

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

COORDINATORS' RESULTS

- not to be-treated in full committee -

Wednesday, 6 November 2019, 17:45 - 18:30
Room JAN 4Q2

- Mr Canfin, Chair
- Mr Liese, Coordinator of the EPP group
- Ms Guteland, Coordinator of the S&D group
- Mr Torvalds, Coordinator of the Renew group
- Mr Eickhout, Coordinator of the Greens/EFA group
- Ms Sardone, Coordinator of the ID Group
- Mr Vondra, Coordinator of the ECR group
- Ms Konečná, replacing Ms Modig, Coordinator of the GUE/NGL group

7.11.2019

1. ADOPTION OF DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was adopted in the form shown in these minutes.

2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Extraordinary exchange of views with Commissioner Malmström on Mercosur:
Coordinators were updated on this issue.

Hearing of Commissioner-designate on Transport:
Coordinators were updated on the possible timetable of this hearing, where ENVI will be associated.

3. DECISIONS ON URGENT MATTERS

3.1 *State of play on Brexit and possible approval of a draft opinion in the form of a letter (GF/ES)*

Decision taken: *The coordinators endorsed the draft text of the ENVI opinion to the AFCO report on the Withdrawal Agreement. The draft opinion will be added on the agenda of a future ENVI meeting for formal approval, subject to developments in the UK and the timetable of the AFCO committee.*

3.2 Strategic INI report on cancer: authorisation, scope, title, possible briefings (BM/IP)

Decision taken: *Following the decision by a majority of coordinators at the meeting of coordinators on 16 October 2019, the Chair was requested to seek authorisation for a strategic INI on “Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer” to the CCC, involving the EMPL and ITRE committees under Rule 57. Coordinators decided also to request the Policy Department to provide an in-depth analysis on a series of topics linked to cancer.*

3.3 Legislative INI report on deforestation and deforestation-free commodities: authorisation, scope and title (ES/GF)

Decision taken: *Coordinators decided to mandate the Chair to request authorisation for a legislative INI on “An EU legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven global deforestation” and agreed on the explanatory statement for this legislative INI.*

3.4 Mission to COP15 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming (China) - October 2020 (ES)

Decision postponed

3.5 Speaker for the public hearing by AGRI on the CAP reform (NH, NP)

Decision taken: *Coordinators decided that a decision on an ENVI speaker for the panel on Strategic Plans (and one substitute) will be taken by written procedure in the coming days.*

3.6 Speakers for the public hearing (jointly with PETI) on wolf populations in the EU (LV)

Decision taken: *Coordinators decided that a decision on two ENVI speakers (and two substitutes) will be taken by written procedure in the coming days.*

3.7 Possible public hearing on “Decarbonising Maritime Transport: challenges and prospects for EU action” (SD/IP)

Decision taken: *Coordinators agreed to the proposal of the Greens/EFA group to organise a hearing on the topic of decarbonisation of the maritime transport and to associate the TRAN committee with a specific panel on green ports. The chair was mandated to find an agreement with TRAN on their association and to seek prior authorisation for this hearing from the Bureau.
Groups will be asked to propose names of possible speakers by 14 November cob.*

3.8 State of play with other committees

A. State of play on relation between ENVI and AGRI on INI on follow-up to the Communication on “Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests” and AGRI non-legislative INI on “The European Forest Strategy - The Way Forward” (ES/GF)

Decision taken: *Coordinators welcomed AGRI’s recognition on the attribution of the Communication on “Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests” to ENVI as the lead committee. The Chair was mandated to finalise the*

agreement on the division of competences with his AGRI counterpart on the two non-legislative INIs in view of a decision at the next CCC meeting.

B. State on play on proposed joint ECON-ENVI invitation to EIB President Hoyer on transforming part of the European Investment Bank into a climate bank (MM)

Decision taken: Coordinators were informed that the ECON coordinators did not agree at this stage to organise a joint exchange of views with the EIB President on the transformation of part of the EIB into a climate bank. A decision on the way forward was postponed to the subsequent meeting.

