

### CHAIR'S WELCOME



Dear All,

During the constitutive meeting of 10 July, I was honoured to be elected as ENVI Chair for the next two and a half years. During the same meeting, Members also elected the Vice-Chairs of the Committee. They are Bas Eickhout, Seb Dance, Cristian-Silviu Buşoi and Anja Hazekamp.

With 76 full Members, ENVI is today the largest committee in the European Parliament - a reflection of the salience of the issues in the remit of this committee. ENVI is also one of the leading legislative committees, with responsibilities for a wide range of policy areas: climate change, biodiversity, the circular economy, public health, food safety, air and water quality, the use of chemicals and pesticides - just to name a few.

With the vote on the Commission President just behind us, our committee will work to ensure that the necessary level of ambition finds its place in the Commission's programme and specifically among the Commissioners whose portfolios will fall in our remit.

We will also need to work speedily to ensure that all sectors and all EU policies work in unison towards the goal of sustainability; to strengthen our health systems and to provide the highest standards of food safety for citizens in the EU and beyond. We will also closely scrutinise the implementation of the legislation in force.

I will also try to give ENVI issues the prominence they deserve and to communicate clearly on our work. Among others, ahead of every committee meeting, you will receive a short newsletter like this one, setting out the main points on the agenda and the main developments linked to our work.

In the upcoming meeting, we will be hosting three Finnish ministers. They will come to present Finland's Council Presidency priorities in their fields of competence. We will start on Monday afternoon with Mr Jari Leppä, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and continue on Tuesday morning with Ms Krista Mikkonen, Minister for Climate and Environment and Ms Krista Kiuru, Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services.

On Tuesday afternoon starting at 17:00, ENVI will hold a joint meeting with the Development (DEVE) Committee. The two committees will discuss with Commissioner Neven Mimica the EU's first joint review of progress on delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which he presented on 18 July at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) as well as preparations for the topical UN SDG summit in September, to which ENVI and DEVE Members will participate.

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 – 22 July 2019

### MEETING ITEMS

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

#### Considerations:

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

#### Exchange of views:

- **Exchange of views with Mr Jari Leppä, Finnish Minister of Agriculture and Forestry**
- **Exchange of views with Ms Krista Kiuru, Finnish Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services**
- **Exchange of views with Ms Krista Mikkonen, Finnish Minister of Environment and Climate Change**

#### Joint ENVI-DEVE meeting:

- **Exchange of views with Neven Mimica, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development**

### EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

EU2019.FI Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union



#### Exchange of views with Mr Jari Leppä, Finnish Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

ENVI Members are to hold an exchange of views with Mr Jari Leppä, the Finnish Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, at the next Committee meeting (Monday 22 July from 15:00 to 16:30) about the priorities of the Finnish Council Presidency in the agriculture and food sector for the next semester. Finland, which took over

the Presidency from Romania on 1 July 2019, has stated that the main areas of work will be animal welfare, food safety/food fraud, country of origin labelling for products and the finalisation of the Council negotiation on the next Multiannual Financial Framework, which, among others, will pave the way for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

## Exchange of views with Ms Krista Kiuru, Finnish Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services



ENVI Members are set to hold an exchange of views with Ms Krista Kiuru, Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services of Finland at their next committee meeting to debate the priorities of the Finnish Council Presidency for the next six months in the area of public health.

Making as much progress as possible on the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) legislative proposal will be in the focus of the third Finnish Council Presidency. Another focus will be the economy of wellbeing, which will be a subject of policy debates, high-level conferences and Council conclusions. Finland's Presidency wants EU decision-makers to recognise that the wellbeing of people is a prerequisite for economic growth and social and economic stability. Economic growth also creates more opportunities to improve people's wellbeing. Finland took over the Presidency from Romania on 1 July 2019 and it forms a presidency trio together with Romania (outgoing) and Croatia (incoming).

## Exchange of views with Ms Krista Mikkonen, Finnish Minister of Environment and Climate Change



ENVI Members are set to hold an exchange of views with Ms Krista Mikkonen, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Finland at their next committee meeting to debate the priorities of the Finnish Council Presidency for the next six months.

To strengthen the EU's position as a global leader in climate action is one of the four priorities of the Finnish presidency. Finland has stated that it will focus its work on *inter alia* shaping the EU common vision for a long-term climate strategy, on sustainable water management and on biodiversity.

Sustainability is also a cross-cutting theme in all meeting arrangements during Finland's six-month presidency. Among others, Finland will not be giving out traditional presidency merchandise but will instead use the Presidency budget to offset greenhouse gas emissions from flights to Presidency meetings in Helsinki and Brussels.

Finland took over the Presidency from Romania on 1 July 2019 and it forms a presidency trio together with Romania (outgoing) and Croatia (incoming).

