

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

COORDINATORS' RESULTS

- not to be-treated in full committee -

Monday, 2 December 2019, 17:00 - 18:30

Room JAN 2Q2 (BRUSSELS)

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

4.12.2019

1. ADOPTION OF DRAFT AGENDA

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

2. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Coordinators will discuss the follow-up on future Green Deal Communication at the next meeting.*
- *Coordinators were informed about an invitation to the ENVI chair by Vice-President McGuinness for the Article 17 TFEU seminar on 'The European Green Deal' on 28 January 2020.*

3. DECISIONS ON URGENT MATTERS

- 3.1 *Speakers for the public hearing on "Reducing Greenhouse gas emissions from EU-related maritime transport: what's next after the EU MRV ?"(SD/IP)*

Decision taken: *Coordinators mandated the secretariat to prepare an agreement together with the political group staff on the four speakers and two substitutes and to finalize the procedure by written procedure in the coming days.*

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

Decision taken: *Coordinators decided to request authorisation on an exceptional basis from the Conference of Presidents for sending an ad hoc ENVI delegation consisting of 12 Members to the high-level segment of the CBD COP15 Climate Change Conference in Kunming, China from 28 October to 1 November 2020 in view of the exceptional relevance of the conference.*

3.3 Composition of ENVI delegation to EFSA, 24-25 February 2020 (ES/NH)

Decision taken: *Coordinators mandated the ENVI Chair to inform the Conference of Committee Chairs of an ENVI delegation consisting of 3 Members to EFSA, 24-25 February 2020.*

Coordinators decided to set a deadline for 16 December 2019, close of business, for political groups to submit to the secretariat the names of their Members participating (1 EPP, 1 S&D and 1 Renew).

3.4 Composition of the ENVI delegation to IMO MEPC 75 in London, 30 March - 3 April 2020 (IP/SD)

Decision taken: *Coordinators mandated the ENVI Chair to inform the Conference of Committee Chairs of an ENVI delegation consisting of 3 Members and the Chair to IMO MEPC 75 in London, 30 March - 3 April 2020.*

Coordinators decided to request, as it was done for previous missions, that the Policy Department commissions a briefing on the key issues at stake in view of the IMO MEPC 75.

Coordinators decided to set a deadline for 16 December 2019, close of business, for political groups to submit to the secretariat the names of their Members participating (1 EPP, 1 S&D and 1 Renew).

3.5 Composition of the ENVI delegation to ECDC, 6-7 April 2020 (SC/IP)

Decision taken: *Coordinators mandated the ENVI Chair to inform the Conference of Committee Chairs of an ENVI delegation consisting of 3 Members to ECDC, 6-7 April 2020.*

Coordinators decided to set a deadline for 16 December 2019, close of business, for political groups to submit to the secretariat the names of their Members participating (1 EPP, 1 S&D and 1 ECR).

3.6 EP delegation to COP26 in Glasgow, November 2020 (ES/SC)

Decision taken: *As in previous years and in order to secure accommodation for the participants, Coordinators decided to request authorisation, jointly with ITRE, from the Conference of Presidents for sending an ad hoc EP delegation consisting of 15 Members to participate in the high-level segment of the COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, November 2020.*

3.7 State of play with other committees

A. Procedural aspects concerning the CAP Amending (CMO) Regulation (NP/NH)

Decision taken: *Coordinators mandated the Chair to send a letter to the AGRI Chair, reminding AGRI from a procedural point of view about the delimitation of competences as laid down in the Rules of Procedure and pointing to the specific part of the AGRI report amending aspects of the proposal under ENVI competence.*

B. Joint BUDG-ENVI hearing on “Greening the budget: how to upgrade climate and biodiversity mainstreaming and to improve the tracking of related budget expenditure. Which role for ‘green own resources’”? (GR)

Decision taken: *ENVI coordinators mandated the Chair to discuss with the BUDG Chair the detailed programme and date of the hearing and to report back to coordinators afterwards.*

C. TRAN INI on technical and operational measures for more efficient and cleaner maritime transport

Decision taken: *Coordinators took note of the state of play regarding TRAN Committee’s INI Report and the fact that ENVI will do a Rule 56 opinion to this report. They stressed the importance to ensure that the report will only touch on issues under the competences of the TRAN committee, as highlighted in the authorisation request.*

4. DECISIONS RELATED TO PENDING LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

4.1 Update on the EP work on the CAP reform proposals (NH/NP)

Decision taken: *Coordinators decided, provided there is a preliminary agreement on joint compromises and that these amendments are put to a vote in the AGRI committee, to hold a vote in the ENVI Committee on such draft joint compromises.*

Coordinators decided to come back to this issue in future, in the light of the most recent developments.