4. DECISIONS RELATED TO PENDING LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

4.1 Update on the EP work on the CAP reform proposals (in the presence of the ENVI rapporteur for the CAP Strategic Plans file) (NH/NP)

Decision postponed

5. DECISIONS ON PROCEDURE *(see list of points in Annex IV and Annex IVa)*

Reports

None

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Own-initiative reports

1. Strategic INI report on cancer (BM/IP)

Decision taken: Attributed to the EPP group (4 points).

2. Legislative INI report on deforestation (ES/GF)

Decision taken: Attributed to the S&D group (3 points).

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Legislative opinions

3. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, (EU) No 251/2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products, (EU) No 228/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union and (EU) No 229/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in favour of the smaller Aegean islands (NH/NP)

ENVI/9/00338

***I 2018/0218(COD) COM(2018)0394 – C8-0246/2018

Responsible:

AGRI – Eric Andrieu (S&D)

Decision postponed

4. **Financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy (NH/NP)**
ENVI/9/00348

***I 2018/0217(COD) COM(2018)0393 – C8-0247/2018

Responsible:

AGRI – Ulrike Müller (Renew)

Decision postponed

5. **Establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (NH/NP)**

ENVI/9/00351

***I 2018/0216(COD) COM(2018)0392 – C8-0248/2018

Responsible:

AGRI* – Peter Jahr (PPE)

Decision postponed

6. **Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (GF)**

ENVI/9/01621

*** 2019/0225(NLE) COM(2019)0472

Responsible:

PECH

Decision postponed

7. **Amending letter no 1 to the Draft General Budget 2020 Updated estimated needs for agricultural expenditure Adjustments related to the legislative proposals included in the Brexit preparedness package of 4 September 2019 Reinforcements of administrative budgets and other updates based on recent developments Adjustment to the structure of the budget and a technical correction**

ENVI/9/01655 (GR)

2019/2124(BUD)

Responsible:

BUDG

Decision postponed

8. **Proposal for a Council decision amending Decision (EU) 2019/274 on the signing, on behalf of the European Union and of the European Atomic Energy Community, of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (GF/ES)**

COM(2019)0880

Decision taken: Adopt an opinion in form of a letter (see point 3.1)

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Non-legislative opinions

None

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Documents received for information

9. **Proposal for a Council decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Joint Committee established by the Agreement between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation on the linking of their greenhouse gas emission trading systems to amend Annex I and II to the Agreement**
COM(2019)0427 (SC)

Decision postponed

10. **Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**
COM(2019)0428 (NH)

Decision postponed

11. **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council On the exercise of the power to adopt delegated acts conferred on the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 251/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/91**
COM(2019)0434 (CM/IP)

Decision postponed

12. **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council On the exercise of the power to adopt delegated acts conferred on the Commission pursuant to Directive 2000/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 June 2000 relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption, Council Directive 2001/110/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to honey, Council Directive 2001/111/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to certain sugars intended for human consumption, Council Directive 2001/112/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption, Council Directive 2001/113/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut purée intended for human consumption**
COM(2019)0435 (CM/IP)

Decision postponed

13. **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the exercise of the delegation conferred on the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 658/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on fees payable to the European Medicines Agency for the conduct of pharmacovigilance activities in respect of medicinal products for human use**
COM(2019)0439 (CM/IP)

Decision postponed

14. **Proposal for a Council decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms [Extended Climate Cooperation EU - Iceland - Norway]**
COM(2019)0438 (SC/ES)

Decision postponed

15. **Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2020 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Seas**
COM(2019)0453 (GF)

Decision postponed

16. **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Implementation of Free Trade Agreements 1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018 (ES)**
COM(2019)0455

Decision postponed

17. **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the development, validation and legal acceptance of methods alternative to animal testing in the field of cosmetics (2018) (GR)**
COM(2019)0479

Decision postponed

18. **Commission staff working document Evaluation of the Union legislation on blood, tissues and cells (BM/IP)**
SWD(2019)0375

