



March 2015 / Issue N°4

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next meetings of the ENVI Committee will be taking place in Brussels on 18 March and on 26 March 2015.

During the meeting of 18 March, Members will consider a draft opinion on the European Fund for Strategic Investments and will hear presentations by the Commission on the proposals on veterinary medicinal products and on the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products.

The meeting of 26 March will mostly be dedicated to votes. Environment and climate-related issues will be high on the agenda, as the Committee is expected to vote on the draft recommendation on MRV of maritime emissions. Members will also vote on a draft opinion regarding the European Energy Security Strategy. Additionally, Members will vote on draft opinions on organic products, the Ebola crisis, and on the Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT). The Committee will also consider a draft opinion on procedures and practices regarding Commissioner hearings.

Finally, I would like to highlight that Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health & Food Safety, is invited for an exchange of views as part of the structured dialogue exercise.

[Giovanni La Via](#)

MEETINGS' PREVIEW

Monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport

Adoption of draft recommendation for second reading



system:

The Regulation aims to establish a European MRV system for CO₂ emissions from ships. The operational features of the proposed MRV

- **focus on CO₂ as predominant GHG emitted by ships and on other climate relevant information** to address market barriers for the uptake of cost-efficient mitigation measures and to align MRV with IMO discussions on efficiency standards for existing ships;
- **calculate annual CO₂ emissions based on fuel consumption and fuel type and energy efficiency** using available data from log books, noon reports and bunker delivery notes;
- **use existing structures and bodies of the maritime sector** to verify emission reports and to issue documents for compliance.

On 3rd December 2014 and following inter-institutional negotiations with the Council, the ENVI committee voted for the endorsement of the text with the recommendation of the Chair and the rapporteur to adopt it in second reading without amendments.

Rapporteur: [Faria](#) (ALDE) [Procedure file](#)
 Shadows: [Fjellner](#) (EPP), [Guteland](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Juaristi](#)
[Abaunz](#) (GUE/NGL), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Affronte](#) (EFDD)

European Energy Security Strategy

Adoption of [draft opinion](#)

The own-initiative report responds to the Commission Communication on a European Energy Security Strategy of 28 May 2014 which outlined a series of



measures to strengthen Europe's energy resilience and reduce its import dependency (currently, the EU imports 53% of the energy it consumes, at an external energy bill of 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 **ensuring the transition to a low-carbon economy**.

146 amendments were tabled by ENVI Members. Many focus on prioritising measures to **raise energy efficiency**, in particular buildings and housing, and to also tackle problems of affordability, job creation and competitiveness. Amendments also call for



stronger efforts to improve interconnections and to boost investment into sustainable energy technologies. Further amendments urge to promptly put in place the energy and climate strategy for 2020-2030 along with ambitious targets, in line with Parliament's previous call for three binding targets: an energy efficiency target of 40%, a renewable energy target of at least 30% and a GHG reduction target of at least 40%.

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

Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT): State of Play and Outlook

Adoption of [draft opinion](#)



The REFIT programme is a major Commission initiative aiming to simplify and rationalise the EU regulatory framework. The own-initiative report relates to a Commission

communication which reports on the state of play in implementing the REFIT programme and identifies new actions. It is accompanied by the first edition of an annual REFIT scoreboard which monitors REFIT initiatives through the legislative process and at the level of Member States implementation.

In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur welcomes the REFIT programme and scoreboard. He also welcomes the aim of removing unnecessary regulatory burden, but expresses concerns about potential deregulation in the fields of environment, food safety and health. He criticizes the Commission's announcement to withdraw the waste package and to modify the proposed air quality package.

81 amendments have been tabled in ENVI, ranging from pronounced concerns regarding the REFIT programme to strong support for REFIT. 3 compromise amendments have been proposed by the Rapporteur, covering, inter alia, the weight of environmental and health considerations on the one hand and socio-economic considerations on the other hand, and criticisms of the decision to withdraw the proposal on the revision of waste legislation.

Rapporteur: [La Via](#) (EPP) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Caputo](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Meissner](#) (ALDE), [Konečná](#) (GUE/NGL), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Affronte](#) (EFDD)

The Ebola Crisis: the long-term lessons and how to strengthen health systems in developing countries to prevent future crises

Adoption of [draft opinion](#)

The WHO report of the 12 January 2015 on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)'s outbreak ongoing in West Africa (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria) has highlighted the



current situation of the principal affected countries: they all reported a decline in number of new confirmed EVD cases since summer 2014, although the overall situation remains critical.

In addition to a particular emphasis to educational and informative actions to raise awareness of symptoms and preventive measures, the rapporteur congratulates the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), partner organisations and non-governmental humanitarian organisations, such as MSF, for their work done on the ground. He calls on the Commission to put in place control systems to ensure that the entire budget allocated is truly directed to the affected West African countries.

Rapporteur: [Juaristi Abaunz](#) (GUE/NGL) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Collin-Langen](#) (EPP), [Cabezón Ruiz](#) (S&D), [Piecha](#) (ECR), [Bearder](#) (ALDE), [Rivasi](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

European Fund for Strategic Investments

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)

In accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality set out in Article 5 TFUE, this proposal sets out the legal framework necessary to implement the first two strands of the "Investment Plan for Europe".



