

### CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI meeting will take place on 10-11 October in Brussels. We will address several topical issues, including funding instruments for the implementation of environment and health policies, the reduction of the environmental impact of certain plastic products, and the upcoming COP24.

We start with an exchange of views on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+). ESF+ is the result of a merger of the current European Social Fund, the EU Health programme, and a number of other existing funds and programmes. It is a financial instrument, which aims to strengthen Europe's social dimension, by setting out specific priorities and rules on funding for Member States. The ENVI Rapporteur salutes the reinforcement of the Union's social dimension while expressing a number of concerns, in particular in relation to the withdrawal of health as a separate and central programme and the decrease in funding for the Health strand. The rapporteur considers that a separate and ambitious Health Programme would have the capacity to face the worrying realities and health threats, such as antimicrobial resistance, cross-border threats, or disease prevention.

We continue with several votes on key matters, including on the Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment. Every year in the EU, 150 000 to 500 000 tonnes of plastic waste enter the oceans, and 95% of Europeans think action on single-use plastics (SUPs) is an urgent necessity. The Commission legislative proposal on this issue introduces new EU-wide rules targeting the ten SUP products most often found on Europe's beaches and seas, as well as lost and abandoned fishing gear, which together represent 70% of all marine litter items. The ENVI draft report aims *inter alia* at shortening the timeline for achieving significant reductions in the consumption of some SUP products, and introduces a mandatory requirement for 25% recycled content for drinking bottles. We will also vote on a draft resolution which presents points for debate in order to define the position of the European Parliament in view of the COP24 Climate Conference next December in Katowice, Poland; these include the ratification of the Paris Agreement, its implementation, and future update of commitments, the priority negotiation points in COP24, and the comprehensive effort required from all sectors.

On Thursday, ENVI Members will discuss the report on the LIFE Programme - the only EU fund dedicated solely to environmental and climate objectives. Improving the quality of life for European citizens through targeted projects is the main goal of the programme. To date, over 4500 projects have been co-financed through LIFE. The Commission's proposal sets out the new programme for the period 2021-2027, which encourages investment and activities focusing on key objectives, such as energy efficiency and small-scale renewables. The rapporteur proposes amongst others, to further improve this successful programme by increasing the role of the merit criteria for the award of the funds and the flexibility of the co-financing rates.

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 - 9 October 2018

### MEETING ITEMS

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

#### Votes

- Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment
- Promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles
- Persistent organic pollutants (recast)
- Reporting obligations in the field of environment policy
- Trade Agreement between the EU - Colombia and Peru
- Digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market; empowering citizens and building a healthier society
- Disclosures to sustainable investments and sustainability risks
- Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation
- Establishing the programme implementing Horizon Europe
- UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland (COP24)
- Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Japan
- Rare diseases
- A Europe that protects: Clean air for all
- EU Pollinators Initiative
- Common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument

#### Considerations

- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
- European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)
- Establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
- A Europe that protects: Clean air for all
- EU Pollinators Initiative
- Digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market; empowering citizens and building a healthier society
- Supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products

#### Exchange of views

- with the Commission on the envisaged measures on lighting products in the context of the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling legislation

### ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

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

### VOTES

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

Vote on 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.

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, which should include quantitative targets set by the Member States themselves. 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.

672 amendments were tabled on all the provisions, the ECON opinion contains 31 amendments, PECH 47 amendments, ITRE 66 and AGRI 90 amendments. 13 compromise amendments were negotiated.

Rapporteur: [Ries](#) (ALDE)

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

#### Promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles

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



The Commission proposal amends Directive 2009/33/EC on the promotion of clean, energy-efficient road vehicles ("Clean Vehicles Directive") with the aim to promote the clean transport, fostering new and clean technologies and in the long-term reduce emissions of air pollutants and CO<sub>2</sub>.

In his draft report, the Rapporteur, amongst others: links the definition of clean vehicle for light and heavy-duty vehicles, to Directive 2014/94/EU on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, in order to create long-term predictability and stability and to contribute to the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure; clarifies some provisions on the minimum procurement targets such as its dates application, the duration of periods for the targets, and the relevant moment of the public procurement cycle

which is to be taken into account for the calculation of the targets; and asks for adequate EU financial support for contracting authorities and contracting entities to face the additional costs linked to the achievement of the minimum procurement targets for light- and heavy-duty vehicles.

