

### CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI Committee meetings will take place in Brussels on 9 March and in Strasbourg on 13 March 2017.

On 9 March, we will vote on a draft report on palm oil and deforestation of rainforests and on two draft opinions on conservation of fishery resources and marine ecosystems through technical measures and on the participation to the in the

Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) by several EU Member States.

Additionally, Mr Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries has been invited for an exchange of views with ENVI Members as part of the yearly structured dialogue exercise.

On 13 March, Mr Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy will appear before the ENVI Committee, also in the context of the structural dialogue.

[Adina-Ioana Vălean](#)

### MEETING ITEMS

#### Votes:

- Palm oil and deforestation of rainforests
- Conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures
- Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)

#### Exchanges of views:

- with Mr Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries as part of the structured dialogue
- with Mr Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy



Family photo of ENVI MEPs – 2nd half of the legislature

#### Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

20-21 March 2017 (Brussels)

See also the [2017 meeting dates](#) for future meetings.

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

## VOTES

**Palm oil and deforestation of rainforests**

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



The palm oil industry is linked to major environmental issues, such as deforestation and habitat degradation. The draft report makes reference to the environmental impacts of the palm oil industry, encouraging the sustainable production of palm oil.

A total of 265 amendments were tabled to the draft report and 26 compromise amendments were drafted by the rapporteur.

The 26 compromise amendments concern a wide variety of issues, including notably a mandatory certification scheme to ensure that palm oil products are only allowed to enter the EU market if they meet minimum sustainability criteria.

Additional compromise amendments call for information campaigns to be launched to inform consumers of the consequences of sustainable palm oil production, including a special indication on all products containing palm oil and call for the Commission to increase the traceability of palm oil imported into the EU and to consider applying different customs duty schemes to reflect more accurately the real environmental costs of these products.

Furthermore, another important compromise calls for the Commission to phase out the use of vegetable oils that drive deforestation, including palm oil, as a component of biofuels preferably by 2020.

Rapporteur: [Konečná \(GUE\)](#)

Shadows: [Cirio \(PPE\)](#), [Brannen \(S&D\)](#), [Girling \(ECR\)](#), [Bearder \(ALDE\)](#), [Javor \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Evi \(EFDD\)](#), [D'Ornano \(ENF\)](#)

**Conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures**

Vote on draft opinion (see meeting documents)

Technical measures are rules governing how and where fishermen may fish. They aim to control the catch that can be taken with a given amount of fishing effort and also to minimise the impacts of fishing on the ecosystem. They form an integral part of fisheries management systems within EU waters.



They can be grouped into measures that (i) regulate the gear; (ii)

regulate the design of the gears deployed; (iii) set minimum sizes below which fish must be returned to the sea; (iv) set spatial and temporal controls (e.g. closed/limited entry areas) to protect aggregations of juvenile fish; and (v) mitigate the impacts of fishing gears on sensitive species (e.g. marine mammals, seabirds and turtles) or closed areas to protect sensitive habitats. Following the adoption of the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Basic Regulation, the Technical Measures Framework needs to be adjusted to fulfil the objectives laid out in the CFP.

The drafts person welcomes the Commission proposal as a step in the right direction and tabled 29 amendments to clarify a limited number of issues. Members then tabled 102 amendments. No compromises were negotiated.

Rapporteur: [Tănăsescu \(S&D\)](#)

Shadows: [Schreijer-Pierik \(PPE\)](#), [Duncan \(ECR\)](#), [Huitema \(ALDE\)](#), [Torres Martínez \(GUE\)](#), [Engström \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Goddyn \(ENF\)](#)

**Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)**

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

The programme's strategic objective is to develop common innovative solutions for water provision and food systems which the Mediterranean region urgently needs. PRIMA fits into this project and is complementary to Union policies such as the water diplomacy, the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), Migration and European climate diplomacy.

The rapporteur in his draft opinion is very much in favour of the EU's participation in PRIMA and advocates a holistic approach thus ensuring great efficiency and a balance between irrigated areas, crop cultivations, urban pipelines and protection and conservation of wetlands. However, he has proposed 42 amendments to the draft text for a decision to establish PRIMA in order to ensure better governance and a more efficient use of funding allocated for research and development projects under the programme and to pave the way for economic growth and jobs.

