

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI meeting will take place on the 19th and on the 20th of March, in Brussels. We will start with a discussion on the revision of the Combined Transport Directive, a proposal included in the Clean Mobility Package, presented by the Commission in 2017. The rapporteur proposes amendments aiming to further reinforce and specify the obligations for

Member States to report on the evolution of combined transport in their territory, and highlights the need for investments in clean energies, digital technologies and trainings in order to make combined transport more competitive. As part of the environment policy related actions, we will also hold an exchange of views with the Commission on the implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, which contributed to improving significantly the quality of waste water treatment in Europe.

The current EU Health Programme, a financial instrument, complements the national policies of Member States and supports implementation of EU health legislation. We will hold an exchange of views with the Commission on the mid-term review and future of the Health Programme, following the examination of the implementation of the Programme by the ENVI Committee Health Working Group, in 2017, and in view of the new Multiannual Financial Framework expected in May this year. In addition, we will vote on oral questions addressed to Council and to the Commission, with resolution, on the issue of vaccine hesitancy and drop in vaccination rates in Europe; Co-Authors call for a fully comprehensive EU Action Plan, raising the social problem of vaccine hesitancy, and for measures to address the spread of unscientific information on vaccination.

In Europe, plastics production and the incineration of plastic waste give rise globally to millions of tonnes of CO₂ a year, and reuse and recycling of end-of-life plastics is still very low. The Commission published on 16 January this year a Communication on "A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy". We are dedicated to working on addressing existing challenges, and in that regard, the ENVI Committee is preparing an own-initiative report on a European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. In that context, on 20 March we will hold an exchange of views with stakeholders on the topic of plastics strategy.

ENVI Committee is associated in a report on "Transparent and accountable management of natural Resources in Developing Countries: the case of forests", which aims to call for a sound management of the forestry sector in developing countries. We will discuss the draft opinion on this file, where the Rapporteur stresses the importance of improving the implementation of the EU Timber Regulation, and considers that an EU action plan on deforestation and forest degradation should be developed, with concrete measures, to ensure that no supply chains or financial transactions linked to the EU result in deforestation or forest degradation.

Sustainable agriculture systems cannot be achieved without

addressing environmental challenges. In that vein, we will discuss a draft opinion on "The future of food and farming", and we will vote on the draft opinion "Implementation of cap Young Farmers' Tools in the EU after the 2013 Reform", which stresses the need to support a new generation of environmentally conscious young farmers in tackling challenges such as climate change, preserving natural resources, and promoting sustainable agricultural production. Finally, we will vote on the draft opinion "Towards a sustainable and competitive European aquaculture sector: current status and future challenges", which highlights the need for more scientific evidence in the context of the necessary production increase in the aquaculture sector, as well as the need to take into account quality, sustainability and environmental aspects in that process.

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 March 2018

MEETING ITEMS

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

Votes:

- Implementation of CAP young farmers' tools in the EU after the 2013 reform
- Interpretation and implementation of the interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making
- Towards a sustainable and competitive European aquaculture sector: current status and future challenges
- The public procurement strategy package
- Vaccine hesitancy and drop in vaccination rates in Europe

Considerations:

- Union Civil Protection Mechanism
- Common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods between Member States
- Transparent and accountable management of natural resources in developing countries: the case of forests
- The future of Food and Farming

Exchange of views:

- with the Commission on Urban waste water treatment
- with the Commission on EU actions to improve environmental compliance and governance
- with stakeholders on a European strategy for plastics
- Mid-term review and future of the health programme
- with the Commission on the community code relating to medicinal products for human use

Public Hearing:

- PETI Hearing (ENVI associated) on the impact of endocrine disruptors on public health and the environment, 22 March 2018

ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Waste package and environmental reporting
- Implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme

VOTES

Implementation of CAP young farmers' tools in the EU after the 2013 reform

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



The current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) includes a number of instruments targeting specifically young farmers, in both CAP pillars. Only 7.5% of EU farmers are below 35 years-old. Helping young farmers to establish and develop their

farms has a long-term impact on EU agriculture and the environment, which depends on their agricultural practices.

