

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI meeting will take place on 6 December in Brussels.

We will start off with a joint meeting with our colleagues from the ECON Committee to consider the report on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment. There will be no sustainable transition without sustainable finance. The proposal aims to provide greater clarity, incentives and communication to spur investments into a cleaner economy. The proposed measures aim to, among others, create a clear 'taxonomy' in defining what qualifies as 'sustainable', define investors' duties and disclosures and set low-carbon benchmarks.

After the votes, we will consider the report on the rules to support Member States' Strategic Plans in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). ENVI shares responsibility with the AGRI Committee on large parts of the report. The proposal aims, among others, to give further prominence to environmental provisions in the future CAP. Our agricultural sector accounted for 10 % of the EU's total GHG emissions in 2015. Even if by 2015 agriculture's GHGs were down 20% from 1990 levels, they have picked up again since 2012 with disparate performances by Member States. Renewed ambition and impetus is needed if agriculture is to contribute its fair share to the EU sustainability objectives.

On Thursday, we will vote on the ENVI draft opinion to the implementation report on the protection of animals during transport within and outside the EU - the object of Regulation 1/2005. Even if the latter has had positive effects on animal welfare, the devil lies in the details of the implementation process. Implementation with respect to the spirit and letter of the regulation can - and should - be further improved - for example with respect to controls on transport conditions.

We will conclude the meeting with a joint debate on ENVI draft opinions to the Budgetary Control Committee with respect to the discharges 2017 both for the General Budget of the EU and for the five agencies ENVI is responsible for - namely EFSA, EEA, ECHA, EMA and ECDC. The six draft opinions point to a positive picture with respect the overall implementation by the Commission of the budgetary headings for environment, climate action, public health and food safety in 2017, and with the work carried out by the five agencies.

A delegation of ENVI Members will be in Katowice for the COP24, where we, in our capacity, will push negotiators to step up ambition to make good on the pledges of the Paris Agreement, to come up with a clear rulebook, stronger NDCs and appropriate climate financing. Any delay, any bickering, any feet dragging would push the planet closer to the brink.

The next ENVI meeting will also be our last meeting of 2018. I would like to thank you for your faithful readership in 2018 and wish you an excellent 2019!

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 - 5 December 2018

MEETING ITEMS

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

Votes

- Protection of animals during transport within and outside the EU
- Establishing the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics
- European Year of Greener Cities 2020

Considerations

- Joint ENVI/ECON Establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment
- CAP Strategic Plans
- European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2019
- Joint debate: Discharge 2017: EU general budget Commission; EFSA; EEA; ECHA EMA; ECDC;

ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

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

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

VOTES

Protection of animals during transport

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



At its meeting of 15 March 2018, the Conference of Presidents decided to task AGRI with drafting an implementation report on alleged contraventions and maladministration in relation to the implementation by Member States and enforcement by the Commission

of Council regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport within and outside the EU. ENVI and TRAN have shared competence over the entire implementation report. In her draft Opinion, the rapporteur, while acknowledging the positive impact that Regulation 1/2005 has had on animal welfare, underlines the deficiencies in the implementation process. In particular, she stresses the importance of limiting the transport time of animals destined to slaughter to eight hours; she insists on the problem of delays at the borders that seriously affect the welfare of transported animals; she underlines the difficulties for a proper implementation of the Regulation in cases where different Member States are responsible for approving journey logs; she deplores the fall of the total number of controls carried out by competent authorities; and, finally, she stresses the necessity of having an harmonised system of sanctions common to all Member States. A total of 159 amendments were tabled. 12 compromise amendment replacing the vast majority of amendments were negotiated

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

Shadows: [Pietikäinen](#) (EPP), [Demesmaeker](#) (ECR), [Huitema](#) (ALDE), [Eck](#) (GUE), [Taylor](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Bilde](#) (ENF)

Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including SMEs, and European statistics

