

# ENVI-News

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

## Meeting in Brussels

**Wednesday, 13 July 2011, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30**

**Thursday, 14 July 2011, 9.00 – 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**

#### ➤ **THE PLACING ON THE MARKET AND USE OF BIOCIDAL PRODUCTS**

*Co-decision, second reading 2009/0076(COD)  
Announcement of Common Position*

The Council adopted its Common Position at the Environment Council on 21 June 2011. The Common Position will be formally transmitted to the European Parliament during the September II Plenary session.

The Chairman will announce the adoption of the Common Position, together with the timetable for second reading.

#### ➤ **WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT**

*Co-decision, second reading 2008/0241(COD)  
Announcement of Common Position*

The Council reached a political agreement on this file, which will be formally announced in the September II Plenary.

The Chairman will announce the adoption of the Common Position, together with the timetable for second reading.

*Deadline for AMs: 12 September 2011, 18.00  
Vote in ENVI: 4 October 2011  
Vote in Plenary: January 2012*

#### ➤ **AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIVE 2000/25/EC AS REGARDS THE APPLICATION OF EMISSION STAGES TO NARROW-TRACK TRACTORS**

*Co-decision, 2011/0002 (COD)  
Adoption of draft report*

The ENVI committee will vote on a draft report on amendment of Directive 2000/25/EC as regards the application of emission stages to narrow-track tractors (Salvatore Tatarella, PPE, Italy).

This is a proposal to amend Directive 2000/25/25/EC which lays down and reduces the permissible levels of exhaust (gaseous and particulate) emissions by engines intended to power agricultural and forestry tractors.

Directive 2004/26/EC gives the possibility to the Commission to conduct a technical review, in particular to consider the available technology, including the cost/benefits, with a view to confirming Stage III B and IV limit values and evaluating the possible need for additional flexibilities, exemptions or later introduction dates for certain types of equipment or engines and taking into account engines installed in non-road mobile machinery used in seasonal applications.

The Commission has conducted this review and came to the conclusion that for the categories T2, C2, and T4.1 it was appropriate to postpone with 3 years the introduction of Category IIIB

*The Environment Committee website:*

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

and IV for narrow-track tractors with a maximum width of 1.15 m.

The rapporteur supports the Commission's proposal. However, a few amendments were tabled to extend the 3 year period to 5 years and to ask the Commission to present a review every year.

*Vote in ENVI: 14 July 2011*  
*Vote in Plenary: October 2011*

## **NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK**

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

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

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft report "Towards a stronger European disaster response: the role of civil protection and humanitarian assistance" (Elisabetta Gardini, EPP, 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 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 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. Finally, the rapporteur underlines that it is important that all Member States contribute, in the spirit of European solidarity, to the European disaster response.

102 amendments have been tabled in ENVI, DEVE's opinion includes 9 paragraphs, AFET's

7 and REGI's 17. The rapporteur proposes 7 compromise amendments.

*Vote in ENVI: 13 July*  
*Vote in Plenary: September II (26.09.)*

## **OPINIONS**

### ➤ **THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER FOR ECONOMIC POLICY COORDINATION**

*Adoption of draft opinion 2011/2071 (INI)*

The ENVI Committee will vote on a draft opinion to ECON on the European semester for economic policy coordination (Crescenzo Rivellini, PPE, Italy).

The ENVI draft opinion points out the role of resource and energy efficiency for sustainable growth and combating climate change. It calls on the Commission to propose binding national targets for energy efficiency, noting the risk of falling short on the Europe 2020 energy efficiency target and the potential for reducing consumption in energy-intensive sectors (buildings, transport and industry). In addition, it stresses that the European Semester ought to serve the transition to an environmentally sustainable economy and calls for the inclusion of indicators of environmental accounting in the Annual Growth Surveys. 28 amendments have been submitted.

