

CHAIR'S WELCOME



Dear All,

The ENVI Committee will hold an extraordinary meeting in Strasbourg on 21 September to discuss and vote on key urgent files.

After the exchanges of views of 25 September that ENVI Members had with the European Food Safety Authority and the European Commission, on the revised guidance document on the risk assessment of plant

protection products (pesticides) on bees, several Members decided to object to the revised document on grounds that it will not protect honeybees sufficiently from the pesticides' toxicity. Following a short debate on the draft resolution, ENVI Members will vote on whether they wish to veto the respective revised guidance document.

Members will address pollinators' decline also in an exchange views and vote on a motion for a resolution regarding the Commission Communication on the EU pollinators initiative. That Communication sets a number of priorities, such as improving knowledge of pollinators' decline, tackling the causes thereof, and raising awareness on the issue. ENVI Members responsible for the motion for a resolution consider the initiative fails to sufficiently address the main root causes of pollinators' decline; they stress the importance of reducing pesticide use, and call on the Commission to propose legislation prohibiting the production, sale and use of all neonicotinoid-based pesticides.

In the same extraordinary meeting, Members will also discuss and vote on an Objection to a Commission act partially granting an authorisation for a use of chromium trioxide. Under EU regulations, chromium trioxide is a substance of very high concern, classified as carcinogenic and mutagenic. This substance is authorised only where there are no suitable alternative substances or technologies. The Objectors to the Commission draft act consider that analysis of alternatives was not sufficiently thorough, and that the act is not in line with a judgment of the General Court based on which, where there are uncertainties with regard to alternatives, the authorisation cannot be granted.

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 – 21 October 2019

MEETING ITEMS

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

Exchanges of Views (EoVs)

- EoV on the basis of motion for a resolution on EU Pollinators Initiative
- EoV on the basis of motion for a resolution on the objection pursuant to Rule 112: the assessment of the impact of plant protection products on honeybees (D045385)

- EoV on the basis of motion for a resolution on the objection pursuant to Rule 112: partially granting an authorisation for a use of chromium trioxide (Cromomed S.A. and others)

Votes:

- Joint ENVI- ECON - Establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (on the decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations)
- EU pollinators Initiative
- Objection pursuant to Rule 112: the assessment of the impact of plant protection products on honeybees (D045385)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 112: partially granting an authorisation for a use of chromium trioxide (Cromomed S.A. and others)

VOTES

EU Pollinators Initiative

Adoption of questions for oral answer (see [meeting documents](#))



On 1 June 2018, the Commission published its Communication on the EU pollinators initiative, which presents strategic objectives and a set of actions to be taken by the EU and its Member States to address the decline of pollinators in the EU and contribute to global conservation efforts. The initiative responds to the calls

made by the Parliament and the Council for action to protect pollinators and their habitats in order to put an end to their decline.

The Communication aims to set the framework for an integrated approach to the problem and a more effective use of existing tools and policies. It sets long-term objectives and short-term actions under three priorities: improving knowledge of pollinator decline, its causes and consequences, tackling the causes of pollinator decline, and raising awareness, engaging society-at-large and promoting collaboration. In the draft motion for a resolution, the co-rapporteurs welcome the Commission's initiative to protect pollinators, but consider that the initiative fails to sufficiently address the main root causes of pollinators' decline. They also highlight the importance of protecting the diversity of pollinator species in Europe. On the role of agriculture and the use of pesticides, they stress the importance of reducing pesticide use, and call on the Commission to propose legislation prohibiting the production, sale and use of all neonicotinoid-based pesticides. They also consider that further research on the cause of bee decline is needed and that support for the training of beekeepers is required.

Co-Rapporteurs: [MCGUINNESS](#) (EPP), [UJHELYI](#) (S&D), [RIES](#) (Renew), [HÄUSLING](#) (Greens/EFA), [REGIMENTI](#) (ID), [FIOCCHI](#) (ECR), [KONEČNÁ](#) (GUE/NGL)

Objection pursuant to Rule 112: the assessment of the impact of plant protection products on honeybees

Adoption of motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))



This draft measure amends Regulation (EU) No 546/2011 as regards the uniform principles for evaluation and authorisation of plant protection products taking into account current scientific and technical knowledge, in particular with regard to effects of plant protection products on honey bees

The co-rapporteurs oppose the draft measure on the grounds that the draft measure in question is not compatible with the aim and content of the basic instrument, Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. The Commission has the legal obligation to ensure that only substances, safeners or synergists which have proven to have "*no unacceptable acute or chronic effects on colony survival and development, taking into account effects on honeybee larvae and honeybee behaviour*" are allowed in Europe (Article 3.8.3. Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009). The objectors argue that, by pushing for the adoption of solely part of the Bee Guidance document (in June 2013, EFSA adopted a guidance with regard to the risk assessment of plant protection products on bees), the Commission is not basing itself on current scientific and technical knowledge. In its Draft Regulation, the Commission chooses to retain the sole criterion of acute oral and contact toxicity to assess pesticides' impact on bees. Thus, the revised criteria excludes criteria such as chronic oral toxicity and larval toxicity, which were included in a previous draft of the contested measure. The Objectors consider this approach to be in contradiction with the scientific work of EFSA, and insufficient to meet the legal obligations under Article 3.8.3. of Regulation 1107/2009.

Since this is an RPS (regulatory procedure with scrutiny) measure, and the EP has a right to veto the act within 3 months from the official transmission of the adopted act. The deadline for EP expires on 31 October 2019.

