ENVI

European Parliament

Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

CHAIR'S WELCOME

The next ENVI meeting will take place on the 19th and 20th of February, in Brussels, and it will include amongst others, a number of debates on the EU's work in the field of public health.

Patients' timely access to innovative health tools is essential, and in that regard, cooperation at EU level in the area of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) should serve citizens' best interest. Commissioner Andriukaitis will appear before the ENVI Committee to present the Commission proposal on HTA which was adopted in January this year.

In the framework of the bi-annual exchange of views on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan, Vice-President Katainen is invited to report on the progress achieved in the implementation of that plan, meant to transform Europe's economy into a more sustainable one. We will also welcome the Director of the European Environment Agency with whom we will discuss the EEA Work Programme for 2018, which includes activities such as support analysis of progress towards a circular economy, or support on reporting by countries and companies in the field of industrial emissions.

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) established in 1993 by the EU, provides information on the consequences of drug addiction, it monitors public health implications of increased drug availability, as well as implications of the new psychoactive substances. We will exchange views with the Director of the EMCDDA on the Agency's work, taking into consideration its two core areas, health and security.

The debate over the legalization of cannabis has been on the political sphere for years, and due, inter alia, to the proliferation of cannabis clubs, it appears again. We will discuss with the Commission about the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes, and about the possible need for regulation of medicinal cannabis in Europe.

Lastly, we will vote on a draft motion for a resolution calling for an end to animal testing for cosmetics, on two objections to Commission implementing acts authorising genetically modified maize, and on an objection to the Commission delegated act on traceability system for tobacco products.

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 - 19 February 2018

MEETING ITEMS

*Results of the votes of the last ENVI meeting are available **here**.*

Votes:

- Introducing Community measures for the control of Newcastle disease
- A global end to animal testing for cosmetics
- Objection: Key elements of data storage contracts to be concluded as part of a traceability system for tobacco products
- Objection: genetically modified maize MON 87427 × MON 89034 × NK603 and genetically modified maize combining two of the events MON 87427, MON 89034 and NK603
- Objection: genetically modified maize 59122 (DAS-59122-7)

Considerations:

- State of EU-China relations

Exchange of views:

- with Mr Alexis Goosdeel, director of European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) on the work of the Agency
- with the Commission on the use of Cannabis for medicinal purposes
- with Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety on Health Technology Assessment
- with Mr Jyrki Katainen, Vice President of the Commission responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, on the Implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan
- with Mr Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency
- with the Commission on the Standards and Recommended Practices relating to the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)

ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

- Definition, presentation and labelling of spirit drinks and protection of geographical indications thereof

VOTES

Introducing Community measures for the control of Newcastle disease

Vote on draft report (see *meeting documents*)

The current European Reference Laboratory (EURL) for Newcastle disease is located in the United Kingdom. Hence, it needs to be replaced by an EURL located in one of the other 27 Member States in view of the United Kingdom exiting the EU. An aligned and simplified decision procedure is urgently needed to enable the new EURL to be properly functioning by the date when the United

Kingdom will exit the EU. The Rapporteur presents one amendment in order to improve the possibilities for the Commission to designate an EURL located in one of the other 27 Member States before end of April. All in all 4 amendments have been tabled in ENVI to the report.

Rapporteur: Valean (EPP)
Shadows: Girling (ECR), Gerbrandy (ALDE), Eck (GUE)

CONSIDERATIONS

State of EU-China relations

Consideration of draft opinion (see *meeting documents*)

In his draft opinion, the rapporteur welcomes the reforms undertaken by China since the launch of its 'ecological civilisation' approach, welcomes China's 2016 action plan to tackle antimicrobial resistance and encourages the Union and China to join forces to move towards a more sustainable agro-food production and consumption system that will improve global food security, safety and traceability. The rapporteur points out that the Union and China are heavily dependent on fossil fuels and underlines their mutual interest in promoting low-carbon development and addressing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in transparent, public and well-regulated energy markets.

