

### CHAIR'S WELCOME



Dear all,

The next ENVI meetings will take place on 22-23 March. It will largely focus on major pieces of legislation aiming to reduce pollution in our surroundings. Pollution harms not only our environment but also our health. It is the largest environmental cause of multiple mental and physical diseases and premature deaths, especially among

children. ENVI members will consider draft reports on the proposals on air quality and on water pollutants, where the Rapporteurs propose changes to increase the level of ambition. On air quality, it includes full alignment of EU limit values with the 2021 WHO Air Quality Guidelines by 2030. Concerning the protection of water, the Rapporteur emphasizes the need to adapt the legislation so it can efficiently deal with pressing challenges, such as microplastics and PFAS. We will also vote on an ENVI opinion, which, if adopted, will increase the protection of workers against health risks resulting from exposure to asbestos, as well as debate with the Commission a long-awaited proposal revising the legal framework for chemicals (the CLP Regulation) aiming to reduce the exposure of European citizens to harmful chemicals and to be better informed about hazards.

We will however not forget the climate agenda. Jointly with the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), we will hold a public hearing on "Carbon Farming - Practical applications in use in the EU". It is of particular interest to the Members to understand how the practical issues linked to carbon farming are addressed, especially after the recent launch of the legislative proposal on the certification of carbon removals, so that farmers and foresters can participate in this activity as a new business opportunity while at the same time contributing to Europe's goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

The climate is only one of the issues that require to be solved in a multilateral way, at a global level. On Tuesday, DEVE-ENVI will consider a joint own-initiative report on the 'Implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals'. The Rapporteurs will propose several recommendations to improve Europe's leadership in this area. The report will set out Parliament's position ahead of the upcoming UN High-Level Political Forum that oversees the implementation of SDGs, in which ENVI members will participate.

Finally, we will welcome Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries in the framework of the structured dialogue. While a broad range of items will be covered, the focus is expected to be on the latest developments regarding the Circular Economy files, such as Ecodesign, Packaging and Packaging Waste regulations or Green Claims, air and water proposals implementing Zero Pollution Action Plans; the EU Nature Restoration Law, and chemicals. ENVI Members are determined to advance and close as many files as possible before the end of the term. A similar structured dialogue with Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, will take place on 30 March.

Last but not least, I have the pleasure to congratulate all the Members who were nominated to the new Subcommittee on Public Health (SANT). Under the umbrella of the ENVI, the public health subcommittee will deal with

programmes and specific actions in the field of public health, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, health aspects of bioterrorism, the European Medicines Agency, and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. I am looking forward to jointly stepping up efforts to tackle health challenges following the COVID-19 crisis and the lessons learnt since then.

As always, 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

22 March 2023

### MEETING ITEMS

#### Exchanges of views:

- Exchange of views with Director of the Health and Food Audits and Analysis of DG SANTE (22/3)
- Structured dialogue with Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for the environment, oceans and fisheries and presentation of the proposal on Substantiating Green Claims and the outcome of the negotiations of a treaty on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) (23/3)

#### Presentations:

- Presentation by the Commission of the proposal on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (22/3)

#### Joint AGRI-ENVI Public Hearing on 22 March:

- Carbon farming: Practical applications in use in the EU

#### Considerations:

- Draft report on the ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (RECAST) 22/3) (LÓPEZ)
- Draft report on the Implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (jointly with DEVE) (22/3) (BULLMANN/KOKKALIS)
- Draft report on the Amending directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy, directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration and directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy (BRGLEZ)

#### Votes on 22 March:

- Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work (MESURE)
- Labelling of organic pet food (COMINI OLIVERES)

### ENVI IN THE NEXT PLenary

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

### EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

**Structured dialogue with Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for the environment, oceans and fisheries and presentation of the proposal on Substantiating Green Claims and the outcome of the negotiations of a treaty on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)**



ENVI Members will hold the annual structured dialogue with Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, to discuss the progress and outlook of the Commissioner's portfolio. The exchange will cover a broad range of topics, including the latest

developments on the Circular Economy files, in particular Ecodesign and Packaging and Packaging Waste regulations, the Zero Pollution Package, the EU Nature Restoration Law, and Chemicals. Commissioner Sinkevičius is also expected to present the recently-published proposal on Substantiating Green Claims, designed to reduce the risk of greenwashing and empower consumers and companies to facilitate the green transition. Members will have the opportunity to hear about the outcome of the negotiations on the Treaty of the High Seas on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in high seas (BBNJ) that were concluded earlier this month. The groundbreaking treaty establishes large-scale marine protected areas on the high seas, and is instrumental in meeting the global commitment of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Agreement.