*Vote in ENVI: 13 July 2011*  
*Vote in ECON: 22 September 2011*  
*Plenary: October 2011*

### ➤ **HONEYBEE HEALTH AND THE CHALLENGES FOR THE BEEKEEPING SECTOR**

*Adoption of draft opinion 2011/2108(INI)*

The ENVI Committee will vote on a draft opinion to AGRI on Honeybee health and the challenges for the beekeeping sector (Julie Girling, ECR, UK)

AGRI has requested to draw up an own initiative report entitled "Honeybee Health and the challenges for the beekeeping sector"(AGRI/7/05284) on the basis of Commission Communication COM(2010)714

on Honeybee Health. In the light of the recent increase in bee mortality in several countries within and outside the EU, the latter wants to clarify the key issues related to bee health (EU animal health framework for bees, availability of veterinary medicines for bees, food safety aspects (residues in honey), pesticides, GMOs, biodiversity loss, common agricultural policy, research) and key actions that the Commission intends to take to address them.

The rapporteur for the ENVI opinion stresses the need for sustainable agricultural practice and the need to protect natural resources and biodiversity within the beekeeping sector, while acknowledging that honeybee colony losses are due to multi-factorial stressors. She supports the establishment of an EU Reference Laboratory (EURL) for bee health.

151 amendments have been tabled. The rapporteur proposes 7 compromise amendments.

*Vote in ENVI: 13 July 2011*

*Vote in AGRI: September 2011*

*Vote in Plenary: October II 2011*

#### ➤ **GREEN PAPER ON THE MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**

*Consideration of draft opinion 2011/2048 (INI)*

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion to IMCO on a Green Paper on the modernization of public procurement (Åsa Westlund, S&D, Sweden).

This Green Paper tackles questions like how far European legislation shall go, how much margin for manoeuvre should be given to the local/national authorities, and as far as the ENVI-competences are concerned: to what extent environmental criteria should be made mandatory or not. Cross border access is another subject as well as inclusion of social criteria for the award of public contracts.

The rapporteur is more in favour of giving local authorities the freedom to include these criteria whilst warmly recommending them to do so.

76 amendments have been tabled and several compromises will be tabled.

*Vote in ENVI: 14 July 2011*

*Vote in IMCO: 19 September 2011*

#### ➤ **THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION IN SPORT**

*Consideration of draft opinion 2011/2087(INI)*

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion to CULT on the European Dimension in Sport (Sophie Auconie, EPP, France)

Physical activity is one of the most important health determinants in modern society and can make a major contribution to the reduction of overweight and obesity and the prevention of a number of serious diseases. In 2008, EU Sport Ministers informally endorsed EU Physical Activity Guidelines recommending how policies and practices at EU, national and local levels can be used to make it easier for citizens to be physically active as part of their daily lives. A number of Member States have used them as a basis for national policy initiatives. Consultations with the Member States revealed a high level of consensus that the following topics should be priorities in the EU agenda for sport: health-enhancing physical activity; the fight against doping; education and training; voluntary activity and non-profit sport organisations; social inclusion in and through sport, including sport for people with disabilities and gender equality in sport; sustainable financing of grassroots sport; and good governance.

*Deadline amendments: 15 July 2011, 12.00*

*Adoption in ENVI: 12 September (Strasbourg)*

*Adoption in CULT: 5 October*

#### ➤ **PARLIAMENT'S POSITION ON THE 2012 DRAFT BUDGET AS MODIFIED BY THE COUNCIL - ALL SECTIONS**

*Consideration of draft opinion 2011/2020(BUD)*

The 2012 Draft Budget shows for Title 07 "**Environment and Climate Action**" an overall amount of operational expenditure of 401,792 M€ an increase of 2,60 % in commitment appropriations in comparison to the voted 2011 budget. The high priority given to both Environment and Climate Action under the 2012 draft budget is translated into the level of appropriations proposed under the LIFE + programme and corresponding budget lines.

The additional credits in the field of **consumer protection** will finance actions to improve the

application of Community consumer protection legislation in the field of consumer safety, the collection, exchange and analysis of data due to the further enhancement of the Scoreboard, and the increased support to national consumer organisations in particular in the new Member States.

**Public health:** Starting 2011, the anti-smoking campaign is financed under the Public Health programme. In 2012, 10 M€ are earmarked for the campaign.

