

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI meeting will take place on the 20th of February, in Brussels.

ENVI will be voting on its draft resolution on the strategy for long-term EU GHG emissions reduction in accordance with the Paris Agreement. The resolution will define the EP position on this key issue, it will help focus minds and channel actions by all actors - citizens, firms and governments - to realise our

Paris Agreement's pledges and achieve a climate-neutral economy by 2050.

Another topical point on the agenda of the next meeting will be the vote on the provisional agreement on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain - the revision of the General Food Law regulation. The provisional agreement reached at the last trilogue on 11 February will 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 agreement will greatly contribute to strengthening confidence for consumers in the food chain - an issue which is increasingly at the centre of citizens' concerns in the EU.

ENVI members will also vote on the opinion to the TRAN report on discontinuing seasonal changes of time. The opposition to the system of bi-annual clock changes has grown in recent years culminating with a public consultation in August 2018, which generated around 4.6 million replies, of which 84% were in favour of discontinuing the bi-annual clock changes. The EC has since proposed to discontinue the seasonal time changes. ENVI will weigh in on the proposal looking especially at the health and environmental dimension of the proposal.

Finally, we will hold an exchange of views with Commissioner Bieńkowska on the follow-up to the recommendations of the EMIS (Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector) Inquiry Committee in ENVI areas of competence. Almost two years have passed since the conclusion of the EMIS committee and we have taken important measures to prevent the repeat of the Dieselgate scandal and ensure that road transport contributes its fair share to emission reduction and a cleaner air. This exchange will be a good opportunity to reflect on what has been done in this legislature and what still needs to be done in this crucial area.

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 – 20 February 2019

MEETING ITEMS

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

Votes:

- Transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: genetically modified maize 4114 (DP-ØØ4114-3) (D060242)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: genetically modified maize MON 87411 (MON-87411-9) (D060243)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: genetically modified maize Bt11 × MIR162 × 1507 × GA21 and sub-combinations Bt11 × MIR162 × 1507, MIR162 × 1507 × GA21 and MIR162 × 1507 (D060244)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: Active substances including thiacloprid (D060042)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: maximum residue levels for several substances including clothianidin (D059754-02)
- Strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction in accordance with the Paris Agreement
- Discontinuing seasonal changes of time

Considerations:

- Joint debate: objections pursuant to Rule 106: genetically modified maize 4114 (DP-ØØ4114-3) (D060242) ; genetically modified maize MON 87411 (MON-87411-9) (D060243); genetically modified maize Bt11 × MIR162 × 1507 × GA21 and sub-combinations Bt11 × MIR162 × 1507, MIR162 × 1507 × GA21 and MIR162 × 1507 (D060244)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: active substances including thiacloprid (D060042)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 106: maximum residue levels for several substances including clothianidin (D0597542)

Exchange of views:

- with Ms Elżbieta Bieńkowska, European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs on the follow-up to the Inquiries of the Committee on Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS) recommendations under ENVI remit
- with the Commission representatives on the on the Draft delegated act on supplementing Directive (EU) 2018/2001 as regards the determination of high indirect land-use change-risk feedstock for which a significant expansion of the production area into land with high carbon stock is observed and the certification of low indirect landuse change-risk biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels.

ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

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

- Definition, presentation and labelling of spirit drinks and protection of geographical indications thereof ***I (A8-0021/2018 - 150)
- Annual strategic report on the implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (DEVE/ENVI)

VOTES

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

Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations (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 as well as eight legislative acts dealing with specific sectors in the food chain: GMOs (cultivation and for Food/Feed uses), feed additives, smoke flavourings, food contact materials, food additives, food enzymes and flavourings, plant protection products and novel foods.

This proposal followed 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 proposed 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 proposal also followed the fitness check of the General Food Law Regulation, which identified the need to improve the transparency in the EU decision-making cycle, as well as the need to safeguard EFSA's ability to get access to a sufficiently high number of qualified and multidisciplinary scientific experts.

A provisional agreement was reached during the third informal trilogue on 11 February 2019. The agreement included in particular a compromise on the timing of publication, the deletion of IP rights and the list of confidential items, which incorporated Parliament's request to ensure that innovative aspects were also addressed. In addition, the Board of Appeal was included in the review clause under Article 61, a 6-months penalty period was set in case of non-compliance with the studies notification requirements, and the fact that that fact-finding missions should be completed within a period of 4 years was specified. As regards the risk communication plan, the compromise reached was that these should be adopted by means of implementing acts. Finally, Parliament accepted Council's position on food alert networks, on the transparency of risk management, on "cocktail effects" and on "divergent scientific findings".

Rapporteurs: [Ayuso](#) (EPP),

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

Strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction in accordance with the Paris Agreement

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

Parties to the Paris Agreement are invited to communicate, by 2020, their mid-century, long-term low GHG emission development strategies. The Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action also provides that the Commission adopts a proposal for a Union long-term strategy for greenhouse gas emissions reduction in accordance with the Paris Agreement which includes a scenario on



achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions within the Union by 2050 and negative emissions thereafter. In the Communication "A Clean Planet for all" adopted on 28 Nov 2018, the Commission presented its strategic long-term vision for a climate-neutral economy by 2050, including 8 possible pathways. The Communication in itself does not present a strategy, neither does it seek to change the agreed 2030 targets. It presents options for actions which should allow for a thorough debate among European decision makers and various stakeholders as to what should be the way forward to 2050. This informed debate should allow the EU to adopt and submit an ambitious strategy by 2020 to the UNFCCC as well as set the direction of the EU's future climate and energy policy. The OQs with MfR are a response to that communication and proposed pathways. The oral questions were adopted in ENVI on 22 January. 402 amendments were tabled, 43 compromise amendments were negotiated.

