

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI committee meeting will take place [on 21-22 June 2017](#) in Brussels.

Climate change and air pollution will top our agenda this week. We will discuss amendments to both the Gothenburg Protocol on long-range transboundary air pollution and the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer. In the same vein, we will consider a motion for resolution on the 2017 UN

COP23 on climate, which will take place in Bonn later this year.

These debates signal the EU's strong and continued commitment to making a substantial contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and thereby meeting the targets set in the Paris Agreement, in addition to ensuring a higher level of protection of human health and the environment.

We will also hold a joint ENVI-ITRE meeting, during which we shall discuss a draft report on Governance of the Energy Union. A strong Energy Union, with an ambitious climate policy, can only be achieved through a combination of coordinated action at EU and national level. To achieve this, we need strong Governance ensuring that policies are coherent, complementary and ambitious. We are happy to be collaborating on this topic with the Industry Committee, in order to send a strong indication of the Parliament's willingness to contribute to this effort.

Finally, we will vote on a draft report on EU Action for Sustainability. This important report takes stock of how the Commission's work programme affects the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals and ensures that they become an important feature of proposed initiatives taking place across all areas of the EU's work programme. This vote gives yet another strong signal that the European Parliament is fully committed to the realisation of the SDGs, echoing the spirit of our extraordinary joint meeting with the Development Committee on the SDGs two weeks ago.

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

[Adina-Ioana Vălean](#)

MEETING ITEMS

Votes:

- EU action for sustainability
- Agreement to amend the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, adopted in Kigali
- Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone
- 2017 UN Climate Change Conference – COP23 in Bonn, Germany (13-17 November 2017) - Oral Questions
- Whale hunting in Norway - Oral Question
- Objections pursuant to Rule 106: active substances thiamethoxam, imidacloprid and clothianidin

Considerations:

- Governance of the Energy Union (Joint ENVI-ITRE Committee meeting)
- 2017 UN Climate Change Conference – COP23 in Bonn, Germany (13-17 November 2017) - Draft Motion for a Resolution
- Common rules for the internal market in electricity (recast)

Exchanges of views with the Commission:

- Linking EU-ETS with Switzerland
- Implementation of Directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles for the periods 2008-2011 and 2011-2014
- REFIT on the Fuel Quality Directive
- Health effects of isoglucose

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

29 June 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.

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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](#).

VOTES

Agreement to amend the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, adopted in Kigali

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



At the 28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, which took place in Kigali in October 2016, the text of an amendment was adopted, adding a reduction of the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Although not ozone-depleting,

these greenhouse gases were mainly introduced to replace ozone-depleting substances that are phased out under the Protocol. The Amendment will enter into force on 1 January 2019 provided that at least 20 parties have deposited their instruments of ratification. In order to underline the EU's commitment and encourage developing countries to take early action, early approval is envisaged.

With the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 on fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gas) in 2014, the EU has anticipated the phase-down of HFCs now agreed under the Protocol. The implementation in the EU started in 2015 with a freeze and a first reduction step in 2016. The Rapporteur recommends that EP gives its consent to the conclusion of the agreement.

Rapporteur: [Konečná \(GUE\)](#)

Shadows: [Faria \(EPP\)](#), [Leinen \(S&D\)](#), [Duncan \(ECR\)](#), [Ries \(ALDE\)](#), [Auken \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Pedićini \(EFDD\)](#)

Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone

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

To improve air quality on the local, national and regional levels, Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) have been working together, for instance through the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), signed in 1979.

To date, it has been extended by eight protocols. The eighth protocol - the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone - is designed to reduce acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone. It entered into force on 17 May 2005. Several of its technical annexes were revised in 2012 and it is also the first binding agreement to include emission reduction commitments for fine particulate matter.

These amendments now need to be ratified by Parties to the Convention in order to make them binding. In the EU, the Gothenburg Protocol is implemented through the National Emission Ceilings (NEC) directive and the latest amendments will be implemented through the revised NEC directive, which entered into force on 31 December 2016.

