

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI meeting will take place on 28 June in Brussels. We continue to make strong progress towards completing the Energy Union, and have reached provisional agreement on the proposal for use of energy from renewable sources, a part of which was under ENVI responsibility. Parliament and Council agreed on a target of energy from renewables of at least 32% of the Union's consumption for 2030, including on

an upwards revision of the target by 2023. At least 14% of fuel for transport purposes must come from renewable sources by 2030. Food-crop biofuels like palm oil, which have a high "indirect land-use change" will be phased out. Indirect land-use change happens when agricultural land is diverted to biofuel production, and notably when that involves the conversion of land that had high carbon stock. Indirect land-use change can thus lead to significant greenhouse gas emissions, and that is why it is important to distinguish between crops with low and with high indirect land-use change, and to phase out the latter. This provisional agreement, on which we will vote on 28th of June, shows once more that Europe is keen on fighting against climate change, and in meeting the goals set by the Paris Agreement.

We will continue the meeting with a discussion on the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes. Existing scientific literature on this subject provides evidence that cannabis and cannabinoids have therapeutic effects for example in the treatment of certain chronic pain in adults, or for improving multiple sclerosis spasticity symptoms. ENVI Members prepared a draft resolution which stresses the need for the Commission and national authorities to draw a clear distinction between medical cannabis and other applications of cannabis, and underlines that research on medical cannabis should be properly addressed under the next research programme. The draft resolution also calls on Member States to encourage increased knowledge among medical professionals on the use of cannabis-based medicine and to consider allowing doctors to freely use their professional judgement to prescribe cannabis-based medicines to patients with relevant conditions.

During this meeting we will also consider a draft opinion on protection of persons reporting on breaches of union law. Whistleblowers are persons who report or disclose to the public information on a wrongdoing in a work-related context. They play an important role in uncovering unlawful activities that damage the welfare of citizens and society, and can ultimately contribute to the implementation of EU legislation. The Commission proposes to ensure EU-wide protection for blowing the whistle on breaches of EU legislation in a wide range of areas, including environmental protection, food and feed safety, or animal health and welfare. The ENVI rapporteur proposes setting up an independent European authority for the protection of whistleblowers, and to broaden the scope of the Commission

proposal, in order to include the possibility of reporting on topics such as waste management, or water, soil and biodiversity protection.

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 – 27 June 2018

MEETING ITEMS

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

Vote:

- Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast) (vote on the parts under ENVI exclusive competence)

Considerations:

- Use of Cannabis for medicinal purposes
- Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law (whistleblowers)

Exchange of views with:

- the Commission on the Nitrates Directive

ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

- Climate diplomacy (Rule 55 with AFET)
- Draft agenda of the Plenary is available [here](#)

VOTES

Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)

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

An agreement on the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast) was reached at the fifth trilogue on 13 June. The co-legislators provisionally agreed on:

- 32% EU-wide binding target for renewables by 2030
- Cleaner transport based on more sustainable biofuels
- New measures to support self-consumers

Parliament and Council provisionally agreed on a share of energy from renewables of at least 32% of the Union's gross final consumption in 2030, with an upwards revision clause by 2023. A minimum share of at least 14% of fuel for transport purposes must come from renewable sources by 2030. In particular: first generation biofuel, based on food crops, must be capped at 2020 levels (with an extra 1%) and in no case exceed 7% of final consumption of road and rail transport. In addition, the share of advanced biofuels and biogas must be at least 1% in 2025 and at least 3,5% in 2030. Food-crop biofuels like palm oil, which have

a high “indirect land use change” (ILUC), will be phased out through a certification process for low ILUC biofuels, which is to be set up in the coming months. The ENVI Committee will vote on those parts of the text under its exclusive competence. The vote in the lead Committee, ITRE, will take place on 10 July.

Rapporteur: [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA)

Shadows: [Petir](#) (EPP), [Leinen](#) (S&D), [Włosiewicz](#) (ECR), [Torvalds](#) (ALDE), [Kyllönen](#) (GUE/NGL), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

CONSIDERATION

Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law (whistleblowers)

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



The Commission proposal for a Directive on the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law stresses that whistleblower protection currently available across the EU is fragmented, and that lack of whistleblower protection in a Member State can have a negative impact on the functioning of EU policies. The proposal aims to ensure

EU-wide protection for blowing the whistle on breaches of EU legislation in a wide range of areas, including environmental protection, food and feed safety, public health or animal health and welfare. It sets up mechanisms and obligations for employers (e.g. clear reporting channels) and includes safeguards to discourage malicious or abusive reports.

