

### CHAIR'S WELCOME



Dear All,

The next ENVI Committee meeting will take place on 2-3 December, after approval by the European Parliament of the new College of Commissioners, in Strasbourg last week. In her statement before the EP Plenary, President Ursula von der LEYEN recalled that climate change is about all of us, and the EU's duty to act and the power to lead. In view of the upcoming COP 25 in Madrid ( 2-13

December), the Parliament approved last week an ambitious resolution declaring a climate and environmental emergency in Europe and globally; the fundamental message is that we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions with 55% by 2030. The ENVI Committee will remain highly active in contributing to meeting the set objectives and even to raising the bar. The ENVI meeting will thus focus on matters that are essential for achieving the policy goals of the European Green Deal, as well as on topical environmental and public health issues linked to chemicals, pharmaceuticals in the environment, the next Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the European Year of Greener Cities 2021.

We will start the meeting with an exchange of views with the Executive Director of the European Chemicals Agency ("ECHA", located in Helsinki), one of the EU agencies scrutinised by the ENVI Committee. ECHA manages technical, scientific and administrative aspects of the EU's legislation on chemicals, and has several strategic objectives, including maximising the availability of high quality data for the safe use of chemicals in Europe. This will be the first occasion in this legislature for ENVI Members to discuss with the ECHA representative the best ways to address current challenges linked to chemicals. The new President of the European Commission has repeatedly stressed that one of the Commission's top priorities will be to mainstream climate financing throughout out its budget; in that regard, the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Luxembourg is strengthening its role as European Climate Bank. On Tuesday, ENVI Members will exchange views with the President of the EIB, on the transformation of the bank into a climate bank, with an increased strategy on climate action and environmental sustainability, which by 2025 will dedicate half of its total financing to climate investment.

The current trajectory of biodiversity loss is of high concern for the ENVI Members, and the Biodiversity Convention is one of the main international means for addressing the numerous causes of those losses. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention (COP 15) will be held in Kunming, China, from 19 October to 1 November 2020. The COP15 is expected to update the Convention's strategic plan and adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. ENVI Members will vote on Tuesday on the motion for a resolution which calls, amongst others, for sufficient financing by the EU for biodiversity under its next long-term budget, mainstreaming biodiversity in all EU policies, and for an improved enforcement of the EU nature protection laws.

Blood, blood components, tissues, cells and organs are used in a variety of medical therapies. Treatments based on these substances of human origin save lives (e.g. blood transfusion) and improve life quality (e.g. kidney transplants). Parliament has repeatedly asked for the urgent review of the Blood, Tissues and Cells Directives and of the Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products Regulation, to bring them in line with scientific and epidemiological developments. The latest evaluation of the EU legislation on blood, tissues and

cells found that the EU legal framework does not keep up with the high level of innovation in these sectors. ENVI Members will exchange views with the Commission on the basis of that evaluation, and with a view to Europe achieving an adequate supply of blood, tissue and cells in the context of an increasing demand.

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 - 2 December 2019

### MEETING ITEMS

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

#### Votes:

- COP15 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) - Kunming (2020)
- Strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment (Oral Questions)
- EU Pollinators Initiative
- Objection pursuant to Rule 111(3): Delegated act on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures - titanium dioxide
- Objection pursuant to Rule 112: Imports of petfood from Saudi-Arabia
- Objection pursuant to Rule 112: Imposing special conditions governing the import of feed and food originating in or consigned from Japan following the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power station (D063901)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 112: the extension of the approval periods of the active substances benfluralin, dimoxystrobin, fluzinam, flutolanil, mancozeb, mecoprop-P, mepiquat, metiram, oxamyl and pyraclostrobin (D064213-01)

#### Considerations:

- Strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment
- European Year of Greener Cities 2021

#### Presentations:

- Amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism

#### Exchange of views:

- with Bjorn Hansen, Executive Director of ECHA
- with Dr Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank, on the transformation of part of the bank into a Climate Bank
- with the Commission on the evaluation of the Union legislation on blood, tissues and cells

#### Report back on ongoing inter-institutional negotiations:

- Establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (ECON-ENVI (CJ36))
- Quality of water intended for human consumption (recast)
- Minimum requirements for water reuse

### ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

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

- Commission statement - The European Green Deal (extraordinary sitting on 11 December, Brussels )
- Council and Commission statements - EU Pollinators Initiative (Plenary session of Strasbourg, December II, TBC)

## VOTES

## COP15 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) - Kunming (2020)

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



The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), known informally as the Biodiversity Convention, is a multilateral treaty, which entered into force on 29 December 1993. The Convention has three main goals including: the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 15) is to be held in Kunming, China, from 19 October to 1 November 2020. The aim of COP15 will be to review the achievement and delivery of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Furthermore, the COP15 is expected to update the Convention's strategic plan and adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

In the draft motion for a resolution, the co-rapporteurs stress the importance of protecting global biodiversity and urge the Commission and Member States - in particular with a view to the current trajectory of biodiversity loss - to commit to immediate, substantial and additional efforts on biodiversity conservation and restoration so as to meet EU targets. They consider it of the utmost importance to step up the efforts on the implementation of the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, focus on the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to increase ambition and functioning for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The co-rapporteurs also stress the importance of ensuring more coherence between the CBD and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), of mainstreaming biodiversity in all EU policies and of appropriate financing for biodiversity in order to achieve the objectives of the 2050 Vision.