The rapporteur considers that the ratification of the amendments will be an important step towards a higher level of protection of human

health and the environment from transboundary air pollution, and therefore welcomes the draft Council Decision and proposes that Parliament gives its consent.

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

Shadows: [Paolucci \(S&D\)](#), [Girling \(ECR\)](#), [Bearder \(ALDE\)](#), [Konečná \(GUE\)](#), [Eickhout \(Greens/EFA\)](#)

EU action for sustainability

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

In his draft report, the rapporteur welcomes the work undertaken by the Commission to take stock of how its work programme affects the delivery of the SDGs. It aims to ensure that adherence to the SDGs becomes a key feature of proposed initiatives taking place across all areas of the Union's work. The Rapporteur notably underlines that achieving the SDGs cannot be accomplished without consultation and the involvement of multiple layers of government and civil society.

In ENVI, 308 amendments were tabled, focusing on governance and future strategy, functioning of the multi-stakeholder platform, delivery of each SDG, interlinkages between them.

In addition to the amendments tabled in ENVI, 3 opinions have been adopted in the CULT, AGRI and DEVE Committees.

36 compromise amendments covering most of the issues have been negotiated.

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

Shadows: [Faria \(EPP\)](#), [Wiśniewska \(ECR\)](#), [Gerbrandy \(ALDE\)](#), [Eck \(GUE\)](#), [Javor \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Evi \(EFDD\)](#), [D'Ornano \(ENF\)](#)

Whale hunting in Norway

Vote on question for oral answer (see [meeting documents](#))



The International Whaling Commission (IWC) put in place a worldwide moratorium for commercial whaling in 1986. Nevertheless, Norway continued whaling using a formal objection to the moratorium as well as reservations to the CITES listings. Norway establishes

its own catch limits and for the whaling season 2017, it increased the quota of North Atlantic minke whales to 999 (up from 880 in 2016). Several NGOs have reported that Norway's exports of whale meat have increased sharply in recent years and some are shipped to Japan through EU ports.

Co-Rapporteurs: [Pietikainen \(EPP\)](#), [Briano \(S&D\)](#), [Demesmaeker \(ECR\)](#), [Bearder \(ALDE\)](#), [Hazekamp \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Taylor \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Evi \(EFDD\)](#)

Objections pursuant to Rule 106: active substances thiamethoxam, imidacloprid and clothianidin

Vote on motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))

The three draft implementing acts amend Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 (implementing Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market) in order to minimise the exposure of bees to the active substances thiamethoxam, imidacloprid and clothianidin. The Commission has concluded that further risks to bees cannot be excluded and that the

use of these substances has to be further restricted.

The objector opposes the draft measures on the grounds that the Commission has exceeded its implementing powers since these proposed restrictions have been made based on EFSA's 2016 evaluation of confirmatory data using the unapproved 'Bee Guidance Document'. She argues that any review of approval, according to Article 21 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, which is the legal basis for the draft acts, requires relevant, new scientific and technical knowledge warranting the conclusion that the approval criteria are not met anymore. However, she argues, it is not the case with the proposed measures. The objector also claims that the Commission violates the principle of proportionality by failing to demonstrate that the proposed measures are necessary to achieve the objectives and that the proposal could not be achieved by less burdensome measures.

Rapporteur: [Girling \(ECR\)](#)

CONSIDERATIONS

Governance of the Energy Union (joint ENVI-ITRE Committee meeting)

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

The Commission's proposal aims to establish a regulatory framework for the Governance of the Energy Union with two main pillars: (i) the streamlining and integration of existing planning, reporting and monitoring obligations in the energy and climate field. (ii) The definition of a robust political process between Member States and the Commission with close involvement of other EU institutions. The proposed Regulation contributes to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and ensures that requirements under the UNFCCC are integrated in the Governance of the Energy Union.

The rapporteurs' draft report contains **199 amendments**. The rapporteurs propose to establish an EU carbon budget consistent with pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. It is also proposed to establish a comprehensive strategy on methane emissions and to establish macro-regional partnerships that would draw up regional lists of cross-border renewable energy projects of Energy Union interest ('RPEI').