The Rapporteur believes that it is crucial to support a new generation of environmentally conscious young farmers in tackling the many challenges ahead, such as climate change, preserving natural resources (soil, water and air), increasing biodiversity and promoting sustainable agricultural production. 82 amendments were table in ENVI to the draft opinion. The rapporteur proposed 4 compromise amendments, covering 31 amendments.

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

Shadows: [Gentile \(S&D\)](#), [Dohrmann \(ECR\)](#), [Müller \(ALDE\)](#), [Torres Martínez \(GUE\)](#), [Häusling \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Goddyn \(ENF\)](#)

Towards a sustainable and competitive European aquaculture sector: current status and future challenges

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



The decision of PECH to produce an own-initiative report on this matter follows the European Court of Auditors study of 2014 on the efficacy of the support provided to aquaculture by the former European Fisheries Fund (EFF),

that concluded that the EFF had not effectively supported the sustainable development of aquaculture in EU.

In the draft opinion the Rapporteur underlines that the EU needs to increase its production in the aquaculture sector, while taking quality, sustainability and environmental aspects into account, in order to satisfy these aspects more scientific evidence are needed. A total of 101 amendments were tabled to the draft opinion, and 7 compromise amendments covering issues such as the sustainability of aquaculture,

its coherence with the environmental legislation, the maintenance of good water quality, the monitoring of production practices and the investments in research.

Rapporteur: [Gambús \(EPP\)](#)

Shadows: [Tănăsescu \(S&D\)](#), [Barekov \(ECR\)](#), [Müller \(ALDE\)](#), [Boylan \(GUE\)](#), [Engström \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Goddyn \(ENF\)](#)

Vaccine hesitancy and drop in vaccination rates in Europe

Vote on 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. Vaccine hesitancy has a direct consequence - the return of paediatric diseases such as measles and rubella, which were considered to be eradicated. In the draft Oral Questions the Co-Authors call 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. A total of 101 amendments were tabled to the draft motion for a resolution. 6 compromise amendments were tabled, covering 30 amendments.

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

CONSIDERATIONS

Union Civil Protection Mechanism

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

On 23 November the Commission presented its proposal introducing targeted changes to Decision 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism. According to the Commission, the current system has proven its worth, but operational experience has also brought its limitations to light.



The draft report consists of 22 amendments to the proposal. The rapporteur seeks among others to increase the flexibility in the definition of the assets which will make up RescEU in order to adopt a needs-based approach. She also introduces the concept of a Civil Protection Erasmus so as to offer new opportunities for the sharing of best practices and knowledge dissemination. REGI, DEVE, BUDG and FEMM will contribute to the ENVI report with opinions.

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

Shadows: [Androulakis \(S&D\)](#), [Gericke \(ECR\)](#), [Jäättteenmäki \(ALDE\)](#), [Torres Martínez \(GUE\)](#), [Eickhout \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Pedicini \(EFDD\)](#), [Mélán \(ENF\)](#)

Common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods between Member States

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



The revision of the Combined Transport Directive is one of the proposals constituting the Clean Mobility Package presented by the European Commission on 8 November 2017.

In his draft legislative opinion, the rapporteur proposes 40 amendments to the proposal. The rapporteur aims among others to further reinforce and specify the obligations for Member States to report on the evolution of combined transport in their territory and the support measures undertaken to favour its progress.

Rapporteur: [Dantin](#) (EPP)

Shadows: [Tănăsescu](#) (S&D), [Gericke](#) (ECR), [Torvalds](#) (ALDE), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [D'Ornano](#) (EFDD)

Transparent and accountable management of natural resources in developing countries: the case of forests

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



The overall aim of the proposed own-initiative report is to call for a transparent, accountable and sound management of the forestry sector in developing countries. The report will analyse the effectiveness of EU actions

specifically in this sector with a strong focus on the use of development financing instruments.

the ENVI rapporteur recalls Parliament's position as set out in its resolution of 4 April 2017 on palm oil and deforestation of rainforests, and calls on the EU to maintain its commitment to step up ongoing negotiations on the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreements and to create follow-up legislation on such agreements.

