

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI Committee meeting will take place in Brussels [on 3-4 May 2017](#).

We will discuss and vote on objections against GMOs and best available techniques conclusions for large combustion plants. We will also discuss a report on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment. This proposal contributes to the circular economy and

to the protection of human health and the environment, including the environmentally sound recovery and disposal of EEE waste.

In the context of the 2018 EU Budget procedure, we will hold an exchange of views on our committee's budgetary priorities with Mr Siegfried Muresan, general rapporteur for the 2018 budget. We will also discuss cross-border healthcare with the Commission. Despite the strong potential benefits of this directive to EU citizens in terms of healthcare and patient empowerment, its results were mitigated due to uneven implementation and lack of information. Moreover, Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health & Food Safety, will debate with us the evaluation and implementation of the Commission Work Programme for 2017 and the priorities for the following year.

H.E. Mr Peter Thomson, President of the UN General Assembly, will present the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and we shall hold an exchange of views with the Commission and EFSA on the topic of vegetable oil.

Finally, as part of our work with the European agencies under our responsibility, we will hold our annual exchange of views with Dr Bernhard Url, executive director of EFSA.

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

29 - 30 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:

- Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment

Votes:

- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: GMO cotton GHB119
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: GMO maize DAS-40278-9
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: D050159- BAT conclusions

Exchanges of views:

- with Mr Siegfried Muresan, rapporteur for the EC budget (Section III)
- with the Commission on cross-border healthcare
- with Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health & Food Safety as part of the structured dialogue
- with H.E. Mr Peter Thomson, president of the UN General Assembly on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Ocean Conference
- with Dr Bernhard Url, Executive director of EFSA
- with the Commission and EFSA on vegetable oil

CONSIDERATIONS

Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment

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

EU legislation to restrict the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) (the so-called "RoHS Directive") contributes to reducing the risks to health and to the environment. The initial RoHS Directive (Directive 2002/95/EC or RoHS 1) was replaced in July 2011 by Directive 2011/65/EU, or RoHS 2.



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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](#).

On 26 January 2017, the Commission adopted a proposal amending the scope of the RoHS 2 to tackle ‘unintended side-effects’ of the Directive such as secondary market operations, repairing issues, discrepancies in treatment between similar types of Non-Road Mobile Machinery and the placement of pipe organs on the EU market.

The rapporteur welcomes the Commission’s legislative proposal as a necessary step to solve pressing issues linked to RoHS 2 and stresses that deeper changes should be the purpose of the general review of the Directive, to be carried out by the Commission by 22 July 2021. The draft report deals inter alia with the need for a legislative proposal, including a clear methodology, with an opinion of ECHA, and timelines for amending the list of restricted substances and of exemptions.

Rapporteur: [Völean \(EPP\)](#)

Shadows: [Kadenbach \(S&D\)](#), [Dohrmann \(ECR\)](#), [Huitema \(ALDE\)](#), [Kyllönen \(GUE/NGL\)](#), [Rivasi \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Pedicini \(EFDD\)](#), [D’Ornano \(ENF\)](#)

VOTES

Objection: GMO cotton GHB119

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

The draft measure authorises the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified cotton GHB119 (BCS-GHØØ5-8) pursuant to Regulation (EC) 1829/2003. Requirements for labelling and monitoring of environmental effects are introduced.

The objectors oppose the draft measure on the grounds that the act would exceed the implementing powers provided for in the basic act. They note that independent research has shown gaps as regards the toxicity risk assessment for this GMO. They also consider that authorising the import of GHB119 cotton into the Union will lead to an increase in its cultivation in other parts of the world, and to an increase in the use of glufosinate ammonium-based herbicides.

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

Shadows: [Ayuso \(EPP\)](#), [Huitema \(ALDE\)](#)

Objection: GMO maize DAS-40278-9

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

The draft measure authorises placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize DAS-40278-9, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. Requirements for labelling and monitoring of environmental effects are introduced.



