

CHAIR'S WELCOME



Dear All,

The last ENVI meeting of the mandate will take place on 18 April. First, I would like to update you on the latest development since the last newsletter. At plenary level, Members adopted key ENVI texts

concerning, for example, the reduction of CO₂ emissions of heavy-duty vehicles, the certification system for carbon removal, the reduction of methane emissions, and urban wastewater treatment. They also agreed on the European Parliament position on the crucial pharmaceutical package and on the directive for the quality of soils. At Committee level, ENVI Members voted on Tuesday 9 April the provisional agreement on the regulation for European Health Data Space. They also exchanged, with ANSES, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety about its opinion on methods for assessing health and environmental risks and socio-economic issues associated with plants obtained using certain new genomic techniques. During an exchange of views with the European Court of Auditors on its special reports, they discussed the EU's support for sustainable biofuels in transport and the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from passenger cars.

At the meeting of 18 April, ENVI will consider and vote on its consent on the agreement on the law of the sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. We will also hold an exchange of views with the Commission on the proposal for a regulation on good agricultural and environmental condition standards, the review of the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans and exemptions from controls and penalties.

Finally, I take the opportunity of this last newsletter of the mandate to share my thoughts on the accomplishments of the ENVI committee over the past five years. As you know, we had an extraordinarily busy and fruitful mandate, with an unprecedented large amount of legislative acts. This was needed to protect European citizens from the massive environmental and health risks and to lay down the foundations for a more sustainable, cleaner and healthier Union. In addition to the legislative work, ENVI Members carefully exercised their scrutiny role by watching closely how the Commission implements existing legislation. In particular, ENVI Members submitted more than a hundred objections to delegated or implementing acts prepared by the Commission. In those respects, I am happy to announce that we will publish soon a complete activity report of the last mandate, which will provide for a detailed overview of all that our Committee accomplished thanks to the hard work, passion, and dedication of ENVI Members. Needless to say, I feel everyday honoured and privileged to chair the work of the ENVI committee.

As always, you can follow the ENVI Committee meeting live at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/envi/home.htm>

Pascal Canfin

MEETING ITEMS

Exchanges of views:

- Exchange of views with the Commission on the proposal for a regulation amending Regulations (EU) 2021/2115 and (EU) 2021/2116 as regards good agricultural and environmental condition standards, schemes for climate, environment and animal welfare, amendments to CAP Strategic Plans, review of CAP Strategic Plans and exemptions from controls and penalties
- Exchange of views with the Commission and the Council Presidency on the agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (MODIG)

Considerations:

- Consideration of draft motion for a resolution on Commission Delegated Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council on novel foods as regards the definition of 'engineered nanomaterials'
- Consideration of draft motion for a resolution on Commission Implementing Decision laying down rules for the application of Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the calculation, verification and reporting of data on recycled plastic content in single-use plastic beverage bottles, repealing Commission Implementing Decision (EU)

Votes:

- International agreement - draft recommendation on the Council proposal to conclude the agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) (MODIG)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 111(3) of the Rules of Procedure on the Commission delegated regulation of 14 March 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council on novel foods as regards the definition of engineered nanomaterials (PAULUS, SCHALDEMOSE, PIETIKÄINEN, RIES, HAZEKAMP)
- Objection pursuant to Rule 112(2) and (3) to draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down rules for the application of Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the calculation, verification and reporting of data on recycled plastic content in single-use plastic beverage bottles, repealing Commission Implementing Decision (EU) (PAULUS)

ENVI IN THE NEXT PLENARY

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

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

Exchange of views with the Commission on the proposal for a regulation amending Regulations (EU) 2021/2115 and (EU) 2021/2116 as regards good agricultural and environmental condition standards, schemes for climate, environment and animal welfare, amendments to CAP Strategic Plans, review of CAP Strategic Plans and exemptions from controls and penalties



