

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Brussels

Monday 24 January 2011, 15.00 – 18.30

**Tuesday 25 January 2011 9.00 – 12.30 and
15.00 – 18.30**

Wednesday 26 January 2011, 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

- **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)
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI committee will consider a draft report on 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 certain types of engines placed on the market under the flexibility scheme, and to include in the flexibility scheme additional types of engines used in the railway sector. The measure will expire on 31 December 2013.

The rapporteur fundamentally disagrees with the proposal and has proposed many exceptions

The Environment Committee website:

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

(e.g. the construction sector which is the main element of the proposal).

Deadline for AM's: 9 February 2011, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 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*

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

The Commission proposes to increase percentage of certain types of engines used in tractors placed on the market under the flexibility scheme.

The measure will expire on 31 December 2013.

The rapporteur basically agreed 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 since for certain categories the proposed time for increased flexibility has already started to run.

Deadline for AM's: 9 February 2011, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 17 March 2011

Vote in plenary: May 2011

NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

ENVIRONMENT

- **COMMISSION GREEN PAPER ON FOREST PROTECTION AND INFORMATION IN THE EU:**

PREPARING FORESTS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Consideration of draft own-initiative report 2010/2106(INI)

The ENVI committee will consider a draft report on the Green Paper on forest protection and information in the EU: preparing forests for climate change (Kriton Arsenis, S&D, Greece).

This own initiative report follows on from the Commission Green Paper on Forest Protection in the EU: preparing forests for climate change. The Rapporteur generally welcomes the Green Paper but believes that a strengthened EU role in forests management needs to have regard to the subsidiarity principle.

The rapporteur analyses the success of the Forest Action Plan and also examines Sustainable Forest Management and forest information as other main issues covered in the Commission Green Paper. The rapporteur also makes some general recommendations calling for legislative proposals on climate adaptation of EU forests, forest fire prevention and forest information, for the introduction of payments for ecosystem services and for funding for the European Forest Fires Information System.

The rapporteur also examines specific climate change aspects of forest protection including the ETS and LULUCF (land-use, land-use change and forestry), and calls on the Commission to develop legally binding sustainability criteria for woody biomass. Finally the Report also looks at the forest protection aspects of the CAP.

Deadline for AMs: 9 February 2011, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 16-17 March 2011

Vote in Plenary: May 2011

➤ BEYOND GDP - MEASURING PROGRESS IN A CHANGING WORLD

Adoption of draft own-initiative report 2010/2088(INI)

The ENVI committee will adopt a draft report "Beyond GDP - measuring progress in a changing world" (Anna Rosbach, EFD, Denmark).

The Commission Communication on "Beyond

GDP" takes a closer look at available indicators for policy debates, decisions and evaluations which are mainly based on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GDP does not measure environmental sustainability or social inclusion.

Therefore the Commission proposes a number of measures aiming at improving the current situation, such as complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators, near real-time information for decision-making, more accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, developing an 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 tiered "Beyond GDP strategy" which should describe the path how and for which areas the "Beyond GDP approach" can be made practically available for the day-to-day political work.

86 amendments have been introduced, 5 committees have given their opinion (ECON under rule 50, ITRE, EMPL; DEVE, REGI).

Vote in ENVI: 25 January 2011

Vote in Plenary: March I 2011

HEALTH

➤ REDUCING HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN THE EU

Adoption of draft own-initiative report 2010/2089(INI)

The ENVI committee will adopt a draft report on reducing health inequalities in the EU (Edite Estrela, S&D, Portugal).

Major inequalities still exist between countries and regions; for example, life expectancy at birth for men varied by 14.2 years between EU Member States in 2007, while the corresponding figure among women was 8.3 years (Eurostat, 2010).

