

ENVI NEWS

Newsletter from the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

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CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI Committee meeting will take place in Brussels on [23-24 May 2016](#). Members will vote on two objections to the placing on the market of a genetically modified carnation and of a GMO maize.

As part of the structured dialogue, Mr Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President

Commissioner for the Energy Union has been invited for an exchange of views on the priorities for the 2017 Commission Work Programme and will address a wide range of issues including the implementation of the 2030 climate and energy framework and the climate and decarbonisation aspects of the EU energy union.

Members will also exchange views with Mr Jens Geier, the General rapporteur for the 2017 Draft Budget, and will debate on a draft opinion on mandate for the 2017 budget Trilogue.

The Committee will discuss a draft opinion on the annual report 2014 on subsidiarity and proportionality and on a draft opinion on the EU strategy on Heating and Cooling. Additionally, a presentation of a comprehensive study on the implementation of the food contact materials Regulation and the consideration of a draft report on this topic will be held. Finally, Members will ask the Commission questions regarding the state of play of the implementation of waste legislation.

[Giovanni La Via](#)

MEETING PREVIEW

Placing on the market of a genetically modified carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus* L., line SHD-27531-4)

Consideration and adoption of motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))

In March 2013, a notification concerning the placing on the market of a genetically modified carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus* L., line SHD-27531-4) was submitted by Suntory Holdings Limited, Osaka,

Japan, to the competent authority of the Netherlands. It covers import, distribution and retailing of cut flowers of the genetically modified (GM) carnation SHD-27531-4 for ornamental use only.

Further to a positive assessment report by the competent authorities of the Netherlands, some Member States raised and one (Cyprus) maintained **objections to the placing on the market** of the product. In the following, EFSA issued two scientific opinions in which it concluded that there was **no scientific reason** to consider that the intended use would cause **any adverse effect** on human health or the environment. Based on this assessment, the Commission prepared a **draft implementing decision** according to which carnation SHD-27531-4 should be authorised.

On 25 April 2016, the Regulatory Committee under Directive 2001/18/EC gave no opinion on the draft Commission implementing decision authorising the placing on the market of *Dianthus caryophyllus* L., line SHD-27531-4.

The objectors consider that the draft Commission implementing decision does not fulfil the objective of health and environment protection set out in Directive 2001/18/EC and therefore **exceeds the implementing powers** provided for in this Directive.

The objectors argue, in particular, that propagation to wild species cannot be excluded and that resistance to sulfonylurea herbicides might encourage the use of this herbicide, with possible detrimental effects on biodiversity.

Co-Rapporteurs: [Staes](#) (Greens/EFA), [Balas](#) (S&D), [Boylan](#) (GUE), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Pietikäinen](#)
Shadows: [Fjellner](#) (EPP), [Huitema](#) (ALDE),

Authorisation of GMO maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x GA21

Consideration and adoption of motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))

On 9 February 2009, Syngenta France SAS submitted to the competent authority of Germany an application in accordance with



Articles 5 and 17 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 for the placing on the market of foods, food ingredients, and feed containing, consisting of, or produced from Bt11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x GA21 maize (and its sub-combinations). The application



also covers the placing on the market of this GM maize in products for other uses than food and feed, with the exception of cultivation.

Further to a **favourable opinion by EFSA** on 7 December 2015, the Commission prepared a **draft implementing decision authorising the products** containing, consisting of, or produced from the above-mentioned genetically modified maizes.

On 25 April 2016, the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health gave no opinion on the draft Commission implementing decision.

The objectors consider that the draft Commission implementing decision **exceeds the implementing powers** provided for in Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed. In particular, they argue that some of the genetically modified maizes in question confer tolerance to **glufosinate-ammonium and glyphosate-based herbicides**, while the International Agency for Research for Cancer - the specialised cancer agency of the WHO - classified glyphosate as probably carcinogenic to humans on 20 March 2015. Moreover, the objectors consider that no new GM food or feed should be authorised under the current unsatisfactory legal framework.

Co-rapporteurs: [Staes](#) (Greens/EFA), [Balas](#) (S&D), [Boylan](#) (GUE/NGL), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Pietikäinen](#)
Shadows: [Fjellner](#) (EPP), [Huittema](#) (ALDE)

Presentation of the European Implementation Assessment and consideration of draft report on Food Contact Materials Regulation (EC) 1935/2004

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



Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food ("The Framework Regulation") sets out general safety requirements that

are applicable to **all possible food contact materials and articles**.

