

CHAIR'S WELCOME



Dear All,

The next ENVI Committee meeting will take place on 25-26 September, with a busy agenda, including discussions and votes on several files.

We kick off with debates on the bee guidance document on the risk assessment of pesticides on bees. The ENVI Committee is concerned about the impact of human actions on honeybees, and the European Food Safety

Authority and the European Commission will be invited to present the latest developments on the recent updates of the risk assessments.

In a similar vein, ENVI Members are interested in the extensions of approval periods for active substances, notably flumioxazin, and chlorotoluron envisaged by the Commission. Active substances are pesticides components that target plant diseases. According to the draft Objections to be discussed and put to vote in the ENVI Committee, flumioxazin and chlorotoluron are probable endocrine disruptors, having negative effects on reproduction.

On 25 September in the afternoon, Members will vote on the decisions to enter into interinstitutional negotiations with the Council, on the revision of the legislation on drinking water, to align drinking water quality standards with the most up-to-date scientific data, and on a new piece of legislation setting the requirements for the quality of reused water (i.e. treated waste water which results from further treatment in a reclamation facility). The European Citizens' Initiative 'Right2Water, which received the support of almost 1.9 million citizens, called for measures that enshrine the right to water and sanitation. In line with the citizens' demands, MEPs want to ensure that in its role, the European Parliament promotes universal access to clean water for all.

The COP25 Climate Conference will take place in December in Santiago de Chile. While the people throughout the world are calling for a faster pace of action, and the scientific facts confirm that stabilizing global climate change at 1.5°C is a human imperative, time is more precious than ever for the 25th Climate Change Conference to deliver. The European Parliament has been closely involved in all previous international conferences of the kind, and this time as well, it will be represented by an official delegation to support the EU position in the negotiations. On Wednesday, 25th of September, ENVI Members will discuss the draft resolution defining the position of the European Parliament in view of the COP25, and addressing key issues such as the importance of an ambitious EU climate policy and greater collective ambition.

Finally, the last item on the agenda of that day will be an exchange of views with the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), on the 2nd Action Plan to fight the illicit tobacco trade 2018-2022, which proposes a number of actions, including for the EU to fully exploit the potential of the new Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Protocol, as a global instrument and forum to curb the illicit tobacco trade, by taking a leading role in its implementation.

This is the last ENVI Meeting before the hearings of the Commissioners-designate. Before the new European Commission - the EU's executive body - can take office, the European Parliament examines the competencies of its commissioners-designate, and after that, it can vote into office the new European Commission. Parliament organises hearings with the proposed

candidates to examine whether their skills and qualifications match the posts proposed for them. The hearings will be web-streamed; to consult the detailed schedule for hearings of the Commissioners-designate, go to: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190919IPR61404/detailed-schedule-for-hearings-of-the-commissioners-designate-adopted>.

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 – 24 September 2019

MEETING ITEMS

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

Exchanges of Views (EoVs):

- EoV with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on the content of bee guidance
- EoV with the Commission on the Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 546/2011 as regards the assessment of the impact of plant protection products on honeybees
- EoV with the Commission on the second Action Plan to fight the illicit tobacco trade 2018-2022 (COM(2018)0846)

Votes:

- Quality of water intended for human consumption (recast)
- Minimum requirements for water reuse
- 2019 UN Climate Change Conference in Santiago de Chile, Chile (COP25)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 112: Extension extension of the approval periods of several active substances, including flumioxazine (D061354)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 112: extension of the approval periods of several active substances including chlorotoluron (D062951) (D062951)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 112: the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MZHGOJG (SYN-ØØJG-2), pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (D061869-04)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 112: renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soybean A2704-12 (ACS-GMØØ5-3) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (D062417-04)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 112: authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 89034 × 1507 × MON 88017 × 59122 × DAS-40278-9 and genetically modified maize combining two, three or four of the single events MON 89034, 1507, MON 88017, 59122 and DAS-40278-9 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (D062827-03)

Considerations:

- 2019 UN Climate Change Conference in Santiago de Chile, Chile (COP25)

Workshops:

- Workshop in view of the hearings of the Commissioners-designate

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

Exchange of views with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on the content of bee guidance

In 2013, EFSA adopted and published a guidance document on the risk assessment of plant protection products on bees. Although the EFSA 2013 guidance has been used for the assessment of neonicotinoids and its use has been recommended by risk assessors, the guidance has not been fully implemented in the process for the approval of the active substances. The reason for this is insufficient support from Member States represented in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF). Many Member States have expressed their preference for an update of several aspects of the guidance document. As a follow up, in March 2019, the Commission mandated EFSA to revise the guidance. EFSA set up a stakeholder consultative group to support the review.

Exchange of views with the Commission on the Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 546/2011 as regards the assessment of the impact of plant protection products on honeybees

Part of the original guidance document has been included in an implementing act under RPS (regulatory Procedure with Scrutiny). The EP has a veto right, with a deadline to object 3 months from the official transmission of the adopted act, i.e. the deadline for EP expires on 31 October 2019.