Rapporteur: Eck (GUE)
Shadows: Faria (EPP), Leinen (S&D) Girling (ECR), Jäätteenmäki (ALDE) Eickhout (Greens/EFA), Goddyn (ENF)

Objection: Key elements of data storage contracts to be concluded as part of a traceability system for tobacco products

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

Tobacco Products Directive 2014/40/EU (TPD) provides for the establishment of a traceability system to address the issue of illicit trade in tobacco products. All unit packets of tobacco products produced in, destined for or placed on the EU market are to be marked with a unique identifier in order for their movements to be recorded. This will enable such products to be tracked and traced throughout the supply chain. The objector considers that the tracking and tracing system as proposed is neither fully under the control of the Member States nor of the Commission, that it is not independent from the tobacco industry, and goes beyond what is strictly necessary for the implementation of the system as stated in the FCTC Protocol.

Rapporteur: Omarjee (GUE/NGL)
Shadows: Ries (ALDE)

Objection: authorisation for genetically modified maize MON 87427 × MON 89034 × NK603 and genetically modified maize combining two of the events MON 87427, MON 89034 and NK603

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

The objectors oppose the draft act - -on the grounds that it exceeds the implementing powers provided for in the basic act. Maize MON 87427 × MON 89034 × NK603 (and subcombinations) is resistant to lepidopteran insects and tolerant to glyphosate-containing herbicides. Glufosinate is classified as toxic to reproduction. Questions over the carcinogenicity of glyphosate remain. The objectors state that this GM maize was created to combat problems arising from an increasing number of herbicide resistant weeds in countries where genetically engineered plants are cultivated. However, the residues from spraying with the complementary herbicides were not assessed.

Co-Rapporteurs: Staes (Greens/EFA), Balas (S&D), Mazuronis , Boylan (GUE/NGL), Evi (EFDD), Pietikäinen
Shadows: Huitema (ALDE)

Objection: renewal of authorisation of genetically modified maize 59122 (DAS-59122-7)

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

The objectors oppose the draft Decision on the grounds that it exceeds the implementing powers provided for in the basic act. The draft resolution states that Maize 59122 is resistant to the corn borer and tolerant to glufosinate ammonium-based herbicides. Glufosinate is classified as toxic to reproduction. Questions over the carcinogenicity of glyphosate remain. The objectors state that GM maize 59122 was created to combat problems arising from an increasing number of herbicide resistant weeds in countries where genetically engineered plants are cultivated. However, the residues from spraying with the complementary herbicides were not assessed.

Co-Rapporteurs: Staes (Greens/EFA), Balas (S&D), Mazuronis., Boylan (GUE/NGL), Evi (EFDD), Pietikäinen
Shadows: Huitema (ALDE)

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Exchange of views with Mr Alexis Goosdeel, director of European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) on the work of the Agency

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) was established in 1993 to provide factual, objective, reliable and comparable information concerning drugs, drug addiction and their consequences. EMCDDA observes public health implications of increased drug availability, purity and "market innovation". The agency closely monitors new psychoactive substances notably through the Early Warning System (LIBE is lead on the legislation but ENVI provided opinions) and their possible negative impact on public health. EMCDDA also supports the Commission and ECDC's work on Hepatitis C virus.

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Exchange of views with the Commission on the use of Cannabis for medicinal purposes

According to the UN conventions, the drugs under international control should be limited to 'medical and scientific purposes'. No country authorises the smoking of cannabis for medical purposes. During the last years, approval for the normalization of pro-cannabis legislation has been increasing. It has been demonstrated that the use of medicinal cannabis can reduce the pain caused by diseases such as AIDS / HIV, Alzheimer's, arthritis, asthma, cancer, chronic pain, Crohn's disease, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and glaucoma, which is one of the main causes of blindness. The solution to ensure the health of citizens lies in homogenizing the policies regarding the regulation of medicinal cannabis in Europe.

Exchange of views with Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety on Health Technology Assessment

Commissioner Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, has been invited to the ENVI Committee to present the legislative proposal on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) that was adopted by the Commission on 31 January 2018. The proposal on HTA aims at boosting cooperation amongst EU Member States for assessing health technology. Member States will be able to use common HTA tools, methodologies and procedures across the EU, working together in four main areas: 1) on joint clinical assessments focusing on the most innovative health technologies with the most potential impact for patients; 2) on joint scientific consultations whereby developers can seek advice from HTA authorities; 3) on identification of emerging health technologies to identify promising technologies early; and 4) on continuing voluntary cooperation in other areas.

