.

Rapporteur: [Valean](#) (EPP)

Shadows: [Kadenbach](#) (S&D), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA)

Objection pursuant to Rule 106: Authorisation for certain uses of chromium trioxide (D060095-03)

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

Chromium trioxide is listed in Annex XIV to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH), and therefore subject to the authorisation requirement. LANXESS Deutschland GmbH, Atotech Deutschland GmbH, Aviall Services

Inc, Enthone GmbH, BONDEX TRADING LTD, CROMITAL S.P.A. and Elementis Chromium LLP, submitted, an application for authorisation for several uses of chromium trioxide in the formulation of mixtures. The draft Commission act grants an authorisation for several uses of chromium trioxide (EC No 215-607-8; CAS No 1333-82-0).

The objector opposes the draft measure on the grounds that the Commission is exceeding its competences by proposing to grant an authorisation against the provisions of the REACH Regulation, Articles 60(4) and 60(7). The Objector recalls that this draft authorisation was submitted by a consortium of more than 150 companies operating at more than 4000 sites, covering a very wide range of sectors, from cosmetics to aerospace, from food packaging to automotive. According to the objectors the applicants failed to provide the necessary information that would enable an adequate assessment of the risk, especially to workers. In that regard, the Objector refers to the fact that the gaps in information are clearly and explicitly identified by the Risk assessment committee in its opinions.

Rapporteur: [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA)

PUBLIC HEARING



Joint PETI - ENVI Public Hearing on Climate Change Denial

On Thursday 21 March 2019, the PETI and ENVI Committees are organising a joint Public Hearing entitled "Climate Change Denial" aiming at

exploring the topic of the climate change denial under different perspectives and to examine the communication techniques used by private companies, in politics or by other actors in society to mislead the public on the negative impact on the climate of certain industrial activities or policies.

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 measurement 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](#))



Chemicals in European waters - Knowledge developments This report's aim is to improve understanding of which chemicals continue to pose significant risks to the environment, especially when they are present in water. It also looks at how better knowledge and understanding can help to improve controls to minimise harm. The report gives an overview of information about pollutants used in the assessment of water quality under the Water Framework Directive, and describes some of the newer techniques available for the assessment of water quality. More info [here](#).

European Chemicals Agency ([ECHA](#))



ECHA Committee supports proposal to restrict hazardous substances in tattoo inks ECHA's Committee for Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC) has adopted its opinion on the restriction proposal on hazardous substances in tattoo inks by consensus. SEAC's opinion will now be

forwarded to the Commission for a draft regulation. More on [tattoo inks](#) and on the [SEAC opinion](#).

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control ([ECDC](#)) & European Food Safety Authority ([EFSA](#))



The multi-country outbreak of *Salmonella* Poona that has affected young children in France, Belgium and Luxembourg has a common food source – an assessment suggests. Health officials in France, Belgium and Luxembourg reported *Salmonella* Poona cases in young children, all genetically linked to the same outbreak. Overall, 32 confirmed cases were reported in the EU: 30 in France, 1 in Belgium, 1 in Luxembourg. All patients experienced the symptoms between August 2018 and February 2019. An assessment by EFSA and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) indicates that the common source of the outbreak is three rice-based infant formula products made by a factory in Spain between August and October 2018 and marketed by a French company. More info [here](#).

European Medicines Agency ([EMA](#))



EMA now operating from Amsterdam

As of 11 March, EMA is operating from Amsterdam. EMA left its London premises on 1 March, and following a transitional week of teleworking, its staff will gradually move throughout this week into the Spark building in Amsterdam Sloterdijk. More info [here](#).

Next meetings of the ENVI Committee : 2 April (Brussels)

ENVI 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.

Subscription: Please send an email to envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu.

To sign up for ENVI committee press releases or for media enquiries, please write to envi-press@europarl.europa.eu

Further information sources: The EP Policy Departments [publish](#) studies, notes, information notes and workshop proceedings; To request a hard copy of any publication please contact 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.

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