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



In the context of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) programme for 2021-2027, on 7 June 2018, the Commission published a proposal for the Single Market Programme. The proposed Programme brings together activities financed under five preceding

programmes, including food chain actions. The Commission is proposing a budget of €4 billion (for 2021-2027) for the Single Market Programme, of which 41% would be earmarked for food chain actions with the objective of "contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas". Under the 2021-2027 MFF, a total of EUR 1,7 billion has been earmarked for expenditure for food chain actions representing a decrease in budget of 11%. The rapporteur acknowledges the success of the current financing programme in avoiding a major crisis, but considers that more emphasis should be placed on prevention, particularly as concerns trans-boundary exotic diseases from neighbouring third countries. A total of 104 amendments have been tabled to the proposal, and 3 compromise amendments prepared.

Rapporteur: [Mandl \(EPP\)](#)

Shadows: [Balas \(S&D\)](#), [Piecha \(ECR\)](#), [Huitema \(ALDE\)](#), [Eickhout \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Eck \(GUE\)](#), [D'Ornano \(EFDD\)](#)

European Year of Greener Cities 2020

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



Our urban environments face an array of challenges ranging from health concerns to environmental impacts. What is not often acknowledged, is that green infrastructure could solve many of these problems easily and cost-efficiently, at the same time having a

positive effect on residents' health and the attractiveness of the neighbourhoods. The "European Year of Greener Cities 2020" is an initiative of a platform of European NGOs. The year aims to raise awareness of the benefits of green spaces in built environment; to increase the quantity and quality of research and development of new innovations; to encourage citizens to act and improve their own neighbourhoods; to create a culture of appreciation of the green spaces; to increase the amount of green infrastructure projects; to connect existing initiatives and share best practices across Member States, and to create a roadmap of greening the European cities by 2030. As there are various existing European projects within the field of green infrastructure, the year aims to connect all the existing initiatives, share best practices and create momentum for the overall agenda on the local, national and EU levels. On 16 May 2018, ENVI Coordinators decided to draft an Oral Question and Motion for a Resolution to support this initiative. The aim of the resolution would be to explore the importance of urban and green infrastructure and

what kind of benefits the European Year of Greener Cities 2020 would bring to Europeans and European cities. The oral question was adopted in the meeting of 25 October. 98 amendments were tabled to the draft motion of resolution and 10 compromise amendments proposed.

Co-rapporteurs: [Pietikäinen \(EPP\)](#), [Schaldenmose \(S&D\)](#), [Wiśniewska \(ECR\)](#), [Jäättelmä \(ALDE\)](#), [Eck \(GUE\)](#), [Eickhout \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Evi \(EFDD\)](#)

CONSIDERATIONS

Establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment

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



The European Commission presented a proposal for a regulation on a future EU framework for determining environmentally sustainable financial activities in May along with a package of measures following up its

action plan on financing sustainable growth. In June, the Commission announced the creation of a technical expert group on sustainable finance, which will develop an EU classification system or taxonomy, and support the establishment of a planned EU 'Green Bond Standard'. Preparatory work will be carried out once the taxonomy regulation has entered into force, and the Commission will establish a 'platform on sustainable finance' composed of public and private sector stakeholders. The draft report (123 AMs) seeks to strengthen the future EU framework for determining environmentally sustainable financial activities (the so-called taxonomy regulation). The report includes a 'brown' taxonomy to be added over time, defined as "criteria for economic activities with a negative environmental impact". This contrasts with the Commission's proposal, which only aims at a positive approach, disregarding environmentally harmful activities. The draft report also provides that the taxonomy be based on a set of harmonised indicators, which should include "at least the circular economy indicators". These should capture the environmental impact on "CO2 and other emissions, biodiversity, production of waste, the use of energy and renewable energy, raw materials, water, and direct and indirect land use". Credit institutions and 'investee companies' should also, according to the draft report, be subject to disclosure requirements regarding the green impact of loans. Financial supervision at European level will be the responsibility of the European Banking Authority, the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority and the European Securities and Markets Authority.