Although Annex I of the Framework Regulation lists seventeen food contact materials and articles which may be covered by specific measures, at present **only four materials are subject to specific EU measures** (plastic including recycled plastic, ceramics, regenerated cellulose and active and intelligent materials). For the other thirteen materials listed in Annex I, the possibility remains for Member States to adopt national provisions. Although

some Member States have done so for the more widely used FCMs, many gaps still exist. Also, legislation adopted by the Member States may differ for certain materials, creating different standards for product safety.

On 10 May 2016, DG EPRS published a **comprehensive study on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004** ("European Implementation Assessment"). The study summarises the results of a comprehensive survey conducted over several months. In addition to EFSA, 28 national competent authorities as well as a broad range of stakeholders from business, consumer, health and environmental organisations and academia participated in the survey.

The study shows that materials not regulated by specific EU measures can - in addition to hampering the smooth functioning of the internal market - pose a **risk to public health and give rise to a loss of consumer trust, legal uncertainty and increased compliance costs for operators**. One of the **major outcomes** of the European Implementation Assessment is thus the **call for further harmonisation** in the area of food contact materials (FCMs) by a majority of stakeholders from across all sectors.

In her **draft implementation report**, the Rapporteur recommends to give priority to the adoption of specific EU measures on materials that constitute a particular risk to health and in bigger demand on the EU market (paper and board, including recycled paper and board, coatings, inks and adhesives). Moreover, she points to the need to **urgently tackle current shortcomings in the implementation and enforcement of the legislation in place**, particularly as regards risk assessment, traceability as well as enforcement and controls.

Rapporteur: [Schaldenmose](#) (S&D)
Shadows: [Collin-Langsen](#) (EPP), [Nicholson](#) (ECR), [Jätteenmäki](#) (ALDE), [Eck](#) (GUE), [Häusling](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD), [D'Ornano](#) (ENF)

2017 Budget - Mandate for the Trilogue

Exchange of views with Jens Geier, General Rapporteur for the 2017 Draft Budget

Exchange of views

The General Rapporteur, Mr Jens Geier is invited to the ENVI committee to discuss the draft budget 2017.

In his draft opinion about the mandate for the trilogue, the ENVI Rapporteur for opinion recalls the importance of **climate and resource efficiency mainstreaming**, and that of the continued maintenance of ENVI programmes. He also points out that **decentralised agencies** whose missions fall



within the remit of the ENVI Committee play a major role and ask those agencies to be given the necessary financial and human resources.

Annual report 2014 on subsidiarity and proportionality

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

In her **draft opinion** on the report on the application of the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality in EU law-making, the Rapporteur recalls that subsidiarity concerns areas of shared competence - like the environment. She highlights the need of **balance between action at local and national level and EU policies** particularly when it comes to e.g. air quality, biodiversity and the climate. She calls on the Commission to take into account to a greater extent the efforts the Member States have already made as regards environmental policies. She highlights the role of the **Committee of the Regions and its subsidiarity monitoring mechanism**. She also welcomes the **'green card' plan** suggested by a number of **national parliaments** with a view to ensuring that they can play a proactive role in EU decision-making.

Rapporteur: [D'Ornano](#) (ENF)

Shadows: [Patriciello](#) (EPP), [Gentile](#) (S&D), [Demesmaeker](#) (ECR) [Torvalds](#) (ALDE), [Mineur](#) (GUE/NGL), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA)

EU Strategy on Heating and Cooling

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



On 16 February 2016 the Commission published a Communication entitled "EU Strategy on Heating and Cooling". The draft opinion will feed into the **INI report by the ITRE Committee**.

This strategy provides a **framework for integrating efficient heating and cooling into EU energy policies** by focusing action on stopping the energy leakage from buildings, maximising the efficiency and sustainability of heating and cooling systems, supporting efficiency in industry and reaping the benefits of integrating heating and cooling into the electricity system.

In his draft opinion the rapporteur stresses inter alia the major importance of the heating and cooling sector in achieving the **EU energy and climate objectives by 2020 and 2050**, as well as the large share of heating and cooling in the EU's overall energy demand.

