

ENVI NEWS

Newsletter from the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

April 18-19, 2016 / Issue N°6

CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI Committee meeting will take place in Brussels on **18 - 19 April 2016**. Members will vote on a draft opinion on the fourth EU macro-regional strategy: the **EU strategy for the alpine region (EUSALP)**.

As part of the structured dialogue, **Mr Karmenu Vella**, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and **Mr Miguel Arias Cañete**, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, have been invited to debate with the Committee on the implementation of the 2016 Commission Work Programme and the priorities for 2017 in the areas under their responsibilities. Commissioner Vella will address topics such as the **Circular Economy Package**, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the on-going fitness check of the **Nature Directives**, as well as ongoing legislative files. Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete will particularly focus on the progress, following the Paris Agreement, in the legislation to implement the **2030 climate and energy framework**.

An exchange of views will be held on the report from the Commission on **food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation for the year 2014**. Also, the Commission will report to our Committee on the implementation of the regulation on **shipments of waste**. In addition, the outcome of the **cumulative costs assessment in the area of chemical industry (REFIT)** will be discussed with the Commission.

Finally, the policy department study on **wildlife crime** will be presented.

[Giovanni La Via](#)

MEETING PREVIEW

An EU strategy for the Alpine region

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

The Commission launched in July 2015 the fourth EU macro-regional strategy with its Communication concerning a European Union Strategy for the Alpine region. More than 70 million citizens should reap the benefits of a closer cooperation between regions and

countries in terms of research and innovation, SME support, mobility, tourism, environmental protection and energy resources management. The Strategy will focus on three key policy areas: Economic growth and innovation; Connectivity and mobility; and Environment and energy.

The draft opinion focuses on the promotion of production models based on the circular economy or the need for investments to be channelled, as a matter of priority, towards climate change adaptation.



108 amendments were tabled in ENVI, addressing the interaction between the strategy and the Alpine Convention, the importance of eco-tourism in the region, the impact of climate change on mountainous areas. The rapporteur proposes 13 compromise amendments.

Rapporteur: [Briano \(S&D\)](#)

Shadows: [Köstinger \(EPP\)](#), [Dohrmann \(ECR\)](#), [Müller \(ALDE\)](#), [Torres Martínez \(GUE\)](#), [Škrlec \(Greens/EFA\)](#), [Evi \(EFDD\)](#), [D'Ornano \(ENF\)](#)

Structured dialogue - Exchange of views with Mr Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and Mr Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy



Every year, the ENVI Committee holds exchanges of views with the Commission on the evaluation and implementation of the Commission Work Programme and the priorities for the following year. In this context, exchange of views will be held with Commissioner Vella and Commissioner Arias Cañete. Following these exchange of views, ENVI coordinators will establish ENVI priorities for 2017 in the areas of environment and climate.

Food and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation for the year 2014

Exchange of views with the European Commission (see [meeting documents](#))

Directive 1999/2/EC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation, requires



Member States to forward to the Commission every year the results of checks carried out in the ionising radiation facilities, and the Commission to publish in the Official Journal of the European Union the details of the approved irradiation facilities in the Member States, as well as any changes in their status and a report on the information provided every year by the national supervisory authorities. This exchange of views aims at discussing the findings of the report for the year 2014.

Shipments of waste: Generation, treatment and transboundary shipment of hazardous waste and other waste in the Member States of the European Union, 2010-2012

Exchange of views with the European Commission (see [meeting documents](#))



The Waste Shipment Regulation No 1013/2006 transposes the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of

Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal into EU law. Member States are obliged to submit an annual implementation report and a completed questionnaire to the Commission. Every three years the Commission has to draw up an Implementation Report based on the Member States' replies. The fourth Implementation Report covers the period 2010-2012 and includes qualitative and quantitative data on the generation of hazardous waste, waste shipments out of and into Member States, illegal shipments, inspections, enforcement measures, and reporting.

This exchange of views aims at discussing the findings of this report.

The outcome of the cumulative costs assessment in the area of chemical industry (REFIT)

Exchange of views with the European Commission

This is an exchange of views on the Cumulative Cost Assessment for the EU chemical industry, which is carried out by DG GROW in the framework of the "better regulation initiative" and as a follow-up to the Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT) Communication.

