

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Strasbourg

Thursday 17 February 2011 10.00 – 12.00

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

- **AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIVE 97/68/EC AS REGARDS THE PROVISIONS FOR ENGINES PLACED ON THE MARKET UNDER THE FLEXIBILITY SCHEME**

*Co-decision, first reading, 2010/0195(COD)
Continued consideration of draft report (from the meeting on 24 - 26 January)*

The ENVI committee will continue to consider the draft report on the amendment of Directive 97/68/EC as regards the provisions for engines placed on the market under the flexibility scheme (Sirpa Pietikäinen, PPE, Finland).

The Commission proposes to increase the percentage of the number of engines used for application in land based machines placed on the market under the current flexibility scheme in each engine category from 20 % to 50% of the Original Equipment Maker's annual sales of equipment and an adaptation of the maximum number of engines that may be placed on the market under the flexibility scheme as an optional alternative in the period between emission State IIIA to emission Stage III B. The Commission proposes also to include engines used for the propulsion of railcars and

locomotives in the flexibility scheme providing the possibility for the OEM to place on the market a limited number of engines under the flexibility scheme. It is proposed to let the measure expire on 31 December 2013.

The rapporteur first fundamentally disagreed with the proposal and had proposed many exceptions (e.g. to the construction sector which is the main element of the proposal) but is likely to take a more moderate stance after a second consideration. She however agrees with the proposed flexibility for the railway sector and furthermore proposes the same period of flexibility for the different categories of engines.

Deadline for amendments: 18 February 2011

Vote in ENVI: 16-17 March 2011

Vote in plenary: May 2011

- **AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIVE 2005/25/EC AS REGARDS THE PROVISIONS FOR TRACTORS PLACED ON THE MARKET UNDER THE FLEXIBILITY SCHEME**

Co-decision, first reading, 2010/0301(COD)

Consideration of draft report

(This report was already on the agenda of the January meeting, but could not be discussed due to the lack of time)

The ENVI committee will consider a draft report on the amendment of Directive 2005/25/EC as regards the provisions for tractors placed on the market under the flexibility scheme (Salvatore Tatarella, PPE, Italy).

In this document the Commission proposes to increase the percentage of the number of engines authorised to be placed on the market from 20% to 50% of the tractor manufacturer's annual sales of equipment and an adaptation of the maximum number of engines that may be placed on the market under the flexibility scheme as an optional alternative, in the period between Stage III A to emission Stage III B.

The Environment Committee website:

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

The measure will expire on 31 December 2013.

The rapporteur basically agrees with the proposed measures and even wants an equally long period of increased flexibility for the different categories of engines, which is not the case now.

Deadline for amendments: 18 February 2011

Vote in ENVI: 17 March 2011

Vote in plenary: May 2011

NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

ENVIRONMENT

- **OBJECTION PURSUANT TO RULE 88(2):**
"DETERMINATION OF TRANSITIONAL UNION-WIDE RULES FOR THE HARMONISED FREE ALLOCATION OF EMISSION ALLOWANCES (BENCHMARKING)"

Consideration of motions for a resolution (objections)

A number of Members objected, pursuant to Rule 88 of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure, to the draft Commission decision determining transitional Union-wide rules for the harmonised free allocation of emission allowances pursuant to Article 10a of Directive 2003/87/EC (known as the Benchmarking Decision).

The draft Decision has been made under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny (Comitology) under which Parliament has a right of veto. In this case, Parliament has a three-month period in which to oppose the draft measure, which runs from 7 January to 7 April 2011.

The draft Decision sets benchmarks in relation to the products specified in the Annexes to the Decision to be met for the free allocation of emissions in the second phase of the ETS from 2013 onwards.

Two draft motions for resolutions opposing the draft measure have been tabled by the following Members: Philippe Juvin; Pilar Ayuso; Jolanta Hibner; Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė; Theodoros Skylakakis and Bogusław Sonik, and Konrad Szymański.

The draft motions for resolution will be debated at the Committee meeting and concern inter alia the non-progressive application of the benchmarks applicable to the refining, petrochemical and fertiliser sectors, the benchmarks applicable to lime and dolime, waste gases, and the absence of a fuel correction factor in the setting of the benchmarks.

Vote in ENVI: 16 March 2011

Possible vote in Plenary: 4-7 April

ORAL QUESTION

- **ORAL QUESTION ON THE PREVENTION OF NATURAL AND MAN MADE DISASTERS**

Adoption of question for oral answer without debate

The Oral Question inquires about the results of the works the Commission, in its Communication COM(2009)0082 on 'A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man made disasters, had promised to undertake, such as

- an inventory of existing Community instruments for supporting disaster preventions,
- an inventory of existing resources of information related to disasters,
- a catalogue of prevention measures qualifying for EU funding,
- a study and then Community guidelines on current practices of hazard and risk mapping in the Member States.

It furthermore inquires in what respect the Commission plans to follow the recommendations given by Parliament in its resolution of September 2010 on that subject.

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN ENVI COMMITTEE

At its meeting of 24-26 January 2011 the ENVI Committee adopted:

- its recommendation (ESTRELA) on reducing health inequalities in the EU;
- its recommendation (RIVASI) on evaluation of the management of H1N1 influenza in 2009-2010 in the EU;

- its opinion (RIVELLINI) to the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) on aviation security with a special focus on security scanners;
- its opinion (TABAJDI) to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) on the "EU protein deficit: what solution for a longstanding problem?";
- its opinion (FERNANDES) to the Committee on Regional Development (REGI) on report 2010 on the implementation of the cohesion policy programmes for 2007-2013;
- its opinion (GERBRANDY) to the special Committee on Policy Challenges (SURE) on policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013.

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

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):
28 February 2011, 15.00 – 18.30