

### CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI meeting will take place on the 25th and 26th of April, in Brussels, with a busy agenda covering, amongst others, measures for reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, sustainable agriculture, or EU risk assessments in the food chain.

Provisional agreement was reached last 26 March on the proposal on monitoring and reporting of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of heavy-duty vehicles. The two co-

legislators yielded their positions in order to find common ground on points such as administrative fines, transparency of data, and air drag value ranges. This preliminary agreement is subject to vote in the ENVI committee meeting of 25 April, and constitutes a step towards reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from a sector which in 2014 represented 5% of total EU CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. EU actions on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and of energy and resource consumption address several policy areas, and our choices can play a role in furthering this action. In that regard, the Ecodesign Directive has contributed to improving the energy efficiency of products, by setting EU-wide rules for improving their environmental performance; ENVI Members will vote on the report on the implementation of the Directive. The report calls for continued evolution from energy savings to resource efficiency, and for providing the general public with clear information about the benefits of ecodesign.

A sustainable common agricultural policy is essential in the context of climate change and environmental challenges, and taking this into consideration, we will vote on the draft opinion on the Future of Food and Farming. The Rapporteur considers that the common agricultural policy should strengthen the contribution that each farmer makes towards meeting environmental challenges, and underlines the need for placing agro-environmental initiatives, investment, training, research and innovation at the core of local issues.

At the meeting of 26 April, Commissioner Andriukaitis will present the legislative proposal on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain that was adopted by the Commission on 11 April 2018, and to provide updates on the situation as regards e-health and vaccines. The risk assessments based on studies provided by the industry, particularly when industry seeks an authorisation (e.g. for pesticides, GMOs, etc.) trigger direct consequences for citizens. With this proposal, the Commission aims inter alia, to ensure more transparency, by allowing citizens to have automatic and immediate access to all safety related information submitted by industry, and to create a common European Register of commissioned studies.

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 - 24th of April 2018

### MEETING ITEMS

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

#### Votes:

- Implementation of the Ecodesign Directive
- Cohesion policy and the circular economy
- State of EU-China relations
- The future of food and farming
- Common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund Monitoring and reporting of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from and fuel consumption of new heavy-duty vehicles
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: genetically modified sugar beet H7-1
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: Authorisation of maximum residue levels for active substances in certain products
- Implementation of the circular economy package: options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation (oral questions)
- Protecting the EU's internal market and consumer rights against the negative implications of the illegal trade in companion animals

#### Exchange of views:

- with Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner responsible for Health and Food Safety, on the Commission initiatives on General Food Law, vaccination and digital healthcare
- with the Commission on the implementation of the Drinking Water Directive
- with the Commission on the strategic approach to pollution of water by pharmaceutical substances
- Implementation of the circular economy package: options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation

### ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

- Implementation of the Ecodesign Directive

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

### VOTES

#### Implementation of the Ecodesign Directive

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



The EU has embarked on the transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon economy. Ecodesign has generated real added value, as acknowledged by both the industrial sectors concerned, NGOs and by experts from the Member

States. The Rapporteur considers that this directive has been an effective tool to deliver cost-effective energy savings. She also

recommends to strengthen the decision-making process, continue evolution from energy savings to resource efficiency, improve market surveillance, ensure consistency and convergence between ecodesign regulations and horizontal regulations such as Union legislation on chemicals and waste, and to increase synergies with Green Public Procurement and the EU Ecolabel.

225 amendments, including 26 suggestions from ITRE, have been submitted to this draft report. 18 compromise amendments have been negotiated, replacing 143 amendments.

Rapporteur: [Ries](#) (ALDE)

Shadows: [Gambús](#) (PPE), [Paolucci](#) (S&D), [Wiśniewska](#) (ECR), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Auken](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Goddyn](#) (ENF)

### The future of food and farming

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



In her draft opinion, the Rapporteur states that the common agricultural policy's goals should be to ensure food safety and sovereignty, and the resilience and sustainability of the EU's agriculture systems and territories, adding that the CAP

should encourage and strengthen the contribution each farmer makes towards meeting environmental challenges. Furthermore, the Rapporteur asks the Commission to ensure that each imported agricultural product meets the same sanitary and social standards that EU products are held to, as well as to conduct a systematic impact assessment of the provisions regarding the agricultural sector in each trade agreement, and to offer specific strategies to ensure that no agricultural sector will suffer as a result of a trade agreement concluded with a third country.