Decision postponed

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Other documents received

19. **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation for the years 2016-2017**
COM(2019)0454

20. **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the exercise of the power to adopt delegated acts conferred on the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005, Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008, Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 637/2008 and Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009, Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007**
COM(2019)0433
21. **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council: Time to decide on the Union's financial framework for 2021-2027 - the European Commission's contribution to the European Council meeting on 17-18 October 2019**
COM(2019)0456
22. **Proposal for a Council decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the CETA Joint Committee established under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part as regards the adoption of a decision setting out the administrative and organisational matters regarding the functioning of the Appellate Tribunal**
COM(2019)0457
23. **Proposal for a Council decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the CETA Joint Committee established under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part as regards the adoption of a decision on the procedure for the adoption of interpretations in accordance with Articles 8.31.3 and 8.44.3(a) of CETA as Annex to its Rules of Procedure**
COM(2019)0458
24. **Proposal for a Council decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Committee on Services and Investment established under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part of the other part as regards the adoption of a code of conduct for Members of the Tribunal, the Appellate Tribunal and mediators**
COM(2019)0459
25. **Proposal for a Council decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Committee on Services and Investment established under the**

Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part as regards the adoption of rules for mediation for use by disputing parties in investment disputes
COM(2019)0460

26. **COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT: EVALUATION of the European Medicines Agency's fee system**
SWD(2019)0335
27. **Commission staff working document: Executive summary accompanying the document: Evaluation of the European Medicines Agency's fee system**
SWD(2019)0336
28. **COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT EU green public procurement criteria for food, catering services and vending machines**
SWD(2019)0366
29. **Commission staff working document: Executive summary of the evaluation of Regulation (EC) 2679/98 on the functioning of the internal market in relation to the free movement of goods among the Member States**
SWD(2019)0372
30. **Commission staff working document: Executive summary of the evaluation of the Union legislation on blood, tissues and cells**
SWD(2019)0376
31. **Commission staff working document Report on European Union implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the area of access to justice in environmental matters**
SWD(2019)0378
32. **COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT EVALUATION of the Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 concerning the forestry measures under Rural Development**
SWD(2019)0389
33. **Council Decision on the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union within the Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development established by the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Korea, of the other part, as regards the panel of experts referred to in article 13.15 of the agreement**
(Council(2019)1774)
34. **Adoption of a Council Decision on the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union at the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Bonn Agreement with regard to the Ministerial Declaration and the Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan**
(12188/20919)
35. **Adoption of a Council Decision on the accession of the European Union to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on appellations of origin and geographical indications,**

following the consent given by the European Parliament at its plenary session on
16/04/2019
(7569/2019)

36. Adoption of a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union at the thirty-first meeting of the contracting parties on the amendments to the Agreement for Co-operation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances (Bonn Agreement) with regard to the extension of the scope of application of the Bonn Agreement and with regard to the accession of the kingdom of Spain to the Bonn Agreement
(12187/2019)

6. DECISIONS RELATED TO NON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

- 6.1 *Preparation of the scrutiny plan for 2020 - deadline for proposals (ES/CM)*

Decision postponed

- 6.2 *Possible exchange of views with the Commission on the topic of e-cigarettes (BM/IP)*

Decision postponed

- 6.3 *Possible Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) study in order to ascertain the full extent of the environmental costs of the two-seat operation in 2019 (CM)*

Decision postponed

- 6.4 *Possible oral question to Commission on Food safety risks and animal welfare issues related to horse meat from Uruguay and Argentina (CM)*

Decision postponed

- 6.5 *Possible exchange of views with the Commission on the issue of official food controls (IP)*

Decision postponed

7. PROPOSALS FOR DECISION WITHOUT DEBATE

- 7.1 *Decisions on procedure*

- 7.1.1 *Motions for resolution Rule 143*

1. Motion for a resolution on access to essential medicines in the EU by Mara Bizzotto -
B9-0114/2019

Decision taken: *No follow-up needed. The Chair will reply accordingly to the author of the motion for a resolution.*

