

# ENVI-News

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

## Meeting in Brussels

Monday, 18 April 2011, 15.00-18.30

Tuesday, 19 April 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](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eplive/public/default_en.htm) or on EuroParl TV: [www.europarltv.europa.eu](http://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](http://europarl.europa.eu/eplive/archive/default_en.htm)

## **LEGISLATIVE WORK**

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### ➤ **PHOSPHATES AND OTHER PHOSPHOROUS COMPOUNDS IN HOUSEHOLD LAUNDRY DETERGENTS**

*Co-decision, first reading, 2010/0298(COD)  
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI committee will consider a draft report on phosphates and other phosphorous compounds in household laundry detergents (Bill Newton Dunn, ALDE, UK).

The aim of this legislative proposal is to amend Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 to introduce limitations on the use of phosphates and other phosphorus compounds in laundry detergents as of 2013.

In his report, the Rapporteur broadens the scope and extends this limitation to automatic dishwasher detergents, as of 2015. He also proposes some amendments to the existing regulation in order to take into account the new rules for implementing and delegated acts.

*Deadline for AM: 11 May 2011*

*The Environment Committee website:*

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

*Vote in ENVI: 15 June 2011  
Vote in Plenary: September 2011*

## **FOOD SAFETY**

### ➤ **FOOD INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS**

*Co-decision, second reading, 2008/0028 (COD)  
Adoption of draft recommendation for second reading*

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

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 amendments in her draft recommendation for second reading agreement, ENVI members submitted an additional 295 amendments aiming to further re-establish the EP position to the Council common position. Moreover, some amendments adjust the legislation to the new Lisbon regulatory procedures.

*Vote in Plenary: July 2011*

### ➤ **AMENDMENT OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2001/112/EC RELATING TO FRUIT JUICES AND CERTAIN SIMILAR PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

*Co-decision, first reading, 2010/0254(COD)  
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI committee will consider a draft report on an amendment of Council Directive 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human

consumption (Andres Perello Rodriguez, S&D, Spain).

The aim of this legislative proposal is to amend Council Directive 2001/112/EC by incorporating more of the provisions of the Codex Alimentarius standard. ENVI's draft report suggests that the rules arising from the adaptation of the directive to the Codex should be equally applicable to all products marketed within the EU, regardless of whether they are produced in the EU or imported. In order to clarify the distinction between fruit juice and nectar, the rapporteur considers that the term 'no added sugar' should continue to be allowed for category 1 fruit juices. Moreover, the Commission and the Member States shall carry out information campaigns to inform consumers of the different categories of juices and similar products.

Concerning the issue of flavour reconstitution, the rapporteur supports the Commission's proposal that it should remain optional, with the provision that the reconstituted flavour should in all cases come from the 'same species of fruit' rather than the 'same fruit'. The draft report also allows the addition of mandarin juice to orange juice as it intensifies the colour and flavour of the product. The rapporteur suggests limiting the Commission's powers to adopt delegated acts from 'an indeterminate period of time' to five years with the possibility of proceeding to a tacit renewal.

*Deadline for AM:* 20 April 2011, 18h00

*Vote in ENVI:* 24 May 2011

*Vote in Plenary:* July 2011

## **NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK**

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### ➤ **TOWARDS A STRONGER EUROPEAN DISASTER RESPONSE: THE ROLE OF CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

*Consideration of draft report 2011/2023 (INI)*

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft own initiative report on the European disaster response capacity (Elisabetta Gardini, PPE, Italy).

In its communication "Towards a stronger European disaster response: the role of civil

protection and humanitarian assistance", the Commission proposes to improve and reinforce the European disaster response capacity by proposing a two-fold approach: to set up a European Emergency Response Capacity based on Members States' assets and expertise and to establish a European Emergency Response Centre (merging the current crisis rooms for humanitarian aid (ECHO) and civil protection (MIC)) as a new platform for collecting real-time information on disasters, monitor hazards, alert member states, and coordinate the EU's disaster response actions.

The rapporteur welcomes the creation of a genuine 24/7 Emergency Response Centre as a simplification of the current Civil Protection Mechanism considered as too bureaucratic. She asks the Commission to come up as soon as possible with a proposal on an EU Civil Protection Force based on the Emergency Response Centre. She furthermore stresses the need for better coordination among all actors to avoid overlapping and duplication of efforts both on the political and on the operational side.

*Deadline for AM:* 11 May 2011, 12.00

*Vote in ENVI:* 13 July 2011

*Vote in Plenary:* September II, 2011

#### ➤ **BEYOND GDP - MEASURING PROGRESS IN A CHANGING WORLD**

*Adoption of draft report 2010/2088(INI) (2nd version\*)*

The ENVI Committee will vote on a draft own initiative report entitled "Beyond GDP - measuring progress in a changing world (Anna Rosbach, ECR, Denmark)

The Commission Communication on "Beyond GDP" aims at improving the current situation regarding indicators for policy debates, decisions and evaluations which are mainly based on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It proposes a number of measures, such as complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators, near real-time information for decision-making, more accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, developing a European Sustainable Development Scoreboard, extending national accounts to environmental and social issues.