In his draft opinion (202 amendments), the Rapporteur proposes, in particular, to set up an independent European authority for the protection of whistleblowers, which would be accessible to whistleblowers, in addition to the internal and external reporting channels. The material scope of the proposal is also broadened to include e.g. waste management, water, soil and biodiversity protection, or climate change.

Rapporteur: [Omarjee](#) (GUE/NGL)

Shadows: [Turcanu](#) (EPP), [Childers](#) (S&D), [Matthews](#) (ECR), [Bearder](#) (ALDE), [Javor](#) (Greens/EFA)

Use of Cannabis for medicinal purposes

Consideration of draft motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))

On 19 February ENVI Members held an exchange of views with the Commission on the use of Cannabis for medicinal purposes. Coordinators decided that an Oral Question with Resolution should be drawn up on this subject. Existing scientific literature on the subject of medical cannabis indicates that cannabis and cannabinoids have therapeutic effects for example in the



treatment of chronic pain in adults, as antiemetic in the treatment of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, and for improving multiple sclerosis spasticity symptoms. Legislations in Member States differ widely on the subject of cannabis for medicinal purposes.

The draft resolution stresses the need for the Commission and national authorities to draw a clear distinction between medical cannabis and other applications of cannabis and underlines that research on medical cannabis should be properly addressed under the next research programme. The draft also calls on the Commission and Member States to address the regulatory barriers which weigh on scientific research and invites them to promote greater dissemination among medical professionals.

Co-rapporteurs: [Šuica](#) (EPP), [Balas](#) (S&D), [Krupa](#) (ECR), [Bearder](#) (ALDE), [Häusling](#) (Greens/EFA), [Torres Martínez](#) (GUE), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Exchange of views with Commission representatives on the Nitrates Directive

In accordance with the Annual Scrutiny Plan for 2018, the ENVI Committee will hold at this meeting an implementation session on environmental legislation. Members tabled questions on the implementation of the Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (Nitrates Directive), on matters such as the “Designation of nitrate vulnerable zones”, “Evolution of pressures from agriculture”, “Nitrates monitoring”, or “Water quality”.



NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications

- Workshop proceedings on [Post 2020 CO₂ emission targets for cars and vans](#)
- Study on [the food safety situation in Ireland and overview of the Directorate for Health and Food Audits and Analysis of DG SANTE](#)
- Briefing on [IMO's challenges on the route to decarbonising international shipping](#)
- Workshop proceedings on [Climate Diplomacy](#)

Upcoming Publications

- Briefing on the UN-High Level Political Forum on SDGs in New York from 16 to 18 July 2018
- Briefing on large carnivores in the Alps
- Workshop proceedings on the Sustainability of Health Systems

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



New data collected by citizens: Cigarette butts and filters the most common pieces of litter on Europe's beaches. The European Environment Agency (EEA) has released new data about litter found on Europe's beaches. Based on nearly 700,000 collected items, disposable plastics are the biggest contributor to marine litter, with cigarette butts and filters being the most commonly found individual items. The new data has been collected by volunteers using the EEA's Marine Litter Watch [mobile app](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA improved the European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON). It now features two searchable databases: NanoData, a knowledge base on nano science and technology and the eNanoMapper that helps interest parties to find safety information about nanomaterials. [More](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



ECDC published on 7 June an update to the 2016 ECDC Rapid Risk Assessment on carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE). CRE poses a significant threat to patients and healthcare systems in all EU/EEA countries and is associated with high mortality, primarily due to delays in administration of effective treatment and the limited availability of treatment options. New antibiotics capable of replacing carbapenems for their main indications are not likely to become

available in the near future. CRE are adapted to spread in healthcare settings as well as in the community, and measures should address both routes of transmission. [More](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



World Bee Day: The EU Bee Partnership is ready to get down to business after all involved stakeholders agreed a framework for action that could revolutionise the collection and sharing of data on bee health in the EU. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



Interested in joining the Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT) to represent patients' associations or clinicians? The Commission has published a call for

expressions of interest for representatives of patients' organisations and clinicians to join EMA's Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT) as members and alternates. This call is intended to select candidates to replace the Committee's current civil society representatives. The Commission will appoint two members representing patients' associations and two members representing clinicians, as well as alternates for each of them. Expressions of interest should be submitted to the European Commission no later than 18 July 2018, either by e-mail to sante-call-agencies@ec.europa.eu or by post. Interested parties should complete both application forms and the form on declarations of interests, which can be downloaded from the [European Commission's website](#). Candidates will be informed of the outcome of the selection process.

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee : 9-10 July 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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