Co-Rapporteurs: [ANDRIEU](#) (S&D), [HOJSÍK](#) (RE), [EICKHOUT](#) (Greens/EFA), [HAZEKAMP](#) (GUE/NGL)

Objection pursuant to Rule 112: partially granting an authorisation for a use of chromium trioxide

Adoption of motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))

Chromium trioxide is listed in Annex XIV to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 and therefore subject to the authorisation requirement referred to in Article 56(1)(a) of that Regulation. Cromomed S.A., Cronor S.A., Cromo Europa S.A., Chromatlantique Industriel S.A. and Vila Electroquímica S.A. submitted an application for authorisation for the use of chromium trioxide in functional chrome plating. The draft Commission act authorises a limited use of chromium trioxide.

The draft resolution provides that an authorisation may only be granted if the applicant proves, *inter alia*, that, for each use applied for, there are no suitable alternative substances or technologies, and that when assessing whether suitable alternatives are available, the Commission shall take into account all relevant aspects, including the technical and economic feasibility of alternatives for the applicant. The Co-Objectors consider that the Commission's approach with respect to alternatives unduly discriminates against alternatives that are available in certain sectors or for certain uses, amounts to giving the Applicants an unlawful derogation to their obligation to prove that there is no alternative for each use applied for, ignores the substitution objective enshrined in Article 55 of the REACH Regulation and does not encourage innovation. The Co-Objectors also point out that whereas, by endorsing SEAC's inconsistent opinion in the draft Commission implementing decision, the Commission did not fulfil its duties as set out by the General Court (Judgment in Case T-837/16, paragraph 79). The General Court found that where, despite the presentation of evidence by the various actors involved in the authorisation procedure, there are still uncertainties with regard to the condition of unavailability of alternatives, it must be concluded that the applicant has not met the burden of proof and therefore the authorisation cannot be granted to it.

Co-Rapporteurs: [ARENA](#) (S&D), [HOJSÍK](#) (RE), [EICKHOUT](#) (Greens/EFA)

Establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment

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

In May 2018, the European Commission presented a proposal for a regulation on a future EU framework for determining environmentally sustainable financial activities, along with a package of measures following up its action plan on financing sustainable growth. In June 2018, 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'.

The draft report (123 Amendments) sought to strengthen the future EU framework for determining environmentally sustainable financial activities. In total, 539 Amendments have been tabled by ECON and ENVI Members. On 11 March 2019, the joint committee adopted its report on the proposal. On 28 March 2019, Parliament adopted its first reading position. Council reached agreement on its mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament on 25 September 2019.

Under Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the European parliament, 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.

Shadows: [Bonafé](#) (S&D), [Hojsík](#) (RE), [Vondra](#) (ECR), [Modig](#) (GUE/NGL).

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](#).
- Study on EU public health policies - state of play, current and future challenges
- Study on EU environment and climate change policies - state of play, current and future challenges

Upcoming Publications:

- Briefing on the Commitments made at the hearing of STELLA KYRIAKIDES, Commissioner-Designate on Health (October 2019)
- Briefing on the Commitments made at the hearing of FRANS TIMMERMANS, Executive Vice President-Designate on European Green Deal (October 2019)
- Study on international climate negotiations in view of the COP 25 UN Climate Change Conference in Santiago (November 2019)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



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](#)

[here](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



On 15 October 2019, EMA published the 2019 edition of its annual report on sales of veterinary antibiotics, the **European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) Report**, which is one of the main AMR indicators produced by the Agency. The report shows that

European countries continue to reduce the use of antibiotics in animals. The overall sales of veterinary antibiotics across Europe dropped by more than 32% between 2011 and 2017.

In particular, two of the critically important classes of antibiotics for human medicine were used less in animals: sales of polymyxins plummeted by 66% and sales of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins decreased by more than 20%. These classes include antibiotics used to treat serious infections in humans caused by bacteria resistant to most treatments. [More here.](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA has published a new section of its website on lead that has been widely used for decades in hunting, sports shooting and fishing and which is known at the same time to be a toxic substance for humans and wildlife. The Commission requested ECHA to work on two restriction dossiers: While the restriction dossier on the use

of lead gunshot over wetlands has been finalised, the Agency is now calling

for evidence on the possible restriction of the use of lead in ammunition in terrestrial environments, bullets in any terrain and in fishing tackle. The call for evidence is open until 16 December 2019. See more on ECHA's website on [Lead in shot, bullets and fishing weights](#) and respond to the [Call for evidence](#) Read [more here](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



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

EFSA is carrying out a second stakeholder consultation in support of the review of its guidance on pesticides and bees. The dedicated [stakeholder consultation group](#) has been asked to comment on the protocol that EFSA will use to collect and evaluate data on bee mortality. The need for up-to-date evidence on bee mortality – taking account of realistic beekeeping management and natural background mortality – was highlighted by the European Commission when it asked EFSA to review the guidance. [More info](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



Around half a million men who have sex with men in the EU need PrEP but cannot access it

Sex between men remains the predominant mode of HIV transmission in the countries of the European Union and European Economic Area (EU/EEA), accounting for 38% of all new HIV diagnoses in 2017. HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is the use of antiretroviral medicines to prevent HIV infection among people who are HIV-negative, and its efficacy is well-documented. This estimate on the "PrEP gap" in Europe was published in a paper in *Eurosurveillance* stating that 500 000 men who have sex with men in the European Union currently cannot access HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), despite being very likely to use it. [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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