Rapporteurs: [Pietikäinen \(ENVI, EPP\)](#), [Eickhout \(ECON, Greens/EFA\)](#),
Shadows: [Gentile \(ENVI, S&D\)](#), [Bonafé \(ECON, S&D\)](#), [Dohrmann \(ENVI, ECR\)](#),
[Swinburne \(ECON, ECR\)](#), [Gerbrandt \(ENVI, ALDE\)](#), [Wiernicki \(ECON, ALDE\)](#),
[Eickhout \(ENVI, Greens/EFA\)](#), [Eck \(ENVI, GUE\)](#), [Papadimoulis \(ECON, GUE\)](#),
[Kappel \(ECON, ENF\)](#).

CAP Strategic Plans

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

On 1 June, the Commission presented a proposal for a CAP Strategic Plans Regulation. Among the three general objectives of the new CAP is "to bolster environmental care and climate action and to contribute to the



environmental- and climate-related objectives of the Union". In their CAP Strategic Plans, Member States will have to spell out how they intend to meet these objectives, ensuring their farmers meet all their requirements with regard to the environment and climate.

According to the proposal, a high level of ambition with regard to climate, environment and biodiversity will be achieved by linking all farmers' income support (and other area- and animal-based payments) to the application of environment- and climate-friendly farming practices. These "eco-schemes", will be funded from national, direct, mandatory payment allocations by dedicating at least 30% of MS rural development budget to environment and climate measures, and by making the funding for environment-related measures in areas of natural constraints (ANCs) additional to the above percentage of rural development. ENVI is an associated committee to AGRI with a number of Articles under shared competence. The rapporteur tabled 52 amendments to the Commission proposal, which relate to the period of application of the Regulation between 2023 and 2027, modification of two of the nine objectives, to make them more consistent with the current environmental legislation, strengthening of the common aspects of the proposal, adding some elements to the basic act, and lowering the discretion of the Member States, and limiting the transfers only from the first to the second pillar.

Rapporteur: [La Via \(EPP\)](#)

Shadows: [Melior \(S&D\)](#), [Melior \(S&D\)](#), [Gerbrandy \(ALDE\)](#), [Kyllönen \(GUE/NGL\)](#), [Eickhout \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Pedicini \(EFDD\)](#)

European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2019

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



In the context of the European Semester cycle, the ECON committee is drafting an own-initiative report to respond to the Commission Communication on the Annual Growth Survey 2019 (AGS 2019). The objective is to provide Parliament's input as regards the economic policy priorities for 2019 ahead of their adoption by the Spring European

Council in March 2019. In the draft opinion, *inter alia*, the Rapporteur calls on the Commission to adapt the European Semester process to a new long-term strategic framework guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to support Member States in achieving environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive growth. He also reiterates the importance of monitoring the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights to ensure that significant progress is achieved in the realisation of its key principles, in particular the right to access affordable, preventive and curative health care of good quality.

Rapporteur: [Kovatchev \(EPP\)](#)

Shadows: [Zorrinho \(S&D\)](#), [Piecha \(ECR\)](#), [Gerbrandy \(ALDE\)](#), [Eck \(GUE\)](#), [Eickhout \(Greens/EFA\)](#)

Joint debate: Discharge 2017: EU general budget Commission; EFSA; EEA; ECHA EMA; ECDC;

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



As in previous years, ENVI will deliver six opinions: one for the discharge of the Commission concerning the implementation of the general budget of the European Union, and five for the discharges of the agencies under ENVI's responsibility (ECDC, ECHA, EEA, EFSA and EMA)

concerning the implementation of their budget. The discharge procedure is the process by which the Parliament and Council scrutinise the implementation of the EU budget and hold the Commission and other EU bodies accountable for their financial management. This year, the discharge procedure concerns financial year 2017. The draft opinions consider the amounts available in 2017 to the Commission and the Agencies under ENVI's remit and the way they used these funds. The six draft opinions express satisfaction with the overall implementation by the Commission of the budgetary headings for environment, climate action, public health and food safety in 2017, and with the work carried out by the five agencies that are under ENVI's remit, as well as with the way the budgets of those agencies were implemented. The six draft opinions therefore express the view that, on the basis of the data available, discharge can be granted to the Commission with respect to expenditure in the areas of environmental and climate policy, public health and food safety for the financial year 2017, and that discharge can also be granted to the five agencies under the remit of the ENVI Committee.