Other authors tabled an additional 76 amendments which makes a total of 118. 11 compromises have been tabled.

Rapporteur: [Gambús \(PPE\)](#)

Shadows: [Zorrinho \(S&D\)](#), [Girling \(ECR\)](#), [Punset \(ALDE\)](#), [Eck \(GUE\)](#), [Affronte \(Greens/EFA\)](#)

### EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

#### Exchange of views with Mr Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries 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. In the context of the 2017 Work Programme, the ENVI committee priorities centred on:

- the full implementation of the 7th **Environment Action Programme**, including inter alia mid-term review of the EU2020 Biodiversity Strategy and implementation of the Aarhus convention;
- the full implementation by the Commission of its Circular Economy Action Plan;
- the adoption of a strategic approach to water pollution by pharmaceutical substances pursuant to **the Water Framework Directive**;
- the review of the legislation on CO2 emissions from cars, vans and heavy duty vehicles;
- follow-up action on the **FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade)** Action Plan;
- the results of the Fitness check of **the Natura 2000 legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives)**.

#### Exchange of views with Mr Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy

On 13 March, the ENVI Committee will hold an extraordinary meeting in Strasbourg in order to exchange views with the Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, also as part of the annual structural dialogue exercise. It is expected that important legislative proposals will be discussed, including the Governance of the Energy Union, the substantive amendment to the Renewable Energy Directive and the proposal on the EU Emissions Trading system for aviation (or Stop the Clock 3).



### NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

#### Recent Publications

- [Proceedings of the workshop on "Health Promotion & Primary Prevention - Exchange of Good Practices"](#)
- [Study on Decision-making processes of ICAO and IMO in respect of environmental regulations](#)
- [Briefing on Climate action and the Emissions Trading System in China](#)

#### Upcoming Publications

- Proceedings of the workshop on "Supporting the market for secondary raw materials"
- In-depth analysis on fossil fuel subsidies

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](#))



##### Cities learning from each other to adapt to climate change

Despite budgetary challenges, cities and towns across Europe are taking action to put in place measures that will help them adapt to the impacts of climate change. The report highlights the opportunities open to municipalities to share best practices and how they can support projects like green roofs or expanding city parks to help alleviate the negative effects of climate change. [More](#)

#### European Chemicals Agency ([ECHA](#))



##### Important safety information on chemicals missing

Substances of potential concern were targeted by ECHA's compliance checks in 2016. Most of the evaluated registration dossiers had data gaps and need updating. The annual ECHA evaluation progress report covers evaluation activities and other measures to improve data quality. It also has recommendations for companies registering chemicals. [More](#)

#### European Food Safety Authority ([EFSA](#))



##### Substances in food for infants below 16 weeks

EFSA is launching a public consultation on its new draft guidance on the risk assessment of substances present in food intended for infants below 16 weeks of age. From birth up to 16 weeks, infants are

exclusively fed on breast milk and/or infant formula and safe levels set for the general population do not apply. EFSA's Scientific Committee proposes a new approach for assessing the substances found in infant formula that can better support EU decision-making on the safe use of infant formula. [More](#)

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



##### ECDC presents a risk assessment on avian flu

The upsurge of human cases in China during the winter 2016-2017 due to A(H7N9) (avian influenza) gives cause for concern. On 26 January 2017, ECDC published a risk assessment to remind the EU/EEA Member States of the possibility of travelers infected with A(H7N9) arriving from China. [More](#)

#### European Medicines Agency ([EMA](#))



##### First hormone replacement therapy for parathyroid disorder.

EMA has recommended granting a conditional marketing authorisation in the EU for Natpar (parathyroid hormone), proposed as a treatment for patients with chronic hypoparathyroidism who cannot be adequately controlled with standard treatment with calcium and vitamin D. It is the first approved replacement therapy with parathyroid hormone for this rare condition. [More](#)

#### About the editor

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