- 7.2 *Petitions for opinion (SC)*

None

7.3 Updated guidelines for ENVI representatives in Agencies Management Boards (GR)

Decision taken: *The updated guidelines were endorsed.*

8. POINTS FOR INFORMATION

8.1 Petitions for information (SC)

- Petition **No 0154/2019** by A. B. T. L. (Spanish), on behalf of Adadem, on a violation of health and consumer rights by the Spanish company iDental. The petitioner maintains that a Spanish company, iDental, has defrauded thousands of people, in addition to causing damage to their health. This has resulted in numerous claims and complaints being lodged with consumer associations and health authorities throughout Spain. The petitioner also takes the view that the authorities responsible for protecting public health and consumers in Spain have failed to adequately address the situation. She claims that the situation constitutes a health emergency, and therefore calls for a compensation fund to be set up to help those affected, and for oral health to be covered under the national public health scheme.
- Petition **No 0162/2019** by C. T. (Hungarian) on air quality in the EU. The petitioner denounces the inadequacy and inherent contradictions of Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air. He claims that the limit value of 40 µg/m³ of particulate matter (PM₁₀) per calendar year, associated with a concentration level of 20-32 µg/m³ of fine particulate matter (PM_{2,5}), is responsible for thousands of premature deaths annually only in Budapest. Furthermore he states that the PM₁₀ limit values ignore the relevant WHO standards and guidelines, in contradiction to Recital 2 of the Directive and questions the possibility to exceed the upper daily threshold 35 times a year. Finally, he alleges that the limit values do not comply with the provisions on air quality standards and national emission ceilings of the Sixth Environment Action Programme of the European Community 2002-2012.
- Petition **No 0167/2019** by L. B. (German), on behalf of Handicap Lexikon, signed by one other person, on the ban on plastic drinking straws. The petitioner considers the ban on disposable tableware to be sensible, but does not agree that it should apply to plastic drinking straws. People with disabilities and older people need to use them because of difficulties in swallowing. Alternatives such as reusable paper or metal straws are neither realistic nor hygienic.
- Petition **No 0213/2019** by Renato Lelli (Italian), on behalf of 'Parents for Equal Power', on scrutiny of the COP24 rules for implementation of the Paris Agreement of December 2015 on climate change. On behalf of 'Parents for Equal Power' the petitioner, refers to growing public concern in Italy and abroad regarding the implementation of the Paris Agreement and in particular on COP24 of December 2018. Although it lays down a set of guidelines for implementation of Paris Agreement, it allows parties a margin of manoeuvre as regards both intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs). Despite the commitment by Member States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2035 and the target of \$200 billion in funding by 2020, the petitioner is sceptical regarding the effectiveness of the agreement and expresses support for the global climate strike inspired by the sixteen-year-old Swedish girl

Greta Thumberg.

