

CHAIR'S WELCOME



Dear All,

I hope you had a good summer break. ENVI will hold its first meeting after the summer recess on 4-5 September.

This summer has provided further proof of the need to confront the climate crisis with urgency and resolve. July 2019 was the hottest month ever recorded worldwide. From Germany to France, from

Finland to the United Kingdom, heatwaves have hit the EU with record temperatures both in June and July.

On 7 August the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published its Special Report on Climate Change and Land. The report found that the world's land and water resources are being exploited at "unprecedented rates". The report irrefutably confirmed *inter alia* that the way we produce and consume our food is unsustainable - and increasingly so.

The tragic forest fires in the Amazon and its alarming rate of deforestation are also a sombre proof of the pressure that human activity is putting on natural resources. At the end of July the Commission adopted a communication setting out a new framework of actions to protect and restore the world's forests. The devastation in the Amazon - and the inadequate response by Brazil's President - proves that we need to use all the tools at our disposal to protect our vital natural heritage and that our trade agreements cannot be drivers of deforestation.

When it comes to the ever-increasing threat posed by forest fires, we have witnessed the first deployment of rescEU capacities in August in Greece in a tangible example of EU solidarity. RescEU is the centrepiece of the new Union Civil Protection Mechanism and consists of a reserve of civil protection assets such as firefighting planes and helicopters established to assist Member States hit by disasters. ENVI members negotiated the beefed-up mechanism and are working on the post-2020 rescEU.

On Thursday ENVI members will hold an exchange of views with Mauro Petriccione, the Director General of DG CLIMA on the recent developments on climate change policies both in the EU and beyond, ranging from the evaluation of the EU Adaptation Strategy to the recommendations for the national energy and climate plans, from the long-term strategy to the preparations for the UN Climate Change Summit of 23 September 2019.

When it comes to climate change, aviation is one of the sectors which has clearly bucked the trend of emission reductions. On Wednesday we will hold an exchange of views with Henrik Hololei, Director-General for Mobility and Transport on the latest developments with respect to the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Aviation has to step up its contribution and its pace in the climate fight.

Environment Commissioner Karmenu Vella will also be in ENVI this Wednesday to brief members on EU actions to halt biodiversity loss worldwide. Mr Vella will brief members on, among others, the outcome of the CITES conference, on the post-2020 action framework for biodiversity

and on the preparations in view of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity set to take place in Kunming in the final quarter of 2020. Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history – and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating. Decisive action - and EU leadership - is more needed than ever.

A thorough implementation of existing environmental policy is also a necessary condition for success. We will be holding an exchange on the latest Commission communication on the Environmental Implementation Review to scrutinise the successes and pitfalls of the first review cycle and where the EU, Member States and sub-national actors can do more to deliver on environmental protection.

You can follow the ENVI Committee meeting live at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/envi/home.html>

You can also follow the activities of the ENVI Committee on its official Twitter account @EP_Environment

Pascal Canfin – 3 September 2019

MEETING ITEMS

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

Exchanges of Views (EoVs):

- EoV with the Commission on the latest developments concerning CORSIA
- EoV with the Commission on the findings of the Fitness Check of the most relevant chemicals legislation (excluding REACH) and identified challenges, gaps and weaknesses
- EoV with the European Court of Auditors on "EU actions for cross-border healthcare: significant ambitions but improved management required"
- EoV with Karmenu Vella (Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) on international developments in the field of biodiversity
- EoV with the Commission on the Communication on "Stepping up EU action to protect and restore the world's forests"
- EoV with the Commission on climate change (recent developments in decarbonisation and adaptation policies)
- EoV with the Commission on the Environmental Implementation Review 2019 : A Europe that protects its citizens and enhances their quality of life

Votes:

- General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020 - all sections

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

Exchange with Commissioner Vella on international developments in the field of biodiversity

Commissioner Vella (Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) is invited to the ENVI committee to present the Commission position in the framework of the current international effort to protect biodiversity. Global biodiversity is protected by the international Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to which the EU and its Member States are parties. The CBD COP 15 in Kunming (China) in October 2020 will be an important milestone, where EU should have a leading role in setting ambitious goals in the

development of a post-2020 global biodiversity Framework. A recent global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystems services (IPBES, May 2019) warns that nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history, and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world. The report also highlights that biodiversity loss does not only have an impact on nature, it underpins our economies.

