



December 2015 / Issue N°18

## CHAIR'S WELCOME



The last meeting of the ENVI Committee this year will take place in Brussels on 21-22 December 2015. Members will vote on a draft report on the Mid-term review of the EU's Biodiversity Strategy and a draft opinion on Enhancing innovation and economic development in future European farm management.

Additionally, they will vote on the acceptance of amendments to the 1998 Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Heavy Metals respectively. Three objections dealing with health and food safety-related issues will be considered. A series of draft opinions on the 2014 discharge for the general budget and for budget of agencies falling under the remit of ENVI will also be discussed.

I would also like to highlight that Commissioner Karmenu Vella has been invited for a debate on the Circular Economy Package on Monday afternoon. On Tuesday morning, Commissioner Arias Cañete will be presenting the Paris agreement adopted at UNFCCC's COP21, where Parliament was represented with a delegation of 15 Members. Finally, an exchange of views will be held with the European Commission on wildlife crime.

[Giovanni La Via](#)

## MEETING PREVIEW

***Acceptance of the amendments to the 1998 Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants***

***Acceptance of the amendment to the 1998 Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Heavy Metals***

Consideration and adoption of draft reports (see [meeting documents](#))

The 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution has created the framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and to the environment caused by transboundary air pollution. To date, it has been extended by eight protocols, which identify specific measures to be taken by Parties.

In particular, the 1998 Aarhus Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which aims to **control, reduce or eliminate discharges, emissions and losses of POPs**, entered into force in 2003. The accession of the Community to the Protocol was approved on behalf of the Community by Council Decision 2004/259/EC.

The Parties reviewed the Protocol with regard to its sufficiency and effectiveness, and in December 2009 it was amended by four Decisions, two of which have to be ratified by the Parties. The amended Protocol includes **seven new substances, updates implementation requirements** for several substances, **updates restrictions for dioxin and furan emissions** from several sources, and adds **PCBs** to the substances affected by total annual emission restrictions and reporting obligations.

The 1998 Aarhus Protocol on Heavy Metals is another protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range transboundary Air Pollution. It aims to **reduce and control anthropogenic emission into the air of lead, cadmium and mercury**, and entered into force in 2003. The accession of the EU to the Protocol was approved by Council Decision 2001/379/EC.

The Parties reviewed the Protocol with regard to its sufficiency and effectiveness, and in December 2012 it was amended by three Decisions, one of which has to be ratified by the Parties. The amended Protocol sets out, in particular, **stricter limit values for dust emissions from certain major stationary sources**, as well as **flexible transitional arrangements** that shall benefit those Parties that will accede the amended Protocol before the end of 2019, including countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

In both cases, the amendments to the Protocol are already largely covered by EU legislation, and will be further transposed via the revision of the **National Emission Ceilings Directive**. The ratification of the amendments will be an important step towards a higher level of protection of human health and the environment from transboundary air pollution. The rapporteur therefore welcomes the draft Council Decisions and proposes that Parliament gives its consent.

Amendments to the 1998 Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants:  
Rapporteur: [Giovanni La Via](#) (EPP)  
Shadows: [Bonafé](#) (S&D), [Huitema](#) (ALDE)

Amendment to the 1998 Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Heavy Metals  
Rapporteur: [Giovanni La Via](#) (EPP)  
Shadows: [Paolucci](#) (S&D), [Jäätteenmäki](#) (ALDE)



### Mid-term review of the EU's Biodiversity Strategy

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



The strategic own-initiative report on "The Mid-term review of the EU's Biodiversity Strategy" mainly aims to respond to the

**State of Nature in Europe report, and the mid-term review of the EU's Biodiversity Strategy.** This strategic report will also be Parliament's contribution to the on-going fitness check of the Nature legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives).

A total of **373 amendments** have been tabled to the draft report and **22 compromise amendments** have been prepared. They cover several key topics, including the importance of providing urgent political priority to the achievement of the 2020 targets, and the need to adopt a multi-stakeholder approach to ensure the active participation of all stakeholders. Other issues raised include the role of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in promoting biodiversity, the need to provide more information to the general public to increase awareness, the economic importance of biodiversity, and the impact of invasive alien species, illegal wildlife trafficking and deforestation on biodiversity.

As regards the on-going fitness check of the Birds and Habitats Directives, Members tend to agree that the legislation is not fundamentally flawed, but problems have mainly arisen due to its **incomplete or inadequate implementation**. It is the general view that the Nature directives do not need to be revised, as this would result in a long period of legal uncertainty, which would weaken the legislation. Members also call for a better enforcement of the legislation, including through the use of **proportionate, effective and dissuasive penalties**.