The aim of the exchange of views is to inform the Committee as regards the state of play of this Fitness check: about the results of the analysis of gathered

information as well as ways forward which the Commission considers in follow-up to this Fitness Check.

Unlike previous pilot Fitness Checks launched by the Commission that concerned policy areas, this one focuses 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 chemical sector. DG GROW conducted a study on the Cumulative Cost Assessment for the EU chemical industry in order to analyse cumulative cost effects of the most relevant EU legislation on the chemical industry.

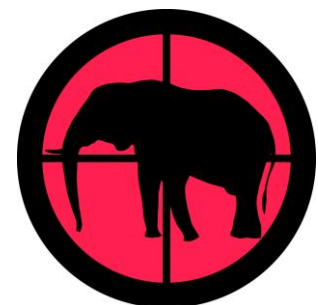
The study identified and quantified regulatory costs, both direct and indirect, which specifically affect the EU chemical industry. The analysed EU legislation includes chemical legislation, industrial emissions and process legislation, workers safety legislation, customs and trade legislation, transport legislation and consumer safety legislation.

The study was as a follow-up to the [Regulatory Fitness and Performance \(REFIT\) Communication](#), published in October 2013.

Wildlife Crime

Presentation of the Policy Department Study on Wildlife Crime (see [meeting documents](#))

A study on Wildlife Crime, commissioned by the Policy Department for the ENVI Committee, will be presented by two of the leading authors. It provides an overview of the state of the wildlife crime in Europe based on available



documents, database (EU-TWIX) and empirical research including interviews. The study identifies main routes and species linked to illegal wildlife trade, as well as enforcement deficits. Policy recommendations are also listed in view of the debate on the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking for which an INI report is being drafted.



NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications:

- [Study on 'Wildlife crime'](#)
- [Wildlife crime in Germany, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom, Spain](#)
- [Workshop Proceedings 'Data Saves Lives: The impact of the Data Protection Regulation on Personal Data Use in Cancer Research'](#)
- [Workshop Proceedings 'Organ Harvesting in China'](#)

Upcoming Publications:

- Food Contact Materials - How to Ensure Food Safety and Technological Innovation in the Future?
- Briefing on 'Key issues at Stake at the 69th Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC69)'
- In-depth analysis on 'Sustainable Forestry in Finland: ENVI delegation in May 2016'
- Study on the 'Implementation of the Ambient Air Quality Directive'

To request hard copy of publication please contact: Poldep-Economy-Science@ep.europa.eu



NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



Climate change, pollution and encroaching human development are posing an increased threat to the long-term stability and health of European forests. Forest ecosystems play a vital role for the environment and in combatting climate change. The report recommends that better sustainable management is needed to ensure this precious resource is there for future generations. [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA prepares online tools for submitting information to poison centres. This will harmonise data to be submitted to poison centres and allow a precise and rapid identification of the specific chemical formulation of a product. A precise identification is necessary to provide appropriate curative measures in case of an emergency call. [More](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



The latest news from ECDC include updates on seasonal influenza in Europe, recent haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) cases in Romania and Italy (a joint ECDC/EFSA rapid risk assessment), an outbreak of yellow fever in Angola and other threats. In November 2016 ECDC is co-organising in Stockholm the 10th European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE). [More](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



Better safety for patients through EU-funded research. The results of the Pharmacoepidemiological Research on Outcomes of Therapeutics by a European Consortium (PROTECT) project are making a difference in the assessment of benefits and risks of medicines available for patients in Europe. The goal of this project was to develop innovative methods to improve and strengthen the monitoring of the benefits and risks of medicines marketed in the European Union. PROTECT concentrated on improving early and proactive signal detection, establishing a framework for pharmacoepidemiology studies, developing methods for continuous benefit-risk monitoring of medicines and enhancing data collection directly from patients. [More](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



The current combined safe level for seven sulfites used as additives in wine and other foods is sufficiently protective for consumers. But EFSA will revisit this conclusion when data from new studies are provided to fill information gaps, reduce uncertainties and fully confirm their safety for consumers. EFSA experts also suggest that labelling should describe the actual level of sulfites in individual products to help sensitive/intolerant consumers to regulate their intake. [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. To sign up for ENVI committee press releases or for media enquiries, please write to 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 or visit the [website](#) of the ENVI Committee.

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

26 April (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. 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.