The next ENVI meetings will take place on the 7th of September, in Brussels, and on the 11th of September, in Strasbourg.

In the context of the “Clean Energy” package, we will vote on proposals related to the energy performance of buildings and energy efficiency.

In preparation of the November COP23 Climate Conference in Bonn, we will hold a vote on a motion for resolution, addressing the EU’s core priorities and the need for a comprehensive effort of all stakeholders.

On Monday in Strasbourg, Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, will appear before the ENVI Committee to present and discuss the urgent topic of illegal use of fipronil on some poultry farms. On that day we will also consider – in a joint meeting with the Industry committee - the proposals on the Governance of the Energy Union.


Adina-Ioana Vălean

Votes:
• 2017 UN Climate Change Conference - COP23 in Bonn
• Energy performance of buildings
• Energy efficiency
• Objection: Import of feed and food from Japan following the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power station
• Measures applicable in the Convention Area of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)
• Multiannual plan for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks

Considerations:
• Governance of the Energy Union
• European Solidarity Corps
• Progress Report on the implementation of the European Disability Strategy (2010 - 2020)
• The role of EU regions and cities in implementing the COP 21 Paris Agreement on climate change

Exchange of views:
• with Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health & Food Safety, on illegal use of Fipronil in poultry farms

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee
28 September 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 Department, 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. The European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) provides research publications in the area of environment, public health and food safety. You can find all the latest publications on the European Parliament website’s Think Tank pages.
Energy performance of buildings

Vote on draft opinion (see meeting documents)

This proposal to amend Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings is part of the Commission’s “Clean Energy” package. It has a particular link with the proposal to amend the Energy Efficiency Directive (Directive 2012/27/EU). The proposal integrates the provisions of the Energy Efficiency Directive on long-term building renovation strategies in a new Article 2a, encourages the use of ICT and smart technologies and introduces the obligatory provision of infrastructure for e-mobility.

In her draft opinion, the Rapporteur introduces an obligation to ensure that energy performance upgrades also contribute to a healthy indoor environment. She proposes to replace the obligation to provide recharging points for electric vehicles in new and renovated non-residential buildings and pre-cabling in new and renovated residential buildings by an obligation to provide ducting to enable the installation of recharging points.

322 amendments have been submitted to the draft opinion. 25 compromise amendments have been negotiated, mostly supported by all groups.

Rapporteur: Jákšteinnmáki (ALDE)
Shadows: Florenz (EPP), Zoffoli (S&D), Dobrman (ECR), Torres Martínez (GUE), Harms (Greens/EFA), Eul (EFDD), D’Ornano (ENF)

Energy efficiency

Vote on draft opinion (see meeting documents)

This is linked to the above proposal on the energy performance of buildings. As its key element, the proposal expands the timeline of the existing legal framework and intends to establish a 30% energy efficiency target for 2030 at EU level. It maintains the 1.5% per year increase rate in energy savings, and allows the use of both energy efficiency obligation schemes and alternative measures.

In her draft opinion, the Rapporteur inter alia proposes measures that would lead to a projected 47% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in the EU compared to 1990 levels. She however stresses that efforts towards reaching net carbon neutrality by 2050 need to be pursued, and the EU’s commitment to energy efficiency to be continued beyond 2030.

280 amendments have been tabled, including 39 in the draft opinion. 18 compromise amendments have been agreed covering the vast majority of tabled AMs.