ENVI Rapporteur: [Rivasi \(Greens/EFA\)](#) - ITRE Rapporteur: [Turmes \(Greens/EFA\)](#)
ENVI Shadows: [Delahaye \(PPE\)](#), [Zorrinho \(S&D\)](#), [Duncan \(ECR\)](#), [Gerbrandy \(ALDE\)](#), [Konečná \(GUE\)](#), [Pedicini \(EFDD\)](#), [D'Ornano \(ENF\)](#)
ITRE Shadows: [Hökmark \(EPP\)](#), [Griffin \(S&D\)](#), [Tošenovský \(ECR\)](#), [Punset \(ALDE\)](#), [Ferreira \(GUE/NGL\)](#), [Tamburrano \(EFDD\)](#), [Schaffhauser \(ENF\)](#)

Common rules for the internal market in electricity (recast)

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

This recast is intended to adapt electricity markets to the new reality of power producers and consumers. Already today and still more in the future, electricity generation will consist of a variable mix of sources for which current rules have to be adapted.

The rapporteur mostly agrees with the Commission proposal but has

some remarks which are reflected in his amendments such as:

- more impact shall be given to market integration and related market functioning;
- fair conditions for participation of new entities on the market;
- renewables and demand side's efficient participation across borders is crucial;
- clear rules for new players on the market;
- duly ensure protection of vulnerable and energy poor consumers;
- fair rules for consumers on local energy communities;
- better linking wholesale and retail market in order to increase system flexibility and integration of renewables;
- Provide customers with all information for their participation in the market and for their choice of electricity service provider.

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

Shadows: [Pietikäinen \(EPP\)](#), [Duncan \(ECR\)](#), [Punset \(ALDE\)](#), [Kyllönen \(GUE/NGL\)](#), [Škrlec \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [D'Ornano \(ENF\)](#)

2017 UN Climate Change Conference – COP23 in Bonn, Germany (13-17 November 2017)

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



The Co-Sponsors present points for debate in order to define the European Parliament's position in view of the COP23 Climate Conference next November in Bonn, Germany. It addresses issues such as priority negotiation points, the ratification of the Paris Agreement, the role of non-state actors, comprehensive effort of all sectors, the climate finance and diplomacy, etc.

The draft resolution welcomes the unprecedented pace of ratifications and the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement. However, it also warns that even the ambitious targets do not guarantee that significant adverse climate impacts will be avoided. The draft also emphasizes the need for contribution of all sectors specifically aviation and maritime. It further expects that COP23 has a lot to deliver for the technical completion of the detailed implementing rules and on the design of the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue.

ITRE will contribute to the resolution with some paragraphs that will be put to the vote in ENVI.

Co-Rapporteurs: [Valean \(ENVI Chair\)](#), [Liese \(EPP\)](#), [Pargneaux \(S&D\)](#), [Duncan \(ECR\)](#), [Gerbrandy \(ALDE\)](#), [Torres Martínez \(GUE\)](#), [Affronte \(Greens\)](#), [Pedicini \(EFDD\)](#), [D'Ornano \(ENF\)](#)

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

Linking EU-ETS with Switzerland

After several years of negotiations, the European Commission has finalised negotiations on linking the EU ETS with Switzerland's. The Agreement sets out the institutional framework as well as the key

objectives and principles for linking them. It notably foresees that, once in force, participants in the EU ETS can use units from the Swiss system for compliance purposes and vice versa. The Council should adopt a Decision for the signature of the Agreement and it will only enter into force on the first of January following the deposit of the ratification instrument.

Implementation of Directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles for the periods 2008-2011 and 2011-2014

On 27 February 2017 the Commission published its report on the implementation of Directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles (ELV Directive). Member States have to report to the Commission on the implementation every three years. The Commission is required to publish its report based on the information within nine months.

The Commission concludes that the ELV Directive has been fully transposed by Member States, and that the implementation of the ELV Directive is mainly positive with the notable exception of the issue of unknown whereabouts. Targets for reuse/recycling/recovery are largely met. Also, the infrastructure for the treatment of ELVs has improved.

