

# ENVI-News

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

## Meeting in Brussels:

**Monday 30 November 2009, 15.00 – 18.30**

**Tuesday 1 December 2009, 09.00 – 12.30**

**and 15.00 – 18.30**

**Wednesday 2 December 2009, 09.00 – 12.30**



**ENVI COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

## LEGISLATIVE WORK

### **ENVIRONMENT**

- **ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE COASTS AND WATERS OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC AGAINST POLLUTION**

*Consultation*

*Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI committee will consider the draft report on the 'Additional protocol to the cooperation agreement for the protection of the coasts and waters of the North-East Atlantic against pollution' (Anna Rosbach, EFD, DK). The Lisbon Agreement on the mutual assistance and cooperation between Member States in the case of marine pollution was

signed on 17 October 1990 by Portugal, Spain, France, Morocco and the European Community. However, Morocco and Spain never ratified it because of a territorial dispute over the southern borders in Western Sahara. As a consequence, the Agreement never entered into force. This dispute has been settled recently in an Additional Protocol which has been signed by all the Contracting Parties but should now also be ratified. In this text the Commission proposes to ratify the Additional Protocol and invites the European Community and the Member States to deposit simultaneously their instruments of ratification.

*Deadline for amendments: 9 December 2009*

*Vote in committee: 25-27 January 2010*

*Vote in Plenary: April 2010*

- **RESTRICTION OF THE USE OF CERTAIN HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (RECAST VERSION)**

*Co-decision - first reading*

*Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI committee will consider the draft report on the 'Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment' (Jill EVANS (Greens/EFA, UK)). The Commission proposal is a recast of the RoHS Directive, for which the ultimate aim is the elimination of certain hazardous substances from electrical and electronic equipment; where this is temporarily not possible, exemptions are granted. The proposal does not ban new substances. The main modifications in the Commission proposal are:

*The Environment Committee website:*

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/envi/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/envi/default_en.htm)

- two new annexes describing the Directive scope;
- maximum concentration values for the banned substances are set and permission to use non-compliant spare parts is extended;
- a mechanism for introducing new substance bans in line with the REACH methodology is inserted;
- a 4-year maximum validity period for the exemptions is set.

The key issues in the draft report are:

- the phasing out of brominated and chlorinated flame retardants as well as PVC and its hazardous additives;
- the open scope;
- the differentiation between RoHS and REACH;
- modifications of the criteria for exemptions;
- criteria for deciding on the duration of an exemption/grace periods;
- co-decision for future restrictions instead of comitology

*Deadline for amendments: 14 January 2010*

*Consideration of amendments: 15 - 17 March 2010*

*Vote in committee: 6 - 7 April 2010*

*Adoption in Plenary: May II 2010*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **➤ ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE NON-COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT OF PET ANIMALS**

*Co-decision - first reading*

*Adoption of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will adopt the draft report on 'Animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals' (Bairbre de Brún, GUE/NGL, UK). As far as rabies is concerned, Sweden, Ireland, Malta and The UK are temporarily entitled to impose more stringent criteria than the other EU Member States for pets entering into their territory. As far as tapeworm echinococcus and ticks are concerned the above mentioned Member States and Finland are allowed to make the entry into their

territory temporarily subject to additional requirements.

These current transitional arrangements run until June 2010 and are now proposed to be extended for the last time until December 2011.

Three additional amendments have been tabled. If adopted, they would go against the extension of the transitional period proposed by the Commission.

*Vote in Plenary: February 2010*

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

*Exchange of views without a document*

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views on 'Falsified medicinal products'. There is an increase in the EU of medicinal products which are falsified in relation to their identity, history or source. These falsified medicinal products pose a major threat to European patients and European industry. The existing provisions of Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use are in some respects insufficient to address this problem. The Commission therefore proposes a number of amendments to the Directive, including certain obligations for other players than wholesale distributors; a legal basis for the Commission to render obligatory specific safety-features; a prohibition in principle of manipulating safety features on the packaging by actors situated "in-between" the original manufacturer and the last actor in the distribution chain or end user; obligatory audits of supplying wholesale distributors of medicinal products; strengthened requirements for imports from third countries and finally strengthened rules for inspection.