**European Environment Agency - EEA:** An increase of 2,82 % is proposed to support additional tasks related to monitoring and reporting provisions in EU Air Quality and Climate legislation;

**European Chemicals Agency - ECHA:** The Draft Budget also foresees the financing of the European Chemicals Agency in relation to new tasks deriving from legislation in the area of biocides and export and import of dangerous chemicals ('Prior Informed Consent – 'PIC').

**Biocides (Budget lines 07 03 60 01 and 07 03 60 02)** - In the case of Biocides, the tasks of ECHA for biocidal products envisaged by the Legislative Authority have been extended considerably since the original Commission proposal (COM(2009)267).

**European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - ECDC:** The EU subsidy as adopted by the Commission amounts to €57,3 M€

**European Food Safety Authority - EFSA:** The EU subsidy as adopted by the Commission amounts to 75,851 M€

**European Medicines Agency - EMA:** The increased EU contribution requested by EMA, among others, are foreseen to cover the new needs for the pharmacovigilance regulation.

*Deadline for AMs: 15 July 2011, 12.00*  
*Adoption in ENVI: 8 September 2011*  
*Adoption in BUDG: 4-6 October*

## **RESOLUTION**

### ➤ **DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION AND ORAL QUESTIONS IN VIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20)**

*Consideration of draft motion for a resolution*  
*Adoption of questions for oral answer*

In view of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), it was decided to adopt oral questions accompanied by a motion for a resolution.

The draft motion for a resolution stresses the urgency to act and that to achieve the transition towards the green economy in the context of poverty eradication, the following three interlinked policy dimensions need to be addressed:

- Investing in the sustainable management of key resources and natural capital,
- Establishing the right market and regulatory conditions,
- Improving governance and private sector involvement.

*Deadline AM: 14 July 12.00*

*Vote in ENVI: 8 September*

*Plenary: September II*

## **ORAL QUESTIONS**

### ➤ **ORAL QUESTION N° 2011/05 ON THE POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN MOBILE PHONE USE AND INCREASED RISK OF CANCER**

*Exchange of views with Commission representatives*

According to a recently released study conducted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), with the collaboration of the United Nations' (UN) World Health Organization (WHO) there could be a link between cell phones and cancer with an increased risk of glioma, a malignant form of brain cancer.

Another study of past cell phone use - which dated up to the year 2004 - showed a 40 percent increased risk for gliomas in the highest category of heavy users, with a reported average of 30 minutes per day over a 10-year period.

Due to the high number of users and "perceived risk" from mobiles and considering that cell phone use continues to become a more regular daily habit (particularly among young adults and children) and in view of the potential implications for public health, the Commission is invited to present what she is doing in order to reduce exposure to the possible cancer-causing factors.

## **EXCHANGES OF VIEWS**

- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH POLISH MINISTERS A. KRASZEWSKI (ENVIRONMENT), M. SAWICKI (AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT) AND E. KOPACZ (HEALTH)**

*Presentation of the Council Presidency's programme in their respective fields*

- **IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION**

*Exchange of views with Commission representatives*

This exchange of views with Commission representatives will be on topical implementation problems in the field of the environment. Questions have been tabled on REACH, the RoHS directive, turf extraction in Ireland and implementation problems of member states.

- **DRAFT VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT TO BE CONCLUDED UNDER THE ECODSIGN DIRECTIVE TO IMPROVE THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF COMPLEX SET TOP BOXES AND THE IMPACT ASSESMENT THEREOF**

*Exchange of views with Commission representatives*

Exchange of views on the Commission's intention to endorse a Voluntary Industry Agreement on Complex set-top Boxes under the Ecodesign Directive

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **REPORT ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF GMO CULTIVATION**

*Presentation by the Commission*

This report on the socio-economic implications of GMO cultivation points out that in Europe the amount of statistically relevant information on the socio-economic impacts of GMO cultivation is rather limited. It should be the starting point to deepen the reflection on this sensitive topic. Therefore, the Commission recommends defining a robust set of factors and indicators to capture in a uniform way the socio-economic consequences of GMO cultivation across the EU and along the food chain.

- **THIRD FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON THE COMMUNICATION ON WATER SCARCITY AND DROUGHTS**

*Presentation by the Commission*

The report gives further details on the extent of water scarcity and droughts in the EU and the measures which are being put in place to address both situations.