- **Petition No 0215/2019** by Eugen Hoppe-Schultze (German) on a deposit system for cigarettes and tobacco products to discourage littering. The petitioner calls for EU legislation introducing a deposit system for cigarettes, tobacco products and e-cigarettes, indicating that a high enough deposit payment would act as an effective deterrent to the improper disposal of cigarette butts and other tobacco product residues. The petitioner fails to understand why the target reduction figure for discarded cigarette butts is only 80% by 2030, while drinking straws are to be banned altogether.
- **Petition No 0238/2019** by J. L. P. (Danish) on the alleged violation of the EU Habitats Directive. The petitioner alleges a violation of the EU Habitats Directive by Denmark's decision to build 150-meters-high wind turbines at Turebylille, south of Køge, where he claims there is a high concentration of "broadband bats" (Bredøret flagermus), a protected species listed in Annexes II and IV of the Directive. He claims that bats are killed by the wind turbines and calls on the EU to immediately require the installation of bat detectors which, when triggered, must immediately switch off the turbines.
- **Petition No 0250/2019** by Renato Lelli (Italian), on behalf of the 'Parents for equal power' association, objecting to compulsory vaccination with no preventive safety tests. The petitioner sets out the health risks arising from the compulsory sequential administration of a number of vaccines (six), expressing particular concern at possible allergic reactions in children. To prevent an uncontrolled immune reaction, the petitioner calls for administration of the vaccines to be preceded by preventive analysis of the two classes of lymphocytes that regulate and balance immune responses in each individual. He is accordingly seeking the introduction at EU level of specific protocols to improve vaccine safety.
- **Petition No 0255/2019** by I. R. S. (Spanish), on behalf of the United Left of Cantabria, on possible irregularities with regard to the granting of a prospecting licence for mining in Cantabria (Spain). The petitioner calls for an investigation to be carried out into whether Cantabria's regional government has acted in line with EU legislation in giving its approval for the Salia prospecting project. The petitioner alleges that the following directives have been breached: Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment; Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds.
- **Petition No 0315/2019** by O.T. (British) on the need to revoke Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers. The petitioner calls for Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers be revoked, considering that it fails to protect consumer interests and constitutes a direct attack on vegans and vegetarians and their way of life. The petitioner notes that on 1 April 2019 the EU banned the use of the phrases 'vegan sausages' and 'vegan hamburgers'. The justification for that ban was that consumers could be misled when buying these products. The petitioner considers there is no proof of this kind of confusion, and believes that the packaging is sufficiently clear to enable a distinction between products that contain meat and those which do not.
- **Petition No 0494/2017** by Alessia Margheritini (Italian) against a national law making vaccinations for school children compulsory. The petitioner objects to a national law that has made vaccination mandatory for school attendance, with fines for failing to do so and repercussions on parental authority. The petitioner (whose son suffers from a serious heart

condition and for whom some vaccinations are therefore contra-indicated) protests that this breaches freedom of choice in regard to personal healthcare, which she believes is guaranteed under the Italian Constitution, and she calls on the EU institutions to issue health guidelines for the whole of Europe.

- **Petition No 0495/2017** by Elena Manzoni Di Chiosca (Italian) against a national law making vaccinations for school children compulsory. The petitioner objects to a national law introducing compulsory vaccination, which makes the right to a child's education throughout primary and secondary school subject to these vaccinations being administered. The petitioner considers this to be counterproductive as it does not take account of possible allergies to vaccinations, as well as detrimental to fundamental freedoms. She calls on the EU institutions therefore to take a stand against what she perceives to be a serious abuse of power by the national health authorities.
- **Petition No 0496/2017** by Remo Pulcini (Italian) on incompatibility with EU legislation of Italian law on compulsory vaccinations. The petitioner objects to the law on compulsory vaccinations in Italy adopted on 19 May 2017. The petitioner considers that this law infringes democracy, fundamental rights and the parental authority of Italian citizens, as well as free competition in the EU market. The petitioner asks therefore for Italy to be reprimanded because the law on compulsory vaccinations in Italian schools is contrary to EU legislation.
- **Petition No 0558/2017** by A. B. (Italian) on compulsory vaccinations in Italy. The petitioner complains about the recent Italian legislation on compulsory vaccinations. According to the petitioner, the behaviour of Italian schools and health care providers, which have made vaccinations mandatory for children, under sanctions that are, in the view of the petitioner, unfounded and unjustifiable (including loss of parental authority), has created a climate of collective anxiety. Furthermore, the petitioner is of the view that there are no justified reasons of urgency and necessity. Finally, the petitioner argues that the legislation on compulsory vaccination in Italian schools is unconstitutional and opposes European legislation.
- **Petition No 0057/2018** by R.I. (Italian), bearing approximately 100 signatures, on compulsory vaccinations in Italy. The petitioner complains about the recent Italian legislation on compulsory vaccinations. In his opinion, the uncontrolled administration, without due medical precautions, of ten vaccines to young people under 16 should be considered an unlawful and harmful practice. He calls on the European Parliament to carry out all the medical and legal investigations necessary for it to state its opposition to compulsory vaccination in Italy and other EU countries.
- **Petition No 2553/2014** by Ludwig Bühlmeier (German) on microplastics and nanoparticles. The petitioner calls for an EU-wide ban on microplastics and nanoparticles. Microplastics can be found in the environment and in water and are even absorbed by plants. The petitioner says they are carcinogenic. Nanoparticles are so small that they penetrate cells effortlessly and can damage them, causing cancer. Because the precautionary principle applies in the EU, the petitioner urges a ban on these small particles as soon as possible.
- **Petition No 0663/2015** by Oliver Steiner (German) on a procedure for establishing a purification system in all European water treatment plants to filter microplastics. The petitioner stresses the harmful nature of microplastics. Microplastics can be found in cosmetic products and care products, as well as in fibres in clothing. They escape into water and thus find their way into the food chain, affecting both animals and humans. The petitioner states that washing machine filters and the filters of most treatment plants are unable to filter

