

CHAIR'S WELCOME



ENVI will hold an extraordinary meeting on 1st October in Strasbourg.

On Monday we will consider the amendments tabled to the proposal on the Transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain. This file is of key importance to respond to the concerns of the citizens and strengthen their trust in the way EU assesses what ultimately arrives on our tables.

Transparency, reliability, objectivity and independence of the studies used by EFSA in risk assessments are our only guiding lights.

In the upcoming meeting we will also adopt the position of the Committee with respect to 14th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity which is to be held in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 17 to 29 November. Two major items on the agenda of the Convention will be the mainstreaming of biodiversity in mining, energy, infrastructure, industry and health, and the process preparing the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The Commission and Member States must show greater ambition and commit to immediate, substantial and additional efforts on biodiversity conservation so as to meet EU targets.

ENVI members will also vote on the draft resolution on the use of Cannabis for medicinal purposes. The debate around this subject has been evolving rapidly both on the EU and worldwide, but there is no consensus on definitions and uses of cannabis for medicinal purposes among Member States. Research in this area is also scant and weighs on the conclusions which legislators can draw. The draft resolution asks the Commission and Member States to get to work to address these gaps.

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 - 28 September 2018

MEETING ITEMS

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

Votes

- Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work
- Use of Cannabis for medicinal purposes
- 14th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14)

Considerations

- Establishing the InvestEU Programme
- Transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain

VOTES

Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work

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

On 5 April 2018, the Commission adopted a 3rd set of amendments to Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work (CMD). This Directive sets a number of general minimum requirements to eliminate or reduce exposure for all carcinogens and mutagens. Employers must identify and assess risks to workers associated with exposure to specific carcinogens and mutagens, and must prevent exposure where risks occur. In this new proposal, the Commission proposes to include in Annex III of the Directive new exposure limit values for five chemicals in the CMD. With regard to the substances in questions, she considers the limits in place in the Member States to be very similar, and each country should only have to adjust its limits on one or two substances at most. She therefore had no amendments to propose. 28 amendments were tabled by ENVI members, out of which 24 amendments to the recitals of the proposal and 4 to the Annex. The rapporteur proposed 7 compromise amendments.

Rapporteur: [Mélis](#) (ENF)

Shadows: [Gambús](#) (EPP), [Dalli](#) (S&D), [Wiśniewska](#) (ECR), [Ries](#) (ALDE), [Boylan](#) (GUE/NGL), [Rivasi](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

Use of Cannabis for medicinal purposes

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



Whilst the regulatory landscape is changing fast both in the EU and worldwide, legislations in Member States differ widely on the subject of cannabis for medicinal purposes. ENVI adopted on 20 June an Oral Question to the Commission addressing research

gaps on medicinal cannabis, the actions which could be taken to improve access for patients and the definition of standards for medicinal cannabis. The draft resolution stresses the need for the Commission and national authorities to draw a clear distinction between cannabis-based medicines and other applications of cannabis and underlines how research on medical cannabis should be properly addressed under the next research programme. 84 amendments have been tabled to this resolution and 15 compromise amendments have been negotiated.

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

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

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



The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), is a multilateral treaty, which entered into force on 29 December 1993. The Convention has three main goals: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. The 14th meeting of the COP to the CBD is to be held in Sharm-el-Sheikh from 17 to 29 November 2018. Two major items for COP14 are the mainstreaming of biodiversity in mining, energy, infrastructure, industry and health, and the process preparing the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. In the draft resolution, the co-rapporteurs stress the importance of protecting global biodiversity and urge the Commission and Member States to commit to immediate, substantial and additional efforts on biodiversity conservation so as to meet EU targets. A total of 57 amendments were tabled to the draft resolution and no compromise amendments were prepared.

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

CONSIDERATIONS

Establishing the InvestEU Programme

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

On 6 June 2018, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation establishing InvestEU programme, which is the MFF Programme that will replace EFSI for the financial period 2021 - 2027. The aim of the proposal remains in essence the same as the one pursued by EFSI. The proposal sets out a guarantee in order for private investors to be able to finance projects with a risk profile that is higher than the one they would usually face at normal market conditions. In his draft opinion, the rapporteur tabled 19 amendments in total. He generally welcomes

the proposal, in particular in light of the increased focus on sustainability.

Rapporteur: [Belet](#) (EPP)

Shadows: [Grammatikakis](#) (S&D), [Wiśniewska](#) (ECR), [Federley](#) (ALDE), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Konečná](#) (GUE)

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

Consideration of amendments (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. This proposal follows the European Citizens Initiative on glyphosate, and specifically the concerns voiced regarding the studies to be used in the evaluation of pesticides. In order to address these concerns, the Commission proposes to strengthen transparency in the risk assessment process and provide additional guarantees in terms of reliability, objectivity and independence of the studies used by EFSA in risk assessments. The rapporteur criticises the lack of an accompanying impact assessment, the timing of the Commission's proposal, 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. 539 amendments in total were tabled.

Rapporteur: [Sommer](#) (EPP)

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

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee : 10-11 October 2018 (Brussels);
Future meetings: [2018 meeting dates](#).

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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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