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CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next meeting of the ENVI Committee will be taking place in Brussels on 30-31 March 2015. The Committee will vote on a draft recommendation for second reading endorsing the agreement between Parliament and Council on the reduction of the

consumption of plastic bags and on a motion for a resolution on an EU alcohol strategy.

Members will consider recommendations to consent to the ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC and to Iceland's participation in the second commitment period of that Protocol. They will also exchange views with the Commission Vice-President on Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, Jyrki Katainen.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the presentation by the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency of the flagship 2015 report on the state and outlook of Europe's environment, and to the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on climate policy from the COP 21 UNFCCC conference to 2050.

[Giovanni La Via](#)

MEETING PREVIEW

Packaging and packaging waste to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags

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



The aim of the proposed legislation is to require Member States to **reduce** their consumption of **lightweight plastic carrier bags**. Member States' measures may

include the use of economic instruments, such as charges, national reduction targets, and marketing restrictions.

The inter-institutional negotiations on the dossier produced an **agreement** reflected in Council's first reading position, which the Rapporteur recommends to the Committee to adopt without amendments. The

main new elements of the agreed text are the following:

- A **first target** of reduction of consumption level for 2019 of 90 plastic carrier bags per capita;
- Member States will **report** on the annual consumption of plastic carrier bags from 3 years after the entry in force of the legislation;
- The Commission will assess the **life cycle impact** of different possibilities to reduce **very light weight** plastic bags (less than 15 microns);
- The Commission will set specifications on **labelling** of **biodegradable** and **compostable** plastic carrier bags.

Rapporteur: [Auken](#) (Greens/EFA) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Hölvényi](#) (EPP), [Bonafé](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Forenza](#) (GUE/NGL), [Evi](#) (EFDD)

Alcohol strategy

Adoption of [motion for a resolution](#) further to a [question for oral answer](#)



The harmful use of **alcohol** is still the **third biggest cause of preventable death** and disease in Europe, and is a risk factor for over **60 chronic diseases**, including

cancer, heart disease and liver disease. Alcohol misuse is also linked to **obesity**, a major public health concern and the fourth biggest cause of preventable illness in Europe. In addition, alcohol misuse and addiction are linked to other **social problems** including workplace absenteeism, family breakdown and violence. Europe has the **highest rate of alcohol consumption** in the world.

The purpose of this resolution is to **obtain more information on possible future proposals** for a new Alcohol Strategy, especially the reasons why the **separate report** on the application of the requirements to provide information on the **ingredients and nutrition information** for alcoholic beverages has not yet been published by December 2014 as foreseen by Regulation 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers.

360 amendments have been tabled, covering all the paragraphs of the resolution. A set of compromise amendments have been negotiated.

Co-rapporteurs: [Cirio](#) (EPP), [Willmott](#) (S&D), [Pretzell](#) (ECR), [Faria](#) (ALDE), [Omarjee](#) (GUE/NGL), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)



Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: Doha Amendment and joint fulfilment of commitments

Consideration of [draft recommendation](#)

In December 2012, at the **Doha Climate Change Conference**, the 192 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate



Change adopted an **amendment to the Kyoto Protocol**. This 'Doha Amendment' establishes a **second commitment period** under the Kyoto Protocol, starting on 1 January 2013 and ending on 31 December 2020, with **legally binding emission reduction commitments**

for the Parties listed in its Annex B. Under the Doha Amendment, the European Union, its Member States and Iceland commit to limit their average annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the years 2013 to 2020 to **80% of their base year emissions** (mostly 1990).

In her draft recommendation, the Rapporteur proposes to the Committee to **give its consent** to the draft Council Decision to **ratify the Doha amendment** to the Kyoto protocol.

The deadline for amendments is 15 April 2015, with a vote in ENVI envisaged for 6 May 2015.

Rapporteur: [Gardini](#) (EPP) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Androulakis](#) (S&D), [Duncan](#) (ECR), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

Agreement concerning Iceland's participation in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Consideration of [draft recommendation](#)

Since **Iceland** is not an EU Member State, the terms of joint fulfilment concerning its participation to the **Doha amendment** establishing a **second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol** had to be laid down in a separate international agreement. The proposed Council Decision provides therefore the basis for the **conclusion of the agreement** between the European Union and Iceland, concerning Iceland's participation in the joint fulfilment.

The Rapporteur proposes to **consent** to the draft Council Decision to **ratify the agreement**.

The deadline for amendments is 15 April 2015, with a vote in ENVI foreseen for 6 May 2015.

Rapporteur: [La Via](#) (EPP) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Androulakis](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

Manufacture, placing on the market and use of medicated feed

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)

After veterinary prescriptions, **medicated feed** is an important route for administering **veterinary medicines** to animals. The proposal aims



to **harmonise the production standards** and marketing of medicated feed in the EU at an **appropriate safety level**, and to reflect technical and scientific progress in this area. The proposed rules, which also include medicated food for **pets** in their scope, will ensure that medicated feed can only be manufactured from **specifically authorised veterinary medicines** and by **approved manufacturers**. Particular attention is also put to fighting the development of **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**.