The draft report includes 31 amendments, the TRAN committee opinion includes 55 amendments and further 311 amendments were tabled by ENVI Members. A total of 8 compromise amendments were negotiated.

Rapporteur: [Grzyb](#) (EPP)

Shadows: [Dance](#) (S&D), [Matthews](#) (ECR), [Huitema](#) (ALDE), [Taylor](#) (Greens/EFA), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Mélín](#) (ENF)

#### 2018 UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland (COP24)

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



The Co-Sponsors present in the draft resolution a number of points for debate to define the position of the European Parliament in view of the COP24 Climate Conference next December in Katowice, Poland. The draft resolution welcomes the unprecedented pace of ratifications and the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement, however, it also warns that even the ambitious targets of the agreement do not guarantee that significant adverse climate impacts will be avoided, calling for rising global GHG emissions to fall to net zero by 2050 and for the Nationally Determined Contributions to be upgraded by 2020, following the 2018 Talanoa Dialogue.

Co-rapporteurs: [Valean](#) (EPP), [Liese](#) (EPP), [Leinen](#) (S&D), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Torres Martínez](#) (GUE), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

### CONSIDERATIONS

#### Establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

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

The LIFE programme is the only EU fund dedicated solely to environmental and climate objectives. The programme bridges the gap between the development of new knowledge and its implementation. Since 1992, LIFE has co-financed more than 4500 projects.



The Rapporteur is proposing in his draft report to further improve this successful programme by increasing the role of the merit criteria for the award of the funds, increasing the flexibility of the co-financing rates for better adaptability and introducing measurable targets and performance indicators in particular for actions aimed at the protection of biodiversity.

Rapporteur: [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE)

Shadows: [Dantin](#) (EPP), [Caputo](#) (S&D), [Gericke](#) (ECR), [Javor](#) (Greens/EFA), [Omarjee](#) (GUE/NGL), [Evi](#) (EFDD)

### European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

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



On 30 May 2018, the Commission presented a proposal for a Regulation on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) which pools the scope and resources of the several funds and programmes, including the European Social Fund and the Health Programme.

The Rapporteur salutes the reinforcement of the Union's social dimension and the need to further simplify fund programming. However, the Rapporteur finds the withdrawal of health as a separate and central programme undoubtedly to be in the detriment of Member States' citizens, who already overwhelmingly support the notion of the EU intervening further in health. He would have preferred that the Health Programme be re-established as a separate programme during the next MFF, and thus have the capacity to face the forthcoming worrying realities and health threats. The Rapporteur also finds the significant decrease in funding for the Health strand unacceptable. While the financial envelope available to the Health Programme 2014 - 2020 is EUR 458 million in current prices, the Commission has decreased it to EUR 413 million in current prices. Finally, in respect of the content of the proposal, the Rapporteur considers it should be stressed that access to quality, sustainable and affordable care services should be patient-centred, that the Union's objectives and actions in the field of health, should include fostering disease prevention and early diagnosis, and health promotion throughout the lifetime.

Rapporteur: [Buşoi](#) (EPP)

Shadows: [Kadenbach](#) (S&D), [Piecha](#) (ECR), [Jäättelämäki](#) (ALDE), [Konečná](#) (GUE)

### A Europe that protects: Clean air for all

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



In the Communication, adopted on 17 May 2018, the Commission outlines measures available to help Member States fight air pollution and meet their targets, and the enforcement action being taken. The measures proposed by the Commission rest on three main

pillars: ambient air quality standards; national emission reduction targets; and emission standards for key sources of pollution.

In the oral question to the Commission, the co-authors ask the Commission to provide more information on the measures taken to speed up infractions proceedings, on funding options provided to authorities to reduce emissions from transport, and on measures proposed in the CAP reform to encourage farmers to reduce emissions and particularly ammonia. In the draft motion for a resolution, the co-rapporteurs underline that tackling air pollution requires holistic approach and action at all levels of governance. Reference is also made to indoor air pollution, to the importance of improving air pollution science, monitoring and research, and of providing sufficient funding for these actions.