Latest developments concerning CORSIA



Under the EU ETS, all airlines operating in Europe, European and non-European alike, are required to monitor, report and verify their emissions, and to

surrender allowances against those emissions. The legislation adopted in 2008 was designed to apply to emissions from flights from, to and within the European Economic Area (EEA). The EU, however, decided to limit the scope of the EU ETS to flights within the EEA until 2016 to support the development of a global measure by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In light of the adoption in 2016 by ICAO of a global measure to address the growth in international aviation emissions globally from 2021 through an offsetting system (CORSIA), the EU has decided to maintain the geographic scope of the EU ETS limited to intra-EEA flights from 2017 onwards.

The EU ETS for aviation will be subject to a new review in the light of the international developments related to the operationalisation of CORSIA. The next ICAO Assembly (24 September 2019 - 4 October 2019) will address the implementation of CORSIA and adopt a new resolution on the measure. The draft text refers to CORSIA as the only global market-based measure on CO2 emissions from international aviation, excluding therefore any other scheme. This wording appears to threaten the EU prerogatives to decide on the application and any potential need to amend existing EU legislation. Parliament's position is very clear (cf COP24 resolution) "another extension of the derogation for extra-EEA flights to be exempt from the EU ETS was granted by the Union until 2024 in order to facilitate the ICAO process for a global solution to aviation emissions; stresses, however, that any further amendment of legislation should only be undertaken if it is consistent with the Union's economy-wide greenhouse gas emission reduction commitment, which does not envisage the use of offset credits after 2020."

Exchange on climate change with focus on recent developments in decarbonisation and adaptation policies



Members will hold an exchange with CLIMA Director General Mauro Petriccione on the latest actions and prospects for EU climate policy. Several key documents were adopted recently by the Commission on climate policy:

- the Fourth Report on the State of

the Energy Union

- "United in delivering the Energy Union and Climate Action - Setting the foundations for a successful clean energy transition" which contains the Commission's analysis of the Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans, submitted for the first time in accordance with the Governance Regulation.

- "A more efficient and democratic decision making in EU energy and climate policy" on moving from unanimity to qualified majority voting for environmental measures of a fiscal nature, using the passerelle clause in the environment title of the TFEU.

- A report on the evaluation of the EU's strategy for adaptation to climate change. The evaluation of the strategy, published on 12 November 2018, contains the lessons learned and reflections on improvements for future action, accompanied by a staff working document presenting the evaluation in detail.

Stepping up EU action to protect and restore the world's forests



On 23 July 2019, the Commission adopted a long-awaited Communication setting out a new framework of actions to protect and restore the world's forests, which host 80% of biodiversity on land, support the livelihoods of around a quarter of the world's population, and are vital to our efforts to fight climate change.

The Communication follows a previous 2008 Commission Communication on deforestation set out the initial elements of an EU policy framework, including an EU objective to halt global forest cover loss by 2030 and to reduce gross tropical deforestation by 50% by 2020. The Communication also comes in response to repeated requests from the Council and European Parliament, calling for more coordinated action in particular via the elimination of deforestation from agricultural commodity chains.

The Commission has set out five priorities:

- Reduce the EU consumption footprint on land and encourage the consumption of products from deforestation-free supply chains in the EU;
- Work in partnership with producing countries to reduce pressures on forests and to "deforest-proof" EU development cooperation;
- Strengthen international cooperation to halt deforestation and forest degradation, and encourage forest restoration;
- Redirect finance to support more sustainable land-use practices;
- Support the availability of, quality of, and access to information on forests and commodity supply chains, and support research and innovation.