*Consideration of draft report: 25 January 2010*

*Deadline for amendments: 9 February 2010*

*Vote in committee: 6 April 2010*

*Adoption in Plenary: May II 2010*

## **FOOD SAFETY**

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

*Co-decision - first reading  
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI committee will consider the draft report on 'Food information to consumers' (Renate Sommer, PPE, DE). The COM proposal for the reformulation of EU's provisions on food labelling is intended to meet the requirements of better law-making by combining and replacing seven directives and a regulation. In addition, it is designed to reduce red tape, offer stakeholders in the food chain a greater degree of legal certainty, improve the competitiveness of the European Food industry, guarantee food safety, ensure that consumers are provided with comprehensive information about foods and promote healthy eating as part of the EU's strategy against obesity. The proposal contains the following key proposals: Mandatory particulars, indication and presentation of nutritional values as well as possibilities to adopt or maintain national labelling rules.

The rapporteur proposes a comprehensive revision of the approach proposed by the Commission.

*Deadline tabling amendment: 9 December 2009  
Consideration of amendments: 25-27 January 2010  
Vote in ENVI: 15-17 March 2010  
Vote in Plenary: May 2010*

## **OPINIONS**

### **➤ INVESTMENT PROJECTS INTO ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

*Consultation  
Adoption of draft opinion*

The ENVI committee will adopt the draft opinion on 'Investment projects into energy infrastructure within the European Community' (Mario Pirillo, S&D, IT). The

proposal is to revise the current system of notification on energy investment projects: it aims at gathering adequate information on planned investments and major decommissioning projects in order to enable the Commission to monitor the situation of the infrastructure and to forecast potential problems. Even though the proposal is of a rather administrative nature, it gives a signal about the expected nature and qualities of future investments. Therefore the rapporteur for opinion would like to put further emphasis on the environmental impact of the projects in order to provide guarantees and further incentives for building and decommissioning energy infrastructure in a sustainable way, and with due respect to the environment.

*Vote in ENVI: 1 December 2009  
Vote in the lead committee (ITRE): 27 January 2010  
Vote in Plenary: February-II 2010*

### **➤ SECURITY OF GAS SUPPLY**

*Co-decision - first reading  
Consideration of draft opinion*

The ENVI committee will consider the draft opinion on 'Security of gas supply' (Bogusław Sonik, EPP, PL). The Russian-Ukrainian gas crises in January 2009, where 30% of Europe's import was cut off for two weeks, made it clear that under the present circumstances of increasing import dependence and growing supply and transit risk, the current Directive on the security of gas supply is no longer sufficient. The current proposal aims at increasing the security of gas supply by creating incentives for investment into the necessary interconnections.

*Deadline tabling amendment: 9 December 2009  
Vote in ENVI: 25-27 January 2010  
Vote in the lead committee (ITRE): 22 February 2010  
Vote in Plenary: March-II 2010*

➤ **EUROPEAN EARTH OBSERVATION PROGRAMME (GLOBAL MONITORING FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY) (2011–2013)**

*Co-decision - first reading  
Consideration of draft opinion*

The ENVI committee will consider the draft opinion on the 'European Earth Observation Programme (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) (2011–2013)' (Vittorio Prodi, S&D, IT). GMES was conceived to ensure operational Earth observation in environmental and security domains beyond operational meteorology. The general objectives of GMES are to:

- enable sustainable Earth observation services tailored to the needs of users, including public policy-makers and private citizens;
- ensure the sustainability of the observation infrastructure necessary to provide the GMES services;
- create opportunities for greater private-sector use of information sources, thereby facilitating market take-up by value-adding service providers.

The objective of this proposal is to establish a legal basis for the GMES programme and EC funding of GMES initial operations (2011–2013).

The rapporteur for the opinion is of the view that GMES is an important tool for Europe in order to cover increasing environmental and related societal/political needs.

*Deadline tabling amendment: 17 December 2009  
Vote in ENVI: 26 January 2010  
Vote in the lead committee (ITRE): 04 February 2010  
Vote in Plenary: April 2010*

➤ **A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR TRANSPORT**

*Consideration of draft opinion*

The ENVI committee will consider the draft opinion on 'A sustainable future for transport' (Jo Leinen, S&D, DE). In this communication the Commission looks beyond 2010 which is the time limit for the last Transport White

Book published in 2001. The next White Book will have to look at transport in a new context taking into account the influence and the role of transport in the climate change debate, favouring the inclusion of maritime transport into the ETS, focus on research and development in order to come to a lower carbon footprint of transport. Not only carbon emissions should be tackled but also emissions which are even more directly threatening for our health, like SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM, ozone precursors, etc. In many cases the increase in demand has offset the technological improvements but further progress must be promoted by R&D and policy measures in order to comply with f.ex. air quality norms.

