



December 2015 / Issue N°17

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next meeting of the ENVI Committee will take place in Brussels on 1 December 2015. Members will vote on objections relating to **invasive alien species** and the **authorization of GM maize NK603 x T25**, and will also vote on a draft opinion on **transparency, accountability and integrity in the EU institutions**.

Exchanges of views will be held with the European Commission on the **Fitness Check on the Oil Refining Industry**, and the implementation of the **Ambient Air Quality Directive**. An exchange of views will also be held with the Commission, the WHO and EFSA on **glyphosates**.

The Committee will also be updated on the progress of ongoing inter-institutional negotiations, and consider a draft opinion on the **European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2016**.

[Giovanni La Via](#)

MEETING PREVIEW

Transparency, accountability and integrity in the EU institutions

Adoption of draft opinion (see [meeting documents](#))

ENVI will vote on an opinion to an INI report by the AFCO committee.

In her draft opinion, the rapporteur expresses concern about **expert groups**, asking the Commission to ensure that it gets balanced advice in line with the European Ombudsman's recommendations, and to regularly issue public calls for the selection of expert group members who have to be registered in the Transparency register, in compliance with OECD guidelines. She also urges EU institutions and agencies to establish or to continue to use strict criteria in order to avoid **conflicts of interest**.

69 amendments were tabled, also calling for more transparency, avoiding conflicts of interest in contacts with experts, the introduction of a stricter lobby-register and a better access to EU-documents,

including trilogue documents. A set of 4 compromise amendments were proposed, with special attention paid for the transparency aspects of EU agencies.

Rapporteur: [Childers](#) (S&D)

[Procedure file](#)

Shadows: [Nagy](#) (EPP), [Demesmaeker](#) (ECR), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Flanagan](#) (GUE), [Jávor](#) (Greens/EFA)

Objection pursuant to Rule 106: list of invasive alien species

Adoption of motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))

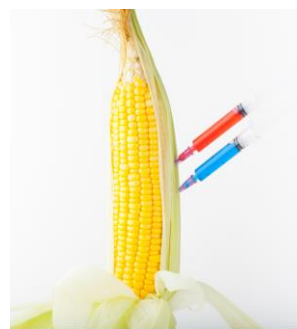
In accordance with the IAS Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of **invasive alien species**"), the implementing act, subject to this objection, lays down the initial list of invasive alien species of Union concern on the basis of criteria laid down in that Regulation. This initial list of invasive alien species of Union concern consists of 36 species.

The objectors, Pavel Poc and Renate Sommer, object to the draft measure on the grounds that the initial list is incompatible with the provisions of the IAS Regulation that sets out rules to prevent, minimise and mitigate the adverse impact on biodiversity of the introduction and spread within the Union of invasive alien species.

The objector: [Poc](#) (S&D), [Sommer](#) (EPP)

Objection pursuant to Rule 106: authorisation of GM maize NK603 x T25

Adoption of motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))



In May 2010, Monsanto Europe S.A. submitted an application for the placing on the market of foods, food ingredients, and feed containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize NK603 x T25. On 15 July 2015, EFSA gave a favourable

opinion in accordance with Articles 6 and 18 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. Accordingly, the Commission, in its draft Implementing Decision, authorises the use of NK603 x T25 maize in food and feed (and for other uses except cultivation) and sets out labelling requirements indicating that labels should be complemented by a clear indication that the products in question are not intended for cultivation.



In relation to the draft Implementing Decision, two objections have been submitted by, on the one hand, MEP Bart Staes (Greens) together with MEP Guillaume Balas (S&D), Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL) and Eleonora Evi (EFDD), and, on the other hand, MEP Sylvie Goddyn (ENF).

Both objections oppose the adoption of the draft Implementing Decision based, inter alia, on the grounds that NK603 x T25 maize is tolerant to different types of herbicides (glyphosate and glufosinate ammonium), of which glyphosate has recently been classified as "probably carcinogenic to humans" by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. In this context, both objections claim that the draft Implementing Decision is not compatible with the objectives of Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 on GM food and feed, namely to ensure, in particular, a high level of protection of human life and health, animal health and welfare, as well as environment and consumer interests in relation to genetically modified food and feed.

In addition, MEP Staes claims that the current authorisation procedure for GM food and feed is not functioning well and that, as long as it is not improved, any authorisation of such products should be suspended. MEP Goddyn fears that the use of glyphosate-tolerant GMO plants may lead to the development of "super-weed" and further loss of soil biodiversity, linked to the toxicity of glyphosate and co-formulants. In addition, MEP Goddyn points to flaws in the risk assessment procedure related to NK603 x T25, such as, in particular, the lack of a 90-day sub-chronic toxicity study.

Under Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 on implementing acts, the European Parliament may indicate to the European Commission at any time that, in its view, a draft implementing act exceeds the implementing powers provided for in the basic act. The Commission then has to review the draft implementing act, taking account of the position expressed, and may maintain, amend or withdraw it.

The objectors: 1. [Staes](#) (Greens/EFA), [Balas](#) (S&D), [Boylan](#) (GUE/NGL), [Evi](#) (EFDD), 2. [Goddyn](#) (ENF)

European semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2016

Consideration of the draft opinion (see [meeting documents](#))



The opinion feeds into the own-initiative report by ECON (rapporteur Ms Maria João RODRIGUES (S&D), which provides Parliament's input into the first phase of the annual cycle of economic policy guidance and surveillance for 2016,

namely the Spring European Council on the Annual Growth Survey (AGS) 2016.

The AGS 2016 communication was published by the Commission only 26 November 2015.