Exchange of views with the Commission on the second Action Plan to fight the illicit tobacco trade 2018-2022 (COM(2018)0846)

The Communication from the Commission on the 2nd Action Plan to fight the illicit tobacco trade 2018-2022 (COM(2018) 846 final) proposes:

- to fully exploit the potential of the new Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Protocol, as a global instrument and forum to curb the illicit tobacco trade, by taking a leading role in its implementation, following the entry into force of the Protocol on 25 September 2018;
- to engage key source and transit countries via the various frameworks for cooperation available to the EU, so as to limit the supply actually arriving at our borders;
- to focus on some of the key input materials going into the illicit manufacture of tobacco products, ranging from raw tobacco and cigarette filters to manufacturing and packing equipment; and
- to raise awareness among consumers of the dangers of buying illicit tobacco products and the direct links to organised crime, as a means to reduce demand.

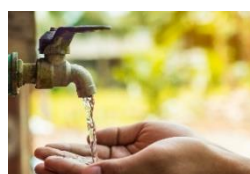
The illicit tobacco trade being both an opaque and constantly evolving activity, this Action Plan also proposes to continue investing in intelligence gathering and analysis, as a basis for effective targeting of policy and operational measures.

The Annex to the Commission Communication sets out the specific actions planned to be enforced, as well as those responsible for it.

VOTES

Quality of water intended for human consumption (recast)

Vote on the decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations (see [meeting documents](#))



Access to good quality drinking water remains a subject of importance for EU citizens. The Drinking Water Directive (Directive 98/83/EC) is one of the pillars of the EU legislation in the field of water and provides a quality water supply in more than 99% of cases within the Union. However, it has been in force for twenty years and has not undergone a major overhaul since that date. The purpose of the revision is therefore to align drinking water quality standards with the most up-to-date scientific data, to tackle the areas of improvement identified by the Commission in its REFIT review and to adapt the legislative framework to better respond to emerging challenges, such as climate change and the circular economy.

The report was voted in the ENVI meeting of 10 September 2018, while the mandate was adopted in Plenary on 23 October 2018. The Parliament maintained most of the parameters set by the Commission, which are in some cases stricter than those recommended by the WHO. The maximum limits for certain pollutants, such as lead as well as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) would be tightened, and new caps introduced for endocrine disruptors Bisphenol A and Beta-estradiol (50-28-2). Levels of microplastics would be monitored. Member States should encourage provision of tap water in restaurants for free or for a low service fee.

According to the Council's position, hygienic requirements for products in contact with drinking water should be set through implementing acts. The implementing acts would lay down European positive lists of starting substances or compositions authorised for use (for example in pipes), as well as common methodologies for testing and accepting such substances.

The Parliament concluded its first reading in March II Plenary (on 28 March 2019). Under Rule 72 RoP, the decision to enter into negotiations is taken by the committee responsible, by majority of its members, and announced in plenary during the part-session following the vote in committee.

Rapporteurs: [Hansen \(EPP\)](#)

Shadows: [Palmer \(S&D\)](#), [Müller \(Renew\)](#), [Giegold \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Baldassare \(ID\)](#), [Rooken \(ECR\)](#), [Villanueva Ruiz \(GUE/NGL\)](#)

Minimum requirements for water reuse



Vote on the decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations (see [meeting documents](#))

On 12 February 2019, Parliament adopted its position at first reading on the proposal for a regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse. The proposed regulation, as amended by Parliament's first reading position, lays down

minimum requirements for the quality of reclaimed water (i.e. treated waste water which results from further treatment in a reclamation facility), as well as

the obligation to carry out specified key risk management tasks. Reclaimed water would be used for irrigation of food crops, processed food crops and non-food crops.

The aim of the proposed regulation is to guarantee that reclaimed water is safe for its intended use in such a way as to protect human and animal health and the environment, while reducing the adverse effects of water resource use.

Parliament's first reading position also sets out rules on tasks and responsibilities of different actors involved in the water reuse chain. In this framework, reclamation facility operators should ensure that reclaimed water is of the same (or higher) quality level as the one set out in the proposed regulation, and should carry out at least the risk management measures set out in the Water Reuse Risk Management Plan.

Council reached agreement on its general approach on 26 June 2019.

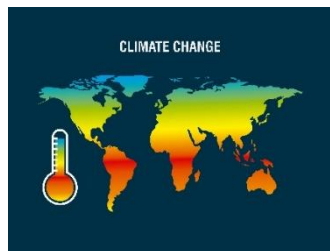
Under Rule 72 RoP, a decision to enter into negotiations is taken by the committee responsible, by majority of its members, and announced in plenary during the part-session following the vote in committee. The Parliament's position at first reading shall constitute the mandate for the negotiations.

Rapporteurs: [Bonafé \(S&D\)](#)

Shadows: [Weiss \(EPP\)](#), [Huitema \(RE\)](#), [O'Sullivan \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Limmer \(ID\)](#), [Fiocchi \(ECR\)](#), [Villanueva Ruiz \(GUE/NGL\)](#)

2019 UN Climate Change Conference in Santiago de Chile, Chile (COP25)

Vote on the adoption of questions for oral answer (see [meeting documents](#))



The co-sponsors present in the draft resolution a number of points for debate in order to define the position of the European Parliament in view of the COP25 Climate Conference taking place in December in Santiago de Chile.