Rapporteur: Guteland (S&D)
Shadows: Belet (EPP), Wilniewska (ECR), Mazuronis (ALDE), Konénd (GUE/NGL), Javor (Greens/EFA), Pedicini (EFDD), Goddyn (ENF)

2017 UN Climate Change Conference - COP23 in Bonn

Vote on the draft motion for resolution (see meeting documents)

The Co-Sponsors present in the draft resolution a number of points for debate in order to define the position of the European Parliament in view of the COP23 Climate Conference next November in Bonn, Germany. The draft resolution addresses issues such as the ratification of the Paris Agreement and implementation of commitments, the priority negotiation points in COP23, the role of non-state actors, the comprehensive effort of all sectors, the climate finance, the climate resilience through adaptation, the climate 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 of the agreement do not guarantee that significant adverse climate impacts will be avoided calling for global GHG emissions having to reach their peak as soon as possible and for the NDCs to be upgraded in the context of the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue. The draft also emphasizes the contribution of all sectors specifically those of international aviation and maritime, as currently efforts are ongoing in that area via ICAO and IMO. It further expects that COP23 in Bonn has a lot to deliver for the technical completion of the detailed implementing rules and on the design of the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue.

183 AMs were tabled, 7 compromise amendments agreed. The ITRE contribution contains 16 amendments.

Co-sponsors: Valean (EPP), Linier (EPP), Pargneaux (S&D), Ciriglino (ECR), Gerbrandt (ALDE), Torres Martinez (GUE), Afrontie (Greens), Pedicini (EFDD)

CONSIDERATIONS

European Solidarity Corps

Consideration of draft opinion (see meeting documents)

This proposal provides the legal framework for the European Solidarity Corps in order to offer opportunities for young people to engage in solidarity activities and consequently to contribute to addressing unmet societal needs, while enhancing young people’s personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. Solidarity activities could be developed in various areas, including environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, etc.

The European Solidarity Corps funding foresees mobilisation of funds from different EU sources, including the LIFE sub-programmes for Environment and Climate Action and from the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.
In her draft opinion, the Rapporteur considers that it is vital to encourage and help to engage young people, severely hit by the economic crisis and hence more vulnerable, in every type of measure aimed at improving systems and policies within a context of solidarity, since that helps to strengthen the culture of human rights on which the EU is built.

She commends the Commission for making special provision for disadvantaged young people as regards access to the voluntary training programme, which must not under any circumstances, replace paid work or those traineeships that are regulated by the relevant local laws and intended to lead to employment contracts.

The Rapporteur believes that the social partners and all civil society stakeholders have to be involved in the ex ante assessment of the programme and in activating, supervising, and monitoring it.

Rapporteur: Florence (GUE/NGL)
Shadows: Gambús (EPP), Kadenbach (S&D), Gerbrandy (ALDE), Eckhout (Greens/EFA), D'Omano (ENF)

Objection: Import of feed and food from Japan following the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power station

Consideration and vote on motion for a resolution (see meeting documents)

Following the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power station special conditions governing the import of feed and food originating in or consigned from Japan were laid down in implementing Regulation 2016/6. This draft measure amends Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2016/6, and provides that based on the data submitted by the Japanese authorities, for feed and food products originating in the prefecture of Fukushima, it is appropriate to lift the requirement of sampling and analysis before export to the Union for rice and products derived thereof. The objectors oppose the draft measure on the grounds that the Commission’s draft proposal now only requires that a limited list of food and feed from twelve prefectures be accompanied by a declaration from the Japanese authorities attesting that the products comply with the maximum contamination limits in force in Japan. The objectors state that once amended as proposed by the Commission, Implementing Regulation 2016/6 will no longer require that Member States inform the Commission every three months through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed of all analytical results.

Furthermore, the objectors state this draft proposal deletes, without justification, from Annex II, rice and derived products from Fukushima prefecture, which means that there will no longer be any obligation on Japanese authorities to attest to their compliance with maximum radioactive contamination levels. The draft motion for a resolution calls on the Commission, when drafting its new proposal, to, inter alia, make sure that all food and feed imported from Japan into the Union, are subject to controls and verification, to ensure that there is no corresponding negative impact on the levels of radioactive contamination of imported food and feed into the Union, as well as to make immediately publicly available, the analysis on which it based its draft proposa.

Co-Rapporteur: Rivasi (Greens/EFA), Schaldemus (S&D), Ries (ALDE), Boylan (GUE), Pedicini (EFDD), Pietikainen

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

Consideration of amendments (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.