The objectors oppose the draft measure on the grounds that the act would exceed the implementing powers provided for in the basic act. They note that independent research raises concerns about the risks

of the active ingredient of 2,4-D as regards embryo development, birth defects and endocrine disruption. They consider that authorising the import of DAS-40278-9 maize into the Union will undoubtedly lead to an increase in its cultivation in other parts of the world and to a corresponding increase in the use of 2,4-D and AOPP herbicides also.

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

Shadows: [Ayuso \(EPP\)](#), [Huitema \(ALDE\)](#)

Objection: D050159- BAT conclusions

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

Best available techniques (BAT) conclusions are the reference for setting permit conditions for installations covered by Chapter II of Directive 2010/75/EU. Competent authorities should set emission limit values which ensure that, under normal operating conditions, emissions do not exceed the levels associated with the BAT as laid down in the BAT conclusions. This draft implementing decision adopts the BAT conclusions for large combustion plants.

The objector opposes the draft measure on the grounds that the act exceeds the implementing powers provided for in the basic act. Concerning the emission levels for mercury and NO_x, the objector considers that a flawed database and an inaccurate technical derivation were used, and that the BAT-AEL does not satisfy the formal requirements for the process of the drawing up of the BAT conclusions.

Rapporteur: [Konečná \(GUE\)](#)

Shadows: [Belet \(EPP\)](#), [Gerbrandy \(ALDE\)](#)

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

Exchange of views with Mr Siegfried Muresan, rapporteur for the EC budget (Section III)

Siegfried MUREȘAN (EPP, RO), general rapporteur for the 2018 EU budget, placed the 2018 budget under the motto of ‘A Budget for growth, jobs and security’.

Among the budgetary concerns of the ENVI Committee: budget constraints affecting EU decentralised agencies in its remit, the possible budgetary implications of ‘Brexit’ on the agencies (in particular on the European Medicines Agency) and on EU funds and programmes in the fields of environment, public health and food safety, the necessity of sufficient funding for climate-related action, protection of biodiversity or programmes such as LIFE, the Health Programme and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

The consideration of the ENVI draft opinion on the 2018 budget will take place on 10 July, and the vote will take place on 31 August 2017.

Exchange of views with the Commission on cross-border healthcare

Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare came into force on 24 April 2011. The transposition

deadline for the Directive was 25 October 2013. Infringement proceedings were launched against 26 Member States on the grounds of late or incomplete notification of such measures.

The objective was to ensure clarity for EU citizens about their rights in a cross-border healthcare context and enshrining these principles in a legal framework. It was an important step towards patient empowerment.

However, the directive has failed to achieve some of its objectives and has produced only limited effects. This is in part due to the fact that awareness of general rights to reimbursement remains low, systems of prior authorisation are complicated, reimbursement tariffs are unjustifiably low, administrative requirements are burdensome and significant differences in the quality of National Contact Points persist.

Exchange of views with Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health & Food Safety as part of the structured dialogue



Every year, ENVI holds exchanges of views with the Commission on the Work Programme and the priorities for the following year. For the 2017 Work Programme, ENVI made the following requests:

- Mandatory indication of the country of origin for meat in processed foods and for certain other foods;
- Implementation of the Food Contact Materials Regulation especially in relation to specific measures for paper and board, varnishes and coatings, metals and alloys, printing inks and adhesives;
- Renewal of the EU Alcohol Strategy;
- Legislative proposals on Antimicrobial resistance and on package leaflets for pharmaceutical products (drug-fact-box);
- Revision of the Tissues and Cells Directive and the Advanced Therapies Regulation in line with the principle of unpaid donation;
- Legislative proposal on a European system for health technology assessment (HTA);

ENVI also expressed its concerns about the Commission proposal for a regulation regarding the possibility for Member States to restrict or prohibit the use of genetically modified food in its resolution of 28 October 2015. It also indicated the need for a strategic approach to pollution of water by pharmaceutical substances in line with the Water Framework Directive and Directive 2013/39/EU on priority substances in the field of water policy.

Exchange of views with H.E. Mr Peter Thomson, president of the UN General Assembly on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Ocean Conference

H.E. Mr Peter Thomson, President of the UN General Assembly, is firmly committed to pushing forward meaningful progress in the

implementation of each of the 2030 Agenda's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the 71st session.