By reason of the disparities in Member States' fiscal capacity to act, action at Union level can better achieve the objectives pursued, by reason of its scale and effects. More specifically, the EU level will provide for economies of scale in the use of innovative financial instruments by catalysing private investment in the whole EU and making best use of the European Institutions and their expertise and knowledge for that purpose. The multiplying effect and the impact on the ground will thus be much higher than what could be achieved by an investment offensive in a single Member State or a Group of Member States.



The EU guarantee provided for the EFSI amounts to EUR 16bn and is fully available from the entry into force of the Regulation. In order to ensure orderly execution of the budget, a guarantee fund is created and provisioned for 50% of total EU guarantee obligations by 2020.

Rapporteur: [Dalli](#) (S&D) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Gieseke](#) (EPP), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Faria](#) (ALDE), [Javor](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD)

Procedures and practices regarding Commissioner Hearings, lessons to be taken from the 2014 process

Consideration of draft opinion



The Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCD) is preparing an own-initiative report to evaluate the conduct of the hearings of Commissioners-designate in 2014, with

a view in particular to assessing whether any changes to the Rules of Procedure would be appropriate.

The ENVI Committee was the responsible Committee in respect of a number of hearings. In his draft opinion the Rapporteur looks inter alia, at issues concerning the format of the hearings and the evaluation process.

Rapporteur: [Patriciello](#) (EPP) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Borzan](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Mazuronis](#) (EFDD)

Exchange of views as part of structured dialogue with Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health & Food Safety



The Commissioner for Health and Food Safety was invited to an exchange of views with the ENVI Committee.

Topics for discussion may include the likely initiatives on health and food safety to be put forward in the period 2015-2016, as well as other issues related to the ongoing legislative dossiers, such as the ones on medical devices, medicinal products for human and veterinary use, official controls, patient safety, alcohol strategy, or cloning.

Veterinary medicinal products

Presentation by the Commission

On 10 September 2014, the Commission adopted proposals on **veterinary medicinal products and medicated feed**, to improve the health and wellbeing of animals, to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the EU and to foster innovation.

The purpose of this proposal is three-fold:

1) to **simplify the regulatory environment** and reduce administrative burden;

2) to **stimulate the development of new veterinary medicines**, including those for limited markets (minor use and minor species), while keeping those already on the market;



3) to **facilitate the circulation of veterinary medicines across the EU**, through better authorisation procedures, and clear rules on modern forms of retail (i.e. internet sales), thus **reducing the red tape** in the marketing authorisation procedure and in the monitoring of side effects (pharmacovigilance).

The proposed rules are particularly timely for "minor species" such as bees, fish and turkeys for whom available medicines are currently lacking: this results in poorer animal health and welfare, increased risks for human health, and economic and competitive disadvantages for EU farmers.

A separate presentation on the amendment to regulation (EC) no 726/2004 will follow.

Rapporteur: [Grossetête](#) (PPE) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Tănăsescu](#) (S&D), [Piecha](#) (ECR), [Paulsen](#) (ALDE), [Kyllönen](#) (GUE/NGL), [Häusling](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

Authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use and establishing a European Medicines Agency

Presentation by the Commission

Following the above-mentioned proposal, Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 laying down Community procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use and establishing a European Medicines Agency must be amended to take account of the fact the centralised marketing authorisation for veterinary products is being decoupled from that for medicines for humans.

The new Regulation on veterinary medicinal products (COM(2014)0558) will cover all routes granting marketing authorisations for veterinary medicinal products in the Union - both at centralised and national level.

The current amending proposal also seeks to align provisions referring to the old Comitology procedure to the new Article 290/291 on Implementing and Delegated Acts. One specific point is the alignment of Fees provisions to Implementing Acts whereas the procedure used to be codecision previously.

Rapporteur: [Tănăsescu](#) (S&D) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Cirio](#) (PPE), [Piecha](#) (ECR), [Meissner](#) (ALDE), [Kyllönen](#) (GUE/NGL), [Häusling](#) (Greens/EFA)



NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



Renewable energy technologies continued to grow in 2013. New data shows they have been an important driving force in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Europe. Without the deployment of renewable energy since 2005, greenhouse gas emissions in 2012 could have been 7% higher than actual emissions, according to the [EEA report](#). Renewable technologies also increase energy security. [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA has published the REACH Evaluation Report 2014. The report shows that a considerable share of the examined registration dossiers still requires improvement. At the same time, more registrants comply with ECHA's dossier evaluation decisions. [More](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



Amongst the highlights this week on ECDC's web site: the continuing problem of measles in Europe, a case of Middle East respiratory syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in Germany and the latest update on the Ebola outbreak but also other up to date information e.g. on vaccine schedules for individual European countries, active threats and upcoming events in the field of communicable diseases. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



The EMA has released for public consultation two guidelines related to the assessment of antimicrobials for use in veterinary medicine.

The guidelines include recommendations that aim to reduce the risk of development of antimicrobial resistance in animals and to prevent transmission of resistance to humans. [More](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



EFSA's 2013 annual report on pesticide residues in food was published on 12 March 2015. It includes the results for almost 81,000 food samples from 27 EU Member States, Iceland and Norway. Overall, 97.4 % of the tested food samples fell within the legal limits and 54.6 % of the samples contained no quantifiable residues at all. In general, a higher prevalence of residues exceeding the Maximum Residue Levels was observed for products imported from third countries. The results of the dietary exposure estimations support the conclusion that the presence of residues found in the food products covered by the EU-coordinated monitoring programmes was unlikely to have a long-term effect on the health of consumers. [More](#)

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Do you need more information?

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

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

30-31 March 2015 (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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