

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI Committee meeting will take place in Brussels [on 24-25 April 2017](#).

We will discuss the report on the inclusion of land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) into the 2030 climate and energy framework. Land use and forestry play a crucial role in reaching the long-term goals of the Paris Agreements. We will also discuss the draft opinion on CE marked

fertilising products, in which ENVI is particularly involved, notably regarding contaminants such as cadmium.

We will exchange views with the Commission on quality and safety standards for human organs for transplantation, where the EU is leading in terms of its legislative framework. Amongst the other topics we will discuss with the Commission, I would like to highlight the report on the application of minimum principles for the exploration and production of hydrocarbons such as shale gas. We will also discuss the European Strategy for low-emission mobility. Transport represents almost a quarter of Europe's greenhouse gas emissions, and the ENVI committee strongly advocates measures to reduce transport emissions.

Moreover, we will hold an exchange of views on the impact of unlawful pharmaceutical practices on citizens' health, an issue calling for new policy measures at EU and national levels. ECDC will report on the Zika outbreak, which remains a serious concern for public health. Finally, we will have a public hearing on the EU added value in the areas of environment, climate change, public health and food safety, with the aim to take stock of the benefits of the EU and the important work its institutions carry out to ensure high environmental standards and a high standard of living for our citizens.

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

[Adina-Ioana Vălean](#)

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

3-4 May 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 or visit the [website](#) of the ENVI Committee.

MEETING ITEMS

Considerations:

- A European Strategy for Low-Emission Mobility
- Rules on the making available of CE marked fertilising products
- Inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry into the 2030 climate and energy framework (LULUCF)

Exchanges of views:

- with the Commission on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation
- with the Commission on Member States' monitoring programmes under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- with the Commission on minimum principles for the exploration and production of hydrocarbons using high-volume hydraulic fracturing
- with the Commission on REFIT of Ecolabel/EMAS
- with ECDC on the current situation of the Zika outbreak
- with the Commission and EMA on the impact of unlawful pharmaceutical practices on citizens' health

Public hearing:

- Added benefits of the EU on the environment, public health and food safety

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

CONSIDERATIONS

A European Strategy for Low-Emission Mobility

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



This draft opinion will feed into the TRAN committee's report which follows up on the Commission Communication on A European Strategy for Low-Emission Mobility. ENVI has a number of exclusive and shared competences, including **biofuels, CO₂ emission and fuel efficiency standards** for motor vehicles,

and action to mitigate GHG emissions from **international aviation and maritime transport**.

The ENVI rapporteur calls for a 2025 target for cars and vans, a proposal on the certification, monitoring and reporting of heavy-duty vehicles by the end of 2017 and for ambitious 2025 CO₂ targets by the beginning of 2018. He also wants an ambitious mandate for the market uptake of electric vehicles, a transparent labelling system for emissions of cars placed on the market, and a more comprehensive and coordinated system of type-approval and market surveillance.

The rapporteur considers the recent ICAO agreement inadequate and stresses that the aviation sector should contribute to the 2030 climate targets and the Paris objectives. Additionally, emissions from the shipping sector should be included in the EU ETS from 2023. As regards biofuels, the rapporteur calls for more stringent limits than those proposed in the recast of the Renewable Energy Directive and asks that biofuels with high GHG efficiency be incentivised.

Rapporteur: [Zoffoli \(S&D\)](#)

Shadows: [Gieseke \(EPP\)](#), [Demesmaeker \(ECR\)](#), [Müller \(ALDE\)](#), [Kyllönen \(GUE/NGL\)](#), [Taylor \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Evi \(EFDD\)](#), [D'Ornano \(ENF\)](#)

Laying down rules on the making available on the market of CE marked fertilising products

Consideration of amendments (see [meeting documents](#))

Fertilising products are used mainly in agriculture for feeding plants and improving plant growth. The use of fertilisers delivers benefits in particular through increased crop yields, but also poses challenges to the environment, public health and food safety. In March 2016, the Commission put forward a legislative proposal on fertilising products, which covers a wider range of products compared to Fertilisers Regulation 2003/2003, and sets limits on heavy metals and contaminants. The contaminant cadmium, present in phosphate rock, gives rise to particular concerns. The Commission proposes a gradual reduction of the maximum level of cadmium.



Whereas IMCO is the lead committee, **ENVI has exclusive competence on the issue of contaminants**. In addition to the rapporteur's 142 amendments, **711 amendments were tabled in ENVI**. A large number

of these amendments concern the cadmium limits and the limits for other contaminants such as chromium, nickel, lead, and microbial contaminants. Other amendments concern the use of animal by-products, animal manure, and other recovered waste in fertilisers, the definition of plant biostimulants, the authorisation procedure for the use of micro-organisms in microbial plant biostimulants, REACH registration requirements for component materials, and the biodegradability criteria for coating agents.

