



January 2015 / Issue N°1

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next meeting of the ENVI Committee will be taking place in Brussels on 21-22 January 2015. On the occasion of the start of the Latvian Presidency, Mr. Gerhards, Minister of Environment and Regional Development, and Mr. Belēvičs, Minister of

Health, will present the Presidency's priorities for the first half of the year.

Climate-related issues will be high on the agenda, as Members will debate the draft recommendation for second reading on biofuels/indirect land-use change (ILUC) and the amendments to the report on the ETS market stability reserve. Moreover, a draft opinion on the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) will be considered. The ENVI Committee will also vote on a resolution on country of origin-labelling for meat in processed foods, and on two opinions: one on conditions for trade and imports of animals and one on driftnet fisheries. An exchange of views and a public hearing on the Waste Legislative Package will follow.

Finally, there will be an extraordinary ENVI Committee meeting on Tuesday 27 January to hold an exchange of views with Commission Vice-President Šefčovič on the Strategic Framework for the Energy Union.

[Giovanni La Via](#)

MEETING PREVIEW

Zootechnical and genealogical conditions for trade in and imports into the Union of breeding animals and their germinal products

Vote on [draft opinion](#)



production of livestock of particular genetic

The breeding of domestic animals occupies an important place in Union agriculture. Member States have consistently endeavoured to promote the

characteristic that meets defined **performance standards**. Disparities between those standards might create **technical barriers** to trade in breeding animals and their germinal products and their **imports** into the Union. At present, EU zootechnical legislation consists of several basic acts and implementing measures.

The proposed regulation provides the principles relating to the **approval or recognition and listing** of breeding organisations, breeders associations and private undertakings, the **registration and classification** of animals, **performance testing and genetic evaluation**, and the **content and format** of zootechnical certificates. In addition, the proposal provides rules on **imports from third countries**, and the designation of reference centres for breeding of animals.

In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur suggests, inter alia, to clarify the **concept of "race"**, to strengthen articles 5 and 9 with respect to **preservation of biodiversity** and to clarify the role of the International Committee for animal recording (ICAR).

In total, 140 amendments (including 45 amendments by the Rapporteur) have been tabled and **5 compromise amendments** have been proposed by the Rapporteur.

Rapporteur: [Dantin](#) (EPP) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Fjellner](#) (EPP), [Melior](#) (S&D), [Piecha](#) (ECR),
[Bearder](#) (ALDE), [Eck](#) (GUE), [Staes](#) (Greens/EFA)

Prohibition on driftnet fisheries

Vote on [draft opinion](#)

Driftnet fishing entails significant amounts of **incidental mortality of protected species**. Current EU law **prohibits** the keeping on board or use for fishing of **driftnets** longer than 2,5 km, the keeping on board or use for fishing of all driftnets when intended for the capture of unauthorized species and the landing of unauthorized species which have been caught in driftnets. In the **Baltic Sea, the Belts and the Sound**, it is **prohibited** to keep on board or use for fishing **any kind of driftnets**.



The Regulation proposed by the Commission provides for a **total prohibition** to catch any marine biological



resource with driftnets and to keep any kind of driftnet on board of fishing vessels. It also introduces a revised and extended **definition of driftnets**.

In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur suggests allowing Member States to **derogate from the total ban** for a certain period of time. The Rapporteur also suggests a total ban on driftnets with **large mesh sizes** in the Mediterranean Sea ("ferrettara").

76 amendments (including 18 amendments by the Rapporteur) have been tabled, including proposals to **reject the Commission proposal** in its entirety, amendments suggesting **exemptions from the ban** for certain types of driftnet fisheries, and an amendment introducing a "one-net rule". **5 compromise amendments** have been proposed by the Rapporteur.

Rapporteur: [Affronte](#) (EFDD) [Procedure file](#)
 Shadows: [Herranz García](#) (EPP), [Caputo](#) (S&D), [Duncan](#) (ECR),
[Meissner](#) (ALDE), [Rodríguez-Rubio](#) (GUE), [Engström](#) (Greens/EFA)

Country of origin-labelling for meat in processed foods

Vote on [motion for a resolution](#) further to a [question for oral answer](#)

At their meeting of 3 December 2014, the ENVI Committee adopted an **oral question** to the Commission concerning **country of origin labelling** for meat



in processed foods. A **draft resolution** to accompany the oral question will be voted at this meeting.