It is also focused on the building blocks of the future water scarcity and droughts policy - water efficiency, better planning and adequate implementation instruments – which are key elements of the establishment of a water efficient economy that meets the challenge of the EU 2020 strategy.

- **EUROPEAN LEGISLATION ON GHG EMISSIONS FROM AVIATION AND MARITIME TRANSPORT AND POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF NON-CO<sub>2</sub> -EMISSIONS FROM AVIATION: STATE OF PLAY**

*Presentation by the Commission*

This presentation will be on the implementation of EU legislation on GHG emissions with particular regard to the recent court filing by the USA challenging the implementation of EU legislation in non-EU territory and the state of play regarding the intended inclusion of maritime transport into the European ETS and the IMO moves in this field.

➤ **PRESENTATION OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE LIFE+ REGULATION**

*Presentation by the Commission*

The LIFE programme was launched in 1992 to help support EU environmental policy. The latest Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+) was adopted through Regulation (EC) No 614/2007. It applies for the period 2007-2013 and has a financial envelope of €2.14 billion (increased by Parliament to €2.17 billion).

Three types of interventions are possible under LIFE+: Action grants, Operating grants for NGOs, Public procurement contracts for service provision.

For its mid-term review, the Commission has contracted an external evaluation. Concerning strand 1 (Nature & Biodiversity) it recommends increasing flexibility and enhancing efforts to attract the wider biodiversity community, aligning biodiversity with the nature requirements and increasing the co-financing rate to raise number and quality of applications. A lack of strong strategic focus on environmental policy priorities has been found under strand 2 (Environment & Governance). (Annex II of the Regulation does not allow setting very specific priorities thus potentially limiting the ability to generate impacts beyond the individual project and to assess results at thematic level.) As for strand 3 (Information & Communication), a better definition to better guide applicants and to improve the quality of applications has been recommended, as well as increasing the co-financing rate to allow for broader campaigns and higher number of applications.

### **HEARING**

➤ **HEARING OF THE CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF EMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

As the mandate of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) Executive Director Mr Thomas Lönngren ended on 31 December 2010, the agency is in the process of appointing a new Executive Director. According to Article 64 of the Regulation 726/2004,

"The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Management Board, on a proposal from the

Commission, for a period of five years on the basis of a list of candidates proposed by the Commission following a call for expressions of interest published in the Official Journal of the European Union and elsewhere. Before appointment, the candidate nominated by the Management Board shall be invited forthwith to make a statement to the European Parliament and to answer any questions put by its Members. His mandate may be renewed once."

The EMA's Management Board has nominated Mr Guido Rasi on 8 June 2011 as the new Executive Director-designate. Mr Rasi has been Director-General of the Italian Medicines Agency and a Member of the European Medicines Agency's Management Board since 2008.

### **RECENTLY ADOPTED IN ENVI COMMITTEE**

At its meeting of 21 June 2011 the ENVI Committee adopted an opinion (MERKIES) to ITRE on an effective raw materials strategy.

### **RECENTLY ADOPTED IN PLENARY**

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

- \*\*\*I (A7-0170/2011) LEPAGE: Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory;
- \*\*\*II (A7-0177/2011) SOMMER: recommendation for second reading on the Council position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers,
- report (A7-0195/2011) ROTH-BEHRENDT on EU legislation on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) and on related feed and food controls - implementation and outlook.

## **NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES**

### **EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)**

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

#### **Safe water and healthy water services in a changing environment**

This technical report summarises existing knowledge of climate change impacts on water services and health; the nature and effectiveness of the policy response; and the coverage and gaps in existing assessments of these themes.

Read more at:

[http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/safe-water-and-healthy-water?&utm\\_campaign=safe-water-and-healthy-water&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=EEA](http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/safe-water-and-healthy-water?&utm_campaign=safe-water-and-healthy-water&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEA)  
[Subscriptions](#)

### **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 meetings:</u></b>
<b>8 September 2011, 15.00 - 18.30 (Brussels)</b>
<b>12 September 2011, 19.15 - 20.45 (Strasbourg)</b>