

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Brussels

Tuesday 9 November 2010, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30

The Committee meeting will be web-streamed and can be watched live on the EP web site at:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eplive/public/default_en.htm or on Europarl TV: www.europarltv.europa.eu

Past meetings can be watched or extracts downloaded via the EP Live multimedia library: http://europarl.europa.eu/eplive/archive/default_en.htm

LEGISLATIVE WORK

ENVIRONMENT

➤ **EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS**

*Co-decision, first reading, 2010/0073(COD)
Adoption of draft report*

The ENVI committee will adopt a draft report on European environmental economic accounts (Jo Leinen, S&D, Germany).

The proposal aims at establishing a common framework for the collection, compilation, transmission and evaluation of European environmental economic accounts to offer a means of monitoring the pressures exerted by the economy on the environment and of exploring how these might be abated. The environmental accounts to be compiled within the common framework shall be grouped within the following modules: air emission accounts,

environmentally related taxes by economic activities and economy-wide material flow accounts.

The rapporteur welcomes the proposal as an important first step to establish comprehensive environmental economic accounts and suggests extending the scope to other priority modules as soon as possible taking into account the work which has been carried out so far by Member States and the Commission.

*Deadline for amendments: 13 October 2010
Vote in ENVI: 9 November 2010
Vote in plenary: December 2010*

NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

HEALTH

➤ **EVALUATION OF THE MANAGEMENT OF H1N1 INFLUENZA IN 2009-2010 IN THE EU**

Consideration of draft report 2010/2153(INI)

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft report on Evaluation of the management of H1N1 influenza in 2009-2010 in the EU (Michèle Rivasi, Verts/ALE, France).

The report highlights the following elements: A lack of independent evaluation by our national and/or European health authorities; a striking contrast between the number of deaths associated with H1N1 influenza and the number of deaths associated with seasonal influenza; a large contrast in terms of cost and vaccination strategies among Member States.

There are very sizeable costs incurred in the Member States and at EU level as a result of the

The Environment Committee website:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=ENVI>

health measures undertaken. For example, those costs are put at EUR 1 300 million in Great Britain and EUR 990 million in France (as against EUR 87 million in the case of seasonal influenza). The assessment of the management of H1N1 influenza shows also that vaccination strategies differ: Some Member States opted for wholesale vaccination, others targeted vaccination, and Poland none at all. That clearly evinces suspicion as regards evaluated vaccine risks.

Deadline for amendments: 1 December 2010

Vote in ENVI: 25 January 2011

Vote in plenary: March I

OPINIONS

➤ **STRENGTHENING CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR SECURITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION – AN EU CBRN ACTION PLAN**

Adoption of draft opinion to own initiative report (2010/2114 (INI))

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft opinion to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) on Strengthening Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Security in the European Union – an EU CBRN Action Plan (Kartika Tamara Liotard, GUE/NGL, the Netherlands).

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risks present a new dimension of possible terrorist attacks, accidents, natural disasters and/or pandemics due to their transnational character and mass scale victimization. An appropriate response against such a danger does not include only ex post facto intervention programmes but starts much earlier when dealing with such materials, their proper storage, limited access, controls, etc. At the same time, an aftermath intervention demands large scale cooperation between different national authorities inside a Member State (civil protection, military, law enforcement, etc.) as well as between national authorities of different Member States and EU instances. Therefore, an all-hazard coordinated approach is needed. In this context, the ENVI opinion specifically aims to reinforce the environmental and health impacts associated with the CBRN risks.

Deadline for amendments: 11 October 2010

Vote in ENVI: 9 November 2010

Vote in plenary: December 2010

ORAL QUESTION

➤ **ORAL QUESTION ON THE RED MUD DISASTER IN HUNGARY (N° 0013/2010)**

Following the plenary statement by Commissioner Georgieva on the Hungarian sludge catastrophe, the committee will hold a question time on this topic. The Commission is invited to answer the following questions regarding the implementation of EU legislation in Hungary, the situation in other countries and the lessons learned from the disaster:

Does the Commission consider that relevant EU legislation has been breached and that there was failure by the competent authorities?

Is the Commission prepared to establish an EU task force to properly assess the disaster?

Does the Commission have an inventory of similar sites in Europe?

Will the Commission propose a legal framework for inspections of environmental legislation?

When will the Commission strengthen the directive on environmental liability so as to make financial guarantees mandatory?

Will the Commission revise the EU list of hazardous wastes to correct the listing of red mud?

OTHER BUSINESS

➤ **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH SANDRA FUENTES-BERAIN VILLENAVE (MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EU)**

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with Sandra Fuentes-Berain Villenave, Mexican Ambassador to the EU, who has been invited to inform Members of the ENVI Committee on the progress, the main obstacles and the possible outcome of the conference in Cancún, Mexico taking place from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

➤ **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THOMAS LÖNNGREN (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EMA)**

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with Thomas Lönngren, the Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency. On 31 December 2010 his second mandate as the Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency will expire. The Committee would like to learn from his experience in the last ten years and to exchange views on the main challenges for the Agency in the coming years.

➤ **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MR GEERT DANCET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ECHA**

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with Mr Geert Dancet, the Executive Director of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Mr Geert Dancet, will report on the latest achievements, output and challenges ahead taking into account the ECHA work programme for 2011:

➤ **DELEGATION TO NAGOYA FOR THE COP 10 OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (25-27 OCTOBER 2010)**

There will be a report back from the delegation trip to Nagoya, Japan, for the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (25-27 October 2010).

The delegation highly welcomed the successful outcome of COP10, notably on the three main topics (Strategic Plan, ABS Protocol and Resource Mobilisation). This positive outcome on biodiversity will be a positive message for the upcoming climate talks in Cancun.

MEPs also welcomed the fact that the EU spoke with one united voice and in favour of ambitious commitments for 2020.

The delegation highly appreciated the strong commitment of the Commission and the Belgian Presidency in keeping them well informed.

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN ENVI COMMITTEE

At its meeting of 27-28 of October 2010 the ENVI Committee adopted:

- its opinion (CALLANAN) to the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) on guaranteeing independent impact assessments;
- its recommendation for second reading (GROSSETÊTE) on Application of patients rights in cross-border health care.

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/pressroom>

Deep emission cuts give the EU a head start under the Kyoto Protocol

A new report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) shows that large drop in emissions seen in 2008 and 2009 gives EU-15 a head start to reach and even overachieve its 8 % reduction target under the Kyoto Protocol. Austria, Denmark and Italy, however, need to step up their current efforts until 2012 to ensure that their contribution to the common EU-15 target is delivered. The EEA report also shows that EU-27 is well on track towards achieving its 20 % reduction target by 2020.

http://www.eea.europa.eu/pressroom/newsreleases/deep-emission-cuts-give-the?utm_campaign=deep-emission-cuts-give-the&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

http://echa.europa.eu/news/press_en.asp

EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY (EMA)

http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/news_and_events/landing/news_and_events.jsp&murl=menus/news_and_events/news_and_events.jsp&mid=

EUROPEAN CENTRE OF DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL (ECDC)

<http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/press/news/Pages/News.aspx>

**EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY
(EFSA)**

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news.htm>

EUROPEAN FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/index_en.cfm

| Date of next meeting (Brussels): |
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| 29 November 2010, 15.00 – 18.30 |
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| 30 November 2010, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 |
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| 1 December 2010, 9.00 – 12.30 |
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