

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI meeting will take place on the 12th of April in Brussels. We will address topical issues such as dual quality of products, neonics and the future of REACH.

'Dual quality' of products sold in the EU

'Dual quality' refers to a situation where the quality of products sold under the same brand and in the same packaging differs depending on the Member State

where the products are sold. We will discuss the opinion that the ENVI Committee is producing on this matter, particularly in the context of the Commission Notice of September 2017 on the application of EU food and consumer protection law to issues of Dual Quality of products – The specific case of food. The rapporteur stresses, in particular, the need for the products marketed in the single market in a specific type of packaging to have the same composition in every Member State, and for consumers to be duly informed of any variation in composition compared to the original recipe, and also calls on the Commission to guarantee that the quality of products is the same across the Union. Raising consumer awareness and improving access to information on quality of foodstuffs and of other products is of key importance.

Save the bees, save the plants, save life

Neonicotinoids (also known as neonics) are substances used in plant protection products to control harmful insects. These are taken up by the plant and transported throughout its tissues. Five neonicotinoids are approved in the EU for the use in plant protection products, but with restricted use, in order to protect honeybees. Discussions took place in 2017 between the Commission and Member States regarding the possible further restriction of neonicotinoids. We will exchange views with the Commission on this topic, taking into consideration particularly the recent conclusions of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which confirmed the risk for bees resulting from the use of certain neonicotinoids.

REACH: opportunities for further improvement, simplification and burden reduction

Following the publication by the Commission of its second Report on the operation of REACH - the EU's Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals, Members of the ENVI Committee will discuss with the Commission the findings of the review it carried out. The Report concludes that REACH is effective but that there is room for improvement, simplification and burden reduction, which can be achieved through specific actions outlined in the Report, in areas such as knowledge and management of chemicals throughout the supply chain, or enhanced risk management.

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 - 11 April 2018

MEETING ITEMS

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

Consideration

- Dual quality of products in the Single Market

Exchange of views:

- with the Commission on possible further restrictions on the use of neonicotinoids
- with the Commission on General Report on the operation of REACH and review of certain elements - Conclusions and Actions

ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

- LULUCF
- Effort Sharing
- Waste Package
- Environmental reporting
- Implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme

Draft agenda of the Plenary is available [here](#)

CONSIDERATION

Dual quality of products in the Single Market

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

Some studies, from different countries, particularly in Eastern Europe, have pointed to this phenomenon. Several initiatives at EU level have addressed this issue to some extent, such as the publication in September



2017 by the Commission of guidelines designed to help national authorities to determine whether a company is breaking EU laws when selling products of dual quality in different countries.

In her draft opinion, the Rapporteur stresses that products marketed in the single market in a specific type of packaging should have the same composition in every Member State, and that consumers should be duly informed of any variation in composition compared to the original recipe. She calls on the Commission to guarantee that the quality of products is the same across the Union. Furthermore, she

stresses that arguments citing consumer preferences and food reformulation should in no way be used as justification for placing products of dual quality on the market, and regrets that the Commission Notice on the dual quality of foodstuffs lacks ambition, and proposes steps that will have little or no impact on the market. She also highlights the importance of raising consumer awareness and improving access to information, and welcomes the statements made by some manufacturers that they would change their recipes, stressing the role of industry in providing clear and correct consumer information.

ENVI is associated under Rule 54 with exclusive competence on the specific issues related to food law under Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and food information to consumers under Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011.

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

Shadows: [Turcanu](#) (EPP), [Piecha](#) (ECR), [Mazuronis](#) (ALDE), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Škrlec](#) (Greens/EFA), [D'Ornano](#) (EFDD)

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Exchange of views with the Commission on possible further restrictions on the use of neonicotinoids



Neonicotinoids (also known as neonics) are active substances used in plant protection products to control harmful insects. Neonicotinoids are systemic pesticides taken up by the plant and transported

throughout it.

Five neonicotinoids are approved as active substances in the EU for the use in plant protection products, namely clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, acetamiprid and thiacloprid.