4.2 Corrigenda on the Medical Devices Regulation and on the In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation (BM)

Decision taken: *Coordinators mandated the Chair to address a letter to the Commission and the Council on this issue.*

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

Reports

None

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Own-initiative reports

None

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Legislative opinions

- 1. Transitional provisions for the support by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in the year 2021 (NH/NP)**

ENVI/9/01807

***I 2019/0254(COD) COM(2019)0581 – C9-0162/2019

Responsible:

AGRI – (Renew)

Decision taken: *Coordinators decided to postpone a decision with regard to this file to the next coordinators' meeting.*

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Non-legislative opinions

None

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Documents received for information

- 2. Proposal for a Council regulation fixing for 2020 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters (GF)**

COM(2019)0483

Decision taken: *No action needed, for information only*

- 3. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: The Annual Union work programme for European standardisation for 2020 (SC)**

COM(2019)0486

Decision taken: *No action needed, for information only*

4. **Proposal for a Council decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the thirty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, with regards to amendments to Appendices II and III to that Convention (LV)**
COM(2019)0494

Decision taken: *No action needed, for information only.*

5. **Proposal for a Council decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the 39th session of the Executive Body under the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (ES)**
COM(2019)0545

Decision taken: *No action needed, for information only*

6. **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Report on the functioning of the European carbon market (ES)**
COM(2019)0557

Decision taken: *No action needed, for information only. Can be used as background for future work on climate change policies.*

7. **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Preparing the ground for raising long-term ambition - EU Climate Action Progress Report 2019 (ES)**
COM(2019)0559

Decision taken: *No action needed, for information only. Can be used as background for future work on climate change policies.*

8. **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Quality of petrol and diesel fuel used for road transport in the European Union (Reporting year 2017) (SD)**
COM(2019)0561

Decision taken: *No action needed, for information only.*

9. **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on promoting health-enhancing physical activity across sectors (BM)**
COM(2019)0565

Decision taken: *No action needed, for information only.*

10. **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Implementation of Directive 2009/31/EC on the Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide (ES)**
COM(2019)0566

Decision taken: *No action needed, for information only. Can be used as background for future work on climate change policies.*

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Other documents received

11. **Commission staff working document Expression of User Needs for the Copernicus Programme**
SWD(2019)0394
12. **Commission staff working document Technical information Accompanying the document Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council Preparing the ground for raising long-term ambition EU Climate Action Progress Report 2019**
SWD(2019)0396
13. **COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT: EU green public procurement criteria for public space maintenance**
SWD(2019)0404
14. **COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT EVALUATION of the Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment**
SWD(2019)0413
15. **COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION of the Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment**
SWD(2019)0414
16. **COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations with the Republic of Seychelles for the conclusion of an agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles on access for fishing vessels flying the flag of the Seychelles to waters and marine biological resources of Mayotte**
(12321/2019)
17. **COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning the amendment of Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms**
(12638/2019)
18. **COUNCIL DECISION establishing the position to be taken on behalf of the Union within the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as regards certain proposals submitted for adoption during its eighth session**
(13057/2019)
19. **COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken, on behalf of the European Union, within the Joint Committee established by the Agreement between the European Union**

and the Swiss Confederation on the linking of their greenhouse gas emissions trading systems, as regards the amendment of Annexes I and II to the Agreement (13327/2019)

20. **COUNCIL DECISION** on the position to be taken, on behalf of the European Union, at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on mercury, as regards the adoption of a decision establishing thresholds for mercury waste, as referred to in article 11 (2) of that convention (13479/2019)

21. **Decision** on the position to be taken, on behalf of the European Union, at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on mercury, as regards the adoption of a decision on the phasing-out of dental amalgam and amending Annex A to that convention. (13480/2019)

6. DECISIONS RELATED TO NON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

6.1 *Work programme of the Health Working Group in the presence of Dolors Montserrat and/or Sara Cerdas, co-chairs of the Health Working Group (BM/IP)*

