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## CHAIR'S WELCOME



At the next meeting of the ENVI Committee, taking place in Brussels on 25 June 2015, Members will vote on the outcome of two inter-institutional negotiations, on novel foods and on caseins and caseinates. They will also vote on a

draft report on the follow up to the European Citizens' Initiative "Right2Water".

Finally, the Committee will consider the amendments tabled to a draft report on emissions from road vehicles.

[Giovanni La Via](#)

## MEETING PREVIEW

### Novel foods

Adoption of [outcome of negotiations](#)

The Commission proposal on novel foods aimed to ensure **food safety**, to protect public health and secure the functioning of the internal market while supporting **innovation for the food sector**. It included a streamlining of the **authorisation procedure**, clarified the definition of novel food, introduced a faster and more proportionate **safety assessment** for traditional foods from third countries having a history of safe food use, and **simplified the procedures** for public authorities and private parties.



The mandate for inter-institutional negotiations was adopted by the ENVI Committee on 24 November 2014. The final outcome of the negotiations includes many aspects that were part of Parliament's mandate, such as the provisional inclusion of **food from cloned animals** in the scope of the regulation until specific legislation enters into force, and the reintroduction of the former **food categories** and the introduction of new ones, to include food from **microorganisms, fungi and algae**, from **cellular or tissue cultures** (the so called "lab-meat") and from **insects**. The trilogue also reached an agreement on

nanotechnology, setting a **50% threshold content** for particles to be defined as **nanoparticles**. The threshold will be lowered progressively by delegated acts as the advancement of technology makes it possible to detect smaller amounts.

Rapporteur: [Nicholson](#) (ECR)

[Procedure file](#)

Shadows: [Ayuso](#) (EPP), [Poc](#) (S&D), [Paulsen](#) (ALDE), [Boylan](#) (GUE), [Staes](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD)

### Approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to caseins and caseinates intended for human consumption

Adoption of [outcome of negotiations](#)

The Commission proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to **caseins and caseinates intended for human consumption** and repealing Council Directive 83/417/EEC aimed at **aligning the powers conferred to the Commission** with the TFEU, **adapting existing provisions** to the further development of legislation in the field of food law and adjusting the composition requirements of edible caseins to the **international standard**.

On 24 February 2015, the ENVI Committee adopted 6 amendments to the Commission proposal as a mandate for inter-institutional negotiations. The agreed outcome makes sure that producers will have the possibility to indicate on the **labels** that certain minimum compositional requirements are exceeded.

Rapporteur: [La Via](#) (EPP)

[Procedure file](#)

Shadows: [Melior](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Huitema](#) (ALDE), [Omarjee](#) (GUE/NGL), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

### Follow up to the European Citizens' Initiative Right2Water

Adoption of [draft report](#)

On 17 February 2014, the ENVI Committee organised the **first public hearing** of a successful European Citizens' Initiative, **'Right2Water'**.

The ECI organisers presented and debated the **3 key goals** of the initiative:

- 1) "Guaranteed water and sanitation for all in the EU",
- 2) "Global access to water and sanitation for all", and
- 3) "No liberalisation of water services".





In its communication of 19 March 2014, the Commission committed *inter alia* to launching a public consultation on the Drinking Water Directive, reinforcing the **implementation of existing water quality legislation**, improving transparency in the water sector, and advocating for **universal access to safe water** and sanitation.

The draft report calls for the recognition and full implementation of the **human right to water and sanitation**, and for a permanent **exclusion** of water and sanitation from **internal market rules** and the full integration of universal access to water and sanitation in EU development policies. It also introduces measure to foster **public participation and transparency** and encourage **solidarity**. The rapporteur also welcomes the ECI as a means of promoting **participatory democracy** in the EU.

**253 amendments** were tabled by Members and **16 compromise amendments** have been negotiated.

Rapporteur: [Boylan](#) (GUE)

[Procedure file](#)

Shadows: [Herranz García](#) (EPP), [García Pérez](#) (S&D), [Dohrmann](#) (ECR), [Faria](#) (ALDE), [Turmes](#) (Greens/EFA), [Affronte](#) (EFDD)

The Rapporteur does not agree with the proposed inclusion of methane into the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of cars nor does he agree with a separate NO<sub>2</sub> emission limit. He also wishes to increase the flexibility for heavy-duty vehicles which are close to the light-duty limit.

**118 amendments** were tabled, *inter alia* to increase of the upper mass limit to 7.500kg, use real world driving emissions, not to have a separate NO<sub>2</sub> limit, to limit the scope of the Commission's delegated powers as regards limit values.

Rapporteur: [Deß](#) (EPP)

[Procedure file](#)

Shadows: [Dalli](#) (S&D), [Dohrmann](#) (ECR), [Torvalds](#) (ALDE), [Torres](#) (GUE), [Taylor](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD)

## **Reduction of pollutant emissions from road vehicles**

Consideration of [amendments](#)



The Commission proposal on the reduction of **pollutant emissions from road vehicles** focuses on areas where **market and regulatory failures** hinder improving air quality and addressing the **Better Regulation Agenda**.

The proposed measures include: **flexibility** for vehicles which are close to the limit between different categories to fall within the scope of **light passenger and commercial vehicles**; the possibility to include **methane** in the calculation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; changing the **Total Hydrocarbons emission limit** in order to facilitate the introduction of **natural gas vehicles** into the market; a specific emission limit for **nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)**, which causes most air quality problems in **urban areas**; a change of **tailpipe emission limits** after a cold start at low temperature, and the deletion of **ammonia** emission limits for spark ignition engines.



ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

ENVI  
NEWSLETTER

## NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

### European Environment Agency (EEA)



The majority of habitats and species in Europe have an **unfavourable conservation status** despite significant improvements for many species in recent years, according to a new EEA technical report. The report presents the most comprehensive European overview on the **conservation status and trends of the habitats and species** covered by the European Union's two nature directives. [More](#)

### European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



The **Read-Across Assessment Framework (RAAF)** is the most commonly used alternative to **testing chemicals on animals** under REACH. It is being produced by ECHA to make sure that its experts evaluate read-across cases consistently, and **avoid unnecessary animal testing**. [More](#) On 29-30 June 2015, ECHA will hold a seminar on the authorisation procedure, the purpose of which is to improve future applicants' knowledge of the procedure. [More](#)

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



The procedure to find a **new ECDC Director** which started early this year has failed to result in a nomination and the proceedings have to be repeated from the start. The agency will celebrate later its 10 years of operational existence. Read [more](#) on this and on the upcoming threat of the **MERS-Corona virus**.

### European Medicines Agency (EMA)



The EMA has launched an initiative that offers **free-of-charge early paediatric interaction meetings** with medicines developers to stimulate early dialogue on the development of their medicines for use in children. A one-year pilot phase is starting in June this year. [More](#)

### European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



In its scientific opinion published on 9 June, EFSA experts concluded that factors that affect the **welfare of cows on small scale dairy farms** are the same as those in other systems. This scientific opinion comes amid growing **consumer interest** in food that is **produced locally** and under **adequate animal welfare conditions**. [More](#) On 18 June, the European Commission has launched a **call for expression of interest** for the positions of **7 Members of EFSA's Management Board**. [More](#)

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#### Do you need more information?

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

#### Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

15-16 July 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](mailto: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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