

### CHAIR'S WELCOME



Welcome back! The next ENVI meeting will take place on 29-30 August in Brussels with a busy agenda which includes discussions and votes on key files in the ENVI policy areas.

Around 85% of the waste in the coastal or marine environment is made of plastic. Single-use plastic products thus pose a severe risk to marine ecosystems, biodiversity and to human health. We will discuss

the draft report on the proposal for a directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, which includes new EU-wide rules targeting the ten single-use plastic products most often found on Europe's beaches and seas. The draft report proposes, inter alia, shortening the timeline for achieving significant reductions in the consumption of some single-use plastic products, and includes a specific reduction target for plastic tobacco filters.

New heavy-duty vehicles are responsible for a fourth of total road transport CO2 emissions. The Commission proposal addressing lorries sets CO2 reduction targets to be met by 2025 and by 2030. The Rapporteur seeks to increase the ambition of the proposal and align it better to the commitments under the Paris Agreement, and proposes a binding minimum share of zero- and low-emission vehicles for each manufacturer, in 2025, and in 2030 of 10% and 35% respectively, to ensure investment in such vehicles on the Union market and in the adequate infrastructure.

In addition, we will discuss the draft report on transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain. The Commission's proposal on this matter follows the European Citizens Initiative on glyphosate. It is essential that citizens and stakeholders have access to complete information related to the scientific assessments and studies on which risk assessments and ultimately of EU food law are based. Citizens have voiced their concerns regarding the studies used in the evaluation of pesticides. The ENVI rapporteur proposes aligning EFSA rules on transparency with those of other agencies, ensuring that the stringent requirements for transparency also apply in the areas of risk management and risk communication, and that two representatives of industry and NGOs take part in EFSA's management board.

ENVI Members are also set to vote on the ENVI opinion to the Draft EU Budget for 2019. With respect to the Draft EU Budget and its implications for the ENVI policy areas, the draft opinion calls, amongst others, that every effort be made to dedicate at least 20% of the EU budget to climate related actions, and that sufficient resources be allocated to the protection of biodiversity as well.

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 - 29 August 2018

### MEETING ITEMS

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

#### Votes

- General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019- all sections
- Complementing EU type-approval legislation with regard to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union
- 14th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14)

#### Considerations

- Alignment of reporting obligations in the field of environment policy
- Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment
- CO2 emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles
- European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund
- Unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the food supply chain
- Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work (3<sup>rd</sup> set of amendments to Directive 2004/37/EC)
- Council Decision on the conclusion of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Japan
- Transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain
- 14th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14)
- Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation
- Specific programme implementing Horizon Europe
- Artificial intelligence and robotics

### ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

- A European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance
- Nominal quantities for placing on the Union market of single distilled shochu
- A European Strategy for Plastics in a circular economy
- Implementation of the Plant Protection Products Regulation

Draft agendas of the Plenary are available [here](#)

## VOTES

**General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019**

Votes on draft opinion and budgetary amendments (see [meeting documents](#))

On 23 May, the Commission proposed a Draft EU Budget for 2019 (2019 DB), the sixth budget under the current MFF for 2014-2020, focused on growth, solidarity and security. The proposed 2019 DB amounts to EUR 166 billion in commitments (+3% over 2018) and EUR 149 billion in payments (+3% over 2018).

In her draft opinion, the Chair particularly stresses that every effort should be made to reach the 20 % target of climate-related funds, and calls for sufficient resources to be allocated to the protection of biodiversity. The Chair also particularly highlights that, where appropriate, more financial and human resources must be allocated to those agencies so that they can fulfil their mandate and execute their tasks, and in order to promote a science-based approach in the Union. 18 amendments were tabled. In addition, 44 budgetary amendments were tabled, including 15 concerning pilot projects and preparatory actions.

Rapporteur: [Valean](#) (EPP)

Shadows: [Kadenbach](#) (S&D), [Piecha](#) (ECR), [Jäättteenmäki](#) (ALDE), [Omarjee](#) (GUE/NGL), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

**14th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14)**

Vote on questions for oral answer (see [meeting documents](#))



The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), known informally as the Biodiversity Convention, is a multilateral treaty, which entered into force on 29 December 1993. The Convention has three main goals including: the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair

and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 14) is to be held in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 17 to 29 November 2018. The co-authors of the questions for oral answer ask the Commission and the Council to provide information on what actions they are planning in order to achieve the targets of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan, and whether they intend to propose a stronger implementation mechanism for the post-2020 framework, and strengthened accountability tools.