Rapporteur: [Demesmaeker](#) (ECR) [Procedure file](#)  
Shadows: [Lins](#) (EPP), [Kadenbach](#) (S&D), [Bearder](#) (ALDE), [Boylan](#) (GUE), [Auken](#) (Greens/EFA), [Affronte](#) (EFDD)

### Enhancing innovation and economic development in future European farm management

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

This draft opinion to an AGRI own initiative report aims to address the key elements needed to enhance innovation and economic development in future European farm management. Members have tabled **105 amendments** to the draft opinion, from which **7 compromise amendments** have been drafted. They highlight the importance of striking the right balance between ensuring an **adequate food supply** and

**preserving the environment and valuable resources for future generations.** Several Members consider that this could be done by **reducing food waste** and by supporting farmers who use more sustainable agricultural practices.

Rapporteur: [Zoffoli](#) (S&D) [Procedure file](#)  
Shadows: [Petir](#) (EPP), [Torvalds](#) (ALDE), [Eck](#) (GUE), [Häusling](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD), [Jalkh](#) (ENF)

### Objection pursuant to the Rule 105: infant and follow-on formula

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

Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 ("Parnuts-Regulation") empowers the European Commission to adopt delegated acts laying down specific compositional and information requirements for the foods under its scope. These delegated acts had to be adopted by 20 July 2015. The delegated act in question covers **specifically infant and young child feeding formula**.



The objector (Keith Taylor/Greens) opposes the draft measure on the grounds that there is scientific consensus on the fact that **breast milk is the preferred food for all healthy infants**. According to the objector, the draft delegated act does not contain sufficient provisions to prevent unfair competition with breastfeeding and

therefore undermines the World Health Assembly's 'International Code of marketing of breast milk substitutes' which will make it difficult for Member States to implement it effectively.

The procedure for objections to delegated acts is governed by Rule 105 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, which enables the committee to table a reasoned motion for a resolution stating the reasons for Parliament's objection. The resolution may also incorporate a request to the Commission to submit a new delegated act which takes account of Parliament's recommendations. The Parliament's initial scrutiny deadline in relation to the above-mentioned measure (25 November 2015) was extended by a further two-month period which expires on 25 January 2016. The same deadline applies to the other objections tabled by Keith Taylor on food for special medical purposes and processed cereal-based food and baby food.

Objector: [Taylor](#) (Greens/EFA)  
Shadows: [Grossetête](#) (PPE), [Ries](#) (ALDE)

**Objection pursuant to Rule 105: food for special medical purposes**

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

The delegated act in question - adopted pursuant to Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 ("Parnuts-Regulation") - lays down specific compositional and information requirements for **food for special medical purposes**. These foods are developed to feed patients affected by, or malnourished because of, a specific medical condition that makes it impossible or very difficult for those patients to satisfy their nutritional needs through the consumption of other foods.

The objector (Keith Taylor/Greens) opposes the draft measure on the grounds that, inter alia, it does not take the necessary measures to **prevent misleading information being given to consumers**. In addition, the objector asks for zero tolerance for pesticides to apply as a general principle, given the particular vulnerability of the endocrine system of infants and young children and of people with diagnosed diseases. Derogations from this principle should be explicitly listed.

The Parliament's deadline for scrutiny expires on 25 January 2016.

Objector: [Taylor](#) (Greens/EFA),  
Shadows: [Grossetête](#) (PPE), [Ries](#) (ALDE)

**Objection pursuant to Rule 105: processed cereal-based food and baby food**

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



The delegated act in question - adopted pursuant to Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 ("Parnuts-Regulation") - lays down specific compositional and information requirements for **specifically processed cereal-based food and baby food** that are used by infants and young children.

The objector opposes the draft measure based, in particular, on the grounds that it does not take the necessary measures in order to **prevent obesity, especially in infants and young children**. Moreover, the objector asks for zero tolerance for pesticides to apply as a general principle, given the particular vulnerability of the endocrine system of infants and young children and of people with diagnosed diseases. Derogations from this principle should be explicitly listed.

The Parliament's deadline for scrutiny expires on 25 January 2016.

Objector: [Taylor](#) (Greens/EFA)  
Shadows: [Grossetête](#) (PPE), [Ries](#) (ALDE)

**Discharge 2014: EU general budget, European Commission**

Consideration of draft opinions (EFSA, ECHA, EEA, ECDC, EC, EMA) (see [meeting documents](#))

Once a year, on the Council's recommendation, Parliament grants discharge to the Commission, other institutions and the agencies in respect of implementation of the budget for the year n-2, after having examined the European Court of Auditors' annual report and the replies from the Commission and the other institutions to its questions. The discharge reports are drawn up by the CONT committee and shall comprise the opinions of the committees concerned.

The ENVI Discharge Rapporteur recommends to grant discharge to the Commission in respect of expenditure in the areas of environmental and climate policy, public health and food safety for the financial year 2014 as well as to all the related Agencies.

The deadline for amendments is 22 December 2015, with a vote in ENVI envisaged for 21 January 2016.

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

Shadows: [Kadenbach](#) (S&D), [Selimovic](#) (ALDE), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Javor](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

**Exchange of views with Mr Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy on the outcome of COP21 on climate change**

The European Parliament sent a 15-Member delegation to the high-level segment of this United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21). The Committee is now holding this exchange of views with Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner

for Climate Action and Energy following the Paris agreement reached in early December. The Commissioner is invited to present the outcome of COP21 to the ENVI Committee and have an exchange of views with MEPs on the way forward. The implications of the Paris agreement at international level and at European level will be debated, as well as issues that are not properly addressed in the agreement, such as the **bunker fuel emissions by aviation and shipping**. Potential **new initiatives by the European Commission** to address the newly introduced ambitious targets of "well below 2°C" and 1.5°C may be also addressed.





ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

ENVI  
NEWSLETTER

### ***Exchange of views with Mr Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on Circular Economy package***



Commissioner Vella will present the long-awaited package on Circular Economy, which replaces the package presented last year by the previous College and withdrawn by the Juncker Commission.

The package consists of an EU action plan on circular economy and the waste legislative package which amends six directives: the Waste Framework Directive, the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, the Landfill Directive, the WEEE Directive, the End-of-life Vehicles Directive and the Directive on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators.

The new EU action plan "Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy" establishes a concrete programme of actions to "close the loop" of product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use: the measures proposed cover the whole cycle, from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials as well as specific areas like plastics, food waste, construction and demolition waste and biomass.

### ***Exchange of views with the European Commission on Wildlife crime***



In February 2014 the Commission adopted a Communication on the EU Approach against Wildlife Trafficking, launching a stakeholder

consultation; and in June this year, the Commission announced that it has decided to adopt an Action Plan by the end this year. In July 2015 the Commission also released a "Roadmap" for this Action Plan, setting out different policy options that are under consideration. The Roadmap also makes a link to the broader areas of nature protection and environmental crime in the EU.

The exchange of views aims to give an update on the preparation of the Action Plan and on the policy

options and concrete measures that are being considered by the Commission.

## **NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT**

### ***Recent Publications***

- Proceeding of the workshop on ["Eat for Health"](#)
- Proceedings of the workshop on ["The paediatric Regulation: Are children Still Missing Out on Potentially Life-saving Treatments?"](#)
- Study on ["Main issues at stake for the MOP27 to the Montreal Protocol"](#)
- Study on ["International Climate Negotiations - On the Road to Paris Issues at Stake in View of COP 21"](#)
- Study on ["Emission Reduction Targets for International Aviation and Shipping"](#)

### ***Upcoming Publications:***

- Workshop Proceedings 'LIFE-How to use € 3,46 Billion for environment and climate protection'
- Study on Wildlife crime
- Study on "Links between Pharmaceutical R and D Models and Access to Affordable Medicines"
- Proceedings of the workshop on "Data save lives: The impact of the data protection Regulation on Personal Data Use in Cancer Research"



ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

ENVI  
NEWSLETTER

## NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

### European Environment Agency (EEA)



#### AIR QUALITY REPORT 2015

Air pollution is the single largest environmental health risk in Europe. It shortens people's lifespan and contributes to serious illnesses such as heart disease, respiratory problems and cancer. The report estimates that air pollution continues to be responsible for more than 430 000 premature deaths in Europe. [More](#)

### European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA's Committee for Socio-economic Assessment (SEAC) adopted final opinions on the restriction proposals for Bisphenol A and PFOA and agreed on draft opinions supporting the restriction of methanol and authorisation applications for three substances. [More](#)

ECHA's Member State Committee (MSC) supports by majority inclusion of HDDA to the REACH Candidate List. [More](#)

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



ECDC has different instruments to inform about health threats like the ECDC Communicable Disease Threats Report (CDTR) which is a weekly bulletin for epidemiologists and health professionals on active public health threats. The latest issue covers the period 6-12 December 2015 and includes updates on the Zika virus (coming from the Americas), the Ebola virus disease, public health risks associated with the refugee movements in Europe, and the influenza 2015-2016 season. [More](#)

### European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



According to the latest annual report by EFSA and ECDC on zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks in the European Union, (covering 14 zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks), human cases of listeriosis and campylobacteriosis rose once again in 2014, continuing an upward trend that began in 2008. Salmonellosis cases increased slightly for the first time since 2008. [More](#)

### European Medicines Agency (EMA)



EMA makes new webpage and good practice guide on medication errors to improve the reporting, evaluation and prevention of medication errors by regulatory authorities and pharmaceutical industry throughout the EU. [More](#)

#### Subscription

If you wish to receive the ENVI newsletter, please send an email with your contact details and the subject "newsletter" to: [envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu). To sign up for ENVI committee press releases or for media enquiries, please write to [envi-press@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:envi-press@europarl.europa.eu)

#### Watch online

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

#### Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

14 January 2016 (Brussels)

See also the [2016 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](#).

#### About the editor

European Parliament, Directorate General for Internal Policies of the Union, Secretariat of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety - Responsible administrators: Tihana Vujatović, Elodie Carmona: Responsible assistants: Irena Aramina, Marie-Christine Della Faille

#### Legal disclaimer

The items contained herein are drafted by the ENVI Committee Secretariat and are provided for general information purposes only. The content is indicative and subject to changes. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the ENVI Committee. The newsletter contains links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The ENVI Committee does not necessarily endorse the views expressed on these websites.