**Co-Rapporteurs:** [EVREN](#) (EPP), [LUENA](#) (S&D), [RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS](#) (Renew), [NIINISTÖ](#) (Greens/EFA), [VONDRA](#) (ECR), [MODIG](#) (GUE/NGL).

## EU Pollinators Initiative

Vote on draft motion for a resolution (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)

## EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

## Exchange of views with Bjorn Hansen, Executive Director of ECHA



The annual exchange of views is part of the regular dialogue between the Executive Director of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Parliament.

ECHA is located in Helsinki, Finland. It has around 600 staff, and a budget of EUR 118 million, which is partially fee-financed. ECHA manages the technical, scientific and administrative aspects of the EU's legislation on chemicals (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP), Prior Informed Consent (PIC) regulations, Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR)), and ensures consistency at Union level.

ECHA has four strategic objectives: maximising the availability of high quality data for the safe use of chemicals, identifying and addressing chemicals of concern, serving as a hub for scientific capacity, and improving efficiency and taking on new tasks. According to REACH, ECHA currently must check at least 5% of the registration dossiers of each tonnage band. To encourage dossier compliance, the Commission is proposing to raise the minimum target for compliance checks to 20%. Member States in the REACH Committee agreed to the proposal unanimously on 18 September 2019. After a scrutiny period of three months by the Parliament and the Council, the Commission can adopt the proposal.

## Exchange of views with Dr Werner Hoyer, President of the EIB



According to the Political Guidelines for the new Commission, of President-elect Ursula Von der Leyen, the European Investment Bank (EIB) is going to play a crucial role in contributing to secure adequate financial support to achieve the policy goals of the European Green Deal, such as the objective of climate neutrality by 2050. In particular, the EIB is expected to turn parts of it into Europe's climate bank, so that by 2025 half of its total financing would be dedicated to climate investment.

On 14 November 2019, the Board of the EIB agreed a new energy lending policy and confirmed the EIB's increased strategy on climate action and environmental sustainability. In particular, the Bank will end financing for fossil fuel energy projects from the end of 2021. The new strategy for climate action and environmental sustainability will be based on three key elements: i) the EIB Group will aim to support EUR 1 trillion of investments in climate action and environmental sustainability in the critical decade from 2021 to 2030; ii) the EIB will gradually increase the share of its financing dedicated to climate action and environmental sustainability to reach 50% of its operations in 2025 and from then on; and iii) the EIB Group will align all its financing activities with the principles and goals of the Paris Agreement by the end of 2020.

### Exchange of views with the Commission on the evaluation of the Union legislation on blood, tissues and cells

On 10 October 2019, the Commission published its evaluation of the EU legislation on blood (Directive 2002/98/EC), tissues and cells (Directive 2004/23/EC). The key findings of the evaluation include:

- The EU legislation has **effectively helped increase safety and quality** of blood, tissue and cell therapies;
- However, many of the current **safety and quality requirements are outdated** and it has been challenging to keep detailed technical provisions in pace with this rapidly changing sector;
- The evaluation also suggests that requirements for **national oversight are not specific or adequately robust**, leading to barriers for exchange of, and access to, these therapies;
- It was also found in the evaluation that the current EU legal framework **does not keep up with the high level of innovation** in a sector where innovation can facilitate patient access to treatments in an affordable manner;
- Finally, while the legal frameworks encourage **sufficiency**, in particular through voluntary unpaid donation, the current provisions are insufficient to support an adequate and sustainable supply for blood, tissue and cells in the context of significantly increasing demand.

Parliament has repeatedly asked for the urgent review of the Blood, Tissues and Cells Directives and of the Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products Regulation to bring them in line with scientific, technological, epidemiological developments and with the principle of voluntary unpaid donation.

### CONSIDERATIONS

#### Strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment

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



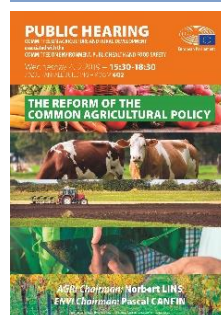
On 11 March 2019, the European Commission adopted its communication on a European Union Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment COM(2019)128).

