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## CHAIR'S WELCOME



The first ENVI Committee meeting of 2016 will take place in Brussels during the morning of 14 January. Members will vote on objections relating to infant formula and follow-on formula, food for special medical purposes, and processed cereal-based food and baby food. These objections were debated on 21 December, during

the last ENVI Committee meeting of 2015.

Following these votes, exchanges of views will be held with two Ministers from the Council Presidency of the Netherlands, which newly commenced this month. Members will have the opportunity to pose questions to Ministers Sharon Dijksma and Edith Schippers, responsible respectively for Environment and Health in their wider portfolios, on their plans and priorities for these policy areas during the Dutch Presidency, which will last until June 2016.

[Giovanni La Via](#)

## MEETING PREVIEW

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

Vote on draft 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 specifically covers **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.**

The World Health Assembly's 'International Code of marketing of breast milk substitutes', endorsed by all EU Member States, is designed to ensure that all parents receive objective and truly independent information, to remove obstacles to breastfeeding and to ensure that breast milk substitutes are used safely if needed. According to the objector, the draft delegated act does not contain sufficient provisions to prevent unfair competition with breastfeeding and therefore undermines the International Code 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.

An exchange of views on all 3 objections was held in ENVI on 21 December 2015.

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

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

Vote on draft 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**

Vote on draft 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)

**Exchange of views with Ms Sharon Dijksma, Minister for the Environment, Dutch Presidency**



The Netherlands took over the Presidency from Luxembourg on 1 January 2016, it forms a trio with Slovakia and Malta.

**On-going legislative files:**

- Reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants/NEC-Directive

- Reduction of pollutant emissions from road vehicles/Euro 5 and 6 (NB: competence of Minister for Transport)

Emission limits and type-approval for internal combustion engines for non-road mobile machinery/NRMM

- Enhancing cost-effective emission reductions and low carbon investments/ETS-Directive
- Circular economy package - waste proposals/Landfill Directive; ELV, Batteries and WEEE; Packaging; Waste Framework Directive

The Environmental priorities of the Dutch Presidency are:

**Climate**

- ETS review
- Follow-up to COP21
- Non-ETS (ESD and land use/LULUCF)

**Circular economy**

- Action plan
- Waste proposals

**Air quality**

- NEC
- Euro 5/6

**Delivering better results for the environment - make it work**

**Nature**

- REFIT Birds and Habitat Directives
- Wild Life Crime

**Exchange of views with Ms Edith Schippers, Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports, Dutch Presidency**

**On-going legislative files**

**Health:**

- Medical devices and in-vitro medical devices
- Veterinary medicine
- Medicated feed



**Food safety:**

- Official controls;
- GMOs;
- Cloning;

As to veterinary medicinal products and the related amendment to Regulation No 726/2004 laying down community procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use, the Dutch Presidency is expected to only start negotiations with the EP. On both files, the vote in ENVI is currently foreseen to be held on 17 February 2016.



Other key health priorities of the Dutch Presidency include:

- The fight against **anti-microbial resistance**,
- Progress towards a **European approach on market access rules for medicines**.
- Endocrine disruptors

## *NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT*

### ***Recent Publications:***

- [Briefing 'Dubai, Paris and beyond'](#),
- [Workshop Proceedings 'Eat for Health'](#)

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

- Study on Wildlife crime
- Briefing on "Issues at stake at the 10th session of the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP10)"
- Briefing on the Food Safety Situation in Ireland
- Workshop Proceedings 'LIFE-How to use € 3,46 Billion for environment and climate protection'

### ***ENVI Workshops:***

26-Jan-2016: Food contact materials - How to ensure food safety and technological innovation in the future?" It will take place from 12.30-15.00 in Altiero Spinelli A5G-3.



## NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

### European Environment Agency (EEA)



The EEA report on **waste prevention in Europe** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> in this series of annual reviews of waste prevention programmes in Europe. The report shows that waste prevention programmes show great variety in details, coverage, objectives, time horizons, indicators, monitoring systems, measures and policy instruments. It also includes examples of good practice from each country and region. [More](#)

### European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA is organising a workshop on 27-28 January 2016 in Helsinki on reaching the 2020 goals of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002. The objective is to discuss how the current implementation of REACH/CLP contributes to the goals and to agree on actions that can be taken to increase the overall contribution. [More](#) ECHA also added five new substances to the Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern. [More](#)

### European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



In 2015, EFSA confirmed that three **neonicotinoid pesticides** (clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid) were a risk to bees when used as foliar sprays. EFSA is now to update its assessments of the risks to bees posed by these pesticides. The new evaluations were requested by the European Commission and will look at the use of the substances as **seed treatments and granules**. These new evaluations will be completed by January 2017. [More](#)

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



From this year onwards, European Antibiotic Awareness Day is reinforced by the World Antibiotic Awareness Week, a global campaign led by WHO, in partnership with ECDC. Data show that there is still a **continuous increase in overall antibiotic consumption** over the period 2010-2014. The further spread of CPE (carbapenemase-producing **Enterobacteriaceae**), bacteria that is resistant to last-line antibiotics, shows that the situation continues to worsen. ECDC and WHO have also published the latest surveillance data on HIV/AIDS in Europe. [More](#)

### European Medicines Agency (EMA)



The EMA will give increased access to reports on suspected adverse reactions to medicines authorised in the European Union, while guaranteeing that personal data will be fully protected. This is the outcome of a revision of **Eudra Vigilance Access policy**, which was adopted by EMA's Management Board at its December 2015 meeting. The adoption followed a broad public consultation generating close to 400 comments which have been taken into account in the final policy. [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

21 January 2016 (Strasbourg). 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

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