ENVI Members will have the opportunity to question the representative of the Commission on the proposal adopted on 15 March 2024, in response to farmers' protests. It revises certain provisions of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), in particular, those concerning the environmental requirements in

the CAP Strategic Plans. For instance, the Commission proposes to delete from Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition Standard 8 (GAEC 8), the obligation to devote a minimum share of arable land to non-productive areas (fallow land) or features (hedges, trees...) as a conditionality to receive CAP payments. Instead, Member States shall offer an eco-scheme offering support for keeping a share of arable land in non-productive state or to create new landscape features. Member States will also be allowed to grant temporary derogation from other conditionality requirements because of increasingly unpredictable weather conditions that can prevent farmers from complying with such requirements. It is worth noting that these standards entered into force only in January 2023, following a political agreement to align CAP with the objectives of the European Green Deal while supporting the farmers and rural communities. ENVI Members will have the opportunity to question representative of the Commission about the rationales behind the proposal, its specific elements, as well as to discuss its compatibility with Green Deal's objective to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly. The Council has endorsed the Commission proposal with some adaptations, while the Parliament still has to develop its position. Following the plenary decision of 10 April, it will apply the urgent procedure as referred to in Rule 163 of the Rules of Procedure.

VOTES

International agreement - Consideration and vote on draft recommendation on the Council proposal to conclude the agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)



On April 18, ENVI Members will vote on whether to provide their consent to a Council decision authorising the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the

agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (the BBNJ Agreement). Consent is a special procedure used in the EU for adopting most international agreements. The act cannot be adopted by the Council unless the European Parliament votes to approve the proposal. And while the European Parliament can either give or refuse to give its consent, it cannot amend the agreement. The EU signed the agreement on 20 September 2023 and it will become a Party to the BBNJ, alongside the Member States, once the consent procedure is closed.

The BBNJ agreement complements the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which provides the legal framework under which all human activities in the ocean take place. It was adopted by the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference on 19 June 2023 and will enter into force after ratification by 60 parties.

It is a historic achievement marking the successful end of more than two decades of multilateral negotiations. The agreement provides for the common governance of about half of the Earth's surface and 95% of the ocean's volume, the largest habitat on our blue planet, to promote equity and fairness in sharing benefits from marine resources, tackle environmental degradation, fight climate change, and prevent biodiversity loss in the high seas. For instance, once ratified, it will allow the establishment of marine protected areas in the high seas at the global level, allowing it to address a glaring gap in ocean protection, as only about 1% of the high seas are currently protected.

The vote will be preceded by a discussion with representatives of the Commission and the Presidency of the Council.

Rapporteur: [MODIG \(THE LEFT\)](#)

Shadows: [CLUNE \(PPE\)](#), [CERDAS \(S&D\)](#), [CHABAUD \(RENEW\)](#), [O'SULLIVAN \(GREENS/EFA\)](#), [FRAGKOS \(ECR\)](#)

Objections pursuant to Rule 111(3) of the Rules of Procedure on the Commission delegated regulation of 14 March 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council on novel foods as regards the definition of engineered nanomaterials and pursuant to Rule 112(2) and (3) to draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down rules for the application of Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the calculation, verification and reporting of data on recycled plastic content in single-use plastic beverage bottles, repealing Commission Implementing Decision (EU)



As part of the scrutiny role of the European Parliament, ENVI Members will consider and vote on two draft Motions for Resolutions objecting to draft measures presented by the Commission. The first objection concerns a Commission

Delegated Regulation that would update the definition of 'engineered nanomaterials' in food. According to the objectors, the proposed definition is too restrictive and would exclude many nano-substances from the scope of the '[nano]' labelling obligation.

The second objection concerns a Commission Implementing Decision aimed at revising the rules to calculate, verify, and report data on recycled plastic content in single-use plastic beverage bottles under Directive (EU) 2019/904 (Single-Use Plastics Directive). The objector argues that this revision is not aligned with the Directive's aim to promote a circular economy and unfairly benefits technologies like pyrolysis and gasification, which yield less recyclate and demand more energy, over more efficient mechanical recycling and depolymerisation methods. She also stresses that the methodologies for the calculation and verification of recycled content with regard to pyrolysis and gasification should be adopted under the newly agreed Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation rather than the Single-Use Plastics Directive.

Following the exchanges of views on the objections, ENVI Members will vote on them. In case of adoption, the two resolutions will be tabled to the next and last plenary session before the elections in April.