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

Shadows: [Poc \(S&D\)](#), [Nicholson \(ECR\)](#), [Federley \(ALDE\)](#), [Eck \(GUE/NGL\)](#), [Häusling \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Evi \(EFDD\)](#), [Goddyn \(ENF\)](#)

Inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry into the 2030 climate and energy framework (LULUCF)

Consideration of amendments (see [meeting documents](#))

This legislative proposal is part of the climate package presented by the Commission on 20 July 2016. It proposes to integrate greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) into the 2030 climate and energy framework.



LULUCF is a category within the UNFCCC accounting framework for greenhouse gas emissions. The EU and its Member States have to account for the LULUCF sector under the Kyoto protocol, which will expire at the end of 2020.

The proposed regulation establishes a legal framework from 2021 onwards. It is in line with the Paris Agreement, and maintains LULUCF as a separate pillar instead of integrating the sector into the Effort Sharing Regulation. The proposal sets a binding commitment for each Member State to ensure that accounted emissions from land use are compensated by an equivalent removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere through action in the sector. It defines rules for the accounting of emissions and removals for different categories of land. As regards managed forest land, emissions and removals are accounted for on the basis of a forest reference level estimate. The proposal provides for certain flexibilities such as transfer of LULUCF credits between Member States and banking of credits. It also sets the framework for reporting and monitoring.

In addition to the rapporteur's 15 amendments which **focus on forest management, 277 amendments were tabled in ENVI**. Most amendments concern the reference period for the forest reference levels, the cap for the use of forest management credits, and the EU governance system for the review of forest reference levels. Other amendments aim to incentivise the preservation of biodiversity and wetlands and encourage the use of wood for solid purposes rather than for energy.

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

Shadows: [Brannen \(S&D\)](#), [Wiśniewska \(ECR\)](#), [Torvalds \(ALDE\)](#), [Flanagan \(GUE/NGL\)](#), [Javor \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Evi \(EFDD\)](#), [Jalkh \(ENF\)](#)

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

Standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation

On 4 January 2017, the Commission published its report on the implementation of Directive 2010/53/EU on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation. The Commission considers the implementation by Member States adequate. Competent authorities that oversee relevant activities from donation to transplantation have been established in all Member States. The Commission report however also identifies problems concerning the interpretation, implementation and enforcement of the legislation. Follow-up regarding recipients and living donors needs to be improved, as well as certain aspects of the quality and safety framework, for example for operating procedures or authorisations. The report also highlights the increasing importance of coordination within and between countries especially regarding the set-up of national organisations, which vary considerably between countries.

Member States' monitoring programmes under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

On 16 January 2017, the Commission published its report assessing the Member States' monitoring programmes under the MSFD. This report outlines Member States' progress towards more consistent and coherent implementation of the MSFD in order to achieve good environmental status in the EU marine waters by 2020. Only a few Member States had operational monitoring programmes in place in 2014. The Commission concludes that in most Member States additional action is needed to ensure an appropriate and timely coverage of the monitoring programmes. More progress needs to be made to ensure comparability across Member States and to make sure the monitoring programmes are improved so they constitute an appropriate framework that meets the MSFD requirements.

Minimum principles for the exploration and production of hydrocarbons using high-volume hydraulic fracturing



On 15 December 2016, the Commission published its report on the effectiveness of Recommendation 2014/70/EU on minimum principles for exploration and production of hydrocarbons such as shale gas, involving high-volume hydraulic

fracturing (HVHF). This non-binding Recommendation, intended to complement EU legislation, was developed at a time when HVHF was not used in the EU. The report shows that eleven Member States have granted, or plan to grant, authorisations for the development of hydrocarbons that may require the use of HVHF. Concerning shale gas, around 80 exploratory wells have been drilled, of which at least 16 were fractured with high volumes of fluids.

The report concludes that the Recommendation has been applied unevenly and unsatisfactorily in some Member States, and that it is

not possible to confirm the effectiveness of the Recommendation in preventing, managing and reducing environmental impacts and risks. The objective of providing legal certainty and predictability to competent authorities and operators is not fully met, as Member States differ in their interpretations of relevant legislation.

REFIT of the Ecolabel/EMAS



Both the EU EMAS Regulation and the EU Ecolabel Regulation aim to minimise the environmental impact of consumption and production and to increase the efficient use of resources. The EU Ecolabel promotes products with a reduced environmental impact during their entire lifecycle and provides consumers with accurate information on the environmental impacts of products. EMAS seeks to improve the environmental performance of organisations.

The Commission initiated its Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT) in December 2012. REFIT Fitness Checks assess whether the regulatory framework for a policy sector is fit for purpose with regard to the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value of the legislation. The publication of the results of the Ecolabel/EMAS REFIT Fitness Check was originally scheduled for end-2016 and is expected to take place any time soon.