In particular, he calls for a review of existing legislation focused on safeguarding **technology neutrality and cost efficiency**. He points at the importance of **secure supply** of energy to the heating and cooling sector and calls on the Commission to use the heating and cooling sector at system level by linking heat and power production, **industrial processes, waste management and demand side management**. He further underlines the potential of **solid biomass** for district heating as a cost-efficient means to decarbonise the energy sector.

Rapporteur: [Fjellner](#) (EPP)

Shadows: [Zoffoli](#) (S&D), [Duncan](#) (ECR), [Selimovic](#) (ALDE), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Auken](#) (Greens/EFA), [Affronte](#) (EFDD), [D'Ornano](#) (ENF)

Exchange of views with Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the Commission, responsible for Energy Union as part of the structured dialogue

Every year, the ENVI Committee holds exchanges of views with the Commission on the evaluation and implementation of the Commission Work Programme and the priorities for the following year.



This exchange of views with Vice-President Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ concerns the Commission Work Programme for 2016 and the priorities for 2017, in the areas under his responsibility. Questions from MEPs on both items will be taken together. Following these exchanges of view, ENVI coordinators will establish ENVI priorities for 2017.

The discussion will focus on the Commission's climate action priorities, as regards the implementation of the 2016 Commission Work Programme and looking ahead to 2017. Key topics for the ENVI Committee include the implementation of the 2030 climate and energy framework and the climate and decarbonisation aspects of the EU energy union.

Implementation of environmental legislation

As part of the regular sessions on **implementation issues**, this session is devoted to the **waste legislation**, dealing with questions related to Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (Waste Framework Directive) and Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste.



The 23 questions tabled by MEPs focus on a wide range of issues such as separate collection,



calculation of targets, by-products and end-of-waste criteria, waste prevention and producer responsibility.

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications:

- Study on the ['Implementation of the Ambient Air Quality Directive'](#)
- Briefing on ['Main options for a GMBM at ICAO during its High-level Meeting in May 2016'](#)
-  Workshop Proceedings 'Communicable Diseases: EU Response to HIV, TB and Hepatitis C'
-  Briefing on 'Key issues at Stake at the 69th Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC69)'

Upcoming Publications:

- Study on 'Sustainable Forestry in Finland: ENVI delegation in May 2016'
- Briefing for the ENVI delegation to CITES in September 2016

Upcoming event:

- 24-May-2016: Workshop on 'EU's Pesticides Risk Assessment System: the Case of Glyphosate'

To request hard copy of publication please contact:
Poldep-Economy-Science@ep.europa.eu



NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



Application of the EU Emissions Trading Directive – Analysis of national responses under Article 21 of the EU ETS Directive in 2015

EU Member States report on the application of the EU ETS Directive annually as required by its Article 21. The European Environment Agency (EEA) technical report provides an analysis of the national responses submitted in 2015. It considers where implementation is on track and where there is potential for improvement based on data up to and including 2014. In addition to EU Member States, the report also covers Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA organises its 11th Stakeholders' Day Conference on 24 and 25 May 2016 in Helsinki. The main focus of the day will be the 31 May 2018

REACH registration deadline, providing a platform for registrants, in particular SMEs, to receive last-minute advice and guidance. [More](#)

ECHA published a video from its last scientific workshop in April, focusing on New Approach Methodologies in Regulatory Science and exploring the potential regulatory benefits arising from fundamental change in scientific thinking. [More](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



In view of the Olympic Games taking place this summer in Brazil, find the latest epidemiological update not only on the zika virus but also on the other risks involved for those EU-citizens travelling to Brazil and precautions to be taken. Read more on the ECDC website. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



EMA publishes 2015 annual report

The European Medicines Agency's (EMA) 2015 annual report published today focuses on the Agency's core tasks which include the evaluation of medicines, support to research and development of new and innovative treatments and the monitoring of the benefits and risks of medicines in real life. [More](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



EFSA is setting up a working group of international experts to evaluate new scientific evidence on the potential effects of bisphenol A (BPA) on the immune system. EFSA is conducting the review following publication of a report issued by the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and which raises concerns about the effects of BPA on the immune system of fetuses and young children. [More](#)

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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.

Do you need more information?

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

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

15-16 June (Brussels) See also the [2016 meeting dates](#) for future meetings.

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. The EP Library regularly prepares briefings summarising information related to topical subjects. Find the latest updates via the links [briefings](#) and [blog](#).

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