**Exchange of views with Director of the Health and Food Audits and Analysis of DG SANTE**



The Committee will hold an exchange of views with a representative of the health and food audits and analysis directorate of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE). Their role is to carry out controls to ensure that the national authorities in EU countries and non-

EU countries exporting to the EU are fulfilling their legal obligations in the areas of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health, EU quality standards and in certain areas of human health. Those audits are focusing on control systems rather than individual premises, but other controls such as fact-finding studies are also carried out. The audits follow priorities set out in a multi-annual work plan, aiming to cover the various policy areas in proportion to the risks posed and to ensure consistency with the Commission's political priorities, such as the ones established by the Farm to Fork strategy. ENVI Members will have the opportunity to question the Commission about its most recent activities. The multi-annual plan for 2021-2025, includes, inter alia, the theme of antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare as well as food safety.

### PRESENTATIONS

**Amending Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures**



The Commission will present its proposal on a revision of the Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals (CLP) - one of the key actions implementing EU's chemicals strategy for sustainability and a major building block towards achieving Zero Pollution Ambition. The proposal aims to better protect

citizens and the environment from harmful chemicals while boosting innovation for safe and sustainable chemicals. It will require manufacturers, importers or downstream users to assess whether the substances and mixtures they place on the market have harmful properties, based on the criteria defined in the revised CLP Regulation. It will also provide more clarity on labelling issues, such as readability and digital labelling, hence facilitating business, including for small and medium enterprises, and the free movement of substances and mixtures at EU level. Consumers will be better informed of the physical, health and environmental hazards of chemicals, and will be able to make more informed purchasing choices, thus reducing the risk of exposure.

### HEARINGS

**Joint AGRI-ENVI Public Hearing -Carbon farming: Practical applications in use in the EU**



On Wednesday, a joint AGRI-ENVI public hearing will be held to discuss the EU's approach to carbon farming and the feasibility of scaling up carbon sequestration as a tool for achieving carbon neutrality in 2050 in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Diverse experts, among which

practitioners, will present their assessment of drivers and barriers to increasing the uptake of carbon farming practices, as outlined in the Commission Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles of December 2021 that sketches out the role of carbon farming in EU's green transition, in tandem with the legislative proposal of November 2022 about establishing the Union's certification framework for carbon removals.

### CONSIDERATIONS

**Draft report on the ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe**



Air pollution is a major risk to natural ecosystems and public health, causing a significant number of premature deaths, particularly among vulnerable groups. ENVI Members will consider the draft report on the revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directive. Published last October, the revision is part of the

European Commission's Zero Pollution package, and a crucial pillar of the European Green Deal. It aims to consolidate and streamline the existing legislation to enable effective action for better air quality, including via better air quality monitoring, modelling and air quality plans.

In the draft report, the Rapporteur calls for increased ambition, particularly with regard to the full alignment of EU air quality standards with the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines by 2030. The draft report also includes direct references to the UN General Assembly resolution on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and the individual right to clean air, as set out in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The vote in ENVI is foreseen for June.