In the draft motion for resolution, the co-sponsors agree with the main objectives of

the strategic approach presented by the Commission, but note with concern the very soft nature of the measures included in the communication. The draft motion for resolution also addresses a wide range of issues with a view to reducing the risk from pharmaceuticals in the environment.

**Co-rapporteurs:** [BUŞOL](#) (EPP), [SIDL](#) (S&D), [HUIITEMA](#) (Renew), [RIVASI](#) (Greens/EFA), [BALDASSARE](#) (ID), [KOPCIŃSKA](#) (ECR), [KONEČNÁ](#) (GUE/NGL),  
**Rapporteur:** [CANFIN](#) (Renew),

### PUBLIC HEARING



#### AGRI Public Hearing on the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy

4 December 2019, 15:30–18:30, JAN 6Q2 (Brussels)

The hearing consists of 3 panels with 2 experts each and will address one of the three Commission proposals for the CAP reform, namely the Strategic Plans regulation, the CAP Horizontal Regulation and the Amending (CMO) Regulation respectively. The event will be concluded with a presentation of the relevant report by Committee of the Regions, and a European Commission representative will

deliver a general comment on the reform.



#### ENVI-PETI join Public Hearing on the Revaluation of the wolf population in the EU

5 December 2019, 10:30–13:00, PHS 3C50 (Brussels)

For decades, the wolf was regarded as strongly endangered in Europe. Its population is now recovering in many areas of the continent. The joint ENVI-PETI public hearing, with the association of AGRI, will focus on the wolf population within the EU. The objective is to have a better

understanding on the status of wolf populations in EU and to consider possible changes to the current management of the wolf population in Europe.

### NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

#### Recent Publications:

- Study on [international climate negotiations in view of the COP25 UN Climate Change Conference in Santiago](#)
- 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](#))
- 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](#) (also its [At a glance](#) version)
- Study on [EU environment and climate change policies - state of play, current and future challenges](#) (also its [At a glance](#) version)

#### Upcoming Publications:

- Briefing on the Commitments made at the hearing of Stella KYRIAKIDES, Commissioner-Designate on Health (November 2019)
- Briefing on the Commitments made at the hearing of Virginijus SINKEVICIUS, Commissioner-Designate on Environment and Oceans (November 2019)
- Briefing on the Commitments made at the hearing of Frans TIMMERMANS, Executive Vice President-Designate on European Green Deal (November 2019)

### NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

#### European Environment Agency (EEA)



##### Trends and projections in Europe 2019: Tracking progress towards Europe's climate and energy targets

The European Union (EU) cut its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2 % in 2018, according to preliminary estimates released by the European Environment Agency.

However, rising energy consumption continues to hamper progress on the share of energy generated by renewable sources and on energy efficiency. As in previous years, the transport sector remains a particular concern with rising GHG emissions, low uptake of renewable energy sources and insufficient reductions of transport fuels' life-cycle emissions. [More here.](#)

#### European Medicines Agency (EMA)



To mark European Antibiotic Awareness Day in 2019, EMA launched a social media campaign to highlight the importance of using antibiotics responsibly. A set of info-cards focuses on what responsible use means for patients, healthcare professionals, veterinarians,

health-leaders and the pharmaceutical industry. [More info.](#)

#### European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA's Management Board Chair, Sharon McGuinness, who reflects on 2019 and shares her views on the opportunities and challenges she's expecting for 2020. You can also read an interview with Christel Musset, who explains why compliance matters, and Kevin Pollard, who tells about ECHA's vision for improving the

flow and usability of safe use data throughout the supply chain. [More info.](#)

#### European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



##### Conference on bee health: how research can contribute to risk assessment

EFSA is co-hosting with the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) a scientific conference on bee health focusing on the role of research in supporting risk assessment. The conference, which takes place in Paris on 9 December, is aimed at a broad audience including beekeepers, research scientists, public decision-makers, and representatives of industry and consumer bodies. The day will finish with a roundtable discussion on "Sustainable beekeeping and agriculture: the need for alternative treatment methods and closer collaboration between bee-keepers and farmers". [More info.](#)



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

At a meeting on 24-25 March 2020, ECDC will engage in consultation with European learned societies, professional associations and European industry representations and other EU and international partner institutions. The objectives of the meeting are to review and discuss the results of a scoping review and other related work on digital technologies for public health key functions, exchange ideas and information as well as practical examples and lessons learned, discuss opportunities and challenges, and perform a forward look covering a period of 7-10 years. A call for expression of interest to take part in the consultation is open until 20 December 2019. [More info.](#)

**Next meetings of the ENVI Committee:** 16 December 2019 (Strasbourg)

Future meetings: [2019 and 2020 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.

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