Co-rapporteurs: [Girling](#) (ECR), [Dance](#) (S&D), [Wiśniewska](#) (ECR), [Bearder](#) (ALDE), [Taylor](#) (ALDE), [Hasekamp](#) (GUE/NGL), [Evi](#) (EFDD)

### EU Pollinators Initiative

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

On 1 June 2018, the Commission published its Communication on the EU pollinators initiative, which presents strategic objectives and actions to be taken by the EU and its Member States to address the decline of pollinators in the EU and contribute to global conservation efforts. The initiative responds to the calls made by the Parliament, and the Council for action to protect pollinators and their habitats in order to put an end to their decline.



In the oral question to the Commission, the co-authors ask the Commission how it intends to increase coherence between the Pollinators Initiative and the Common Agricultural Policy, whether an EU biodiversity strategy post-2020 is being prepared, and whether it intends to propose legislation completely banning all neonicotinoid-based pesticides. In the draft motion for a resolution, the co-rapporteurs welcome the Commission's initiative, but consider that it fails to sufficiently address the main root causes of pollinators' decline. The importance of reducing pesticide use and the need for further research on the cause of bee decline is also stressed.

Co-rapporteurs: [Peterle](#) (EPP), [Kadenbach](#) (S&D), [Demesmaeker](#) (ECR), [Ries](#) (ALDE), [Engström](#) (Greens/EFA), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [D'Ornano](#) (EFDD), [Goddyn](#) (ENF)

## NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

### Recent Publications

- Study on [Guidelines for submission and evaluation of applications for the approval of active substances in pesticides](#)
- Briefing on the [Global Climate Action Summit](#), San Francisco (12-14/09/2018)
- Briefing on [Large carnivores in the Alps](#)
- Briefing on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) at the UN-High Level Political Forum in July 2018
- Workshop proceedings on the [Sustainability of Health Systems](#)
- Workshop proceedings on [Digitalisation and big data: implication for the health sector](#)

### Upcoming Publications

- Study on international climate negotiations in view of COP24 in Katowice
- Briefing on China climate policies with emphasis on its carbon trading markets

### Upcoming Workshops

- on Cardiovascular diseases and lifestyle (9 /10/2018, 09-11 h)
- on Brain, new approach to brain diseases (21/11/ 2018, 10-12h)

### NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

#### European Environment Agency (EEA)



**Ozone-depleting substances 2018.** Aggregated data reported by companies on the import, export, production, destruction, feedstock and process agent use of ozone-depleting substances in the European Union, 2006-2017. Overall efforts to reduce the use of chemicals harming the ozone layer across the European Union continued in 2017 and the EU has already achieved its goals on the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances under the Montreal Protocol, according to the latest data released by the European Environment Agency (EEA). [More](#)

#### European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



**ECHA database for substances of very high concern (SVHC) in articles.** The primary users of the database will be the waste treatment operators and consumers.

It will contain information submitted by companies producing, importing or supplying articles that contain SVHC. It is part of the EU's waste legislation package, contributing to the EU's circular economy policy. ECHA is currently undertaking a [call for input](#) to consult stakeholders on the draft proposals. Also a [workshop](#) on this topic will be organised on 22-23 October in Helsinki. [More](#)

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



Since the last epidemiological update on 31 August 2018, European countries have reported 530 new West Nile virus (WNV) cases and 52 deaths. The number of WNV infections reported so far exceeds the total number of

infections in the previous five years. Personal protection from mosquito bites is advisable for any person residing in or visiting affected areas, especially the elderly and immunocompromised who are at higher risk of developing severe symptoms. [More](#)

#### European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



A new EFSA working group of scientific experts will start evaluating recent toxicological data on the food contact material bisphenol A (BPA). EFSA's Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes and Processing Aids (CEP) will then re-assess the potential hazards of BPA in food and review the temporary safe level set in EFSA's previous full risk assessment from 2015. This new assessment should be ready by 2020. [More](#)

#### European Medicines Agency (EMA)



EMA and the European Commission have published a joint action plan to support the development of medicines for children in Europe. It suggests concrete actions under the current legal framework to further boost the development of paediatric medicines. The plan was originally intended to be completed within a two-year timeframe. However, due to the impact of Brexit and the Agency's relocation to the Netherlands, some actions are not expected to be completed by the end of 2020, as specified in the plan. [More](#)

**Next meeting of the ENVI Committee :** 18 October 2018 (Brussels);  
Future meetings: [2018 meeting dates](#); [2019 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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