Rapporteur ENVI: [LÓPEZ \(S&D\)](#)

Shadows ENVI: [LINS \(EPP\)](#), [KARLSBRO \(RENEW\)](#), [BLOSS \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [GANCIA \(ID\)](#), [ZALEWSKA \(ECR\)](#), [KOKKALIS \(LEFT\)](#)

### Draft report on the Implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (jointly with DEVE)



On Wednesday, ENVI and DEVE will hold a joint meeting to consider the draft own-initiative report on the progress in the implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 17 SDGs are the key tools to address the challenges of inequality, climate change and biodiversity emergencies. The report is intended to set out

Parliament's position in time before the next High Level Political Forum (HLPF) taking place from 10 to 19 July 2023 and where the EP will send a delegation. The HLPF is the main UN platform on sustainable development that oversees the implementation of SDGs at global level. In their draft report, the co-Rapporteurs underline the importance for the EU to show leadership in the implementation of the SDG to deliver the 2030 Agenda, particularly as the EU presents its first Voluntary Review this year. They present a number of recommendations, in particular related to the issues of governance, multilateralism and partnerships.

Rapporteurs: [BULLMANN \(S&D\)](#), [KOKKALIS \(The Left\)](#)

Shadows ENVI: [MARTUSCIELLO \(EPP\)](#), [PLUMB \(S&D\)](#), [ORVILLE \(RENEW\)](#), [O'SULLIVAN \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [DE BLASIS \(ID\)](#), [ROOS \(ECR\)](#)

### Draft report on the Amending directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy



ENVI Members will consider a draft report on the proposal on protecting water against pollution and deterioration. The Commission proposal, part of the Zero Pollution Action Plan, identifies new priority and hazardous substances and sets corresponding Environmental Quality Standards, with a view

to progressively reducing and phasing out the pollution. It also aims to reduce administrative burdens and improve access, transparency and re-use of data, to enhance compliance and coherence with the wider EU legal framework dealing with chemicals. The Rapporteur's draft report aims to incorporate lessons learned from the implementation of the current legislative framework, and address gaps to ensure fit-for-purpose and future-proof legislation to offer better protection of the environment. In particular, the draft report focuses on establishing stricter quality standard limits and guidelines for monitoring chemicals like PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals"; phasing out hazardous substances no later than within 20 years; and promoting extended producer responsibility schemes for priority substances and emerging pollutants.

### COMING UP

- European Citizens' Initiative to end the trade of shark fins in the EU - PECH/ENVI hearing (organised by PECH in association with PETI) (on 27 3)
- Brexit meeting on 28 3
- Structured dialogue and EV with Commissioner Kyriakides on pharmaceutical package (on 30 3)

### NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

#### Recent publications:

- [Study on potential measures to facilitate active pharmaceutical ingredients \(APIs\) production in Member States](#)
- In-depth analysis on [Issues at stake at the COP15 Conference to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montréal, Canada, December 2022](#)
- In-depth analysis on [Health-related quality of life in people living with HIV](#)
- Study on the [COP27 climate change conference: status of climate negotiations and issues at stake, Sharm El-Sheikh \(Egypt\), 6-18 November 2022](#)
- Briefing on the [19th Conference of the Parties \(COP19\) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\), 23 to 25 November 2022, Panama](#)
- Briefing on [Tracking the EU Commissioners' commitments - Von der Leyen Commission, 2019 - 2024: Frans Timmermans](#)
- Briefing on [Tracking the EU Commissioners' commitments - Von der Leyen Commission, 2019 - 2024: Stella Kyriakides](#)
- Briefing on [Tracking the EU Commissioners' commitments - Von der Leyen Commission, 2019 - 2024: Virginijus Sinkevičius](#)
- Briefing on [the UN High Level Political Forum, New-York, 13-15 July 2022](#)
- Briefing on the [UN Ocean's Conference, 28 to 30 June 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal](#)
- Briefing on the [75th World Health Assembly - "Health for peace and peace for health", Geneva - Switzerland - 22-28 May 2022](#)
- Study on [Carbon farming: making agriculture fit for 2030](#) (also its At a glance version in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#), [IT](#), [ES](#) and [PL](#))
- Study on [the Access to medicinal products](#)
- In depth analysis on [the link between biodiversity loss and the increasing spread of zoonotic diseases](#) (also available in [DE](#))
- Briefing on [the Farm to Fork strategy - An overview of Parliament's positions](#)
- Workshop proceedings on [2030 climate target plan: extension of European Emission Trading System \(ETS\) to transport emissions](#)
- Workshop proceedings on [2030 climate target plan: review of Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry \(LULUCF\) Regulation](#)
- Workshop proceedings on [2030 climate target plan: review of Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry \(LULUCF\) Regulation](#)
- Briefing on [the Greenhouse gas emissions from shipping: waiting for concrete progress at IMO level](#)