Objectors on novel foods as regards the definition of 'engineered nanomaterials': [PIETIKAINEN \(EPP\)](#), [SCHALDEMOSE, \(S&D\)](#), [RIES \(RENEW\)](#) [PAULUS \(GREENS/EFA\)](#), [HAZEKAMP \(LEFT\)](#)

Objector on recycled plastic content in single-use plastic beverage bottles, repealing Commission Implementing Decision (EU): [PAULUS \(GREENS/EFA\)](#)

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent publications:

- Briefing on [progress on implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)
- Study on [the COP28 climate change conference: status of climate negotiations and issues at stake, Dubai \(UAE\), 30 Nov - 12 Dec 2023](#)
- Briefing on the [commitments made at the hearing of MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ Executive Vice-President of the Commission on the European Green Deal](#)
- Briefing on the [commitments made at the hearing of WOPKE HOEKSTRA, Commissioner-designate on Climate Action](#)
- Briefing on [the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals, New-York, 17-19 July 2023](#)

Upcoming publication:

- Study on Issues at stake at the COP 29 Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, November 2024


NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)


Now is the time to accelerate the shift to a more circular Europe

 Despite legislative steps forward over the past five years, efforts to transform Europe's largely linear, 'throw-away' economy into a circular one will require further bold action and strong implementation of existing measures. The recent EEA report "Accelerating the Circular Economy in Europe" gives a comprehensive analysis of how the EU is doing in the transition to a more circular economy and the strong policy push seen under the EU's Green Deal. Decisive action is essential to drastically reduce waste, prioritise reduction of resource use, improve recycling rates and improve the introduction of products that are designed for circularity from the outset. The report also includes options and prospects to further accelerate the transition to a more circular economy. Further details can be found [here](#).

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

 The avian influenza virus continues to spread in the EU and beyond, causing high mortality in wild birds, spillover to wild and domestic mammals and outbreaks in farms. A scientific report from EFSA and ECDC assesses the risk factors for a potential influenza pandemic and related mitigation measures. More info [here](#).

European Medicines Agency (EMA)**EudraVigilance - 2023 annual report**

 The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has published the 2023 annual report on EudraVigilance, the database and data processing network to collect information on adverse drug reactions of all medicinal products for human use authorised in the European Union. The report is the twelfth annual report and covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2023. The reporting of suspected adverse reactions into EudraVigilance during 2023 decreased significantly compared to 2022. This indicates a return to the pre-pandemic reporting levels, as 2021 and 2022 showed an unprecedented increase in reporting due to the authorisation and roll-out of the first COVID-19 vaccines. More information is available [here](#).

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

ECHA: Authorities working together to improve risk management of chemicals.



ECHA hosted an Integrated Regulatory Strategy (IRS) workshop in Helsinki on 6-7 March. The workshop discussed how to make authorities' risk management of substances, or substance groups, more impactful while increasing transparency and predictability, identifying possibilities to further improve coordination and cooperation and support a more strategic approach for regulatory risk management. The workshop concluded that ECHA has obtained a good understanding of the high-tonne substances on the EU market and screened a significant number of lower tonne substances. The Agency has also identified many substances potentially needing regulatory risk management, for example, those included in the Restrictions Roadmap. And by identifying substances to go to compliance check, ECHA has been able to get more hazard data needed for subsequent regulatory actions.

More on the IRS on the ECHA website: <https://echa.europa.eu/substances-of-potential-concern>.

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

ECDC issues recommendations for strengthening emergency and pandemic preparedness planning.



ECDC outlines key strategic and operational considerations to inform preparedness planning around the design and implementation of Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) in the EU/EEA for health emergencies and pandemics. PHSMs refer to non-pharmaceutical measures implemented in community settings to abate the spread of infectious disease. These constituted the primary public health response during the initial phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. In future pandemics PHSMs may again be relied upon to reduce disease transmission and mitigate detrimental health impacts. More [here](#).

Next meetings of the ENVI Committee: July 2024.

Future meetings: [ENVI Committee meetings 2024.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.

More information: envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu or [website](#) of the ENVI Committee.

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