

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI meeting will take place on the 26th and 27th of March in Brussels.

After debating with Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič at our 27 February meeting, it will be the turn of Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries [Karmenu Vella](#) to exchange views with ENVI members as part of the annual structured dialogue exercise. Commissioner Vella

will delve into the implementation of the 2018 Commission Work Programme and the EU priorities until the end of the legislature in the areas of his remit. From more effectively combating pollution to the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan, there is still urgent work to be completed before this legislature draws to a close.

On 26 March members of the ENVI and the Foreign Affairs (AFET) Committees will hold a joint meeting to consider the [draft report on climate diplomacy](#). The rapporteurs stress that climate diplomacy should become a strategic priority in EU foreign affairs both in its bilateral and multilateral relations. The contribution of a coherent and effective European climate diplomacy will be essential to translate the objectives of the 2015 Paris Agreement into results.

On the same day, ENVI members will also hold an exchange with the BUDG rapporteur for the 2019 EU budget. With the post-2020 MFF debate gathering pace, it will be imperative that climate-related actions, the protection of biodiversity and programmes in the fields of environment, public health and food safety be properly funded and reinforced, not just in the coming year, but also the next ones as EU funds in these areas provide great EU value-added and tangible benefits for citizens and firms.

We will close the meeting on 27 March with an exchange with the European Court of Auditors on two of its special reports: one on [rural development programming](#) and one on [greening](#) - the direct payment disbursed to farmers for agricultural practices beneficial for soil quality, carbon sequestration and biodiversity. We will focus on the link between these policies and their environmental impact, the shortcoming in their design and implementation, and ECA suggestions on how to fix the existing flaws.

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 - 26 March 2018](#)

MEETING ITEMS

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

Votes:

- Charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures ('EUROVIGNETTE')
- Monitoring the application of EU law 2016
- Mid-term evaluation of the Life Programme

Consideration

- Climate diplomacy

Exchange of views:

- with Karmenu Vella, commissioner for environment, maritime affairs and fisheries as part of the structured dialogue
- with Mr Daniele Viotti, rapporteur for the 2019 EC budget (Section III)
- with European Court of Auditors on two special reports: "Rural Development Programming" and "Greening of the cap"

ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

- Greenhouse gas emissions (LULUCF and Effort Sharing)
- Waste Package and environmental reporting
- Implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme

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

VOTES

Charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures ('EUROVIGNETTE')

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

The Commission proposal amends the 'Eurovignette' Directive (Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures). It is part of the 31 May 2017 package 'Europe on the Move', aimed at modernising European mobility and transport.



The Eurovignette Directive provides the legal framework for charging heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) for the use of certain roads. It sets minimum levels of vehicle taxes for HGVs and provides for the way infrastructure charges should be set, including differentiation according to environmental performance. The proposal aims at making progress in the application of the 'polluter pays' and 'user pays' principles. It broadens the scope of the Directive (by including

not only HGVs but also buses, passenger cars and vans), allows the application of congestion charges, phases out time-based user charges (vignettes), eliminates some notification requirements, removes the variation of tolls based on Euro emission class and proposes that road charges reflect CO₂ emissions. ENVI has shared competences under Rule 54 over Article 7c (external-cost charging) and its related Annexes IIIa and IIIb, Article 7g (variation of charges, in particular for heavy duty vehicles) and Article 7ga (variation of charges for light duty vehicles) and its related Annex VII.

Overall the Rapporteur welcomes the aims of the Commission's proposal: to promote financially and environmentally sustainable road transport through wider application of the 'user pays' and 'polluter pays' principles. The opinion aims to ensure that efficient and fair road pricing can contribute to the EU's efforts to cut both CO₂ and pollutant emissions by better implementing the 'polluter pays' principle and helping to accelerate the transition to clean and zero-emission mobility.

In ENVI, 236 AMs (including the 51 by the Rapporteur) have been tabled to the Commission proposal. A set of 5 compromise amendments has been elaborated, covering 81 amendments. They concern the scope of the directive (vans carrying freight), the phasing out of vignettes, external costs charges, variation of charges (zero-emission vehicles) and earmarking.