Co-Rapporteurs: [Liese](#) (EPP), [Guteland](#) (S&D), [Torvalds](#) (ALDE), [Boylan](#) (GUE/NGL), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD)

Discontinuing seasonal changes of time

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

The system of bi-annual clock changes has been increasingly questioned in the last years, by citizens, by the European Parliament, and by a growing number of Member States. The Commission has analysed available evidence, which points to the importance of having harmonised Union rules in this area to ensure a proper functioning of the internal market.



Following a public consultation in August 2018, which generated around 4.6 million replies, of which 84% were in favour of discontinuing the bi-annual clock changes, the Commission presented in 2018 a proposal on the discontinuation of seasonal time change, which has been taking place in Europe since the WWI.

On the one hand, summer-time arrangements could generate positive effects linked to more outdoor leisure activities; on the other hand, research findings suggest that the effect of time change on the human biorhythm may be more severe than previously thought. Additionally, human health was the main reason given by respondents wishing to abolish the current system in the public consultation of last August.

In its draft, the EC proposes text to discontinue the seasonal time changes in the Union, while ensuring that Member States retain the competence to decide on their standard time, in particular whether they will move to the standard time corresponding to their summer-time on a permanent basis or whether they will apply their current standard time permanently. Member States would transpose the Directive by 1 April 2019, assuming a swift adoption of the present proposal by the Council and European Parliament, by March 2019 at the latest, while application of the Directive would start on 1 April 2019.

In his draft the rapporteur welcomes the new initiative of the Commission, and would accept some potential health effects of EU summertime arrangements. He considers however that the choice to be made in changing time should be left to the discretion of the Member States according to their interests in line with the subsidiarity principle. He also considers that one must take into account the empirical evidence related to health issues; that a genuine and sincere consideration and gathering of all accessible data of that particular dossier does not allow making a decision that is clearly supported by scientifically proven arguments, in other words that time change does undoubtedly have an impact on human health. As a result he included in his amendments references to chronobiological findings and proposes the postponement of the entry into force of the Directive for the end of March

2020. 77 amendments were tabled for this opinion. 6 Compromises were negotiated.

Rapporteur: [Piecha \(ECR\)](#),

Shadows: [Liese \(EPP\)](#), [Dance \(S&D\)](#), [Mazuronis \(ALDE\)](#), [Konečná \(GUE\)](#), [Mélin \(ENF\)](#)

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Exchange of views with:

Ms Elżbieta Bieńkowska, European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs on the follow-up to the Inquiries of the Committee on Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS) recommendations under ENVI remit.

The Commission on the draft delegated act on supplementing Directive (EU) 2018/2001 as regards the determination of high indirect land-use change-risk feedstock for which a significant expansion of the production area into land with high carbon stock is observed and the certification of low indirect landuse change-risk biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels.

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications:

- Briefing on [European energy and climate policies towards 2020, 2030 and 2050](#).
- Workshop proceedings on [Brain, A New Approach to Brain Diseases](#)
- 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](#)

Upcoming Publications:

- Study on Sampling points for air quality – Representativeness and comparability of measurements in accordance with Directive 2008/50/EC
- Workshop proceedings on Cardiovascular diseases and lifestyle

Upcoming Events:

- Policy Hub on the measurement of outcomes in healthcare and for programming and managing public health services (22/03/2019)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



Unequal exposure and unequal impacts: social vulnerability to air pollution, noise and extreme temperatures in Europe.

Targeted action is needed to better protect the poor, the elderly and children from environmental hazards like air and noise pollution and extreme temperatures, especially in Europe's eastern and southern regions. The report warns that the health of Europe's most vulnerable citizens remains disproportionately affected by these hazards, despite overall improvements in Europe's environmental quality. [More.](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



Clearer requirements for Applications for Authorisations under REACH - Updated formats for applications for authorisation and review reports are now available on [ECHA's website](#). The formats are compatible with the updated opinion format of ECHA's scientific committees, and instruct applicants on how to present their analysis of alternatives and socio-economic analysis when applying for continuing the use of a substance of very high concern. They will become mandatory for applications and review reports from 1 June 2019. [More.](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



On 28 January, Public Health England (PHE) launched a new multilingual survey, funded by ECDC, which aims to gain an understanding of European healthcare workers' knowledge and attitudes about antibiotics and antibiotic resistance in order to provide a base to support future

needs in terms of policy and education changes, and to fill in gaps in terms of evaluation of communication campaigns targeting healthcare workers. Previous studies have primarily focused on the general public and medical students, highlighting a gap in the understanding of these topics by healthcare workers and other health students. The results of the survey, which closes on 14 February, will follow. [More info.](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



Different audiences can better understand scientific uncertainties when expressions and communications formats are tailored to their needs. EFSA's new and targeted approach to uncertainty communication will help communicators to further boost the transparency of its scientific advice. [More info.](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



New safety features for medicines sold in the EU

As of 9 February 2019, most prescription medicines and some over-the-counter medicines for human use supplied in the EU are required to have a unique identifier (a two-dimension barcode) and an anti-tampering device on their outer packaging. The anti-tampering device is a safety feature that shows whether the packaging has been opened or altered since it left the manufacturer, thereby ensuring that the content of the packaging is authentic. [More info.](#)

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee : 26-27 February 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.

More information: envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu or [website](#) of the ENVI Committee.

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