Decision taken: *Coordinators endorsed the 2020 Work Programme of the Health Working Group, after making some suggestions with respect to additional aspects that the workshops could address.*

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

Decision taken: *Coordinators decided to invite the Commission for an exchange of views on the topic of e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products at one of the next committee meetings.*

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 (LV)*

Decision taken: *Coordinators decided to ask for a study on the carbon footprint of Parliament, covering also emissions linked to the two seats.*

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

Decision taken: *Coordinators decided to invite the Commission for an exchange of views on the issue of official food controls at one of the next committee meetings.*

6.5 *Possible exchange of views with the Commission on lead gunshots in wetlands (CM)*

Decision taken: *The item was postponed to the next coordinators' meeting.*

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 the bed bug scourge in Europe by Joëlle Mélin - B9-0165/2019

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 (NP)

Petition **No 1078/2018** by Velichka Velichkova (Bulgarian), bearing 182 signatures, on the violation of the environmental legislation at a biogas plant in Tsarevets village, Mezdra Municipality, Bulgaria. The petitioner complains that the biogas plant in Tsarevets village, which processes about 164 tons of waste daily, does not comply with EU law. It is alleged that during the planning and the construction of the plant, the requirements for environmental protection have not been complied with and that a public health impact assessment has been deliberately avoided.

Petition **No 1091/2018** by Galina Tosheva (Bulgarian), bearing 595 signatures, on the request for decommissioning the biomass plant in Trud, Bulgaria. The petitioner complains about the construction of a biomass plant close to a residential area near Trud, Bulgaria. It has been alleged that the construction of the plant does not comply with EU laws on health and environmental protection, thus causing noise, air pollution and potential health risks.

Petition **No 1105/2018** by Kremena Petrova (Bulgarian), on behalf of the Association “Nova Zagora wants to breathe” (“Нова Загора иска да диша”), bearing 1176 signatures, on a biogas production plant in Nova Zagora, Bulgaria. The petitioner complains that the construction of the biogas plant in the town of Nova Zagora does not comply with EU Directives and Regulations on health and environmental protection. The petitioner points that this has had a largely negative impact on environmental pollution as well as the health of the citizens.

Proposed decision: *No opinion. The Chair will reply accordingly to the PETI Chair.*

7.3 ENVI Priorities for the 2021 work programme of the European Court of Auditors (GR)

As every year, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) wishes to consult all the Parliament’s Committees for its work programme (this year, for 2021), via the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC). ENVI should send its proposals to the CCC by 14 February 2020.

Last year, ENVI put forward the following topics for ECA’s 2020 Work Programme:

1. **Assessment of the implementation of the Falsified Medicines Directive (Directive 2011/62/EU) and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/161.** Recommendation to audit the implementation of the Falsified Medicines Directive and subsequent legislation as it will apply as of 9th February 2019, in particular the implementation and information to the public on common pharmacy logo for online pharmacies, the safety features of medicines and functioning of the serial number of medicine packages (data protection and effective safety assurance for patients in all healthcare settings – mainly hospitals).

2. **Assessment of the implementation of the 2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy**, in particular the mobilisation of (Union and Member States) resources, the functioning of the Common Implementation Framework, the integration into sectoral policies, as well as the other measures necessary for reaching the headline target and the six targets of the strategy, taking into account the degree of success in reaching these targets. The Biodiversity Strategy is the overarching framework for biodiversity policy in Europe and stems from commitments made by EU leaders in March 2010. It is also based on the international commitments adopted by 193 countries, including the EU and all its Member States, at the conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010.

ECA's 2020 Work Programme was published on 30 October 2019¹.

In 2020, the Court expects to publish 41 reports, which are selected based on an assessment of the main risks in relation to EU spending and policy delivery. For the first time, ECA will also publish an annual report on the performance of EU policies. Furthermore, the Court is planning individual audits to analyse whether the EU is properly addressing climate change, with reports on pesticides use and plastic waste, as well as on the marine environment, biodiversity in farming and pollinators, among other topics. The Court will also consider the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, covering all but 3 of these 17 goals next year.

It does not include ENVI's proposals, despite the fact that they were included in the CCC list.