#### Upcoming publications:

- Study on the Independence and transparency policies of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- Briefing on key issues at stake at the IMO MEPC 80, 3-7 July 2023, London, UK
- Briefing on the UN High Level Political Forum, New-York, 17-19 July 2023
- Briefing on primary forests conservation, illegal logging and loss of biodiversity in Romania's protected forests

### NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

#### European Environment Agency (EEA)

European Environment Agency  **Europe's used textiles are an increasing waste and export problem**

Rapidly increasing EU exports of used textiles — some of which is reused and some of which ends up in landfills — has tripled over the last two decades, equal to 3,8 kg per person. In 2019, 87% of used textiles ended up in Asia and Africa. Due to the obligation to collect textile waste as a separate fraction in all EU countries by 2025, the amounts of used textiles collected and challenges in how to handle these may increase further. For more information read the recent European Environment Agency (EEA) [briefing](#).

#### European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



Resistance of Salmonella and Campylobacter to commonly used antimicrobials is frequent in humans and animals, according to a [report](#) published on 6 March 2023 by EFSA and ECDC. However, simultaneous resistance to

antimicrobials of critical importance for humans was generally detected at low levels, except for some Salmonella types and Campylobacter coli in several countries. More info [here](#).

#### European Medicines Agency (EMA)

##### **EMA Management Board: highlights of March 2023 meeting**



On 16 March 2023, the Management Board of the EMA held its 119<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Management Board was updated on the ongoing efforts of EMA's Executive Steering Group on Shortages and Safety of Medicinal Products (MSSG) to closely monitor several critical shortages of medicines in the EU/EEA, in particular medicines containing the antibiotic amoxicillin. Since the last Board meeting, the MSSG has been encouraging EU Member States to consider national regulatory flexibilities to allow the distribution of medicines that may not be authorised in their Member States.

In addition, EU regulators have met with the main parties involved in the supply chain of amoxicillin to provide regulatory support to increase production capacity. At their latest meeting on 15 March, the MSSG discussed plans to mitigate shortages of antibiotics for the next autumn/winter season. EMA, in cooperation with the European Commission's Health Emergencies and Preparedness Response Authority (DG HERA), will liaise with key manufacturers to discuss manufacturing capacity and forecasts of demand for a selected group of critical antibiotics. During the meeting the Board has adopted EMA's annual report for 2022. More info [here](#)

#### European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



##### **REACH authorisation compliance**

ECHA's Enforcement Forum coordinated an EU-wide project on inspections on REACH authorisation duties. The enforcement authorities of 28 countries carried out 690 inspections at 516 companies. Results show that while there is room for improvement, the majority of users, mainly SMEs, already comply with the authorisation requirement to control risks. Enforcement measures taken by authorities during the project aim to push companies towards compliance. [More](#)

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



##### **Bacteria resistant to commonly used antimicrobials still frequently found in humans and animals**

Resistance of Salmonella and Campylobacter to commonly used antimicrobials is frequently observed in humans and animals according to a report issued by the ECDC and the EFSA. A decline in the resistance of Salmonella to ampicillin and tetracycline was also observed in humans in several countries over the period 2013–2021. This was particularly evident in *S. Typhimurium*, a type of Salmonella commonly associated with pigs and calves, which is often multidrug-resistant. Data also show decreasing trends in resistance of Campylobacter jejuni to erythromycin in humans and broilers.

Further info in the [EU Summary Report on Antimicrobial Resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2020/2021](#).

Next meetings of the ENVI Committee: 22-23 March 2023 (Brussels).  
Future meetings: [ENVI Committee meetings 2023.pdf](#)

Watch online the Committee meeting on the [EP website](#) 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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