Current situation of the Zika outbreak

This exchange of views with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) follows up on an exchange of views with the WHO on 17 February 2016 and a motion for a resolution which was adopted on 13 April 2016.



The Zika epidemic remains a significant concern for public health. Pregnant women are still considered the most important risk group and the primary target for preventive measures, as Zika virus infection during pregnancy is associated with intrauterine central nervous system infection, congenital malformations and foetal death.

Despite the fact that the Zika virus epidemic is showing signs of a significant slow-down in the Americas and the Caribbean since the last rapid risk assessment in October 2016, EU Member States should continue to consider a range of options for risk reduction. ECDC continues to monitor new scientific evidence and is updating the assessment of the risk and options for response accordingly.

Impact of unlawful pharmaceutical practices on citizens' health

This exchange of views with the Commission and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) follows up on several bribery allegation scandals in Asia, the United States, and Europe.

The Commission stated in its 2009 Pharmaceutical Sector Inquiry Report that vigilant scrutiny of competition law promotes a healthy

and competitive market for medicinal products. In June 2016, the EU Health Ministers stressed that patients' access to effective and affordable essential medicines was endangered by high and unsustainable price levels, market withdrawal of products that are out-of-patent, or when new products are not introduced to national markets for business economic reasons.

On 2 March 2017, Parliament adopted its resolution on EU options for improving access to medicines, calling for new legislation to ensure full transparency and effective controls of the procedures used for determining the prices and reimbursement of medicinal products in the Member States. The growth in pharmaceutical spending and the asymmetry between pharmaceutical companies and Member States in negotiating capacity and pricing information calls for European cooperation and new policy measures at EU and national levels.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing on added benefits of the EU on the environment, public health and food safety



The aim of this hearing is to take stock and highlight the added value of the EU, its institutions and agencies and the important work they carry out to ensure high environmental standards and a high standard of living for our citizens. The hearing will comprise presentations from five external speakers, from the five agencies falling under the remit of the ENVI Committee, and from the Commission.

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications

- [Proceedings of the workshop on “Supporting the market for secondary raw materials”](#)
- [In-depth analysis on fossil fuel subsidies](#)

Upcoming Publications

- Briefing for EP delegation to the UN Ocean Conference in New York in June 2017
- Briefing on circular economy with focus on waste and renewable energy and sustainable bioenergy in Estonia

Upcoming event

- Workshop on EU actions to combat marine litter 3 May 2017, 11h30-12h30

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

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency ([EEA](#))



Sustainability transitions: now for the long term. This report was developed in cooperation with the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet), a partnership network of the EEA and its member and cooperating countries. The report explores what the concepts of sustainability transitions and transformations mean in practice, and how the EEA and Eionet can help develop the knowledge needed to support systemic change in Europe. Case studies explain and illustrate key concepts and give a sense of what activities are already under way at local levels. [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency ([ECHA](#))



QSAR Toolbox update simplifies the correct use of non-test methods. The QSAR Toolbox is a software developed by the OECD and ECHA for grouping chemicals and filling gaps in data needed for assessing hazards of chemicals. It can be used to fulfil regulatory information requirements and to assess the (eco)toxicity of substances without doing new tests. The toolbox can be downloaded free-of-charge. The update makes it easier for companies to predict the hazard of a substance. It is especially targeted at new and less experienced users to help them fill in their data gaps for the REACH 2018 registration deadline. [More](#)

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



Pesticide residues in food: risk to consumers remains low. Food consumed in the EU continues to be pesticide free or within legal limits, according to the 2015 report on pesticide

residues in food. The report published by EFSA states that more than 97% of food samples collected across the EU in 2015 were within legal limits, with over 53% completely free of quantifiable residues. The highest rate of exceedances of legal limits were recorded for broccoli (3.4% of samples), followed by table grapes (1.7%). [More](#)

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



Bird flu: Avian flu A (H7N9) originating from China and with a high pathogenicity in poultry may be on its way back. ECDC's updated risk assessment concludes that risk in Europe is low since there is, so far, no sustained transmission from human to human. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency ([EMA](#))



New policy for dealing with whistle-blower information from external sources. EMA has published a new policy on how it handles allegations of improprieties received from external parties, which may include allegations of departures from standards of good practices that could have an impact on the evaluation and supervision of medicines. The goal is to create an environment where individuals feel confident to raise their concerns. Since 2013, EMA has received 43 reports that relate for example to the manufacturing of medicines or the conduct of clinical trials. A dedicated email inbox, reporting@ema.europa.eu, has been created. Individuals external to EMA can raise their concerns by sending a message. Their identity will be kept confidential. [More](#)

About the editor

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