On 17 December 2013 the **Commission submitted a report** to the European Parliament and the Council regarding the **mandatory indication** of the country of origin or place of provenance for meat used as an ingredient. The draft resolution urges the Commission to follow up its report with **legislative proposals** to make the indication of the origin of meat in processed foods mandatory, while taking into account its impact assessments and avoiding excessive costs and administrative burdens. 91 amendments have been tabled to the draft resolution.

Co-sponsors: [Willmott](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Jäättteenmäki](#) (ALDE),
[Boylan](#) (GUE), [Taylor](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

Amendment to the fuel quality directive and the renewable energy directive (Indirect Land Use Change)

Consideration of [draft recommendation for second reading](#)

Emissions from **indirect land-use change (ILUC)** can negate the greenhouse gas (GHG) savings of biofuels relative to fossil fuels. The original Commission proposal, adopted on 17 October 2012, amends the **Fuel Quality Directive 98/70/EC (FQD)** and the **Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC (RED)** with the aim to foster the transition



to **biofuels** delivering substantial GHG savings including ILUC emissions while protecting existing investments.

The Parliament's **first reading position**, adopted on 11 September 2013, inter alia introduced the requirement to take into account ILUC emissions in the **calculation of the GHG savings** required under the sustainability criteria of the FQD, set the "**cap**" on the **contribution** of first-generation biofuels to the RED targets to 6%, and introduced a **binding 2,5% sub-target** for advanced biofuels. The Council's position raises the cap to 7%, introduces a non-binding, lower sub-target for advanced biofuels, and uses ILUC factor ranges only for reporting.

In his draft recommendation, the Rapporteur takes Parliament's first reading position as the basis of the amendments tabled. He also introduces amendments to foster a **longer-term policy perspective** for investments in sustainable biofuels after 2020. The deadline for amendments is 27 January 2015, with a vote in ENVI foreseen for 24 February 2015.

Rapporteur: [Torvalds](#) (ALDE) [Procedure file](#)
 Shadows: [Fjellner](#) (EPP), [Gasbarra](#) (S&D), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

Establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme

Consideration of [amendments](#) to the [draft report](#)



The Commission proposes to make **structural changes to the emissions trading system (ETS)** to address the surplus of **emission allowances** which has been building up in the system in recent years. In particular, the Commission proposes that a **market**



stability reserve would be created from 2021, which is the beginning of phase 4 of the ETS.

The Rapporteur supports in principle the Commission proposal, and does not propose amendments to the structure and thresholds triggering the reserve. He nevertheless proposes a number of changes including on the following issues: to place the allowances backloaded to 2019 and 2020 (totalling 900 million) directly into the reserve; provision for the Commission to propose at the earliest opportunity, appropriate carbon leakage arrangements for the 4th phase; and if the total number of allowances in the reserve in year x-1 is higher than 400 million, 30 million allowances to be set aside and made available to support breakthrough innovation in low-carbon industrial technologies and processes.

Over 200 amendments have been tabled, including on the following matters: the start date of the reserve, and in particular whether it should become operational earlier or later than 2021; the 900 million allowances, and whether they should be placed directly into the reserve or permanently withdrawn from the market; carbon leakage provisions post-2020; and the conditions and thresholds in relation to which the reserve should operate.

The vote in ENVI is scheduled for 23-24 February 2015.

Rapporteur: [Belet](#) (EPP) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Groote](#) (S&D), [Duncan](#) (ECR), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Kyllönen](#) (GUE/NGL), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Affronte](#) (EFDD)

Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)



Following the conclusion of seven rounds of TTIP Negotiations since the start of the process in July 2013, the EP will give its opinion on the development of the trade talks via issuing a recommendation under Rule 108 of its Rules of Procedure.

In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur stresses that the main focus within the TTIP negotiations would be regulatory coherence whereby regulatory systems and standards between the 2 parties differ enormously in certain areas owing to different legal and political cultures. To this end, the rapporteur expresses concerns about the implication of TTIP, in terms of lowering of standards, not just for existing but also future European legislation specifically in the areas for the protection of health and the environment, including food safety and consumer

information, stressing that the negotiations have already affected current Commission proposals. Thus he calls for the exclusion of certain areas from the negotiations such as chemicals, pesticides, GMOs legislation and measures related to the extraction, transportation or use of fossil fuels, in particular unconventional ones. Finally, he expresses his opposition to the inclusion of ISDS in TTIP and calls for access to the negotiation documents for all members of the Parliament.

