

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI meeting will take place on the 24th and on the 25th of January, in Brussels, with a busy agenda which includes votes on key legislation in several ENVI Committee policy areas, and exchanges of views with Bulgarian Presidency ministers, and with the Parliament's representative on Brexit matters.

The first ever Bulgarian presidency of the Council of the EU started on 1 January this year. On 24 January we will welcome to the ENVI Committee Mr Neno Dimov, the Bulgarian Minister of Environment and Water, to discuss the priorities of the Presidency in the areas of interest for our Committee, and similarly, on 25 January we will exchange views with Mr Kiril Ananiev, the Bulgarian Minister of Health.

In December 2016 the Commission proposed to replace the Spirit Drinks Regulation with a new regulation, in order to align EU legislation on spirit drinks to certain changes introduced by the Lisbon Treaty, as well as to replace procedures for protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks with new ones, updated to quality schemes applied to agricultural products. We will vote on the draft report on this proposal. The Rapporteur supports the proposed alignment, while stressing the need for the Parliament's current rights to be maintained.

In the context of the climate package measures, we will vote on the provisional agreement following the interinstitutional negotiations held last year for the Effort sharing Regulation, and for the Land use, land-use change and forestry Regulation. These acts are decisive steps forward in the implementation of the EU's commitments under the Paris Agreement.

In addition, we will discuss a draft motion for resolution on vaccine hesitancy and drop in vaccination rates in Europe. The draft resolution calls for a major role to be played by the EU in addressing vaccine hesitancy. While vaccine hesitancy has a direct consequence - the return of diseases which were considered to be eradicated - addressing this hesitancy correctly requires an understanding of its possible root causes.

On 24 January we will also exchange views with Mr Guy Verhofstadt, the Parliament's Brexit coordinator, and with Members of the Brexit Steering Group on the progress made so far in the negotiations and on the next steps, with focus on the areas falling within ENVI's remit.

Finally, Ms Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, will appear before the ENVI Committee to discuss the follow up to the recommendations made by the Inquiry Committee into emission measurements in the automotive sector, which investigated alleged contraventions or maladministration in the application of Union law in that area. Our discussion with Commissioner Bieńkowska comes in the context of a number of developments in this priority policy area, such as the

conclusion of the revision of the Type Approval Framework Directive, or the new CO₂ Emissions and Cars legislative proposal.

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

[Adina-Ioana Vălean](#) -

Brussels - 23 January 2018

MEETING ITEMS

Votes:

- Monitoring and reporting of CO₂ emissions from and fuel consumption of new heavy-duty vehicles
- Definition, presentation and labelling of spirit drinks
- Binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 for a resilient Energy Union and to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement
- Inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry into the 2030 climate and energy framework
- Vaccine hesitancy and drop in vaccination rates in Europe
- The next MFF: Preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020
- A European strategy on Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems
- European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2018
- 2016 discharge: EU general budget - Commission, European Medicines Agency, European Food Safety Authority, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, European Environment Agency, European Chemicals Agency

Results of the votes of the last ENVI meeting are available [here](#).

Considerations:

- Charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures
- Location of the seat of the European Medicines Agency
- Towards a sustainable and competitive European aquaculture sector: current status and future challenges
- Implementation of CAP young farmers' tools in the EU after the 2013 reform

Exchange of views:

- with Mr Neno Dimov, Minister of Environment and Water, Bulgarian Presidency
- with Mr Guy Verhofstadt and other members of the Brexit Steering group on the UK's withdrawal from the EU
- with Ms Elżbieta Bieńkowska, European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs on Follow-up to EMIS recommendations under ENVI remit
- with Mr Kiril Ananiev, Minister of Health, Bulgarian Presidency

ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

- Cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments

VOTES

Monitoring and reporting of CO₂ emissions from and fuel consumption of new heavy-duty vehicles

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

In 2014, GHG emissions from heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) represented 5% of total EU emissions, a fifth of all transport emissions and about a quarter of road transport emissions. Moreover, CO₂ emissions and fuel consumption from new HDVs placed on the EU market have so far neither been certified, nor monitored and reported. The Rapporteur welcomes this legislative proposal, while stressing the need to clarify the relationship between the proposal for a regulation on monitoring and reporting, and the proposal for a regulation on certification, in particular as regarding the scope of each. He also calls on the Commission to prepare without delay a schedule clearly setting out when and how the Vehicle Energy Consumption calculation Tool (VECTO) software will apply to various HDV types not yet covered, including all buses, some types of lorries and trailers, electric and hybrid HDVs and those using alternative fuels that will be available on the market. 224 amendments have been submitted to this draft report. 12 compromise amendments have been negotiated, replacing 106 amendments.

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

Shadows: [Fjellner](#) (EPP), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Torvalds](#) (ALDE), [Flanagan](#) (GUE/NGL), [Harms](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Mélán](#) (ENF)



Definition, presentation and labelling of spirit drinks

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



This proposal aligns EU legislation on spirit drinks with the Lisbon Treaty. In addition, it contains minor technical adjustments of such legislation and it replaces the existing procedures for the management of geographical indications in the spirit drinks sector, with new procedures modelled on the

more exhaustive and well tested procedures for agricultural products and foodstuffs. 43 compromises have been tabled covering a big range of issues including the protection for geographical indications referred to goods entering the customs territory of the Union without being released for free circulation, the delegation of powers, the definition of the origin of a spirit drink, the procedure applicable for spirits intended for export, traditional practice.