The rapporteur suggests tightening some of the suggested provisions, including on: the definitions of **treatments**, the prohibition of **prophylactic use of antimicrobials**, and a reduction of the supplied quantity of medicated feed containing antimicrobials to 1 week.

The deadline for amendments is 24 April 2015, with a vote in ENVI envisaged for 17 June 2015.

Rapporteur: [Lins](#) (EPP) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Szanyi](#) (S&D), [Nicholson](#) (ECR), [Huitema](#) (ALDE), [Häusling](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

Exchange of views with Mr Jyrki Katainen, Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness



The Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness was invited for an exchange of views with the ENVI Committee, in the context of the structured dialogue.

The topics of discussion will include the **2015 Commission Work Programme** and the **priorities for 2016**.



The European environment - state and outlook 2015

Presentation by the European Environment Agency



Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director of the **European Environment Agency (EEA)**, has been invited to present the EEA's

five-yearly flagship report **"The European environment - state and outlook 2015"** (SOER 2015). SOER 2015, published on 3 March 2015, is an integrated assessment of Europe's environment. It also includes assessments and data at global, regional and country levels, as well as cross-country comparisons.

According to the SOER 2015, Europe's **environment and climate policies** have delivered **substantial benefits**, improving the environment and **quality of life**, while driving **innovation, job creation and growth**. Europeans enjoy **cleaner air and water**, less waste is sent to landfill and more resources are **recycled**.

Despite these gains, Europe still faces a range of persistent and growing **environmental challenges**. Europe remains a long way from achieving the objective of **'living well within the limits of the planet'** by 2050, as set out in the **7th Environment Action Programme**. Although we use natural resources more efficiently than previously, we are still **degrading the resource base** that we rely on in Europe and across the world. Problems such as **biodiversity loss** and **climate change** remain major threats.

Addressing these challenges will require **fundamental changes** in the systems of production and consumption that are the root cause of environmental problems, and **new approaches** that respond to the **systemic nature** of many environmental problems.

The report concludes that although **full implementation** of existing policies will be essential, the **environmental policies** currently in place and economic and technology-driven **efficiency gains** will **not be sufficient** to achieve Europe's 2050 vision.

From COP 21 Paris to 2050: a roadmap towards an innovative low-carbon, resource-efficient Europe

[Interparliamentary committee meeting](#)

The **Interparliamentary Committee Meeting** brings together Members of the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament and Members of the **environment committees of the National Parliaments** of the Member States.



The event will be divided into **2 sessions**. The first session will focus on the challenges, stakes and the role of European environmental diplomacy towards the **international climate change conference** that will take place in Paris in December 2015 (COP 21). This session will be the first step of a series of initiatives by the EP to help preparing its position ahead of the COP21. As the EU will be not only hosting the conference but will also be one of the key players in the negotiations, this session will be of great importance to discuss the views of both the European Parliament and the National Parliaments with regard to the **main elements of the future agreement**.

The second session will be dedicated to considering how we can turn, in the longer term beyond COP 21, the EU into a **resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy**, in line with the objectives of the **Seventh Environment Action Programme** adopted in December 2013. The discussions will focus on the state of play and on the leads to achieve this ambitious goal.



NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



'The European environment - state and outlook 2015' flagship report is made up of two reports and 87 online briefings. These comprise the 'Synthesis' report and the 'Assessment of global megatrends' report, complemented by 11 global megatrends briefings, 25 European briefings, nine cross-country comparison briefings, 39 country briefings (based on national state of environment reports), and three regional briefings. [More in the EEA newsletter](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA published its first annual report on SVHC Roadmap implementation. The report describes the main achievements and progress since the adoption of the so-called SVHC Roadmap in February 2014. This roadmap provides an EU-wide commitment for having all relevant currently known substances of very high concern (SVHCs) included in the REACH Candidate List by 2020. Several hundred substances were reviewed in 2014. [More](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



Influenza is a subject of permanent concern and has to be monitored very closely on a daily basis. To keep you updated read ECDC's Flu news. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) has recommended **restrictions** on the use of **codeine**-containing medicines for cough and cold in children because of the risk of serious side effects with these medicines, including the risk of breathing problems. [More](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



EFSA published on 18 March a report on the **risk assessment of Ebola transmission** from the consumption of raw foods - such as plants, fruits and vegetables - legally imported into the EU from African countries. To date there have been no reported human cases of Ebola infection from the consumption of these foods, and none of the steps necessary for the virus to be transmitted though food has ever been reported. EFSA experts identify several knowledge and data gaps - for example for how long the virus could survive in food. They conclude that there is no evidence that the Ebola virus can be transmitted through food in the European Union. [More](#)

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Watch the Committee meeting live on the [EP web site](#) or on [Europarl TV](#). Past meetings are available via the [EP Live multimedia library](#) and you can also download the extracts of speeches.

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

13-14 April 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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