Exchange with the European Court of Auditors on "EU actions for cross-border healthcare: significant ambitions but improved management required"



As part of its annual scrutiny activities and relations with the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the ENVI committee has invited for a discussion ECA's Member responsible for the special report dealing with EU actions for cross-border healthcare, published on 4 June 2019. On 12 February 2019 the

European Parliament adopted a resolution on the implementation of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive (2018/2108(INI)). The 2011 Cross-border Healthcare Directive seeks to guarantee EU patients' right of access to safe and high-quality healthcare across national borders within the EU, and their rights to be reimbursed for such care. In this Special report, the Court examines whether the Commission has overseen the implementation of the Directive in the Member States well and provided guidance to the National Contact Points responsible for informing patients about their right to cross-border healthcare. The Court concludes that while EU actions in cross-border healthcare enhanced cooperation between Member States, the impact on patients was limited at the time of audit.

Fitness Check of the most relevant chemicals legislation (excluding REACH)

This Fitness Check of chemicals legislation other than REACH, initiated in 2015, has assessed whether the EU chemicals legislation meets its objectives in terms of risk and hazard assessment and management of hazardous chemicals, and if it does so in a coherent and efficient way. It covers 40 pieces of legislation representing a great part of the EU chemicals *acquis*. Not only the REACH Regulation, but also the pharmaceutical, veterinary and food additives legislation was excluded from the scope of the Fitness Check.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of how the various pieces of the EU chemicals legislation fit together and what the strengths and weaknesses are. It concludes that *'overall, the EU framework of chemicals legislation is fit for purpose and delivers a high level of protection of people and the environment in balance with the needs of an efficiently functioning internal market and of a competitive and innovative chemicals industry.'* Furthermore, a number of challenges, gaps and weaknesses were identified. They concern in particular: implementation and enforcement of legislation; duplication, burden and pace of procedures; communication of hazard and safety information; consistency of risk management measures; risk assessment, knowledge gaps and challenges in keeping up with science; global competitiveness, innovation and sustainability. The Commission invited the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions to discuss these findings and to bring their contribution to the debate.

Environmental Implementation Review 2019 : A Europe that protects its citizens and enhances their quality of life

On 3 February 2017, the Commission published for the first time Environmental Implementation Review (EIR), including a communication and 28 country reports and the respective fact sheets on the state of implementation. DG ENV presented the findings in the ENVI Committee meeting on 27 February 2017. The EIR is a two-yearly cycle of analysis, dialogue and collaboration, with publication of country reports and discussions between the European Commission, EU Member States and stakeholders. It aims to support the delivery of the objectives of existing EU environmental policies and legislation. On 8 November 2017, Parliament adopted a Resolution further to Questions for Oral Answer, pursuant to Rule 128(5) RoP, on the EU Environmental Implementation Review (2017/2705(RSP)). That Resolution pointed out how to improve the EIR and deliver better results, as well as how to improve implementation of environmental legislation. The Resolution also stressed the role of the Member States and EU institutions in EIR follow-up, and urged that the issue of implementation feature as a recurring item in trio-presidency priorities and programmes, and in forums in which Parliament and the Committee of the Regions be involved. It also called for the extension of the scope to other areas. On 22 January 2019, ENVI had an exchange of views with the Commission on the progress of the EIR cycle. On 4 April 2019, the Commission published the second EIR package, including: a Communication with policy findings and priority actions for the EU Member States; a policy background document introducing all themes covered by the EIR and 28 country reports. Compared to its predecessor, the EIR 2019 covers several new themes, such as climate change, chemicals, industrial emissions and invasive alien species.

VOTES

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020 - all sections



In his draft opinion, the Chair regrets that the Union budget trend would deliver only 19,7 % for the current MFF period. Every effort should be made to ensure that the overall EU budget target will be reached by the end of 2020. The Chair also calls for sufficient resources to be allocated to ensure the long-term

protection of biodiversity across the EU. The amounts allocated to LIFE, health, food and feed, and to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism are also scrutinised, as well as those allocated to the agencies under ENVI's remit (ECDC, ECHA, EEA, EFSA and EMA). The Chair also calls on the Commission to swiftly implement pilot projects and preparatory actions and recalls that they should receive adequate funding throughout their life cycle, so that they can reach their full potential. 27 amendments have been tabled to the draft opinion.