1500 amendments have been tabled, in addition to the draft report’s 199 amendments. Amendments touch upon macro-regional partnerships, targets in the RES and energy efficiency files, the implementation of the Paris agreement, as well as the link with the LULUCF and non-ETS provisions.

ENVI Rapporteur: Rivasi (Greens/EFA), ITRE Rapporteur: Turmes (Greens/EFA)
ENVI Shadows: Delahaye (PPE), Zorzinho (S&D), Barekov (ECR), Gerbrandy (ALDE), Konečná (GUE), Pedicini (EFDD), D’Omano (ENF)
ITRE Shadows: Hämmerl (EPP), Griffin (S&D), Tolonen (ECR), Punnset (ALDE), Ferreira (GUE/NGL), Tamburrano (EFDD), Schaffhauser (ENF)

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Exchange of views with Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health & Food Safety, on illegal use of Fipronil in poultry farms

On 11 September, the ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with Commissioner Andriukaitis on the illegal use of Fipronil insecticide in poultry farms and the related egg contamination incident. Fipronil, used to control fleas, lice and ticks, is currently not authorised in the EU for use on animals destined for human consumption. Despite these restrictions, chicken eggs distributed to 22 EU countries, Switzerland, Hong Kong and South Korea were found to contain Fipronil in July/August 2017 and had to be taken off the market. The debate will focus on the problems encountered, notably in the functioning of the EU’s early warning system (RASFF – Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) and the possible solutions.
Recent Publications

- Briefing on biofuels for ENVI delegation to Porto Marghera refinery
- Study on Green Public Procurement and the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy

Upcoming Publications

- Briefing on climate and energy policies in Poland for ENVI delegation to Warsaw
- Briefing on the 1st Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on mercury

Upcoming Events

- Workshop on Autoimmune diseases – modern diseases (25.09.17, 4-6 pm)
- Workshop on the first results of the LIFE programme 2014-2020 (10.10.17)

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

European Environment Agency (EEA)

Signal 2017: Shaping the future of energy in Europe.

In many ways energy powers our lives and we depend on a reliable supply of energy at an affordable price, but at what cost to our environment? The European Environment Agency’s Signals 2017 looks into Europe’s energy system and its transition towards clean, smart and renewable energy. More

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

Updating REACH registrations: An external report on dossier updates, commissioned by ECHA, suggests that more clarity is needed on how the registration process works, what needs to be updated and by whom in order for more companies to submit new information on the safe use of their chemicals. More

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

EFSA has updated its 2011 advice on the risks for human and animal health from pyrrolizidine alkaloids, a large group of toxins produced by different plant species that can unintentionally enter the food chain. Exposure to pyrrolizidine alkaloids in food, in particular for frequent and high consumers of tea and herbal infusions, is a possible long-term concern for human health due to their potential carcinogenicity. The consumption of food supplements based on pyrrolizidine alkaloid-producing plants could also result in exposure levels causing short-term toxicity resulting in adverse health effects. More

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

A recent report on the results of the EU-funded ARNA ('Antimicrobial resistance and the causes of non-prudent use of antibiotics') project highlights that in Europe 7% of all antibiotics used in 2016 were taken without prescription, the two main sources being over-the-counter (OTC) sales and use of leftover antibiotics. The ARNA project, which was carried out under a contract with the European Commission from July 2014 to June 2016, aimed at enhancing prudent use of antibiotics in the EU, mainly focusing on the reasons for use of antibiotics without a prescription and actions to prevent such use. More

European Medicines Agency (EMA)

The European Commission, the United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and EMA have signed a new confidentiality commitment that allows the US regulator to share non-public and commercially confidential information, including trade secret information relating to medicine inspections with EU regulators. This confidentiality commitment is a milestone in the ongoing implementation of the mutual recognition of inspections of medicine manufacturers and it aims to strengthen the EU-US relationship. More

About the editor

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