Decision taken: *Coordinators are invited to submit proposals in writing by Wednesday 15 January 2020 cob, in view of a coordinators' decision at their 20-21 January 2020 meeting.*

8. POINTS FOR INFORMATION

8.1 On-going INI reports in ENVI

The file includes the list of on-going INI reports (see Annex VI)

8.2 Petitions for information (NP)

- Petition No **0401/2019** by S.S.L. (Spanish), on behalf of the association 'Plataforma Toledo Aire Limpio', on the need for a change in the European Union's energy and environmental policy on waste treatment and management. The petitioner wants to see energy and environmental policy on waste treatment and waste management changed to stop the harmful effects caused by waste incineration, as has happened, he believes, in La Sagra (Toledo). He says La Sagra suffers from extremely heavy pollution emanating from two big cement works located in the area. The petitioner also reports that plants manufacturing the liquor orujo in the olive-growing region of Toledo produce emissions and send out a greasy smoke into the air which permeates local homes and causes local residents breathing problems. The petitioner considers there is considerable discrepancy between what the EU stipulates in its environmental legislation and what actually happens on the ground, as can be seen in the circular economy in the Autonomous Community

¹ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/WP2020/WP2020_EN.pdf

of Castile La Mancha.

- Petition No **0560/2019** by Timothée Galvaire (French), on behalf of Fairose, on the introduction of a tax on aviation fuel (kerosene) for flights within the Union. The petitioner requests that the European Union consider the application of a tax on aviation fuel for flights within the EU. The petitioner states that the aviation sector enjoys numerous tax advantages despite being one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. The petitioner points out that other more environmentally friendly alternatives are subject to high taxes while Member States do not charge VAT on airline tickets.

8.3 Rolling check-list on reporting and review clauses in EU legislation

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

8.4 Case-law of interest for the ENVI Committee

None

8.5 Documents recently published by the European Court of Auditors

The following documents were recently published:

– SPECIAL REPORTS

Special report No 16/2019 on European Environmental Accounts (EEEA): usefulness for policy makers can be improved (10 October 2019) (the first report has been postponed from coordinators' meeting of 25/11)

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.

Special report No 16/2019 on EU greenhouse gas emissions: well reported, but better insight needed into future reductions (20 November 2019)

The Commission is responsible for reviewing the data reported by Member States on the current and projected emissions and for proposing EU policies and measures to reach the reduction targets. The audit focused on efforts of the Commission, assisted by the European Environment Agency, to ensure the quality of the EU greenhouse gas inventory and of the information on future emission reductions. The Court found that EU greenhouse gas emissions data is reported in line with international requirements and inventories of emissions have improved over time. However, better insight is needed into specific sectors such as agriculture and LULUCF. They also suggest further

improvements to reporting on how EU and national mitigation policies contribute to meeting emission reduction targets for 2020, 2030 and 2050.

Based on its findings, the Court makes also recommendations to the Commission aimed at improving the Commission review process for the LULUCF sector and the framework for future emission reductions.

Special report No 21/2019 on addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR): progress in the animal sector, but this health treat remains a challenge for the EU (15 November 2019)

The Court assessed the European Commission's and EU agencies' management of key activities and resources to reduce AMR, examined the Commission's support for the Member States' 'One Health' response and its contribution to promoting the prudent use of antimicrobials in animals, and looked at EU support for AMR research. The Court concluded that EU support to strengthen Member States' 'One Health' approaches to AMR contributed to better-informed policy decisions and facilitated cooperation and exchange of experience between Member States. However, there is potential for further synergies to support the fight against AMR through targeted, cost-effective investments. The Court pointed out gaps in the monitoring of progress and surveillance of healthcare-associated infections, which is likely to slow down actions against AMR and considers that scientific data on the occurrence and spread of AMR in the environment remains insufficient. While progress was uneven, the use of veterinary antimicrobials had become more prudent in most EU Member States. Nevertheless, use of some antimicrobials is still too high. New EU rules for veterinary medicinal products and medicated feed address some of the known weaknesses. However, some issues remain, such as the difficulties Member States face in collecting data and gaps in the monitoring of resistant bacteria in food and animals. The EU budget is a major source of funding for investment in AMR research. However, there has not yet been any breakthrough in the development of new classes of antimicrobials.

Based on its findings, the Court recommends to improve the EU's response to AMR, in particular by enhancing support to Member States, promoting prudent use of veterinary antimicrobials and better monitoring of AMR and strengthening strategies for boosting AMR research in the EU.

Decision taken: *Coordinators decided to have these individual Special reports presented in the ENVI committee.*

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.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT COORDINATORS' MEETING

20-21 January 2020 (tbc)