Rapporteur: [Konečná](#) (GUE)

Shadows: [Petir](#) (EPP), [Brannen](#) (S&D), [Gericke](#) (ECR), [Bearder](#) (ALDE), [Javor](#) (Greens/EFA)

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Exchange of views with the Commission on EU actions to improve environmental compliance and governance

On 18 January 2018 the Commission adopted a Communication on "EU actions to improve environmental compliance and governance". The document presents an Action Plan to increase compliance with EU environmental law and improve environmental governance and it involves the Commission working with Member States and

professionals (inspectors, auditors, police officers and prosecutors) for better compliance with EU environmental rules.

Exchange of views with stakeholders on a European strategy for plastics

This exchange of views with stakeholders (Essenscia, Rethink Plastic Alliance, Plastics Europe and Atria Plc), and the Commission, is organised in the context of ENVI's work on its own-initiative report on a European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. The Commission Communication, published on 16 January, is part of the Circular Economy Package and proposes a set of measures to improve the economics and quality of plastics recycling, curb plastic waste and littering, drive innovation and investment towards circular solutions and harness global action. The strategy also identifies key actions for national and regional authorities, and the industry.



Mid-term review and future of the health programme

A workshop on "Limits and potential of the Public Health Programme", organised by the Health Working Group, took place on 22 November 2017. As a follow-up to the workshop, the exchange of views in Committee - in the presence of the Commission - will look at the mid-term review and future of the Health Programme.

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications

- [Workshop proceedings on "An Urgent Strong Antimicrobial Action Plan"](#)
- [Workshop proceedings on "Limits and potential of the public health programme"](#)
- [In-depth analysis on "Stronger Bacteria - Weaker Antimicrobial"](#)

Upcoming Publications

- Briefing on the food safety situation in Ireland and overview of the Directorate for Health and Food Audits and Analysis of DG SANTE
- Workshop proceedings on "Climate Diplomacy"
- Briefing on the IMO MEPC72 meeting

Upcoming Events

- Workshop on post 2020 CO2 emission targets for cars and vans (27 March, 2-3.30 pm)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency ([EEA](#))



Chemicals for a sustainable future - Report of the EEA Scientific Committee Seminar. This report draws upon presentations and discussions that took place at a seminar held by the European Environment Agency's (EEA's) Scientific Committee on 17 May 2017. Participants in the seminar considered the knowledge base for identifying, assessing and tackling the impacts of chemicals on humans and the environment [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency ([ECHA](#))



ECHA welcomes the REACH review outcome. The second REACH review by the European Commission says that the regulation is effective, but there is still room for improvement. ECHA welcomes the results and looks forward to strengthening its future role in chemicals management. [More](#)

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



Most uses of neonicotinoid pesticides represent a risk to wild bees and honeybees, according to assessments published by EFSA on 28 February. The Authority has updated its risk assessments of three neonicotinoids – clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam – that are currently subject to restrictions in the EU because of the threat they pose to bees. [More](#)

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



World Tuberculosis Day - 2018. On 24 March will be the World Tuberculosis Day to raise awareness and advocate for efforts to eradicate Tuberculosis (TB). This often-overlooked disease is still among the top 10 causes of death worldwide. In the EU and EEA around 60 000 TB cases are reported annually. In 2017, the first WHO Ministerial Conference on TB took place, where over 120 national delegations adopted the "Moscow Declaration to End TB" and in 2018, the first UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on TB will be held. Political commitment is high on the agenda ahead of World TB Day 2018, and many are calling for stronger leadership to end TB. ECDC will publish its annual joint surveillance report with WHO regional office for Europe ahead of World TB Day 2018. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency ([EMA](#))



EMA published a new tracking tool for its relocation to Amsterdam to follow progress main on main milestones and work stream deliverables [More](#). EMA also published its [annual report](#) on the use of the special contribution given by the EU for fee reduction for orphan medicinal products.

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee : 26-27 March 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.

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