The exchange of views will allow Members to learn of the main findings of the report and to discuss recent developments, challenges and possible measures with the Commission.

REFIT on the Fuel Quality Directive



On 31 May 2017, the Commission published its Staff Working Document on the evaluation of Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels ('Fuel Quality Directive') (SWD(2017)0178).

The REFIT evaluation examined the actual implementation of the Fuel Quality Directive compared to what was expected and the degree to which it is still considered to be fit for purpose. It concludes that the

Directive is generally fit for purpose and should stay in place.

It is found effective in ensuring high levels of environmental and health protection and in ensuring that engines and after treatment systems are not affected when using fuels aligned with it. As regards coherence with the Renewable Energy Directive, no evidence was found suggesting that the biofuels blending limits in the Directive would be incoherent with the target on renewable energy use in transport.

The REFIT evaluation identified some points which deserve further consideration, primarily relating to the functioning of the internal market.

Health effects of isoglucose



On 11 April 2017, ENVI coordinators decided to invite the Commission to an exchange of views on the health effects of isoglucose, in the context of sugar quotas ending in September and the expected increase in isoglucose in the European diet, which has been linked to a number of health concerns.

The EU sugar quota system dates from 1968, However, in 2013, Council and Parliament agreed to abolish sugar quotas from 30 September 2017.

Besides the current EU production quota for beet sugar there is also a small quota for the competing sweetener isoglucose (a liquid sweetener used in the manufacturing of foods and drinks composed of glucose and fructose) which will also expire in September 2017.

After abolishment of the EU sugar production quota, isoglucose production is expected to more than triple between 2016 and 2025. As to its health impacts, EFSA, in a 2011 opinion, notes a possible link between high fructose intakes and certain diseases (inter alia obesity), acknowledging, however, that these effects are generally not observed at lower doses of fructose intake.

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications

- [Briefing on the UN Ocean Conference - June 2017](#)
- [Briefing on circular economy with focus on waste and renewable energy and sustainable bioenergy in Estonia](#)
- [Proceedings of the workshop on "Supporting the market for secondary raw materials"](#)

Upcoming Publications

- Briefing for ENVI delegation to IMO MEPC71
- Proceedings of the workshop on EU action to combat marine litter
- Study on Green Public Procurement and the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy

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NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency ([EEA](#))



Circular by design - Products in the circular economy. This report explores the circular economy from a product perspective, applying a systemic approach and transition theory. Drivers of product design and usage are discussed in the context of emerging consumption trends and business models. For governance to be effective, it has to address the product life-cycle and the societal context determining it. Indicators and assessment tools are proposed that can help fill the current data and knowledge gaps. [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency ([ECHA](#))



EU observatory for nanomaterials. ECHA published a new website that gives citizens, workers and professionals access to information on nanomaterials on the EU market in 23 languages. It is the first phase of the European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON). [More](#)

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



EFSA has opened a public consultation looking at the use of epidemiological studies in risk assessment of pesticides. The opinion examines the methodological limitations that affect the quality of such studies and makes recommendations on how to improve their quality and reliability. It also proposes a methodology for integrating epidemiological evidence with data from experimental

toxicology in pesticide risk assessment. The deadline for comments is 28 July 2017. [More](#)

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



New outbreaks of measles, a disease which was considered to be virtually "extinct" in several EU countries, continue to be a cause of concern to ECDC and national health authorities. The focus is here on Romania which had more than 6000 cases but now also western and southern Europe are affected. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency ([EMA](#))



Regulators in EU, Japan and US take steps to facilitate development of new antibiotics. EMA, the Japanese Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) and the United States' Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have agreed to align their data requirements for certain aspects of the clinical development of new antibiotics in order to stimulate the development of new treatments to fight antimicrobial resistance and protect global public health. Representatives from the three regulatory agencies met in Vienna on 26-27 April 2017 and discussed recommendations for the design of clinical trials that test new treatments for certain types of bacterial infections, including infections caused by multi-drug resistant organisms. They identified a number of areas where the data requirements in the three regions could be streamlined. [More](#)

About the editor

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