



September 2015 / Issue N°14

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next meeting of the ENVI Committee will be taking place in Brussels on [22-23 September 2015](#). Members will vote on a draft report on the reduction of pollutant emissions from road vehicles, on a draft resolution on the red mud disaster five years after the accident in Hungary, and on a draft report entitled "Towards a new international climate agreement in Paris", which will serve as the mandate for Parliament's delegation to the COP21 climate conference in Paris. Still in the context of the preparations for COP21, the Committee will hold an exchange of views with the Executive Secretary of the UNEP Ozone Secretariat. Members will also exchange views with the Commission on a protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products, and have the Parliament's Research Services present a report on the "cost of non-Europe" in the field of water legislation. Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the joint presentation with the CONT committee of the special report of the European Court of Auditors on the integrity and the implementation of the ETS.

[Giovanni La Via](#)

MEETING PREVIEW

Reduction of pollutant emissions from road vehicles

Adoption of [draft report](#)



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 CO₂ 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 (NO₂)**, 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.

The Rapporteur does not agree with the proposed inclusion of methane into the CO₂ emissions of cars nor does he agree with a separate NO₂ emission limit. He also wishes to increase the flexibility for heavy-duty vehicles that are close to the light-duty limit.

Members tabled **118 amendments** covering all aspects of the Commission proposal as well as real world driving emissions. Several amendments also propose the insertion of provisions on **fuel consumption meters and gear shift indicators** which were not included in the Commission proposal. The rapporteur proposed **7 compromise amendments**, and will ask the Committee for a **mandate** to start inter-institutional negotiations.

Rapporteur: [Deß \(EPP\)](#) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Dalli \(S&D\)](#), [Dohrmann \(ECR\)](#), [Torvalds \(ALDE\)](#)
[Torres Martinez \(GUE\)](#), [Taylor \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Evi \(EFDD\)](#), [Jalkh \(ENF\)](#)

Towards a new international climate agreement in Paris

Adoption of [draft report](#)

The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol UNFCCC COP21 will be organised from 30 November to 11 December 2015 in Paris.

Considering the Commission's communication "Tackling global climate change beyond 2020" the EP decided to draw up an own-initiative report, whose main points include:

- an **ambitious, global, legally binding agreement** which should aim at **phasing out global carbon emissions** by 2050 or shortly thereafter,
- a binding **EU 2030 50% reduction target for greenhouse gas emissions** compared to 1990 levels in order to stay on track for the below 2° C target; a binding **EU 2030 energy efficiency**





target of 40 %; a binding EU 2030 target of producing at least 45 % of total final energy consumption from renewable energy sources,

- the importance for the EU to play an ambitious and central role at the conference, speaking with "one voice",
- the essential role played by finance in finding an agreement at the Paris Conference.

Members submitted 230 amendments and four other Committees (ITRE, DEVE, TRAN, AFET) delivered an opinion.

Rapporteur: [Pargneaux](#) (S&D) [Procedure file](#)
Shadows: [Florenz](#) (EPP), [Duncan](#) (ECR), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE)
[Mineur](#) (GUE/NGL), [Javor](#) (Greens/EFA), [Affronte](#) (EFDD), [Goddyn](#) (ENF)

Lessons learned from the red mud disaster, five years after the accident in Hungary

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



On 4 October 2010, the collapse of a waste reservoir in Hungary released almost one million cubic metres of highly alkaline red mud. It flooded several villages, killed ten people, injured almost 150, and polluted vast areas of land, including four NATURA 2000 sites. The accident highlighted the poor implementation of EU laws, deficiencies in the inspections, and gaps in relevant EU legislation.

Similar sites exist in several Member States. Red mud is waste generated in the industrial production of aluminium, and is one of the biggest disposal problems in the extractive industry. The motion for a resolution - scheduled for the October I part-session - is meant to wind up the debate on possible lessons from the accident. The draft motion for a resolution addresses inter alia the following key issues:

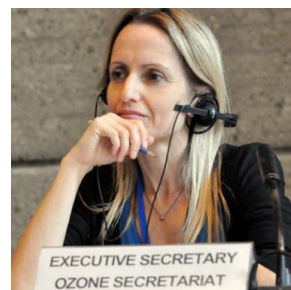
- the poor implementation of EU laws, deficiencies in the inspections, and gaps in relevant EU legislation;
- the need for a stronger emphasis on disaster prevention, on research and development in the prevention and treatment of hazardous waste, and on environmental inspections; and
- a stronger focus on adequate financial mechanisms to enhance post-disaster damage limitation.

31 amendments have been tabled.

Co-rapporteurs: [Hölvényi](#) (EPP), [Szanyi](#) (S&D), [Barekov](#) (ECR)
[Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Kyllönen](#) (GUE/NGL), [Javor](#) (Greens/EFA),
[Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

Towards a new international climate agreement in Paris: Exchange of views with Ms Tina Birmpili, Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat

In preparation for the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP21) taking place in Paris in December 2015, the ENVI Committee is scheduling a series of high-level debates with key actors in international climate change negotiations.



