

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Brussels

Monday, 11 April 2011, 15.00-18.30

Tuesday, 12 March 2011, 09.00 – 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

HEALTH/FOOD SAFETY

➤ **FOOD INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS**

*Co-decision, second reading, 2008/0028 (COD)
Consideration of amendments*

The ENVI committee will consider amendments for inclusion in the recommendation for second reading on food information to consumers (Renate Sommer, EPP, Germany).

The free movement of safe food is an essential aspect of the internal market and contributes significantly to the health and well-being of citizens, and to their social and economic interests. This Regulation will both serve the interests of the internal market, by simplifying the law, ensuring legal certainty and reducing red tape, and benefit citizens by requiring clear, comprehensible and legible labelling of foods.

In order to achieve a high level of health protection for consumers and to guarantee their right to information, it should be ensured that consumers are appropriately informed as regards the food they consume. Purchasing decisions can be influenced by, inter alia,

health, economic, environmental, social and ethical considerations.

Following the rapporteur's 107 AMs in its draft recommendation for second reading agreement, the ENVI MEPs submitted additional 295 amendments aiming to further re-establish the EP first reading position. Moreover, some amendments adjust the legislation to the new Lisbon regulatory procedures.

Vote in ENVI: 19 April 2011

Vote in Plenary: July 2011

➤ **AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIVE 2001/18/EC AS REGARDS THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE MEMBER STATES TO RESTRICT OR PROHIBIT THE CULTIVATION OF GMOs IN THEIR TERRITORY**

*Co-decision, first reading, 2010/0208 (COD)
Adoption of draft report*

The ENVI committee will adopt a draft report on Amendment of Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory (Corinne Lepage, ALDE, France).

The aim of this legislative proposal is to amend Directive 2001/18 to introduce provisions allowing Member States to decide themselves whether or not they want to cultivate GMOs on their own territory.

In its proposal, the Commission foresees that Member States may adopt measures prohibiting the cultivation of GMOs provided that those measures are based on grounds other than those related to the assessment of the adverse effect on health and environment.

In her report, the rapporteur broadens the scope of the grounds that Member States can invoke to prohibit GMOs cultivation: She states that those grounds can be relating to environmental impacts which are complementary to the environmental impacts examined during the assessment under Directive 2001/18.

In total, 132 AM have been tabled (including the 18 AM from AGRI).

Vote in Plenary: June 2011

NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

FOOD SAFETY

➤ **TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES (TSE) AND ON RELATED FEED AND FOOD CONTROLS**

Consideration of draft report 2010/2249 (INI)

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft own initiative report on EU legislation on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) and on related feed and food controls - implementation and outlook (Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, S&D, Germany).

The Committee decided to prepare, as its implementation report for 2010, a report on the implementation of TSE legislation and on related feed and food controls. The Commission published in 2010 a number of relevant Communications in this area:

- The TSE Road Map 2: a Strategy Paper on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies for 2010-2015 (COM(2010)0384);
- Report on the overall operation of official controls in the Member States on food safety, animal health and animal welfare, and plant health (COM(2010)0441);
- Communication on the future necessity and use of mechanically separated meat in the European Union, including the information policy towards consumers (COM(2010)0704).

The draft report generally welcomes the TSE Roadmap 2 but examines in detail the issues covered in the various Communications and Reports which include: BSE monitoring and surveillance mechanisms, revision of the feed ban, the list of Specified Risk Materials (SRM), cohort culling and mechanically separated meat.

Deadline for AM: 19 April 2011, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 24 May 2011

Vote in Plenary: July 2011

OPINIONS

➤ **MANAGEMENT OF SPENT FUEL AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

Adoption of draft opinion 2010/0306(NLE)

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft opinion to ITRE on management of spent fuel and radioactive waste (Pavel Poc, S&D, Czech Republic).

The proposed Directive sets out EU legal framework for spent fuel and radioactive waste management. It revises the Euratom Directive on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. Whatever the future of nuclear power and non-power applications is, the implementation of disposal as the end point in the management of existing and future radioactive waste is needed in order to assure safety in the long term.

The rapporteur's opinion welcomes the draft proposal for a Council Directive as it will help all the Member States to take the necessary political decisions to establish and implement their national programs especially with regards to the responsible and safe management of high level radioactive waste and spent fuel. Regardless any particular policy in the Member States, radioactive waste disposal is an actual issue, existing and waiting to be solved.

Following the recent accident in Japan, 114 amendments have been tabled by MEPs trying to reinforce environmental and safety aspects of the proposed Directive. It is to note though that the proposed Directive is of technical character on the radioactive waste management and not about the future of nuclear energy itself.

Vote in ITRE: 26 May 2011

Vote in Plenary: June II, 2011

➤ **THE CAP TOWARDS 2020 - MEETING THE FOOD, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TERRITORIAL CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE**

Adoption of draft opinion 2011/2051(INI)

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft opinion to AGRI on the CAP towards 2020 - meeting

the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future (Karin Kadenbach, S&D, Austria).