The deadline for amendments is 27 January 2015, with a vote in ENVI foreseen for 24 February or 31 March 2015.

Rapporteur: [Staes](#) (Greens/EFA) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Dörfmann](#) (EPP), [Poc](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Jäättteenmäki](#) (ALDE), [Forenza](#) (GUE), [Affronte](#) (EFDD)

European Energy Security Strategy

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)

The Commission Communication on a European Energy Security Strategy outlines a series of measures to strengthen the EU's energy resilience and reduce its import dependency,



in view of the crisis in the Ukraine as well as of the overall importance of security of supply (currently, the EU imports 53% of the energy it consumes, for about €400 billion).

The rapporteur in her draft opinion stresses that the energy security strategy must include climate and sustainability objectives and calls for a comprehensive approach, linking increased energy security to the transition to a low-carbon economy. The Commission should adopt measures to increase energy efficiency and fully implement existing measures. The rapporteur also emphasises the need to further develop renewable energy sources and related grid and storage infrastructure. She calls for prompt action in transport regarding efficiency and alternative fuels and to cease subsidies for fossil fuels.

The deadline for amendments is 28 January 2015 and the vote in ENVI is envisaged for 18 March 2015.

Rapporteur: [Kyllönen](#) (GUE/NGL) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Melo](#) (EPP), [Dalli](#) (S&D), [Wiśniewska](#) (ECR), [Torvalds](#) (ALDE), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)



A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)



The Commission Communication on a new EU Forest Strategy identifies key principles and priority areas for action in order to **strengthen sustainable forest management**. The 8 priority areas are: 1) supporting rural and urban communities; 2) fostering the **competitiveness** and sustainability of the EU's Forest-based Industries, bio-energy and the wider green economy; 3) forests in a **changing climate**; 4) **protecting** forests and enhancing ecosystem services; 5) what forests do we have and how are they changing?; 6) new and **innovative forestry** and added-value products; 7) working together to coherently manage and better understand our forests; 8) forests from a **global perspective**.

The rapporteur welcomes the new strategy and calls for: a) including **payments for environmental services** as incentives for sustainable forest management; b) using **agri-techniques** which can minimise natural disasters; c) applying bio-economy concept in promoting the **economic viability** of forestry chains with greater support for non-timber forest products; d) more efficient **use and reuse** of forest materials; e) set up and implementation of **forest management plans** in a less bureaucratic way.

The deadline for amendments is 24 January 2015, with a vote in ENVI scheduled for 24 February.

Rapporteur: [Gambús](#) (PPE) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Brannen](#) (S&D), [Dohrmann](#) (ECR), [Jäättteenmäki](#) (ALDE),
[Kyllönen](#) (GUE/NGL), [Škrlec](#) (Greens/EFA), [Mazuronis](#) (EFDD)

Exchange of views with Mr Kaspars Gerhards, Minister of Environment and Regional Development, Latvian Presidency

Latvia holds the Presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2015, before handing over reins to Luxembourg on 1 July 2015. The Presidency aims to achieve agreements on the Establishment and operation of a **market stability reserve for the EU-ETS** (Rapporteur: Ivo Belet, EPP) and on Limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from **medium combustion plants** (Rapporteur: Andrzej Grzyb, EPP).



The Latvian Presidency also aims to conclude an agreement on **Indirect land use change/ILUC** (Rapporteur: Nils Torvalds, ALDE) (NB: competence of Minister for Economics).

Additionally, the Latvian Presidency will give priority to:

- Mid-term review of the **Europe 2020** strategy
- Road to **UNFCCC COP 21** in Paris, in December 2015
- **Global post-2015 agenda**

Environment Council meetings take place on: 6 March 2015; 14/15 April 2015 (informal); 15 June 2015.