Life expectancy among men aged 65 varied by 5.6 years across Member States in 2007, from a high of 18.4 years in France to a low of 12.8

years in Latvia. The range for women was slightly greater at 6.6 years, from 23.0 years in France to 16.4 years in Bulgaria (Eurostat, 2010). Inequalities experienced in earlier life in access to education, employment and health care as well as those based on gender and cultural background can have a critical bearing on the health status of people throughout their lives. The combination of poverty with other vulnerabilities such as childhood or old age, disability or minority background further increases health risks and vice-versa, ill health can lead to poverty and/or social exclusion.

204 Amendments have been tabled in ENVI, 34 through the IMCO Opinion and 49 through the FEMM Opinion, 13 Compromise-Consolidated Amendments.

Vote in ENVI: 25 January 2011
Vote in plenary: March 1 2011

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

Adoption of draft own-initiative report 2010/2153(INI)

The ENVI committee will adopt 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 the very sizeable costs incurred in the Member States and at EU level as a result of the 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 differed. Some Member States opted for wholesale vaccination, others targeted vaccination, and Poland none at all. That clearly evinces suspicion as regards evaluated vaccine risks.

Vote in ENVI: 25 January 2011
Vote in plenary: March 1 2011

OPINIONS

➤ **DISCHARGE 2009**

Consideration of draft opinions

The ENVI Committee will consider draft opinions (Jutta Haug, S&D, Germany) to the Budget Control Committee on the EU general budget, Section III - Commission, the European Medicines Agency, the European Environment Agency, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the European Food Safety Authority, the European Chemicals Agency and the European Environmental Agency.

The rapporteur considers in her draft opinion the implementation of the general EU budget in the fields of environment, public health and food safety. In overall terms, the implementation rates in 2009 has been satisfactory. The rapporteur is therefore in favour of granting discharge to the Commission and to the Agencies.

Deadline for AM's: 11 February 2010, 12.00
Vote ENVI: 16 March

➤ **THE EU PROTEIN DEFICIT: WHAT SOLUTION FOR A LONGSTANDING PROBLEM?**

Adoption of draft opinion to own initiative report (2010/2111 (INI))

The ENVI committee will adopt a draft opinion to own initiative report on the EU protein deficit: what solution for a longstanding problem? (Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, S&D, Hungary).

The AGRI Committee decided to draw up an own-initiative report to address the causes of the EU's protein production deficit and to explore the possibilities to overcome it in order to be less vulnerable to price fluctuations of animal feed imports.

The draftsman for the ENVI-opinion calls for the targeted support of the EU protein crop production, given the comparative advantages of third-country producers, such as lower environmental requirements and unsustainable agricultural practices. In this context he also calls on the Commission to establish a monitoring mechanism on the origin of imported protein crops. He furthermore stresses the importance of upholding the ban on using animal protein sources in animal feed, recalling the BSE crisis.

33 amendments have been tabled; There are 2 consolidated and 1 compromise amendment.

Vote in ENVI: 25 January 2011

Vote in AGRI: 26/27 January 2011

Vote in plenary: March 1 2011

➤ **AVIATION SECURITY WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON SECURITY SCANNERS**

Adoption of draft opinion to own initiative report (2010/2154 (INI)).

The ENVI committee will adopt a draft opinion to own initiative report on aviation security with a special focus on security scanners (Crescenzo Rivellini, PPE, Italy).

The TRAN-led own-initiative report refers to the Commission's Communication dealing with the increased use of the Security Scanners at the EU airports. As different standards of scanners bring a risk of fragmenting fundamental rights of EU citizens and escalate health concerns only an EU approach would legally guarantee uniform application of security rules and standards throughout all EU airports.

The ENVI draft opinion indicates that the most appropriate solution for the healthcare is the technology based on a system of passive millimeter-wave imaging which emits no radiation. The text also underlines that active millimeter-wave imaging systems with non-ionizing radiation are considered harmless as long as the exposure remains below the limits currently imposed by law. The draftsman stresses that the technology of X-ray transmission imaging emits a high dose of X-rays, and therefore should not be considered for the systematic inspection for control of aviation security. Text also recommends avoiding X-ray backscatter technology due to the emission of X-rays or to ensure that exposure is kept to the

lowest possible level. Special treatment should be available for passengers sensitive to ionizing radiation such as pregnant women, children and holders of implanted medical devices.