microplastics out of the water. He calls on the European Parliament to issue a regulation to equip all common European treatment plants with filters which can ensure that the fourth water treatment stage of water purification is attained. He asks that a financial support system be established to support this initiative.

- Petition No **0783/2015** by E. D. (German) on banning cosmetic products containing microplastics. The petitioner states that microplastics are often found in cosmetic products but are very damaging to the environment and to wildlife. She is petitioning for a Europe-wide ban on cosmetic products containing microplastics.
- Petition No **0793/2015** by Oliver Steiner (German) on the prohibition of microplastics in cosmetics, toiletries and clothing products. The petitioner calls for a ban on microplastics in cosmetics, personal hygiene products and clothing and State funding of special filters for these microplastics in sewage treatment plants. These microplastics contribute to marine pollution and harm animals and humans through the chemicals absorbed from food, because after washing fleece-type clothes, these small pieces of plastic pass with domestic waste water to sewage processing plants where they are not filtered and pollute the seas and oceans. There they are ingested by fish and birds and end up in the human body.
- Petition No **0695/2018** by U.K. (German) on microplastics in biosolids used in agricultural fertilisers and sewage sludge. The petitioner is concerned by increased plastic pollution and in particular the effects of the circulation of micro- and nano plastic particles in nature. The petitioner refers to studies by two German research institutes that demonstrate that microplastic pollution on land (via infiltration of sediments and ground water) could have devastating impacts on terrestrial ecosystems, comparably worse to the already researched effects of microplastics on marine ecosystems. The petitioner refers to other sources and effects of microplastics on land, such as particles from household detritus that enter waterways through e.g. the washing of synthetic textiles. The petitioner is particularly concerned with the microplastic contamination of waters entering sewage treatment plants, and the inherent risk of further contamination of soil or sewage materials later used for fertilizer purposes. The petitioner concludes that the current situation is worsened by the problem of a lack of standardised detection methods for microplastics and unified approaches to related scientific research at the EU and global level.

8.2 *Rolling check-list on reporting and review clauses in EU legislation (SD)*

The updated rolling check-list is attached in Annex VI.

8.3 *Case-law of interest for the ENVI Committee (SC)*

- **Judgment of the Court of 1 October 2019, case C-616/17, Blaise and Others**

In its judgment, the Court gave a ruling on the validity, in the light of the precautionary principle, of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market. The request was made in criminal proceedings brought against Mr Blaise and 20 other defendants charged of having entered shops in France and damaged cans of weed killer, containing glyphosate, and glass display cases, to alert shops and their customers to the dangers associated with selling weed killers containing glyphosate, pleading the precautionary principle. Defining the scope of that principle, the Court, first, stated that the EU legislation must comply with that principle when it adopts rules governing the placing on the

market of plant protection products. Second, the Court held that the absence of a definition of the concept of an ‘active substance’ in the regulation is not incompatible with the precautionary principle. Further, the Court held that the regulation is compatible with the precautionary principle, in that it requires that the cumulative effects of the constituents of a plant protection product must be taken into account. The procedure for the approval of active substances and the procedure for the authorisation of plant protection products provide that an examination of applications is to include an assessment of the possible harmful effect of a product, including effects caused by the interaction between the constituents of the product. On that point, the regulation is again not vitiated by any manifest error of assessment. The Court came to the same conclusion with respect to the reliability of the tests, studies and analyses taken into account in order to authorise a plant protection product. Last, the Court stated that the regulation does not exempt the applicant from providing tests of the carcinogenicity and toxicity of the product. Such a product may be authorised only if the competent authorities exclude the risk of any immediate or delayed harmful effect on human health. Consequently, nothing capable of affecting the validity of the regulation was identified.