Exchange of views with Mr Guntis Belēvičs, Minister of Health, Latvian Presidency



It is the first time that Latvia will hold the EU Presidency since its accession to the European Communities in 2004. The Latvian Presidency is committed to obtaining a Council mandate for negotiations and reaching an agreement on the proposals on **Medical devices** (Rapporteur Glenis Willmott, S&D) and **In-vitro diagnostic medical devices**. (Rapporteur Peter Liese, EPP). The aim of the two proposals is to provide a legislative framework for the manufacture and placing on the market of such devices, while ensuring a high level of health protection.

Other key health priorities will focus on:

Healthy lifestyles - there will be a High level Conference in Riga in February 2015 on this topic;

Alcohol policy - Presidency is preparing a scoping paper on the vision of future actions in the EU - alcohol and nutrition will be topics to be discussed during the informal meeting of the health ministers;

Patient-centered healthcare - Focus will be given to health at work, integration of healthcare and public care services and cancer screening programmes in the EU;

Multi-drug resistant tuberculosis - the LV Presidency which plans to organise the 1st Eastern Partnership ministerial conference on TB and its multi-drug resistance in March 2015 in Riga;

Annual eHealth week - taking place in Riga, in May 2015 and focusing on using technologies to improve the quality of healthcare, innovations in eHealth/mHealth, cross-border exchange of health data and patient data protection.

Health Council meetings take place on: 9 March 2015; 20-22 March 2015 (informal); 19 June 2015.



Amending Directives on waste, packaging and packaging waste, landfill of waste, end-of-life vehicles, batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators and on waste electrical and electronic equipment

Exchange of views Mr Falkenberg, Director-General of DG ENVI



This is an **exchange of views with the European Commission**, represented by Director General Mr Karl Falkenberg, on the review of six waste

directives: the Waste Framework Directive, Packaging and Packing Waste Directive, Landfill Directive, Batteries and Accumulators Waste Directive, End-of-life Vehicle Directive and Waste Electric and Electronic Waste Directive.

The exchange of views will be **followed by a public hearing**. The aim of this hearing is to have an **exchange of views between MEPs and experts** as regards the review of six waste directives. The basis for discussion is the Commission proposal COM(2014)397. The programme of the hearing is structured around the three following elements: keynote speech by Ellen MacArthur Foundation; panel of 4 experts; discussion.

Rapporteur: [Bonafé](#) (S&D) [Procedure file](#)
 Shadows: [Florenz](#) (EPP), [Demesmaeker](#) (ECR), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE),
[Juaristi Abaunz](#) (GUE/NGL), [Škrlec](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD)



NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



A quarter of Europe's population exposed to harmful traffic noise

More than 125 million Europeans could be exposed to levels of road traffic noise above legal guidelines. This causes a range of health problems, according to a **new assessment** from the European Environment Agency (EEA). [More](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



In addition to analyses of data from the **unprecedented Ebola epidemic** in West Africa, publications in 2014 range from the various annual **surveillance reports** to technical reports and **guidance and risk assessments** on a wide variety of topics such as antimicrobial resistance or the Zika virus. [More](#)



European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

In the ECHA Transparency Approach the agency describes how it seeks to be transparent, building on three basic pillars: clearly **explaining activities** and processes in a way that is understandable by a general audience, practicing **open decision making**, and making **information available** in a timely manner. The approach was recently adopted by the ECHA Management Board. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



The European Medicines Agency has published recommendations to **limit the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** linked to the use of antibiotics in animals, thereby minimising at source the risk of transmission of resistance from animals to humans. [More](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



On 13 January, EFSA issued an updated **nutrition advice on low-calorie diets** - proposing that low-calorie weight-loss products should have a minimum energy content of 600 kcal a day. On 15 January, EFSA's published a **draft assessment on caffeine**; according to this assessment, single doses of caffeine up to 200mg and daily intakes of up to 400mg do not raise safety concerns for adults in Europe. EFSA is now seeking comments and feedback on the draft document through a **public consultation** which is open until 15 March 2015. [More](#)

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Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

27 January and 29 January 2015, in Brussels
See also the [2015 meeting dates](#) for future meetings.

Further information sources

The EP Policy Departments [publish](#) studies, notes, information notes and workshop proceedings; to contact them, write to Poldep-Economy-Science@europarl.europa.eu. The EP Library regularly prepares briefings summarising information related to topical subjects. Find the latest updates via the links [briefings](#) and [blog](#).

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