263 amendments have been tabled covering all issues of the draft opinion, on the basis of which 24 compromise amendments have been proposed.

Rapporteur: [Delahaye](#) (EPP)

Shadows: [Caputo](#) (S&D), [Huitema](#) (ALDE), [Häusling](#) (Greens/EFA), [Eck](#) (GUE), [Evi](#) (EFDD)

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

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

In 2014, GHG emissions from heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) represented 5% of total EU emissions, a fifth of all transport emissions



The text agreed in interinstitutional negotiations improves the Commission's proposal and brings more details regarding, inter alia, what monitoring parameters should be used, mentions the ranges of

air drag value, the transparency of data reported and the use of administrative fines in case of irregularities or discrepancies. It also clarifies the link with other related legislative acts, the monitoring of the results of on-road verification tests and stipulates when the delegated and implementing acts have to be applied.

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

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

### Objection pursuant to Rule 106: genetically modified sugar beet H7-1

Consideration and vote on draft motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))

Commission Decision 2007/692/EC authorised the placing on the market of foods, food ingredients and feed produced from genetically modified sugar beet H7-1 (hereinafter "sugar beet H7-1". The objectors oppose the draft measures on the grounds that they exceed the implementing powers provided for in the basic act.. The draft resolution considers also that glyphosate residues on GM sugar beet H7-1 and any possible change in its composition and agronomic characteristics as a result of exposure to glyphosate were not assessed by EFSA. In addition, the objectors recall that Member States are not currently required by the Commission to assess glyphosate residues on sugar beet either. In that regard, the objectors conclude that it is not known whether glyphosate residues on imported GM sugar beet H7-1 comply with Union maximum residue limits.



Co-Rapporteurs: [Staes](#) (Greens/EFA), [Balas](#) (S&D), [Boylan](#) (GUE/NGL), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Mazuronis](#), [Pietikäinen](#)

Shadows: [Huitema](#) (ALDE)

### Objection pursuant to Rule 106 : Authorisation of maximum residue levels for cyantraniliprole, cymoxanil, deltamethrin, difenoconazole, fenamidone, flubendiamide, fluopicolide, folpet, fosetyl, mandestrobin, mepiquat, metazachlor, propamocarb, propargite, pyrimethanil, sulfoxaflor and trifloxystrobin in or on certain products

Consideration and vote on draft motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))

For the above-mentioned substances, maximum residue levels (MRLs) were set in Regulation (EC) No 396/2005.. On 11 July 2015, Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) adopted Codex maximum residue limits (CXLs) for fenamidone. Following the opinions of EFSA, the present draft act amends Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 with respect to MRLs applicable to specific products. The objector opposes the draft measure on several grounds. It is stated that neonicotinoids, including sulfoxaflor, are "systemic" insecticides, which means that they are

sprayed onto plants, which then absorb the chemicals and therefore kill insects different ways when they come into contact with the pesticide. The objectors explain that neonicotinoids are known to be extremely toxic to honey bees due to the systemic translocation which led the Commission to restrict the use of three of them.

This is an objection to an RPS measure, and pursuant to Rule 106(2), (3) and (4)(c) of the Rules of Procedure, Parliament can veto the draft measure.

Rapporteur: [Goddyn \(ENF\)](#)

Shadows: [Girling \(ECR\)](#)

### Implementation of the circular economy package: options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation

In the oral question to the Commission, the co-sponsors ask for more information on what legislative and non-legislative measures the Commission is intending to take in order to address the major issues identified at the interface between chemicals, product and waste legislation, and what the timeline for those measures is. In addition, in the oral question to the Council, the co-sponsors ask for more information on what the Council position is concerning the questions raised, and policy options put forward, by the Commission, and more specifically, on how the Council is planning to contribute to a further harmonisation in the interpretation and implementation by the Member States of end-of-waste provisions.

Co-Rapporteurs: [Mandl \(EPP\)](#), [Schaldemose \(S&D\)](#), [Demesmaeker \(ECR\)](#), [Jäättteenmäki \(ALDE\)](#), [Škrlec \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Boylan \(GUE/NGL\)](#), [Pedicini \(EFDD\)](#), [Mélán \(ENF\)](#)

## EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

### Exchange of views with the Commission on the strategic approach to pollution of water by pharmaceutical substances

Pollution of the environment by human and veterinary pharmaceutical substances represents an emerging environmental challenge. Article 8c of Directive 2013/39/EU (Directive on priority substances in the field of water policy) requires the Commission to develop a strategic approach to the pollution of water by pharmaceutical substances (by September 2015), and to follow this where appropriate (by September 2017), with proposals for measures to address the possible environmental impacts of pharmaceutical substances, with a view to reducing their release into the aquatic environment. So far, the Commission has adopted none of them.