Rapporteur: [Kovatchev](#) (EPP)

[Procedure file](#)

Shadows: [Zorrinho](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Faria](#) (ALDE), [Torres Martinez](#) (GUE), [Škrlec](#) (Greens/EFA)

Exchange of views with the European Commission on the Fitness Check on Oil Refining Industry

See [meeting documents](#)



This is an exchange of views on the fitness check of oil-refining industry, which is carried out by DG GROW in the framework of the "better

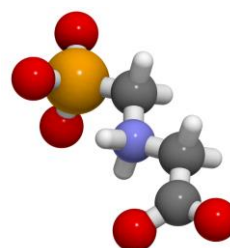
regulation initiative". The aim of the exchange of views is to inform the Committee with regards to the state of play of this Fitness Check (results of the analysis of gathered information as well as ways forward which the Commission is considering to follow-up with after this Fitness Check).

This is the first Fitness Check to focus on an industrial sector with the aim to evaluate the impact of the most relevant EU legislative acts and initiatives on the economic, environmental and social performance of the petroleum refining sector. It was concluded in November 2015, and its results have not yet been published.

It covers a number of legislative acts in the area of environment: the Renewables Energy Directive, the EU Emissions Trading System, the Fuels Quality Directive, the Directive on Clean and Energy Efficient Vehicles, the Industrial Emissions Directive, the Marine Fuels Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Air Quality Directive.

Exchange of views with WHO, EFSA and the European Commission on glyphosates

See [meeting documents](#)



Glyphosate is an active substance that is widely used in pesticides, and which is used in agriculture and horticulture primarily to combat weeds that compete with cultivated crops.



ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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NEWSLETTER

EFSA and EU Member States have carried out a risk assessment and peer review that updates our scientific knowledge of the toxicity of glyphosate. EFSA has published a conclusion on glyphosate as part of this process. The conclusion will be used by the European Commission in deciding **whether or not to keep glyphosate on the EU list of approved active substances**, and to inform the subsequent evaluations by Member States on the use of glyphosate-based formulations in their territories.

EFSA scientists and representatives nominated by EU Member States concluded in November 2015 that the **toxicity of glyphosate needs to be redefined**. And that glyphosate is **unlikely to be genotoxic** (i.e. damaging to DNA) **or to pose a carcinogenic threat** to humans. Glyphosate is not proposed to be classified as carcinogenic under the EU regulation for classification, labelling and packaging of chemical substances.

EFSA's final assessment Report, prepared by the Rapporteur Member State (Germany), was updated to take account of comments and discussions during the peer review and including the German assessment of the monograph published by the **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)**. IARC, the specialized cancer agency of the World Health Organisation, has carried out its own assessment and concluded in a monograph published earlier in 2015 that **glyphosate is genotoxic** and classified glyphosate as **"probably carcinogenic to humans"**.

This exchange of views will allow MEPs to discuss with IARC and EFSA on the methods and conclusions of the two assessments and to hear from the Commission about the forthcoming decision on the renewal of glyphosate.

Implementation of environmental legislation

See [meeting documents](#)

This second implementation session will address questions related to Directive 2008/50/EC (the Ambient Air Quality Directive). The eight questions on the Ambient Air Quality Directive that were forwarded to the Commission focus on:

- The implementation of current provisions;
- Cases of non-compliance and infringement procedures; and
- The revision of current provisions.

The next implementation session will take place in February 2016.

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

"Invasive Alien Species", proceedings of the workshop
[More](#)

Recent Publications from Policy Department:

- [Study on 'Emission Reduction Targets for International Aviation and Shipping'](#)
- [Study on 'International Climate Negotiations - On the Road to Paris'](#)
- [Study on 'Main issues at stake for the MOP27 to the Montreal Protocol'](#)
- [In-depth analysis on 'The ILVA industrial site in Taranto'](#)
- [Proceedings of the Workshop on the 'Paediatric Regulation'](#)
- [The Paediatric Regulation: Are Children Still Missing Out on Potentially Life-Saving Treatments?](#)

Upcoming Publications:

Proceedings of the [Workshop on 'Eat for Health'](#)



ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



Spatial analysis of marine protected area networks in Europe's seas

The report presents an overview of the 2012 spatial distribution of the networks of marine protected areas in EU waters, including a detailed explanation of the methodology and data sets used.

This technical report contains spatial statistics, and it supports the assessment done in the EEA report 'Marine protected areas in Europe's seas – an overview and perspectives for the future', published in October 2015. [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA invites for public comments on a proposal to include 11 new substances in the Authorisation List. Comments can be given by 18

February 2016. [More](#)

The latest ECHA Newsletter can be found [here](#).

In preparation of the 2018 REACH Registration deadline (phase 2) ECHA published dedicated online material to inform companies about finding co-registrants and preparing to work together. The material is available [here](#).

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



The massive arrival of migrants as we currently are witnessing in the EU has a number of health aspects, in particular regarding contagious diseases like the importation and spread of malaria and other vector-borne diseases. [More](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



EFSA has published the background documents relating to its peer review of glyphosate. This includes the EFSA peer review report, containing the comments received during the different consultation phases and the outcomes of the expert meetings.

The summary dossier submitted by the applicants at the start of the renewal process is also available from the EFSA website.

EFSA's Conclusion on the active substance was published on 12 November 2015. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



EMA confirms that the evidence does not support a causal link between the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines given to young women (such as Cervarix, Gardasil/Silgard and Gardasil 9) and development of complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) and postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS). Therefore there is no reason to change the way the vaccines are used or amend the current product information. [More](#)

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

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

1 December 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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