He has been one of the initiators of the Ocean conference that will be held next 5-9 June which will finalise a strong Call for Action for the achievement of the goal set by SDG 14: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development".

The Exchange of view will allow President Thomson to address the Members in view of the ENVI delegation to the Ocean Conference and prior to the adoption in ENVI (20-21 June) of the report on "EU Action for sustainability".

Exchange of views with Dr Bernhard Url, Executive director of EFSA

This is the annual exchange of views with the Executive Director EFSA, Dr. Bernhard Url. Members will discuss the main issues of 2016 and the Programming Document 2017-2019. Selected activities 2016:

- Advances in risk assessment: work on several guidance documents; multi-annual project to assess bee stressors
- Outbreak assessments: lumpy skin disease, avian influenza, food-borne outbreaks
- Scientific advice on, inter alia, food hygiene in small enterprises and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- Evaluation of regulated products: re-evaluation of bisphenol A (BPA); food flavourings; feed additives (copper); GMOs; guidance documents on novel and traditional food from third countries; implementation of backlog reduction plan for MRLs.



Exchange of views with the Commission and EFSA on vegetable oil



On 3 May 2016, EFSA published a scientific opinion that concluded that glycerol-based process contaminants found in palm oil, but also in other vegetable oils, margarines and some processed foods, raised potential health concerns for consumers.

EFSA assessed the health risks of a number of substances which form during food processing, including glycidyl fatty acid esters (GE) and 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD). GE is generally considered to be genotoxic and carcinogenic, whilst lifetime exposure to 3-MCPD could pose risks to kidneys and the male reproductive system.

During this exchange of views, EFSA will be invited to take the floor to explain its main findings and the Commission will then be invited to explain how it intends to manage the potential risks for consumers from exposure to these substances in food.

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

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Poldep-Economy-Science@ep.europa.eu

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



Managing exposure to noise in Europe. Noise pollution poses a high risk to human health. This briefing presents updated estimates of the numbers of people exposed to environmental noise pollution in Europe. It also provides a new summary of the measures being used in Member States to manage noise. Road traffic remains by far the most important source of environmental noise: at least 100 million people are exposed to levels of traffic noise that exceed the European Union’s indicator of noise annoyance. [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA will organise an exhibition in the European Parliament, entitled ‘European Chemicals Agency - 10 years of implementing REACH’. The exhibition will highlight the contribution of ECHA in implementing

the EU’s ground-breaking chemicals legislation for the benefit of human health and the environment, as well as for innovation and competitiveness, in particular as part of the Agency’s mandate under the EU REACH Regulation. You can see the exhibition between 29 May and 2 June in the European Parliament ASP building, 1G Balcony area.

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



Lumpy skin disease outbreaks contained in south-east Europe. The mass vaccination of cattle implemented in south-eastern Europe successfully contained the outbreaks of lumpy

skin disease in the region in 2015-16. This is the main conclusion of an epidemiological analysis carried out by EFSA in cooperation with countries affected by the disease and those at risk. In this report,

experts made recommendations on how to improve data collection and analysis and also recommended laboratory confirmation of suspected cases in vaccinated animals to differentiate the strains. [More](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



ECDC supports actively the European Immunization Week (EIW) campaign from 24 to 30 April led by WHO/Europe. Vaccines can contribute to a longer healthy life, but there is still too much hesitancy and coverage is considered to be still too low. ECDC provides scientific evidence. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



New medicine for rare neurodegenerative disorder in children. EMA has recommended granting a marketing authorisation in the EU for Brineura (cerliponase alfa) for the treatment of a very rare, fatal neurodegenerative condition in children called neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis type 2 (CLN2) disease. Children with this disease are unable to produce enough of the enzyme tripeptidyl-peptidase 1, which plays a role in breaking down certain proteins inside the cells. This causes the build-up of protein deposits in the cells, including nerve cells, which damage tissues and lead to progressive degeneration of the brain and retina. There are currently no medicines approved for treatment of CLN2 disease. Current options only treat the symptoms of the disease. [More](#)

About the editor

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