According to the Commission's roadmap, adoption of the strategy, including possible measures, is scheduled for the first quarter of 2018. A public consultation organised by the Commission took place between November 2017 and February 2018, seeking views on

possible actions to address the risks from pharmaceuticals in the environment.

### Exchange of views with Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner responsible for Health and Food Safety, on the Commission initiatives on General Food Law, vaccination and digital healthcare



Commissioner Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, has been invited to the ENVI Committee to present the legislative proposal on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain that was adopted by the Commission on 11 April 2018

and to provide updates on the situation as regards e-health and vaccines.

Since the adoption of the General Food Law Regulation in 2002, citizens have started to question the risk assessments based on studies provided by the industry and, in particular, where the industry seeks an authorisation (e.g. for pesticides, GMOs, etc.). The legislative proposal on the 'Transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain' follows the findings of the Fitness Check of the General Food Law and the Commission Communication on the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "Ban glyphosate and protect people and the environment from toxic pesticides". In the context of this ECI, the Commission has committed to come forward with a legislative proposal covering the transparency and independence of these scientific studies. With its proposal, the Commission is proposing a targeted revision of the General Food Law Regulation coupled with the revision of eight pieces of sectoral legislation, to bring them in line with the general rules and strengthen transparency in the area of GMOs, feed additives, smoke flavourings, food contact materials, food additives, food enzymes and flavourings, plant protection products and novel foods.

## 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets for cars and vans

### Upcoming Events

- Workshop on the Sustainability of Health Systems (15 May 2018, 10-12am)
- Workshop on "Digitalisation and big data: implications for the health sector" (19 June 2018, 10:00-12:00)

### NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

#### European Environment Agency (EEA)



**Tax breaks and incentives make Europeans buy cleaner cars.** Emissions of carbon dioxide from new passenger cars have dropped in a number of European countries where a range of taxes, subsidies and other incentives are used to encourage consumers to purchase lower-carbon-dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitting vehicles. The number of countries offering incentives for electric vehicles in particular, continues to grow, according to European Environment Agency (EEA) data. At the same time, emissions from trucks and buses are expected to increase further if new measures are not taken [More](#)

#### European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



**ECHA has published its annual report describing the progress in implementing the European Commission's SVHC Roadmap.** The focus of ECHA and Member States is on chemicals for which concerns have not yet been

clarified. Currently, new data is being generated or assessed on 750 substances. Substances are increasingly addressed in groups based on structural similarity. [More](#)

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



**Measles cases continue to increase in a number of EU/EEA countries.** According to the most recent measles data collected by ECDC through epidemic intelligence, the highest number of cases to date in 2018 were in Romania (1 709), Greece (1 463) France (1 346) and Italy (411) respectively.

Thirteen deaths have also been reported by these countries. Although cases in Romania and Greece remain high, of particular concern is the

situation in France and Italy, with cases almost tripling in France, and more than doubling in Italy since March. Of these cases where age was known, 35% were in children under five and 47% were in those 15 and older. Where vaccination status was known, 86% were unvaccinated. The data further showed the high proportion of cases among young adults who may have missed vaccination. [More](#)

#### European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



**Data mining algorithms needed.** Following a successful start in 2017 EFSA has launched a second crowdsourcing challenge aimed at 'people scientists' and computer whizzes. The prize of EUR 23,000 is targeted at software experts or amateur computer enthusiasts who can build information extraction algorithms to identify data elements from a full-text scientific article. The challenge was launched on 11 April 2018 – and runs for 90 days until 10 July. This second challenge aims to find ways to automate systematic reviews – the 'data extraction' step of scientific assessments. [More](#)

#### European Medicines Agency (EMA)



**Increasing oversight of active pharmaceutical ingredient manufacturing through international collaboration.** EMA and its European and international partners have successfully

strengthened their interactions to improve the oversight of active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufacturers worldwide, as highlighted in the International API inspection programme report for 2011-2016, published today. APIs are the substances responsible for the activity of a medicine. [More](#)

**Next meeting of the ENVI Committee :** 16-17 May 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.

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