Co-Rapporteurs: [Lins](#) (EPP), [Balas](#) (S&D), [Wiśniewska](#) (ECR), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Hazeekamp](#) (GUE/NGL), [Javor](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD), [Jalkh](#) (ENF)

## CONSIDERATIONS

**Alignment of reporting obligations in the field of environment policy**

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

The Rapporteur welcomes the intention of the Commission to streamline the alignment of reporting obligations of the environment-related legislation, updating specific provisions of 10 sectoral directives and regulations. She makes several suggestions to improve the legislative proposal that overall should modernise information management and diminish administrative burden.

Certain proposals of the Rapporteur aim to offer a more transparent access to clear environmental information for various stakeholders, including the public, and contribute inter alia to priority objective 4 of the 7th Environment Action Programme. Some changes made by the Rapporteur enhance the role of co-legislators, including the one of the European Parliament, and clarify the role of the European Environment Agency (EEA) in the overall reporting and monitoring exercise.

**Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment**

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

On 28 May 2018, the Commission adopted a proposal for a new Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, which is part of the wider approach announced in the Plastics Strategy and of the Circular Economy Action Plan.



The proposal includes new EU-wide rules targeting the ten single-use plastic products most often found on Europe's beaches and seas, as well as lost and abandoned fishing gear. These items constitute 70% of all marine litter items. In her draft report, the Rapporteur tabled 45 amendments. They aim, *inter alia*, at shortening the timeline for achieving significant reductions in the consumption of some single-use plastic products. Member States are asked to integrate their reduction measures into comprehensive plans. Tobacco filters are also added to list of items concerned. An article on the reduction of post-consumption tobacco product waste is added. It includes a specific reduction target for plastic tobacco filters of 50% by 2025 and 80% by 2030. Furthermore, very lightweight plastic carrier bags are added to the list of products to be banned, except where these are needed for hygiene reasons. A mandatory requirement for 25% recycled content is also introduced for drinking bottles, in order to safeguard the market uptake of recycled content.

Rapporteur: [Ries](#) (ALDE)

Shadows: [Florenz](#) (EPP), [Paolucci](#) (S&D), [Demesmaeker](#) (ECR), [Boylan](#) (GUE), [Auken](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD), [Goddyn](#) (ENF)

## CO2 emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs)

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



On 17 May 2018, the Commission presented its last proposal from the Clean Mobility Package setting for the first time ever CO2 emissions performance standards for lorries. HDVs are responsible for ¼ of total road transport CO2 emissions, or 6% of the total EU CO2 emissions.

The proposal sets targets for 15% reduction by 2025 on the 2019 levels, and at least aspirational 30% reduction for 2030, subject to review in 2022. Only large lorries are covered, while vocational vehicles, buses, coaches and trailers are exempted until 2022 when the scope will be extended. In his draft report of 74 AMs, the Rapporteur seeks to increase the ambition of the proposal and align it better to the commitments under the Paris Agreement as well as what is expected from the transport sector in terms of its contribution in view of the Effort Sharing Regulation as well as its decarbonisation reaching net zero emissions by mid-century at the latest.

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

Shadows: [Fjellner](#) (EPP), [Zoffoli](#) (S&D), [Matthews](#) (ECR), [Torvalds](#) (ALDE), [Eck](#) (GUE), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Mélán](#) (ENF)

## Transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain

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



On 11 April 2018, the European Commission published a proposal for a regulation on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain, amending the General Food Law Regulation ((EC) No 178/2002)

as well as eight legislative acts dealing with specific sectors in the food chain, such as GMOs (cultivation and for Food/Feed uses), feed additives, or food additives.

In her draft report, the rapporteur comments on the lack of an accompanying impact assessment, the proposed rules on transparency, and the proposed procedure for the appointment of members of scientific panels. She proposes 63 amendments which aim in particular to align EFSA rules on transparency with those of other agencies, ensure that the stringent requirements for transparency also apply in the areas of risk management and risk communication, extend audit obligations to laboratories in third countries commissioned by European companies to carry out studies, and ensure that there are two representatives of industry and NGOs on EFSA's management board.