The draft resolution addresses a number of key issues such as the importance of an ambitious EU climate policy and greater collective ambition, the priority negotiation points in COP25 and namely on Article 6 mechanisms, climate resilience through adaptation, climate finance, the role of non-state actors, the comprehensive effort of all sectors, and the climate diplomacy.

The co-sponsors welcome the calls made by people across the world, in particular younger generations, for greater collective ambition and swift action in order not to overshoot the 1.5°C limit. The co-sponsors also consider that all Parties, especially the EU and all G20 nations, should step up their efforts and update their NDCs by 2020. Furthermore, the draft highlights the importance of climate resilience through adaptation and emphasises the importance of contributions from the international aviation and maritime sectors. It also stresses the issue of financing and the importance of meeting global pledges for the collective goal of \$100 billion per year, and ensuring that the EU budget is coherent to with the EU's international commitments on sustainable development and with its mid- and long-term climate and energy targets.

Co-Rapporteurs: [Liese \(EPP\)](#), [Chahim \(S&D\)](#), [Torvalds \(Renew\)](#), [Holmgren \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Wallace \(GUE/NGL\)](#), [Wiśniewska \(ECR\)](#)

WORKSHOPS

Workshop in view of the hearings of the Commissioners-designate



In view of the upcoming Hearings of Commissioners-Designate, the workshop aims to outline the state of play of the current legislation and to identify and describe the unresolved and upcoming key issues and challenges for Europe in the area of competences of the ENVI Committee for the next five years.

The hearings will be web-streamed; for more information please check: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190919IPR61404/detailed-schedule-for-hearings-of-the-commissioners-designate-adopted>.

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications:

- Briefing for the EP Delegation to the [UN Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the Climate Action Summit](#), New York, 23-25 September 2019
- 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 ([also available in DE](#))
- 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:

- 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)
- Study on EU environment and climate change policies - state of play, current and future challenges (September 2019)
- Study on international climate negotiations in view of the COP 25 UN Climate Change Conference in Santiago (November 2019)

Upcoming events:

- Workshop in view of the Hearings of the Commissioners-designate, morning of 26 September 2019

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



ENVI Committee meeting of 25-26 September: Climate change threatens future of farming in Europe Crop and livestock production is projected to decrease and may even have to be abandoned in parts of Europe's southern and Mediterranean regions due to the increased negative impacts of climate change. The study says that adapting to climate change must be made a top priority for the European Union's agriculture sector if it is to improve resilience to extreme events like droughts, heatwaves and floods

[More here](#)

ENVI Committee meeting of 30 September -1 October: How to accelerate change towards sustainability? There is growing recognition that achieving prosperity within environmental limits requires fundamental changes in core systems of production and consumption. The report identifies ten focus areas for enabling sustainability transitions [More info](#)

ENVI Committee meeting of 7-8 October: EU on track to end use of chemicals harming the ozone layer The European Union (EU) has achieved its goals to phase out ozone-depleting substances under the Montreal Protocol. The report shows that in 2018 the EU again destroyed or exported more ozone-depleting substances than it produced or imported [More here](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



EMA's work on new veterinary regulation advances.

EMA has launched a new webpage that shows the progress made by the Agency in the implementation of the new Veterinary Medicines Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/6), which becomes applicable on 28 January 2022. On this webpage, stakeholders can find all relevant information regarding EMA's scientific and technical recommendations to the European Commission that will feed into delegated and implementing acts as part of the implementation of the legislation. The new regulation contains new measures for increasing the availability of veterinary medicines and enhances EU action against antimicrobial resistance. It also aims to reduce administrative burden and encourage medicine innovation and development. As part of the implementation of the veterinary

regulation, the Commission is now preparing legislative acts, for which EMA provides scientific and technical recommendations when requested. [More here.](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



The September 2019 ECHA newsletter includes an update on risk management and report the latest status of work being done by the Agency to address the recommendations of the 2nd Commission review of the REACH Regulation in 2018.

It also informs of recent improvements made to ECHA's chemicals database, where more information is now available on properties of concern as well as on nanoform substances. Read [more here](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



Updating DRVs: job done, after 10 years and 34 nutrients:

The publication on 4 September of dietary reference values (DRVs) for sodium and chloride marks the end of ten years of work by EFSA's nutrition scientists. It started in 2009 after the European Commission asked EFSA to update values last set in the 1990s for macronutrients such as proteins and carbohydrates, and all vitamins and minerals. [More info](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



Options for national testing and surveillance for hepatitis E virus in the EU/EEA - Operational guidance

Hepatitis E virus is one of the leading causes of acute viral hepatitis worldwide. HEV infection is an endemic zoonosis in EU/EEA countries, however it is not included in the list of infectious diseases to be reported at EU level. This guidance, developed by ECDC in collaboration with its hepatitis E virus (HEV) expert group, aims at providing assistance to Member States and harmonise practices across the EU/EEA. More [here](#).

Next meetings of the ENVI Committee : 6-7 November 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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