Rapporteur: [Ayuso](#) (EPP)

Shadows: [Melior](#) (S&D), [Piecha](#) (ECR), [Müller](#) (ALDE), [Boylan](#) (GUE), [Staes](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD), [Goddyn](#) (ENF)

Effort Sharing Regulation

Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations (see [meeting documents](#))

This legislative proposal is part of the climate package presented by the Commission on 20 July 2016. It is the follow-up to the Effort Sharing Decision which established national emission targets for Member States in the non-ETS sectors between 2013 and 2020. ENVI adopted its report in May 2017 and the plenary negotiating mandate was obtained on 14 June 2017. At the third informal trilogue, which took place on 13 December 2017, Parliament, Council and Commission were able to agree on several compromise proposals on, among others, the Regulation title, inclusion of wetlands under the LULUCF flexibility, Union funding, review, delegated and implementing acts. The discussions focused, however, on the provisions relating to the annual emissions levels and trajectory, banking, adjustments, reserve, scope, long-term trajectory, ETS flexibility and compliance. Despite a constructive dialogue, negotiations stalled on the annual emission allocations and trajectory. Following a new offer from the Estonian Presidency to move the starting date to 1 June 2019, to reduce the size of the reserve from 115 to 105 million tonnes and to include text providing that the risk of any possible build-up in surplus will have to be taken into account in the review of the Regulation, the deal was accepted by the rapporteur and a majority of shadow rapporteurs. COREPER endorsed the text on 17 January.

Rapporteur: [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE)

Shadows: [Ayuso](#) (EPP), [Dalli](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Jalkh](#) (ENF)

LULUCF Regulation

Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations (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 (GHG) and removals from land use, land use-change and forestry (LULUCF) into the 2030 climate and energy framework. The ENVI Committee adopted its report in July 2017 and the plenary negotiating mandate was obtained on 13/09/2017. The Council adopted its General Approach on 13/10/2017. At the third informal trilogue on 14/12/2017, a political agreement covering all the outstanding issues was found. For forestry, the compromise includes the managed forest land flexibility proposed by Council, and on forest reference levels, the agreement includes compromise text on how they should be determined, and specifies that they should be based on a 2000-2009 reference period, and that they should be established by means of delegated acts. The package also includes a compromise on wetlands, by which accounting for this sector will become mandatory for the 2026-2030 period, unless the co-legislators postpone the mandatory inclusion by five years.



Rapporteur: [Lins](#) (EPP)

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

Vaccine hesitancy and drop in vaccination rates in Europe

Vote on question for oral answer and consideration of draft motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))



Widespread vaccine hesitancy has become a worrying phenomenon due to the range of health-related consequences it causes in the Member States. In the draft Oral Questions the Co-Authors call, among others, for a fully comprehensive EU Action Plan raising the social problem of vaccine hesitancy as well as for measures to tackle the spread of unreliable, misleading and unscientific information on vaccination.

Co-rapporteurs: [Sommer](#) (EPP), [Gentile](#) (S&D), [Piecha](#) (ECR), [Meissner](#) (ALDE), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Affronte](#) (Greens), [D'Ornano](#) (EFDD)

CONSIDERATIONS

Location of the seat of the European Medicines Agency

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

The EMA has its seat in London. On 29 March 2017 the UK notified to the European Council of its intention to leave the Union, and on 20 November 2017, the 27 remaining Member States, in the margins of the General Affairs Council (Art. 50), selected Amsterdam as the new seat of EMA. The Commission proposal seeks to amend Regulation 726/2004 to insert the location of the seat. The amendment would allow a headquarters agreement to be concluded and possible pre-financing of the costs associated to the move before the financial settlement with the UK.

Rapporteur: [La Via](#) (EPP)
Shadows: [Borzan](#) (S&D), [Krupa](#) (ECR), [Ries](#) (ALDE), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Auken](#) (Greens/EFA)

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency

Bulgaria took over the Presidency from Estonia on 1 January 2018. It forms a trio with Estonia and Austria. ENVI members will hold an exchange with Neno Dimov Minister of Environment and Water on the ENVI priorities for the Bulgarian presidency. The main priorities in the area of climate and environmental policy will be the circular economy and eco-innovation. The improvement of air quality and better regulation will also feature among its focus areas.



On the same day ENVI members will also exchange views with Kiril Ananiev, Minister of Health of Bulgaria. In the area of healthcare, Bulgaria will focus on the topics of a healthy diet for children and the need for proven effectiveness and affordability of medicines.