The Commission communication "the CAP towards 2020 - meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future" sets out three key challenges for agriculture: to preserve Europe's capacity to deliver food security, to help farming adapt and make a positive contribution to address climate change and environmental challenges and to mitigate the territorial imbalances and improving the vitality and economic potential of rural areas. These challenges are translated into three objectives: viable food production, sustainable management of natural resources and climate action, balanced territorial development. Finally, the communication evokes three broad policy options, differentiating between little, more and great attention to environmental and climate change concerns.

The rapporteur for the ENVI opinion underlines that a post-2013 CAP must respond to the environmental challenges and asks for sufficient funding for targeted agro-environmental measures; 109 amendments have been tabled, the rapporteur for opinion has suggested 10 compromise amendments.

Vote in AGRI: 2 May 2011

Vote in Plenary: June 1 2011

➤ **UNIVERSAL SERVICE AND '112' EMERGENCY NUMBER**

Consideration of draft opinion 2010/2274(INI)

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion to the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO) on universal service and '112' emergency (José Manuel Fernandes, EPP, Portugal).

The draft opinion points out that only 26% of EU citizens can spontaneously identify 112 as the number to call for emergency services in the EU and 58% of EU citizens still disagree with the statement that people in their country are adequately informed about the existence of 112 emergency number. The rapporteur therefore calls on the Member States to promote the 112

emergency number and to share experiences and exchange best practises in order to achieve at least 80% spontaneous identification of the 112 number by EU citizens by 2020. Member States should also take measures to reduce the amount of unsuccessful emergency call attempts, shorten call set-up and response times, reduce the number of hoax/false calls, improve the provision of information as regards caller location, improve access to emergency calls for disabled persons, the elderly and vulnerable groups and to promote the efficient handling of emergency calls in foreign languages.

Deadline for AM: 18 April 2011, 12h00

Vote in ENVI: 24 May 2011

Vote in IMCO: 25 May 2011

Vote in Plenary: 23 June 2011

CORRIGENDUMS

➤ **RESTRICTION OF THE USE OF CERTAIN HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (recast version)**

Co-decision, 2008/0240 (COD)

Adoption of corrigendum (Rule 216)

The aim of the corrigendum is to align the relevant provisions (recital 24, Article 5(8) and Article 19) of the RoHS directive to the new Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 on implementing acts. The EP had adopted its first-reading position before that Regulation entered into force on 1 March 2011, but the publication of the RoHS directive was not possible by that date. It is the view of the legal and legislative quality services in both the EP and Council that an Act published after that date cannot introduce new procedures under the old comitology decision (1999/468/EC). Therefore, it is necessary to adapt the above-mentioned provisions of the RoHS directive.

➤ **FALSIFIED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS (AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIVE 2001/83/EC)**

Adoption of Corrigendum (Rule 216)

Co-decision, 2008/0261(COD)

The aim of the corrigendum and the most important correction to the text adopted by Parliament is the insertion of four sentences from Recital 11 of the political agreement that had been left out by mistake.

In addition, the corrected text ensures a more logical structure of the text as well as coherence and consistency throughout.

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH JOHN DALLI (COMMISSIONER): REGULAR ONGOING DIALOGUE**

- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH GÜNTHER OETTINGER (COMMISSIONER): REGULAR ONGOING DIALOGUE**

In the frame of the regular ongoing dialogue ("structured dialogue"), the Commissioner will visit the Committee, in particular to discuss the topics of oil spill (state of play of Commission follow-up), energy efficiency and nuclear energy.

- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH FRANCESCA BALZANI (GENERAL RAPPOREUR FOR THE 2012 BUDGET): MANDATE FOR THE TRILOGUE ON THE 2012 DRAFT BUDGET.**

In line with the General Rapporteur's strategy, no traditional guidelines/priorities resolution will be adopted in Plenary before the presentation of the draft budget by the Commission (20 April). This is intended to be replaced by a closer and more informal dialogue between Ms Balzani and specialised committees.

Resolution on the Mandate for the Trilogue on the 2012 Draft Budget: the Commission will adopt its 2012 Draft Budget on 20 April. The draft report will be presented in the BUDG Committee on 5 May (deadline for amendments in BUDG on 24 May).

Due to the tight time table and in order to table amendments in a structured manner Coordinators agreed to table amendments, directly to BUDG Committee.

With regards to Pilot Projects and Preparatory actions, the General Rapporteur intends to

follow the same calendar as last year, which proved its usefulness for an early identification of PP-PAs in view of a preliminary analysis by the Commission. In this perspective, an indicative list of possible PP-PAs should be transmitted to the General Rapporteur by Committees by the 3 June 2011.

The deadline for indicative proposals in ENVI has been therefore fixed on the 25th of May, the deadline for Final Budgetary Amendments (including Final amendment of PP-PAs) on the 15th of July. With respect to the ENVI budget opinion and the Budgetary Amendments it is agreed on a timetable which foresees an exchange of views on the draft report on 13/14 July, deadline for amendments on 15 July. The vote on amendments will take place on the 8th September ENVI Meeting.

- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES ON IMPLEMENTING ACT ON FEED AND FOOD FROM JAPAN FOLLOWING THE FUKUSHIMA ACCIDENT**

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with Commission representatives on "Implementing Regulation (EU) No 297/2011 imposing special conditions governing the import of feed and food originating in or consigned from Japan following the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power station".

PRESENTATIONS

by the European Commission on

- **THE THEMATIC STRATEGY ON THE PREVENTION AND RECYCLING OF WASTE**

On 19 January 2011, the Commission published a Report on the Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste (COM (2011)0013). The Report examines progress in achieving the objectives of the Strategy which was adopted in 2005 and foreseen under the 6th Environmental Action Programme. It will feed into the evaluation of the 6th EAP.

The Report looks at progress in implementing the seven key actions of the Strategy: implementation and enforcement of existing EU waste legislation, simplification and modernisation, introducing life cycle thinking in waste policy, waste prevention, improving the

knowledge base and development of recycling standards and further elaboration of the EU's recycling policy. It also examines the more specific long-term objectives of the Strategy, in relation to the waste hierarchy and specific pieces of waste legislation.

The Committee decided to invite the Commission to present the findings of the report and its link to the wider review of the 6th EAP.

➤ **EXEMPTION FROM THE BAN ON CADMIUM GRANTED FOR PORTABLE BATTERIES AND ACCUMULATORS INTENDED FOR USE IN CORDLESS POWER TOOLS**

The Batteries Directive (Directive 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators) contains a general prohibition on the placing on the market of batteries and accumulators containing mercury and cadmium. Article 4(3)(c) of the Directive contains an exemption to this general prohibition for cadmium in portable batteries and accumulators intended for use in cordless power tools. Article 4(4) of the Directive requires the Commission to review this prohibition and report to Parliament and the Council if appropriate with relevant proposals with a view to a prohibition. In accordance with Article 4(2), the Commission, on 2 December 2010, therefore published a Report on the exemption from the ban on cadmium granted for portable batteries and accumulators intended for use in cordless power tools (COM (2010) 698).

The Commission refers to a number of studies undertaken in accordance with their impact assessment guidelines, to assist in the preparation of the report. The Commission also carried out a stakeholder consultation. The Commission concludes that based on the information gathered from these sources, whilst withdrawal of the exemption could possibly yield substantial environmental and health benefits, the position is not certain and it is not currently demonstrated that the benefits of doing so would outweigh the disadvantages.

The Commission states that it intends to commission a comparative life-cycle assessment of the battery types available for cordless power tools. This would include a peer review, as required by scientific quality standards. Depending on the results of this assessment, the

Commission will then consider whether to propose an amendment to the Batteries Directive to withdraw the existing exemption.

The Commission will explain to the Committee in more detail its interim conclusions contained in the Report.

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN ENVI COMMITTEE

At its meeting of 16-17th March 2011 the ENVI Committee adopted:

- report (TATARELLA) on the amendment of Directive 2005/25/EC as regards the provisions for tractors placed on the market under the flexibility scheme;
- report (PIETKÄINEN) on the amendment of Directive 97/68/EC as regards the provisions for engines placed on the market under the flexibility scheme;
- report (ARSENIS) on the Commission Green Paper on forest protection and information in the EU;
- report (ARSENIS) on an agreement on the protection and sustainable development of the Prespa Park area (Kriton Arsenis, S&D, Greece);
- an opinion (LEPAGE) to the Committee on Transport and Tourism on a programme to support the further development of an integrated maritime policy;
- an opinion (FERREIRA) to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy on "Innovation Union: Transforming Europe for a post-crisis world";
- opinions (HAUG) on the 2009 discharge for the following:
 - EU general budget, Section III - Commission
 - European Medicines Agency
 - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
 - European Food Safety Authority
 - European Chemicals Agency
 - European Environment Agency
- Oral Question for plenary (Rule 115) without debate on Implementation of the

Fuel Quality Directive, including an EU default value for tar sands and oil shale.

[studies?&utm_campaign=newsletter.2011-04-01.6701428504&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions](http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/knowledge-base-for-forward-looking?&utm_campaign=newsletter.2011-04-01.6701428504&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

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

Knowledge base for Forward-Looking Information and Services (FLIS):

Policymakers need knowledge about possible future developments to inform their decision-making. The knowledge base for Forward-Looking Information and Services (FLIS) aim to support such long-term planning. FLIS currently has six components, including scenarios and forward-looking indicators. In the future, additional components may be added, for example horizon scanning and early warning signalling.

The brochure describes the six components of FLIS and lists some of the information generated so far and the report "Catalogue of scenario studies" contributes to the knowledge base.

http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/knowledge-base-for-forward-looking?&utm_campaign=newsletter.2011-04-01.6701428504&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/catalogue-of-scenario->

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>

influenza link:

http://ecdc.europa.eu/EN/HEALTHTOPICS/SEASONAL_INFLUENZA/EPIDEMIOLOGICAL_DATA/Pages/Weekly_Influenza_Surveillance_Overview.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):
18 April 2011 15.00-18.30 and
19 April 2011 09.00 – 12.30 and 15.00-19.30