53 amendments have been tabled.

Vote in ENVI: 25 January 2011

Vote in TRAN: April-May 2011

Vote in plenary: May-June 2011

➤ **REPORT 2010 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COHESION POLICY PROGRAMMES FOR 2007-2013**

Adoption of draft opinion to own initiative report (2010/2139 (INI)).

The ENVI committee will adopt a draft opinion to own initiative report on report 2010 on the implementation of the cohesion policy programmes for 2007-2013 (José Manuel Fernandes, PPE, Portugal).

The own initiative report relates to the Commission's Communication that provides an overview of the implementation of the cohesion policy programmes 2007-2013. The original commitments of Member States to invest in structural change are being realised with projects already selected amounting to more than 93 billion EUR which represents 27% of the total financial volume for the period. Well advanced is a selection of the projects for some of the EU priorities such as smart, clean and socially inclusive investments in infrastructures, business support and flexible labour markets. Efforts must be reinforced in the rail sector, certain energy and environmental investments, digital economy, social inclusion, governance and capacity building.

The ENVI draft opinion stresses that investment in the environmental sector is not progressing according to plan, calls for more effective implementation of programmes in the environmental sector, calls on the Member States to speed up investment in prevention and in the rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land and also calls for information on the approval and implementation of projects supported by cohesion policy funding to be made available in real time.

38 amendments have been tabled.

Vote in ENVI: 25 January 2011
Vote in REGI: 28 February 2011
Vote in plenary: April

➤ **COMBATING ILLEGAL FISHING AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL - THE ROLE OF THE EU**

Consideration of draft opinion to own initiative report 2010/2210(INI)

The ENVI committee will consider a draft opinion to own initiative report on combating illegal fishing at the global level - the role of the EU (Anna Rosbach, EFD, Denmark).

In her draft opinion, the rapporteur notably:

- reiterates that this issue is a global problem;
- stresses the need for immediate and thorough action;
- emphasises the threat to biodiversity;
- underlines the need to review the sufficiency of control mechanisms.

Deadline for AM's: 4 February 2011, 12.00
Vote in ENVI: 16-17 March 2011
Vote in PECH: July 2011

➤ **PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY**

Consideration of draft opinion to 2010/0257(COD)

The ENVI committee will consider a draft opinion to TRAN Committee on programme to support the further development of an integrated maritime policy (Corinne Lepage, ALDE, France).

The Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) promotes synergy between all EU policies relating to the oceans, seas, coastal regions and maritime sectors.

The long-term funding of the further development and implementation of this policy is not currently guaranteed. The purpose of the present legislative proposal is to provide the IMP with a stable financial framework for the period 2011-2013 by establishing a financial envelope of EUR 50 million.

The draft opinion seeks to clarify, supplement and entrench the programme's objectives.

Deadline for AM's: 4 February 2011, 12.00
Vote in ENVI: 16-17 March 2011
Vote in TRAN: 12 April 2011
Vote in plenary: June 2011

➤ **POLICY CHALLENGES AND BUDGETARY RESOURCES FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN UNION AFTER 2013**

Adoption of draft opinion to own initiative report (2010/2211 (INI)).

The ENVI committee will adopt a draft opinion to own initiative report on policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013 (Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, ALDE, the Netherlands).

This opinion will act as ENVI's contribution to the work of the "SURE" Committee. In the draft opinion the Rapporteur emphasises the need to integrate the EU's environmental objectives into sectoral policies such as the CAP and cohesion policy, and to ensure that EU financing does not have negative impacts on the environment, climate change and biodiversity. The draft opinion also calls for specific funds to be allocated to ensure that the EU's climate change targets are met and to mainstream climate adaptation and mitigation across sectors and economic development plans.