Rapporteur: [Sommer](#) (EPP)

Shadows: [Poc](#) (S&D), [Gericke](#) (ECR), [Federley](#) (ALDE), [Hazekamp](#) (GUE/NGL), [Häusling](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

## Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

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

On 7 June, the Commission presented Horizon Europe, the successor of Horizon 2020 the EU Research and Innovation programme, for the period 2021-2027. The European Commission foresees financing for Horizon Europe to the tune of 97.6 billion EUR, up from the roughly 80 billion EUR for Horizon 2020.

The rapporteur welcomes the continuation of grants as the main funding model for Horizon Europe. He also welcomes the targeted changes which in his opinion will help the EU create a better environment for breakthrough innovation: notably the creation of the European Innovation Council and the creation of limited, focused and well-funded missions which can serve to break silo approaches to research and rally the scientific community and industry behind them.

Rapporteur: [Buşoi](#) (EPP)

Shadows: [Wölken](#) (S&D), [Matthews](#) (ECR), [Ries](#) (ALDE), [Boylan](#) (GUE/NGL), [Škrlec](#) (Greens/EFA)

## NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

### Recent Publications

- Briefing on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) at the UN-High Level Political Forum in July 2018
- Briefing on [Large carnivores in the Alps](#)
- Workshop proceedings on [Post 2020 CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets for cars and vans](#)
- Workshop proceedings on [Climate Diplomacy](#)

### Upcoming Publications

- Workshop proceedings on the Sustainability of Health Systems and on Digitalisation and big data
- Briefing on the Global Climate Action Summit, San Francisco (12-14/09/18)
- Study on Guidelines for submission and evaluation of applications for the approval of active substances in pesticides
- Briefing on the impact of Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 on innovation and the development of alternatives and new plant protection products

### Upcoming Events

- Workshop on Cardiovascular diseases and lifestyle (9 Oct, 10-12h)

### NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

#### European Environment Agency (EEA)



**Air pollution: agriculture and transport emissions continue to pose problems in meeting agreed limits.** The EEA briefing, 'National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive reporting status 2018' presents progress made by the EU and its Member States in meeting the emission ceilings that are applicable since 2010 set out in the NEC Directive (2016/2284/EU). A separate EEA report on updated data from the annual European Union emission inventory report 1990-2016 under the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) shows that for the third consecutive year, ammonia emissions have increased — by 0.4% between 2015 and 2016. [More](#)

#### European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



**New database on Candidate List substances in articles by 2021** ECHA will establish a new database on the presence of hazardous chemicals in articles by the end of 2019 for waste treatment operators and consumers. This new task for the Agency is based on the revised Waste Framework Directive that entered into force in July 2018. It is part of the EU's waste legislation package, contributing to the EU's circular economy policy. [More](#)

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



**Measles continues to circulate in the EU/EEA.** Measles outbreaks continue to occur in a number of EU/EEA countries, and there is a risk of spread and sustained transmission in areas with susceptible populations.

According to the latest Communicable Diseases In order to stop

measles transmission and protect those most vulnerable to severe complications and death, especially infants, at least 95% of the population needs to be vaccinated with two doses of measles-containing vaccine. The continued circulation of measles in the region stresses the importance for people to be vaccinated with two doses, to protect themselves and their families. [More](#)

#### European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



**New guidance on nanotechnologies in food and feed.** EFSA has published its guidance on how to assess the safety of nanoscience and nanotechnology applications. The guidance gives practical suggestions on the types of testing that are needed and the methods that can be applied. [More](#)

#### European Medicines Agency (EMA)



**EU and Japan reinforce their collaboration on inspections of medicine manufacturers.** The EU and Japan have agreed to broaden the range of medicines for which they will

recognise each other's inspections of manufacturing sites. The scope of the 2004 mutual recognition agreement will now cover sterile products, active pharmaceutical ingredients and biologicals including vaccines. This means that authorities from the EU and Japan have agreed that they have equivalent regulatory and procedural frameworks for inspections of manufacturers for these products and can therefore rely on each other's inspections. [More](#)

**Next meeting of the ENVI Committee :** 10 and 13 September 2018 (Strasbourg);  
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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