Rapporteurs: [Canfin](#) (Renew)

Shadows: [Valean](#) (EPP), [Benová](#) (S&D), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Zalewska](#) (ECR), [Konečná](#) (GUE)

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications:

- Workshop proceedings on [Robots in Healthcare: A Solution or a Problem?](#)
- Study on [Sampling points for air quality](#) – Representativeness and comparability of measurement in accordance with Directive 2008/50/EC ([Study in focus](#))
- Study on [The benefit of EU action in health policy: The record to date](#) (in cooperation with EPRS)
- Briefing on [European energy and climate policies towards 2020, 2030 and 2050](#).

Upcoming Publications:

- Briefing for the EP Delegation to the United Nations High Level Political Forum, New York, 23-25 September 2019 (September 2019)
- In-depth analysis on international climate negotiations in view of the COP 25 UN Climate Change Conference in Santiago (October 2019)
- In-depth analysis on EU public health policies - state of play, current and future challenges (September 2019)
- In-depth analysis on EU food safety policies - state of play, current and future challenges (September 2019)
- In-depth analysis on EU environment and climate change policies - state of play, current and future challenges (September 2019)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



A decade of industrial pollution data

The European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) ensures public access to information on pollutant releases to the environment and off-site transfers from Europe's largest industrial facilities. More than 34 000 facilities, across 33 European countries, report every year to this inventory. A decade after its launch, the E-PRTR harbours data on releases and transfers of 91 pollutants across 65 economic activities. It enables citizens and stakeholders to learn about pollution in all corners of Europe, who the top polluters are and whether pollutant emission trends are improving. More info [here](#).

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



EMA/FDA analysis shows high degree of alignment in marketing application decisions between EU and US

EMA and the US Food and Drug Administration are aligned in more than 90% of marketing authorisation decisions for new medicines. The study also looked at applications for which the agencies had differing outcomes in terms of type of approval and indication. The most common reason for diverging decisions at the two agencies were differences in conclusions about efficacy. Differences in clinical data submitted in support of an application were the second most common root of divergent FDA and EMA decisions. More info [here](#).

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA invites comments on the restriction proposal for intentionally added microplastics in the EU

In the context of the EU plastics strategy, the Commission asked ECHA to prepare a proposal for restriction of intentionally added microplastics under REACH. The proposal was published in March 2019 and ECHA now invites comments in a [public consultation](#) that will be open until 20 September 2019. ECHA and the Commission will continue to consider how

best to curb sources of microplastic pollution, but neither ECHA, nor the Commission plan to ban artificial pitches and sport fields. More info [here](#).

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



Chlorpyrifos: assessment identifies human health effects

The approval period for chlorpyrifos expires in January 2020, and the manufacturers' application for renewal is currently being evaluated under the EU's peer review system for approval of pesticides. Although the peer review is not yet fully completed, EFSA has identified concerns about possible genotoxic effects as well as neurological effects during development, supported by epidemiological data indicating effects in children. This means that no safe exposure level – or toxicological reference value – can be set for the substance. More info [here](#).

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



Targeted testing for viral hepatitis: Europe's persistent public health challenge

Targeted testing is an essential element of any strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis across the countries in the European Union and European Economic Area. ECDC estimates that around 9 million Europeans live with chronic hepatitis B or C. This includes many people with an asymptomatic and hence undiagnosed and untreated hepatitis infection, which can lead to liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. ECDC developed a monitoring framework with pre-defined indicators for hepatitis B and C. It was rolled out at the end of 2018 and the collected data are currently analysed by ECDC. One of the preliminary results: only a small number of EU/EEA countries are on track to meet targets set for 2020 e.g. regarding diagnoses of chronic viral hepatitis. More info [here](#).

Next meetings of the ENVI Committee : 4-5 September (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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