Exchange of views with Mr Jyrki Katainen, Vice President of the Commission responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, on the Implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan

Vice-President Katainen is invited to the ENVI committee in the framework of the bi-annual exchange of views on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan., which is part of the Circular Economy Package. In the framework of the Circular Economy Action Plan, the European Commission adopted a new set of measures on 16 January 2018, including "A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy"; a Communication on options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation; and a Monitoring Framework on progress towards a circular economy at EU and national level.

Exchange of views with Mr Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency

This is the customary annual exchange of views with Prof. Hans Bruyninckx, Director of the European Environment Agency in order to debate the EEA Work Programme for 2018 adopted by the EEA Management Board on 6 December 2017.

The Work Programme 2018 follows the lines of the four strategic areas structuring the Multiannual Work Programme 2018-2020, that is Informing policy implementation, Assessing systemic challenges, Knowledge co-creation, sharing and use, and EEA management.

Exchange of views with the Commission on the Standards and Recommended Practices relating to the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)

In October 2016, ICAO agreed at its 39th Assembly on a Resolution for a global market-based measure (GMBM) to address the growth in international aviation emissions globally from 2021 through an offsetting system (CORSIA), aimed at enabling the aspiration goal of stabilising international aviation emissions at 2020 levels. Following the latest negotiations on ETS Aviation provisions and under the then adopted Article 28b(1) of the ETS Directive, the Commission is expected "...by 1 January 2019 and regularly thereafter, report to the European Parliament and to the Council on progress in the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) negotiations to implement the global market-based measure to be applied to emissions from 2021, in particular on the relevant ICAO instruments, including Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS), "

At its meeting of 11-15 September 2017, CAEP (the responsible committee within ICAO) agreed upon a draft CORSIA Package to be recommended for adoption by ICAO Council. The package consists of a draft SARPs, Supporting Information and Documentation and an Environmental Technical Manual. The ICAO Council meeting from 30 October to 17 November 2017 has decided upon the CORSIA Package which as explained has been sent to Member States for comments. Final adoption would be for June 2018 so that the relevant SARPs and Supporting Information will take effect from the beginning of 2019.

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 February 18, 1-2.30 pm)

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NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)

Environmental Indicator report 2017. The EEA 'Environmental Indicator Report 2017' gives an overview of the EU's progress towards 29 environmental policy objectives. These are relevant to the achievement of the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP) three key priority objectives: natural capital; resource-efficient, low-carbon economy; and people's health and well-being. According to the report, many indicators show positive past trends but meeting relevant targets by 2020 remains a challenge.More

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

New strategy promotes substitution to safer chemicals in the EU. ECHA's substitution strategy aims to encourage the replacement of harmful chemicals by boosting the availability and adoption of safer alternatives and technologies. It highlights networking, capacity building, and improving access to data, funding and technical support as key areas for action. More

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Some substances belonging to a group of plant ingredients known as hydroxyanthracene derivatives can damage DNA and may cause cancer, said EFSA after assessing their safety when added to food. This group of substances naturally occurs in plants such as aloe or senna species. Extracts containing them are used in food supplements for their laxative effect. More

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Measles outbreaks continue to occur in a number of EU/EEA countries. In 2017, 14 451 measles cases were reported to the European Surveillance System by 30 EU/EEA countries according to ECDC's measles and rubella monitoring report published on 9 February. This number is over three times the number of cases reported in 2016. Measles is a severe disease which lead since the beginning of 2016, to 50 deaths. It affects all age groups, in particular children below 1 year of age, but 45% of measles cases were aged 15 years or older which highlights gaps in cohorts of individuals that missed-out vaccination. More

European Medicines Agency (EMA)

Management Board started building approval process of EMA premises in Amsterdam. The Board was updated on the good progress made regarding EMA's temporary premises. The Spark building will be refurbished by the Dutch authorities in line with EMA's requirements and will be made available on 1 January 2019. This will allow EMA to gradually move all staff to Amsterdam before the end of March 2019. The interim solution ensures EMA's business continuity in Amsterdam for the limited time until its new permanent building is completed on 15 November 2019. EMA can only enter into a contractual obligation for its new final premises on the basis of a positive opinion from the Budgetary Authority. More.

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee : 26-27 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.

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*

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