In this context, Ms Tina Birmpili, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and for the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone Layer, will exchange views with the ENVI Members, focussing on the next steps to regulate fluorinated gases at international level. The exchange of views is very timely since the ENVI Committee will send a delegation to COP21 and also to the Dubai MOP27 of the Montreal Protocol next November.

Four proposals to regulate hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are expected to dominate discussions at the 27th Meeting of the Parties (MOP 27). HFCs are replacements for ozone-depleting substances and have a strong impact on global warming. Parties to the Montreal and Kyoto Protocol remain divided if these gases should remain part of the new climate agreement or better regulated under the successful Montreal Protocol under which the previous two generations of these gases have been phased out.

Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Exchange of views with the Commission

The World Health Assembly adopted in 2003 the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), which aims at reducing tobacco-related deaths and diseases around the world.



Article 15 of the FCTC recognises that the elimination of illicit trade in tobacco products, including smuggling, illicit manufacturing and counterfeiting, is an essential component of tobacco control, and obliges Parties to adopt and implement effective measures to eliminate illicit trade.



By the present proposal, the EU will establish at international level its **consent to be fully bound by the FCTC Protocol**. The Protocol contains measures concerning **judicial cooperation** in criminal matters as well as provisions on the definition of unlawful conduct that may be established by the Parties as a non-criminal or a criminal offence, including establishing the **liability** of both natural and legal persons. The Protocol provides for measures on **police and customs cooperation** in criminal matters. The Protocol also recognises that illicit trade in tobacco products undermines **health objectives**, imposes additional strain on health systems and causes **losses of revenue** to the economies.

Presentation of the EPRS report on "The Cost of non-Europe in water legislation"

Presentation of [study](#)

The **"Cost of Non-Europe"** study, which builds on expert research commissioned specifically for the purpose, examines the **state of implementation of current EU Water Legislation** and identifies the **cost of the lack of further European action** in this field.



The assessment made of existing water legislation confirms that there are still **implementation gaps** and areas of poor performance. The subsequent examination of **five case studies**, where it was believed that a significant potential exists for further EU action, served to demonstrate that there are **several barriers** which hinder the achievement of the goals set in the legislation. More EU action would be necessary to limit the impact on Europe's water quality of **flooding** or of **pharmaceutical residues**. To limit the use of fresh water more generally, there is a need for European coordination to increase the use of **water-efficient equipment** and **water-metering**.

The report makes a cautious estimate that the **benefits of full implementation** of existing legislation could reach **2.8 billion euro** per year. The study also shows that EU action in this field could provide further added value, representing a **"cost of non-Europe"** of some **25 billion euro** per year.

ECA Special Report on "The integrity and implementation of the EU ETS"

Joint exchange of views on [ECA report](#)

On 22 September 2015 from 15.00 to 16.00, the ENVI Committee and the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) will jointly host a presentation of the **report by the European Court of Auditors (ECA)** on the integrity and implementation of the **EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS)**. The report, published on 2 July 2015, examines whether the EU ETS is managed adequately and, in particular, whether there is an appropriate framework for protecting the **integrity of the scheme** and whether the system has been **correctly implemented**.

The CONT Committee has also prepared a working document for consideration along with the report.

Rapporteur: [Pieper](#) (EPP)



ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

ENVI
NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are both for developing and developed countries and focus on a broader range of sustainable development topics. More precisely, 15 out of the 17 SDGs include elements related to the environment, resource use or climate change. Without a global effort and transition to **true sustainability**, we risk undermining well-being and quality of life across the planet. [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA has published new material to support SMEs with EU chemicals legislation: an introductory guide and “getting started” web pages. They provide valuable step-by-step help for small companies getting started with EU chemicals legislation. Both the pages and the guide are available in 23 EU languages. [More](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



Earlier this year, the ECDC celebrated its 10th anniversary. Among the highlights and milestones of the Agency’s work, one of the most important is the launch of the European Surveillance System (TESSy). [More](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



EMA will systematically publish summaries of the recommendations of its **Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPC)** on the medicinal uses of a **herbal substance** in easy to understand language. The summaries include information on the herbal substance, the HMPC conclusions on its recommended uses, the data supporting the recommendations and the potential side effects. They complement information that is in the package leaflets and are expected to help citizens make an informed choice when using these medicines for self-medication. [More](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



Thrombin is an enzyme derived from blood of pigs or cattle. It is used in food processing together with fibrinogen, a protein also obtained from the blood of these animals, to bind pieces of meat or fish. In a report published on 17 September 2015, EFSA’s experts concluded that **thrombin poses no safety concerns** based on the fact that it derives from parts of the animals that are intended for human consumption and provided that it is produced under hygienic conditions in accordance with EU rules. [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

12-13 October 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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