In principle, the rapporteur supports the overall objective of the Commission approach although the proposed measures are found to be partially

vague or unclear. The rapporteur suggests developing a clear and comprehensible set of indicators that are consistent, relevant and measurable in order to contribute to improved policy analysis and debate.

*Vote in plenary:* June 2011

## **OPINIONS**

### ➤ **AMENDMENT OF REGULATION (EC) No 1406/2002 ESTABLISHING A EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY**

*Co-decision, first reading, 2010/0303 (COD)  
Adoption of draft opinion*

The ENVI Committee will vote on a draft opinion to TRAN on an amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002 establishing a European Maritime Safety Agency (Bart Staes, Verts/ALE, Belgium).

The Commission proposal includes amendments to the objectives, tasks, inspection functions and administrative arrangements governing the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), established under Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002. The draft ENVI opinion focuses on strengthening the existing functions of EMSA so as to further environmental protection objectives and accident response capacity in EU waters.

The Rapporteur for the opinion proposes that the EMSA's expertise be used to assist and support the Commission and Member States in relation to the prevention of pollution from offshore oil and gas installations and in the development of requirements and guidance on the licensing of oil and gas exploration and production. The Rapporteur also proposes that the Regulation be amended to provide for an enhanced role for systems such as CleanSeaNet and the electronic detection system, used by EMSA in its existing work, to extend EMSA's inspection functions, and to examine its potential to carry out an independent audit role in relation to licensing and financial liability matters.

The amendments concern the scope of offshore oil and gas installations, protection of the marine environment, cross-border and third country cooperation and environmental impact assessments.

*Vote in ENVI: 19 April 2011  
Vote in TRAN: September 2011*

### ➤ **ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES FOR 2020 AND BEYOND**

*Consideration of draft opinion 2011/2034(INI)*

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion to ITRE on energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond (Rovana Plumb (S&D, Romania).

This ENVI opinion follows the Commission's Communication on the energy infrastructure map needed to meet the EU's 2020 energy objectives. EU energy and environment/climate policy goals are said not to be achievable without a major shift in the way European infrastructure is developed. Developing the EU's energy infrastructure would not only enable the EU to deliver a properly functioning internal energy market, it would also enhance security of supply, enable the integration of renewable energy sources, increase energy efficiency and enable consumers to benefit from new technologies and intelligent energy use.

The ENVI opinion puts particular emphasis on the adoption of the highest possible safety and environmental standards for all energy infrastructures and the modernisation and interconnection of the national energy grids to permit the integration of the generated renewable energy.

*Deadline for AM: 2 May 2011, 12.00  
Vote in ENVI: 24 May 2011  
Vote in ITRE: 26 May, 2011  
Vote in Plenary: July 2011*

### ➤ **MOBILITY AND INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THE EUROPEAN DISABILITY STRATEGY 2010-2020.**

*Consideration of draft opinion 2010/2272(INI)*

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion to EMPL on the mobility and inclusion of people with disabilities and the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 (Oreste Rossi, EFD, Italy).

The overall aim of this strategy is to empower people with disabilities so that they can enjoy

their full rights and benefit fully from participating in society and in the European economy, notably through the Single market. It calls for consistency in order to achieve this and to ensure an effective implementation of the UN Convention across the EU. The strategy identifies actions at EU level to supplement national ones and it determines the mechanisms needed to implement the UN Convention at EU level, including inside the EU institutions. It also identifies the support needed for funding, research, awareness-raising, statistics and data collection.

The strategy focuses on eliminating barriers. The Commission has identified eight main areas for action: Accessibility, Participation, Equality, Employment, Education and training, Social protection, Health, and External Action. The Rapporteur in his opinion focuses in particular on health and accessibility aspects.

*Deadline for AM: 3 May 2011, 12h00*

*Vote in ENVI: 25 May 2011*

*Vote in EMPL: 16 June 2011*

## **EXCHANGES OF VIEWS**

### ➤ **DIABETES DRUG "MEDIATOR"**

On 19th April in the morning, the ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with representatives from the Commission, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the French IGAS ("Inspection Générale des Affaires Sociales") on the diabetes drug "Mediator".

### ➤ **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

On 19th April afternoon, the ENVI Committee will hold an interparliamentary meeting with members of National Parliaments on climate change. The event will focus on the implementation of the climate and energy package and on what should be EU's priorities in the international climate negotiations.

## **RECENTLY ADOPTED IN ENVI COMMITTEE**

At its meeting of 11-12th April 2011 the ENVI Committee adopted:

- a report (LEPAGE) on an 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;
- an opinion (KADENBACH) to AGRI on the CAP towards 2020 - meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future;
- an opinion (POC) to ITRE on management of spent fuel and radioactive waste;
- a corrigendum (Rule 216) on falsified medicinal products (amendment of Directive 2001/83/EC);
- a corrigendum (Rule 216) on restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (recast version);

## **NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES**

**EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)**

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

**EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)**

[http://echa.europa.eu/news/press\\_en.asp](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=](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](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/index_en.cfm)

<b><u>Date of next meeting (Brussels):</u></b>
--

<b>23-25 May 2011</b>
-----------------------