The amendments concern issues around the need to ensure that environment, climate, biodiversity and resource efficiency objectives are met in the next financial perspectives, and on specific programmes such as Natura 2000 and LIFE+.

Vote in ENVI: 25 January 2011
Vote in SURE: March/April 2011

OTHER BUSINESS

- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH JANEZ POTOČNIK (COMMISSIONER)** on the ongoing regular dialogue
- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MR MIKLÓS RÉTHELYI (HUNGARIAN MINISTER FOR NATIONAL RESOURCES)** on the health priorities of the Hungarian Presidency.
- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH TAMÁS FELLEGI (HUNGARIAN MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)** on the climate priorities of the Hungarian presidency
- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH SÁNDOR FAZEKAS (HUNGARIAN MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT)** on the environmental and food safety priorities of the Hungarian presidency
- **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS TO MOVE BEYOND 20% GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND ASSESSING THE RISK OF CARBON LEAKAGE**

*Consideration of working document
COM(2010)0265.*

The ENVI committee will consider a working document on analysis of options to move beyond 20% greenhouse gas emission reductions and assessing the risk of carbon leakage (Bas Eickhout, Verts/ALE, the Netherlands).

According to the rapporteur, the possibility of moving from the current 20% EU greenhouse gas emission reductions to 30% can be combined with healthier economy, increase in green jobs and innovation. The document reminds that delayed approach to reduce emissions would be very costly and early action is especially needed for the non-ETS sectors and power sector investment. The rapporteur also notes that according to several studies there will be an oversupply of carbon permits over the period 2008-2020 of the EU ETS under a 20% target, leading to inefficient price signal.

The Commission estimates that moving to 30% target would cost an additional €3-46 billion but also has additional co-benefits (increased health and decreased air pollution) that would outweigh these costs. An increased target

would also improve energy security of the EU, create a number of new jobs and increase auction revenues.

ENVI Hearing: 28 February 2011

Consideration of draft report: 16 March 2011

Deadline for AM's: 22 March 2011 (tbc)

Vote in ITRE: May 2011 (tbc)

Vote in ENVI: May-June 2011 (tbc)

Vote in plenary: June-September 2011 (tbc)

- **REPORT BACK FROM THE EP DELEGATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS IN CANCUN, MEXICO (29 NOV-10 DEC, 2010)**

An EP Delegation composed by 26 MEPs took part in the Cancun climate conference mainly from 6 to 10 of December 2010 and followed a very extensive weekly programme of bilateral meetings, briefings and site events.

The "Cancun agreements" were seen as an important step forward, strengthening the international climate regime. They capture most elements of the Copenhagen Accord, but now in agreed UN decision language. They also further elaborate upon detailed elements of the accord, ensuring that its implementation can effectively start.

Cancun did however not yet resolve the key outstanding issues, neither the question on a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol nor whether a new protocol is to be adopted under the Convention. It extends the work of the two negotiating tracks under the UN climate change convention and the Kyoto Protocol for a further year, while leaving open the legal form of the eventual outcome of the negotiations.

Furthermore Cancun did not result in the requested more ambitious pledges by developed and developing countries. The pledges that were submitted after Copenhagen do not add up to what is required by science in order to stay within the 2 objective.

Perhaps the most important result of Cancun is that the trust in the process has been restored.

➤ **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES ON DIOXIN CONTAMINATED FEED**

In the light significant public concern over the recent contamination of animal feed by dioxins, the ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with the Commission to discuss the action being taken by the EU to deal with this crisis.

➤ **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INNOVATION UNION: TRANSFORMING EUROPE FOR A POST-CRISIS WORLD**

The rapporteur for the ENVI opinion would like to have an exchange of views without document concerning the environmental aspects of the "Innovation Union".

The "Innovation Union" is one of the seven flagships announced in the Europe 2020 Strategy. It aims to improve conditions and access to finance for research and innovation, to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services that create growth and jobs.