8.4 Documents recently published by the European Court of Auditors (GR)

The following documents were recently published:

– SPECIAL REPORT

Special report No 16/2019 on European Environmental Accounts (EEEA): usefulness for policy makers can be improved (10 October 2019)

The EEEA are a statistical framework consisting of a comprehensive set of tables and accounts describing the relationship between the environment and the EU economy. The Court audited whether the Commission set up, managed and used the EEEA well. The report shows that the Commission did not set out a long-term perspective for EEEA data needs for environmental policymaking. The Commission did not compile EEEA needs, nor detailed which indicators are needed. While there is a strategy for the EEEA, a comprehensive action plan to implement the objectives is missing. The Court also found that the Commission implemented EEEA modules without a full cost-benefit analysis and that the EEEA modules were not used to their full potential for monitoring key environmental policies. Although the Commission published some data earlier than required, it did not exploit all means of providing data more quickly. There is no release calendar to indicate when data becomes available. The Court recommends that the Commission should improve the strategic framework for EEEA data, the relevance of EEEA modules for environmental policy making and the timeliness of EEEA data.

Decision postponed

– ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual report concerning the financial year 2018 (8 October 2019)

In its annual report on the implementation of the budget concerning the financial year 2018, the Court concluded that the EU accounts present a “true and fair view” of the EU’s financial position. For the third year in a row, the Court has issued a qualified opinion on the regularity of the financial transactions underlying the accounts, reflecting the fact that a significant part of the EU’s 2018 expenditure was not materially affected by errors and that such errors are no longer pervasive across spending areas. At the same time, challenges remain in high-risk spending areas such as rural development and cohesion. The overall level of irregularities in EU spending has remained stable within the range observed during the two previous years (error rate: 2.6 % vs 2.4 % in 2017 and 3.1 % in 2016).

Annual report on EU agencies for the financial year 2018 (15 October 2019)

EU agencies carry out specific technical, scientific or managerial tasks that help the EU institutions design and implement policies. They employ 11 400 people, i.e. a fifth of all EU staff. Their total 2018 budget amounted to EUR 4.2 billion (a 20% increase on 2017), which is equivalent to about 2.9% of the total EU general budget. In this report, the Court has signed off the 2018 accounts of all 41 EU agencies as reliable and gave all agencies a clean bill of health as regards their income and spending (except for the European Asylum Support Office). However, agencies should further improve financial management in different respects, and especially the way they conduct public procurement, to fully comply with the rules and ensure best value for money.

European Court of Auditors' portfolio of publications

Special reports present the results of selected audits (performance audits) on specific policy or spending areas, or on budgetary or management issues.

Annual reports mainly contain the results of financial and compliance audit work on the EU budget and the European Development Funds, but also budgetary management and performance aspects.

Specific annual reports, published separately on the EU's agencies, decentralised bodies and joint undertakings.

Opinions on new or updated laws with a significant impact on financial management, either mandatory under the TFEU, at the request of another institution or on our own initiative.

Briefing papers describe and analyse policy or management, focusing on specific topics.

Landscape reviews, similar to briefing papers, but focused on complex, large-scale policy areas or management issues, often from a cross-cutting perspective.

Rapid case reviews establish facts surrounding very focused specific issues or problems.

Audit previews present background information on a forthcoming or ongoing audit.

8.5 Distribution of posts in ENVI for the first half of the legislature

The list of distribution of posts is attached in Annex VII.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT COORDINATORS' MEETING

14 November (date and time tbc)