Rapporteur: [Dance \(S&D\)](#)
Shadows: [Grzyb \(EPP\)](#), [Meissner \(ALDE\)](#), [Eck \(GUE\)](#), [Taylor \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Evi \(EFDD\)](#), [Mélán \(ENF\)](#)

Monitoring the application of EU law 2016

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



JURI is preparing an own-initiative report on the Report from the Commission - Monitoring the application of European Union law 2016. In its report, the Commission provides information about its monitoring of the transposition and application of EU law by the Member States in 2016, per policy areas. Environment and health and food safety figure among the policy fields in which the most new infringement procedures were opened.

The Rapporteur welcomes the Commission's decision to respond to infringements promptly, and supports its efforts to resolve implementation problems informally, but calls on the Commission to improve the EU Pilot problem-solving system. The Rapporteur also notes that the number of infringement proceedings concerning the environment fell in 2016 compared with 2015, but that there was an increase in the number of procedures in the area of health and food safety, and calls on the Commission to address this.

A total of 35 amendments were tabled to the draft opinion. The rapporteur proposed 3 compromise amendments, covering 11

amendments, in relation to matters such as access to environmental information, the need for effective application of EU law, across all areas, and citizen's contribution to monitoring the way in which EU legislation is transposed and implemented.

Rapporteur: [Petir \(EPP\)](#)
Shadows: [Wölken \(S&D\)](#), [Dohrmann \(ECR\)](#), [Meissner \(ALDE\)](#), [Konečná \(GUE\)](#), [Pedicini \(EFDD\)](#)

Mid-term evaluation of the Life Programme

Vote on motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))



Following the publication of the report from the Commission accompanying the mid-term evaluation of the LIFE programme, ENVI coordinators decided to draw up a Motion for resolution. In the motion for resolutions the co-rapporteurs underline the lack of sufficient data for an

appropriate assessment of the current LIFE programme. New, effective mechanisms should ensure a more equitable distribution and greater effectiveness of LIFE funds. The co-rapporteurs recognise the importance of the integrated projects which serve as a catalyst to implement environmental or climate plans or strategies at regional, multi-regional or national level. They also stress that LIFE has played a significant role in implementing Natura 2000 and the Birds and Habitats Directives in the Member States. A total of 71 amendments were tabled to the draft motion for a resolution and 3 compromises have been drafted.

Co-rapporteurs: [Šuica \(EPP\)](#), [Caputo \(S&D\)](#), [Girling \(ECR\)](#), [Gerbrandy \(ALDE\)](#), [Eck \(GUE\)](#), [Affronte \(Greens\)](#), [D'Orlando \(EFDD\)](#)

CONSIDERATION

Climate diplomacy

Consideration of draft report

The joint AFET-ENVI report focus on the climate diplomacy, a form of targeted foreign policy to engage third country governments and non-governmental actors globally in a will to promote the fight against climate change, low emissions and a climate-resilient development.



The draft report proposes EP's recommendations for institutional improvements, thematic priorities and the involvement of targeted actors. In particular, it reaffirms the international leading role of the EU and its strong engagement in honouring the commitment to the Paris Agreement and SDGs; it underlines the impact of climate change on human life, peace and stability; it reaffirms the EU responsibility towards developing countries and vulnerable states in order to support their sustainable development as well as to increase stability and security.

The co-rapporteurs call in their draft report, inter alia, for a coherent and coordinated approach to EU climate diplomacy, for an improvement of its structure and resources as well as for a mainstreaming of the climate diplomacy dimension in the EU external relations.

AFET Rapporteur: [Lietz](#) (S&D) ; ENVI Rapporteur: [Leinen](#) (S&D)

ENVI Shadows: [Šuica](#) (EPP), [Gericke](#) (ECR), [Jäättteenmäki](#) (ALDE), [Torres Martínez](#) (GUE), [Affronte](#) (Greens), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

AFET Shadows: [Peterle](#) (EPP), [Tannock](#) (ECR), [Paet](#) (ALDE), [Koulougliou](#) (GUE), [Dalunde](#) (Greens), [Castaldo](#) (EFDD)

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Exchange of views with Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries as part of the structured dialogue

Every year, the ENVI Committee holds exchanges of views with the Commission on the evaluation and implementation of the Commission Work Programme and the priorities for the following year.