Rapporteur: [Valean \(EPP\)](#)

Shadows: [Kadenbach \(S&D\)](#), [Piecha \(ECR\)](#), [Jäätteenmäki \(ALDE\)](#), [Boylan \(GUE/NGL\)](#)

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications

- Study on [International Climate Negotiations in view of COP24 in Katowice](#)
- Briefing on [China's climate policies with an emphasis on carbon trading markets](#)
- 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)

Upcoming Publications

- Workshop proceedings on Cardiovascular diseases and lifestyle
- Workshop proceedings on Brain, A New Approach to Brain Diseases

Upcoming Workshops

- On robots in healthcare: a solution or a problem?" (19/02/2019 15-17h)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency ([EEA](#))



Environmental indicator report 2018 in support to the monitoring of the 7th Environment Action Programme The annual EEA Environmental Indicator Report 2018 provides an updated scoreboard that monitors progress in 29 selected environmental objectives that are relevant to achieving the three key priority objectives under the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP) that address: natural capital (including biodiversity); sustainable, resource efficient, low-carbon economy; and people's health and well-being. [More.](#)

European Chemicals Agency ([ECHA](#))



Easier access to information on biocides It is now possible to search on ECHA's website with a biocidal product's trade name to find out where in the EU or EEA it is authorised, what its main ingredients are and how to use it safely. It is also possible to compare products to find more environmentally friendly options. In addition, the database also shows where a substance is in the EU approval system, whether it is approved, under evaluation by a Member State, or waiting for an opinion by the Biocidal Products Committee. [More.](#)

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



World AIDS Day 2018, 1 December 2018 On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day, ECDC and the WHO Regional Office for Europe release the latest data on the HIV epidemic in the European Region. The tools to end new HIV infections and AIDS exist. The knowledge on how to use them is agreed upon. Nevertheless late diagnosis of HIV remains a challenge across the EU and European Economic Area. HIV testing provides an entry point to treatment and care and with the new ECDC guidance on integrated HIV, hepatitis B and C testing countries get the latest scientific evidence to develop, implement, improve, monitor and evaluate national or local testing guidelines and programmes for both HIV and viral hepatitis. [More.](#)

European Food Safety Authority ([EFSA](#))



EFSA's expert Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM) has completed the Authority's first comprehensive review of the risks to human and animal health from exposure to dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in food and feed. EFSA has confirmed the conclusion of previous assessments that dietary exposure to dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs – environmental pollutants present at low levels in food and feed – is a health concern. Data from European countries indicate an exceedance of EFSA's new tolerable intake level across all age groups. [More.](#)

European Medicines Agency ([EMA](#))



Revised guideline to assess risk of human medicines for the environment. EMA has published a revision of its guideline on the environmental risk assessment (ERA) of human medicines for a six-month public consultation. The presence of biologically-active pharmaceuticals in the environment is a growing concern, because some of these substances have shown direct effects on wildlife at or below the concentrations found in water and soil. Human medicines may enter the environment during their manufacture, use and disposal. The ERA is based on the use of the product and the physico-chemical, ecotoxicological and fate properties (degradation, persistence) of its active substance. Environmental risk assessment of medicines ensures that the potential effects of pharmaceuticals on the environment are studied and that adequate precautions are taken in case specific risks are identified. One of the most notable changes introduced in the proposed revision is the introduction of the term 'endocrine active substances', to include all compounds that affect development or reproduction. [More.](#)

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee : 14 January 2019 Joint AGRI/ENVI/ITRE (Strasbourg), 21-22 January 2019 (Brussels)
Future meetings: [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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