## CONSIDERATIONS

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

On 5 June 2019, the Commission presented the Draft EU Budget for 2020. The 2020 budget will be the seventh and last one under the current Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 (MFF). The proposal for the 2020 DB represents around 2 % of all EU public spending, with appropriations of EUR 168,3 billion proposed in commitments (+1,3 % compared to the 2019 budget), and EUR 153,6 billion proposed in payments (+3,5 %). With this proposal, the Commission's stated aim is to continue supporting the following EU's priorities:

jobs, growth, young people, climate change, security and solidarity. 21 % of the total commitments in the 2020 DB are climate-related and 8,3 % are related to reversing the decline in biodiversity. The proposal is based on the assumption that the United Kingdom will participate fully in the implementation and financing of the 2020 EU budget as if it were a Member State. ENVI Members are set to hold an exchange on the 2020 budget on Monday starting at 16:30

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

## JOINT ENVI-DEVE MEETING

### Exchange of views with Neven Mimica, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development on SDGs and UN High Level Political Forum



ENVI will hold a joint meeting with the Development (DEVE) Committee on Tuesday, 23 July, between 17.00 and 18.30, in room József Antall 2Q2. The two committees will discuss with Commissioner Neven Mimica the EU's first joint review of progress on delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which he presented on 18 July at

the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) as well as preparations for the UN SDG summit in September. ENVI and DEVE are jointly responsible for the monitoring of the implementation of SDGs and the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Back in February, the two committees have organised a public hearing in which First Vice President Timmermans presented the Commission's Reflection Paper and gave an presentation on the state of play of the preparations of the Global Sustainable Development Report. Following the hearing, Parliament adopted a resolution in March 2018 on SDGs in which it clearly favours the first scenario set out in the Reflection Paper for how the EU might take forward the SDGs. The objective would be to propose an overarching strategy for the implementation of the SDGs by the EU and the Member States.

## 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
- In-depth analysis on international climate negotiations in view of the COP 25 UN Climate Change Conference in Santiago

### NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

#### European Environment Agency (EEA)



**EEA turns 25: Building on experience to achieve sustainability in Europe**

What will Europe's environment look like in 25 years? Will we achieve our common vision of 'living well, within the limits of our planet'? Will we be able to limit global warming and build climate-resilient cities surrounded by healthy nature? Europeans are increasingly concerned as recent European Parliament elections showed. Europe's next generation is also calling for urgent action, but how will their demands for a sustainable future shape Europe's environment and socio-economic policies? On our 25th anniversary, we are reflecting on how Europe's environmental knowledge and policy have developed in the last 25 years and how we, the EEA together with its networks, can support efforts towards sustainability in the next 25 years. [More info.](#)

#### European Bathing Water Quality in 2018

The report assesses bathing water quality in 2018, indicating where the quality of bathing water is expected to be good in 2019. The report was compiled using information from more than 21 000 bathing waters in the 28 EU Member States. It also covers bathing waters in Albania and Switzerland. [More info.](#)

#### European Medicines Agency (EMA)



**EU and US reach a milestone in mutual recognition of inspections of medicines manufacturers**

The EU and the US have now fully implemented the mutual recognition agreement (MRA) for inspections of manufacturing sites for certain human medicines in their respective territories. Each year, EU national authorities and the US FDA inspect many production sites of medicinal products in the EU, the US and elsewhere in the world, to ensure that these sites operate in compliance with good manufacturing practice (GMP). The MRA is underpinned by robust evidence on both sides of the Atlantic that the EU and the US have comparable procedures to carry out GMP inspections for human medicines. The MRA implementation work will continue with a view to expanding the operational scope to veterinary

medicines, human vaccines and plasma-derived medicinal products. More info [here.](#)

#### European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



**ECHA's new tasks under the revised POPs Regulation**

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) remain in the environment, bioaccumulate through the food chain, and pose a risk to the environment and human health. They are regulated worldwide (Stockholm Convention, Aarhus Protocol) and in the EU by the POPs Regulation, which bans or severely restricts their use. ECHA will, among other tasks, support the identification of new POPs substances and will add data on POPs to its chemicals database. More info [here.](#)

#### European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



**Guidance on bees and pesticides: work plan published**

EFSA has outlined how it plans to review its guidance on the risk assessment of pesticides and bees in the EU. As the outline shows, stakeholders and pesticide experts from Member States will be consulted regularly throughout the process. The first consultation begins later this month, when stakeholders and Member State representatives will be asked for their views on the current guidance document. More info [here.](#)

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



**Call for ECDC Fellowship Programme (EPIET & EUPHEM) cohort 2020**

The call for applications for the EU-track cohort 2020 of the ECDC Fellowship Programme is now open. Interested candidates can apply to become a fellow in one of the two paths offered by the Programme: EPIET field epidemiology and EUPHEM public health microbiology. Applicants must be nationals of an EU/EEA (1) country and should have experience in public health, epidemiology or microbiology. Deadline for application is 8 September 2019, at 24.00 CEST. More [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](mailto:envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu) or [website](#) of the ENVI Committee.

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