*Deadline tabling amendment: 9 December 2009  
Vote in ENVI: 25 -27 January  
Vote in the lead committee (TRAN): February /March 2010*

➤ **AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT QUALITY POLICY: WHAT STRATEGY TO FOLLOW?**

*Consideration of draft opinion*

The ENVI committee will consider the draft opinion on 'Agricultural product quality policy: what strategy to follow?' (Pilar Ayuso, PPE, ES). The Communication sets out strategic orientations for a framework to simplify future policy on agricultural product policy since the present policy has been developed on "piecemeal" basis. It is, therefore, suggested to develop horizontal guidelines for agricultural product quality certification schemes and to prepare legislative initiatives on geographical indications, traditional specialities guaranteed and marketing standards, including optional reserved terms.

The draftswoman, MEP Ayuso, takes a critical stand on the proposals regarding geographical indications and obligatory marketing rules.

*Deadline tabling amendment: 8 December 2009  
Vote in ENVI: 25-27 January 2010  
Vote in the lead committee (AGRI): February 2010  
Vote in Plenary: Probably March 2010*

## **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**

### **ORAL QUESTIONS / RESOLUTIONS**

- **CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES) - COP15**

*Exchange of views on the basis of a draft resolution and adoption of questions for oral answer*

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views on the 'Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) - COP15 on the basis of a motion for a resolution. In view of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the (CITES) in Doha, Qatar, 13 - 25 March 2010, it was decided to adopt oral questions accompanied by resolution.

Species under CITES are listed in Appendices based on their conservation status and levels of international trade:

- Appendix I: species threatened with extinction for which international trade is prohibited;
- Appendix II: species in relation to which trade must be controlled to avoid utilisation incompatible with their survival.

The draft resolution focuses on the following species: Bluefin Tuna, Shark, Polar Bear, African elephant, Asian Big Cat. The Oral Questions addressed to the Council and Commission concern the key strategic objectives for the European Union at the forthcoming COP15 in Doha.

*Deadline for tabling amendments: 8 December 2009*

*Vote in ENVI: end of January*

*Vote in Plenary: February*

- **ANTITRUST BEHAVIOUR IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR**

*Exchange of views with Philip Lowe (Director General of DG Competition)*

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with **Philip Lowe, Director General of DG Competition** on the recent communication on the antitrust behaviour in the pharmaceutical sector.

## **EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

- **EEA REPORT ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TRENDS**

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has published on 12 November the report "Greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe 2009". The publication assesses current and projected progress of EU Member States, EU candidate countries and other EEA member countries towards their respective targets under the Kyoto Protocol. It also projects progress towards the EU target for 2020. The Kyoto Protocol requires the EU-15 to reduce average emissions during 2008–2012 by 8 % below 1990 levels. The latest projections indicate that the EU-15 will go further, by using the EU ETS and instruments available under the Kyoto Protocol. A total reduction of more than 13 % below the base year is projected.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/pressroom/newsreleases/non-industrial-emissions-key-for-meeting-kyoto-targets>:

- **POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTER**

The European Commission and the European Environment Agency have launched a comprehensive new European pollutant release and transfer register – E-PRTR. The register contains information about the quantity and location of pollutants released to air, water and

land by industrial facilities throughout Europe.  
<http://prtr.ec.europa.eu/>

➤ **NOISE EXPOSURE**

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has launched the most comprehensive map of noise exposure to date, revealing the extent to which European citizens are exposed to excessive acoustic pollution. The NOISE (Noise Observation and Information Service for Europe) database provides, at the click of a mouse, a picture of the numbers of people exposed to noise generated by air, rail and road traffic across Europe and in 102 large urban agglomerations. <http://noise.eionet.europa.eu>

**Date of next meeting:**

**Monday 25 January 2010, 15.00-18.30**  
**Tuesday 26 January 2010, 9.00-12.30 and**  
**15.00-18.30**  
**Wednesday 27 January 2010, 9.00-12.30**