Exchange of views on the UK's withdrawal from the EU

On 28 November 2017, ENVI held a public hearing on "The impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on the environment, public health and food safety". Concerns about the possible impacts of the UK's withdrawal on areas falling within ENVI's remit were voiced and Members considered that it would be helpful to transmit these concerns to Mr Verhofstadt, the EP Brexit Coordinator, and to other Members of the Brexit Steering Group, as well as to the EU negotiator. Mr Verhofstadt, together with Mr Brok and Mr Gualtieri (Members of the Brexit Steering Group) were therefore invited to discuss these concerns.



Exchange of views with Commissioner Bieńkowska, on follow-up to EMIS recommendations under ENVI remit



Elżbieta Bieńkowska, European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, and Entrepreneurship was invited to the ENVI committee for an exchange of views on the Commission's follow-up to the Recommendations of the Inquiry Committee into emission measurements in the automotive sector Committee (EMIS). The EMIS Committee had a one-year mandate to investigate alleged contraventions or maladministration in the application of Union law in relation to emissions measurement in that sector. It adopted on 28 February 2017 a report with conclusions and recommendations endorsed by the plenary on 4 April 2017.

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications

- [Workshop proceedings on "Complementary and alternative therapies for patients today and tomorrow"](#)
- [Briefing on "Personalised Medicine – Current Status"](#)
- [Workshop proceedings on "An Urgent Strong Antimicrobial Action Plan"](#)
- [Workshop proceedings on "Autoimmune diseases – modern diseases"](#)

Upcoming Publications

- Workshop proceedings on "Limits and potential of the public health programme"
- Briefing on the IMO MEPC72 meeting

Upcoming Events

- Workshop on Climate Diplomacy, together with AFET (20/2/18, tbc)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency ([EEA](#))

Renewable energy in Europe – 2017 Update: Recent growth and knock-on effects. The report outlines the progress renewable energy sources (RES) made in 2015 in the European Union (EU) as a whole, and at country, market sector and technology level. It also provides early EEA estimates regarding developments at all of these levels in 2016. The report confirms that the EU remains on track to reach its 20 % RES share target for 2020, despite RES growth across the EU having recently slowed. [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency ([ECHA](#))

ECHA to prepare restriction proposals for oxo-plastics and for intentionally added microplastic particles to consumer or professional use products of any kind. ECHA was asked by the European Commission to prepare these proposals, to support the Commission's plastics strategy, which was made public on 16 January 2018. [More](#)

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

EFSA has opened a public consultation on its draft guidance for the risk assessment of nanoscience and nanotechnology applications in the food and feed chain, which covers the relevant areas such as novel foods, food contact materials, food and feed additives, and pesticides. The new document takes account of scientific developments that have taken place since previous guidance in 2011, particularly new insights into exposure assessment and hazard characterisation of nanomaterials. It also considers nano-specific considerations relating to in vivo/in vitro toxicological studies. [More](#)

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

Measles outbreaks continue to occur in a number of EU/EEA countries, and there is a risk of spread and sustained transmission in areas with susceptible populations. Since the beginning of 2016, 49 deaths due to measles have been reported in the EU. New data published on 12/01/2018 by ECDC in the [Communicable Disease Threat Report](#) show that the highest number of measles cases since 1/01/2017 were reported in Romania (8 274), Italy (4 885) and Germany (919). The spread of measles across Europe is due to suboptimal vaccination coverage in many EU/EEA countries: of all measles cases reported during the one-year period 1/12/2016 - 30/11/2017 with known vaccination status, 87% were not vaccinated. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency ([EMA](#))

Additional reports on decision-making for orphan medicines. EMA published an "orphan maintenance assessment report" for every orphan-designated medicine which has been recommended for marketing authorisation by the Agency. This initiative addresses requests by stakeholders. The new report summarises the reasoning of the Agency's Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP) on whether or not a medicine designated as an orphan medicine during its development still fulfils the designation criteria at the time of its authorisation (ie Is an orphan medicine still an orphan once it gets on the market?). This is the precondition for it to benefit from ten year market exclusivity, one of the incentives of the EU orphan programme. [More](#)

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee : 1 February 2018 (Brussels);
Future meetings: [2018 meeting dates](#).

Watch online the Committee meeting on the [EP web site](#) or on [Europarl TV](#).
Past meetings are available: [EP Live multimedia library](#) and you can also download the extracts of speeches.

More information: envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu or [website](#) of the ENVI Committee.

About the editor: European Parliament, Directorate General for Internal Policies of the Union, Secretariat of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety - Responsible administrators: Giacomo Fassina, Ioana-Alice Postu. Responsible assistants: Irena Aramina, Elise Hancotte.

Legal disclaimer: The items contained herein are drafted by the ENVI Committee Secretariat and are provided for general information purposes only. The content is indicative and subject to changes. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the ENVI Committee. The newsletter contains links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The ENVI Committee does not necessarily endorse the views expressed on these websites.

Subscription: Please send an email to envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu.
To sign up for ENVI committee press releases or for media enquiries, please write to envi-press@europarl.europa.eu

Further information sources: The EP Policy Departments [publish](#) studies, notes, information notes and workshop proceedings; To request a hard copy of any publication please contact Poldep-Economy-Science@europarl.europa.eu. 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.