In 2013, the Commission restricted the use of plant protection products and treated seeds containing three of these neonicotinoids (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam) to protect honeybees. The measure was based on a risk assessment of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in 2012 and prohibits the use of these three neonicotinoids in bee-attractive crops with the exception of uses in greenhouses, of treatment of some crops after flowering and of winter cereals. In 2017, the Commission held discussions with Member States on draft implementing acts to further restrict the uses for clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam. In those draft acts, the Commission considered unjustified a full ban on the use of those three neonicotinoids. On 13 December 2017, a vote in the standing committee on these proposals was envisaged, but was finally postponed for several reasons.

On 28 February 2018, EFSA published its conclusions on the risk assessment for the active substances clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam. EFSA found that overall the risk to wild bees – bumblebees and solitary bees – as well as honeybees was confirmed.

The Commission and the Member States will now examine these conclusions and depending on the outcome of this analysis, the Commission may propose to further modify the conditions of approval of these three neonicotinoids.

Exchange of views with the Commission on General Report on the operation of REACH and review of certain elements - Conclusions and Actions

On 5 March the Commission published its second report on the operation of REACH, the EU's Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals ('REACH'), which entered into force in 2007. The report also includes three reviews: one on possible registration of polymers and two on minimum information requirements for low tonnage substances (1-10 tonnes/year).

The Commission concludes that REACH is effective but that opportunities for further improvement, simplification and burden reduction exist, which can be achieved by delivering the actions outlined in the report. Implementation is still on-going in all areas, with some key milestones, such as the last registration deadline, still to be completed by June 2018. The issues requiring most urgent action are: non-compliance of registration dossiers; simplification of the authorisation process; ensuring a level playing field with non-EU companies through effective restrictions and enforcement; and clarifying the interface between REACH and other EU legislation, in particular that on occupational safety and health and on waste.

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications

- Study 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 [IMO's challenges on the route to decarbonising international shipping](#) (Key issues at stake at MEPC 72)

Upcoming Publications

- Workshop proceedings on post 2020 CO₂ emission targets for cars and vans

Upcoming Events

- Workshop on the Sustainability of Health Systems (15 May 2018, 10-12am)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



Europe's environment: the power of data and knowledge.

Europe collects increasingly more data, enhancing our understanding of the environment. Earth observation data obtained through the EU's Copernicus programme presents new challenges and opportunities to improve our environmental knowledge. Combining up-to-date Copernicus data with our existing knowledge base, the EEA aims to empower policy makers and citizens across Europe in taking measures to address local, national and global challenges. [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA invites for feedback by 4 May on its strategic priorities for the next five years. A public consultation has been launched on ECHA's draft Strategic Plan for the next 5-year period. The draft is available on ECHA's website where comments can also be provided.

[More](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



Hepatitis A outbreak in the EU/EEA mostly affecting men who have sex with men. As of 19 March 2018, the number of outbreak-confirmed cases reported in the 22 EU/EEA countries since 1 June 2016 is 4 101. For 3 873 of these cases, information on gender is available, with a male-to-female (M/F) ratio of 7.2, a sharp reduction from the M/F ratio has been observed since May when it was 12.7. No other strains were reported to be widely circulating among men who have sex with men (MSM)

apart from the three outbreak strains and their close variants. The main prevention measure is hepatitis A vaccination of MSM and their close contacts. Hepatitis A vaccine availability in the EU is currently limited, with some countries reporting shortages. Since the last ECDC rapid risk assessment in June 2017, [Austria](#), [Denmark](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Italy](#), [Norway](#), [Portugal](#), [Spain](#) and the [United Kingdom](#) have issued new vaccination recommendations. [More](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



Frozen corn is the likely source of an outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* which has affected five EU Member States (Austria, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and the UK) since 2015. This is the conclusion of a rapid outbreak assessment published on 22 March by EFSA and ECDC. As of 8 March 2018, 32 cases including six deaths had been reported. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



New measures to avoid valproate exposure in pregnancy endorsed. The CMDh, a medicines regulatory body representing the EU, Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, has

endorsed new measures to avoid exposure of babies to valproate medicines in the womb, due to high risk of malformations and developmental problems. Valproate-containing medicines have been approved nationally in the EU to treat epilepsy and bipolar disorder and in some countries for prevention of migraine. The new measures include a ban on the use of such medicines for migraine or bipolar disorder during pregnancy, and a ban on treating epilepsy during pregnancy unless there is no other effective treatment available. [More](#)

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee :25-26 April 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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