In its "Innovation Union" Communication of 6 October 2010, the Commission has put forward a proposal to launch European innovation partnerships, briefly describing their rationale and setting out in general terms how these could be set up and operated. It proposed to test the concept by means of a pilot partnership in the area of active and healthy ageing, whilst setting out a process for the possible launch of further partnerships before the end of 2011.

Deadline for AM's: 21 February 2011, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 16 March 2011

Vote in ITRE: 12 April 2011

Vote in plenary: May 2011

➤ **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SUSPENSION OF TRANSACTIONS IN THE EU ETS REGISTRY SYSTEM**

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with the Commission on the suspension of transactions in the EU ETS system.

The Commission on Wednesday 19 January 2011 imposed a week-long freeze on spot trade in its carbon market, after emissions permits called EU allowances (EUAs) were stolen from accounts in as many as 14 European countries,

including Czech Republic, Poland, Estonia, Greece and Austria.

The European Parliament would like to know about the concrete measures being taken in order to avoid such attacks, which seriously undermined the credibility of the EU's leadership.

➤ **IMPLEMENTATION OF EU ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN MEMBER STATES**

Exchange of views - continuation from December 2010

The questions introduced by Members will be answered by representatives of the Commission:

Questions:

- Biodiversity (Sandrine Bélier)
- Failure to apply the Habitats' Directive (Chris Davies)
- Massive hazardous waste dumps in the marshlands of Huelva (Satu Hassi)
- European environmental inspections (Satu Hassi)
- Environmental Action Programme (Richard Seeber)
- REACH (Richard Seeber)
- Infringement (Kriton Arsenis)

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN ENVI COMMITTEE

At its meeting of 29 November - 1 December 2010 the ENVI Committee adopted:

- its opinion (BERLATO) to the AGRI Committee on recognition of agriculture as a strategic sector in the context of food security;
- its recommendation (MATIAS) on a European initiative on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN PLENARY

ENVI reports/resolutions that have been adopted by the European Parliament during the last part-session were the following:

- ***II (A7-0307/2010) GROSSETÊTE: Application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare

- (A7-0366/2010) MATIAS: European initiative on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

RECENT EXPERTISE FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

- Study on the development of climate negotiations in view of Cancun (COP 16)
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=en&file=33071>
- Proceeding Workshop "Evaluation of the management of H1N1 influenza in 2009-2010 in the EU" Brussels, 5 October 2010
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=en&file=32877>
- Proceeding Workshop on 'Forestry Protection: preparing forests for Climate Change' Brussels, 1 December 2010
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=en&file=33574>

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)
<http://www.eea.europa.eu/pressroom>

➤ **DISASTERS IN EUROPE: MORE FREQUENT AND CAUSING MORE DAMAGE**

The number and impacts of disasters have increased in Europe in 1998-2009, a new report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) concludes. The report assesses the frequency of disasters and their impacts on humans, the economy and ecosystems and calls for better integrated risk disaster management across Europe.

http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/natural-hazards-and-technological-accidents?&utm_campaign=natural-hazards-and-technological-accidents&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions

➤ **HAS POLICY IMPROVED EUROPE'S AIR QUALITY?**

In recent decades, the EU has introduced a range of policies to improve air quality by controlling pollutant emissions. A new report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) evaluates three key instruments and finds that they have significantly improved Europe's air quality and reduced pollution-induced health effects. There is scope for even more progress, however, if countries achieve all their binding commitments to reduce emissions.

http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/has-policy-improved-europe2019s-air-quality?&utm_campaign=has-policy-improved-europe2019s-air-quality&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>

Monitoring and analysis of the 2010-2011 influenza epidemic in the EU

- Statement encouraging vaccination:
http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/press/news/Lists/News/ECDC_DispForm.aspx?List=32e43ee8%2De230%2D4424%2Da783%2D85742124029a&ID=410&RootFolder=%2Fen%2Fpress%2Fnews%2FLists%2FNews
- Seasonal Influenza Spotlight:
http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/spotlight/spotlight_influenza/Pages/index.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