



Press release – 25-01-2016

Food safety

## Workshop - Food Contact Materials: how to ensure food safety and technological innovation in the future?

The European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) will host a workshop on “Food Contact Materials – How to ensure food safety and technological innovation in the future?” on Tuesday, 26 January 2016. The workshop will feature eight keynote presentations delivered by speakers hailing from academia, NGOs, industry, and Commission services, offering a variety of perspectives on topics relating to food contact materials.

It will be co-chaired by MEP Christel Schaldemose (ENVI Rapporteur for the implementation report on food contact materials/S&D) and several Shadow Rapporteurs (MEP Birgit Collin-Langen/EPP, MEP Marcus Pretzell/ECR, MEP Anneli Jäätteenmäki/ALDE and MEP Martin Häusling/Greens).

Food contact materials (FCM) include food packaging (plastics, paper, board, cans, etc.) and food production equipment (tubes, conveyor belts, containers, gloves etc.). Food packaging plays a key role in ensuring the quality and hygienic safety of food products, as well as for printing information about food, its ingredients and for the branding of the product. However, the complex, often multilayer materials used in packaging contain a vast number of chemicals which can transfer (migrate) into food. Food is considered one of the most important routes of human exposure to chemicals, and with an estimated 15,000 different substances present in FCM this is potentially a significant source.

To protect consumers from potential risks, the EU has adopted Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 as well as specific legislation for six types of FCM: plastics; regenerated cellulose films; ceramic; nitrosamines in elastomers and rubbers; active and intelligent materials and articles; and recently bisphenol A in epoxy coatings e.g. used for metal cans. Last year, the ENVI committee began working on a report on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004. As such,

the aim of the workshop is to provide background information and advice to MEPs in the ENVI committee, to raise awareness on the issue and to provide input for the draft implementation report, which is expected to be finalised in February 2016.

The workshop will cover three major themes: firstly, the state of play of FCM on the EU market, including an overview of EU legislation and policies, an introduction to concepts for ensuring safety and current approaches to enforcement and compliance. Secondly, speakers will discuss control methods, the risks of human exposure to mixtures of chemicals and the existing gaps in legislation and risk assessment. A third theme will focus on current research and innovation in the area of FCM, taking into account the implications of FCM in the circular economy. In the final presentation, conclusions from the workshop for policy makers will be drawn.

#### Further information

[Webstream](#)

[Programme and documents](#)

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