In the context of the 2018 Work Programme ENVI focused on the Implementation of the 7th Environmental Action Programme (EAP) 2014-2020, the Circular Economy Action Plan, the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and pollution of water by pharmaceutical substances.

Exchange of views with Daniele Viotti, rapporteur for the 2019 EC budget (section III)



Daniele VIOTTI (S&D, IT) is the general rapporteur for the 2019 EU budget. The aim of this exchange of views is to discuss the main issues for the upcoming budgetary negotiations. The European Parliament Guidelines for the 2019 budget, adopted in Plenary on 15 March 2018, stress that the priorities for the 2019 EU budget should be growth, innovation, competitiveness, the fight against climate change, the transition to renewable energy, migration and security.

Exchange of views with European Court of Auditors on two special reports: "Rural Development Programming" and "Greening of the cap"

As part of its annual scrutiny activities and relations with ECA, the ENVI committee has invited ECA for a joint discussion for two recent special

reports dealing with evaluation of the "greening" aspects of EU spending in the fields of agriculture and rural development.

Greening - a direct payment rewarding farmers for farming practices beneficial for soil quality, carbon sequestration and biodiversity - was introduced by the latest Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform, as a means to enhance the environmental and climate performance of the EU's CAP. The ECA has found that greening, as currently implemented, is unlikely to meet this objective, mainly due the low level of requirements. The report makes a number of recommendations on how to design more effective environmental instruments for the Common Agricultural Policy post 2020.

The EU has planned to spend on rural development policy nearly EUR 100 billion for the period 2014-2020 through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). An objective of the EU strategic framework for 2014-2020 was to focus more on results. ECA has found that the approved RDPs are long and complex documents with shortcomings that limit the potential to enhance the focus on performance and results. Significant administrative effort on the part of national authorities was needed to meet the extensive content requirements. Despite Commission's efforts, RDPs' implementation started late and the planned spending began more slowly than in the previous period. ECA presentation will focus on those parts of the report, its findings and recommendations from the agri-environment-climate measures' perspective.

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, room A 1 G2)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency ([EEA](#))



Perspectives on transitions to sustainability: The overall ambition of this report is to provide an initial analytical overview of framings, conceptualisations and selected analytical tools relating to sustainability transitions and transformations, bringing together insights from multiple academic communities. The report aims to illustrate how these different perspectives relate to each other and to begin to explore what potential guidance they offer for policymaking and governance more broadly. [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency ([ECHA](#))



ECHA launches 'Chemicals in our life' website: ECHA has launched a new dedicated website to make consumers more aware of the benefits and risks of chemicals in their everyday lives. The website is available in 23 EU languages. [More](#)

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



Bacteria from humans and animals continue to show resistance to antimicrobials according to a recent report published by EFSA and ECDC. The report highlights some emerging issues and confirms antimicrobial resistance as one of the biggest threats to public health, mainly by reducing the effectiveness of treatment options. [More](#)

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



The recent high number of yellow fever cases in unvaccinated travellers returning from Brazil highlights the increased need for travellers to be aware of the importance of following international recommendations for vaccination. In particular, 5 travel-associated cases of yellow fever have been reported among unvaccinated EU/EEA travellers returning from Brazil, since January 2018 to 9 March 2018, while there were only 6 cases between 1999 and 2016. The conclusions of the ECDC risk assessment is that the risk of yellow fever transmission in the EU remain nevertheless low because the virus has to be introduced by viraemic travellers in an area with established, competent and active mosquito vector population. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency ([EMA](#))



Veterinarians are encouraged to report adverse events to facilitate detection of emerging issues. EMA has published its annual bulletin on the veterinary pharmacovigilance activities carried out to monitor medicines in practice and to ensure their safe and effective use. The activities use reports from the field related to unwanted medical events that have been observed following the use of a medicine and that may or may not have been caused by the medicine. [More](#)

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee : 12 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.

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.

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