

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Brussels

**Tuesday 23 February 2010, 9.00-12.30 p.m.
and 15.00 – 18.30**

Deadline for amendments: 2 March, 12.00

Consideration of amendments: 6-7 April

Vote in ENVI: 26-28 April

Vote in Plenary: May II or June

LEGISLATIVE WORK

ENVIRONMENT

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

*Co-decision - first reading
(2009/0076(COD) COM(2009)0267)
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will discuss the draft report (Christa Kläß, PPE, Germany) on the placing on the market and use of biocidal products.

The placing of the market of biocidal products is currently governed by Directive 98/8. The new proposal aims at reforming the current system by (i) extending the scope to cover materials and articles treated with biocidal products; (ii) introducing EU-wide authorisation for low-risk biocidal products and products based on new active substances; (iii) aligning data requirements to the actual need of the evaluating authorities; (iv) minimising animal testing and sharing animal test results; (v) extending the role of ECHA; and (vi) turning the Directive into a Regulation thus ensuring uniform application of the rules throughout the EU.

The draft report, among others, proposes to (i) define nanomaterials with the aim to adjust the definition to further technological development; (ii) clearly label treated articles and materials coming from or outside the EU; (iii) inform industrial users and consumers about the safe use of and alternatives to biocidal products; and (iv) extend the EU-wide authorisation to all products.

➤ **WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) (RECAST VERSION)**

*Co-decision - first reading
(2008/0241(COD) COM(2008)0810)
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will discuss the draft report (Karl-Heinz Florenz, PPE, Germany) on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).

The waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) Directive (Directive 2002/96/EC) foresees a possible revision based on the experience of its application. The Directive also sets out for the Commission to propose new mandatory WEEE collection targets by 31 December 2008 and new targets for recovery and re-use/recycling. The specific objectives of the review of the WEEE Directive are therefore:

- Reduced administrative costs through the removal of all unnecessary administrative burdens, without lowering the level of environmental protection;
- Improved effectiveness and implementation of the Directive through increased compliance and reduced free-riding;
- Reduced impacts on the environment from the collection, treatment and recovery of WEEE at the levels where the greatest net benefit to society results.

Deadline for amendments: 9 March, 18.00

Consideration of amendments: 6-7 April

Vote in ENVI: 4 May
Vote in Plenary: June

PUBLIC HEALTH

➤ **IMPORTATION INTO THE COMMUNITY OF CERTAIN LIVE ANIMALS AND THEIR FRESH MEAT**

*Co-decision - first reading
(2009/0146(COD) COM(2009)0516)
Consideration and possible adoption of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will discuss and possibly vote the draft report (Jo Leinen, S&D, Germany) on a list of third countries, or parts of third countries, and animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions for importation into the community of certain live animals and their fresh meat.

The Commission proposes just one article to repeal an old Council Decision 79/542/EEC which has been frequently modified over the years via comitology procedures.

Vote in plenary: March II

NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

➤ **COMMISSION COMMUNICATION ON ACTION AGAINST CANCER**

*(2009/2103(INI) COM(2009)0291)
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will discuss the draft report (Alojz Peterle, PPE, Slovenia) on the Commission Communication on Action against cancer: European partnership.

At present, with more than 3 million new cases and 1.7 million deaths each year, cancer represents the second most important cause of death and morbidity in Europe. Currently one in three people in the EU will be diagnosed with cancer during their life-time and experts predict that the cancer burden will increase sharply due to the ageing population, unless urgent action to improve cancer control is taken now. The

European Commission proposes a European Partnership for Action Against Cancer for the period 2009-2013, a new essay to join all the stakeholders to work together in the spirit of fruitful partnership.

Deadline for amendments: 12 March, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 7 April

Plenary: May I

OPINIONS

➤ **A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR TRANSPORT**

*Adoption of draft opinion
(2009/2096(INI)-COM(2009)00279)*

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft opinion (Jo Leinen, S&D, Germany) to the Committee on Transport and Tourism's own initiative report on 'a Communication from the Commission: a Sustainable Future for Transport: Towards an Integrated, Technology-Led and User Friendly System'.

39 amendments have been tabled covering subjects such as :reducing our oil-dependency, complying with the 20-20-20 norms, earmarking of revenue from road pricing, promotion of railways and mass transport, eco-driving, the future effects of EURO 5 and 6 standards, fleet renewal for cars, the (non) inclusion of maritime transport into the emission trading scheme, electric cars, etc.

Vote in TRAN: March

Vote in plenary: possibly April

➤ **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE**

*Adoption of draft opinion
(2009/2107(INI) COM(2009)0162)*

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft opinion (Kartika Tamara Liotard, GUE/NGL, the Netherlands) to the Committee on Fisheries' own initiative report on 'A new impetus for the Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture'.

19 amendments have been tabled dealing with subjects such as: animal welfare, the impact of aquaculture on the environment, control on the

production methods in and importation from third countries, etc.

Vote in plenary: possibly April

➤ **EUROPEAN EARTH OBSERVATION PROGRAMME (GMES) (2011–2013)**

*Adoption of draft opinion
(2009/0070(COD) COM(2009)0223)*

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft opinion (Vittorio Prodi, S&D, Italy) to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy's report on the European earth observation programme (GMES) (2011–2013).

GMES was conceived to ensure operational Earth observation in environmental and security domains beyond operational meteorology. The objective of this proposal is to establish a legal basis for the GMES programme and EC funding of GMES initial operations (2011–2013) in order to enable the provision of emergency response services to various emergency response actors at Community and Member State level, as well as the key relevant United Nations agencies.

Vote in ITRE: 17-18 March

Vote in plenary: June

➤ **DISCHARGE 2008**

*Adoption of draft opinions
(2009/2068(DEC) SEC(2009)1089)
(2009/2124(DEC) SEC(2009)1089)
(2009/2131(DEC) SEC(2009)1089)
(2009/2115(DEC) SEC(2009)1089)
(2009/2123(DEC) SEC(2009)1089)
(2009/2118(DEC) SEC(2009)1089)*

The ENVI Committee will adopt draft opinions (Jutta Haug, S&D, Germany) to the Budget Committee on the EC general budget, the European Environment Agency, the European Medicine Agency, the European Food Safety Authority, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the European Chemicals Agency.

➤ **JOINT BALTIC SEA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (BONUS-169)**

*Consideration of draft opinion
(2009/0169(COD) COM(2009)0610)*

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion (Anna Rosbach, EFD, Denmark) to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy's report on the joint Baltic sea research and development programme (BONUS-169).

The Commission proposes the BONUS 169 Programme which coordinates and completes national research programmes of countries bordering the Baltic Sea. Marine environment in the Baltic Sea has worsened dramatically over the last decades and more insight is necessary. The Commission has the intention to add up to 50 million € to the 50 million € made available by the participating States but links some conditions to its participation as regards financial transparency, availability of the results of research having been carried out, etc. Also the EUs Joint Research Center will participate. The rapporteur proposes 4 amendments concerning the invitation of other non-EU states to participate, the economic calculation of the loss of biodiversity in the region and the results of research.

Deadline for amendments: 24 February at 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 16 March

Vote in Plenary: May

➤ **POWER OF LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

Consideration of draft opinion

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion (Jo Leinen, S&D, Germany) to the Committee on Legal Affairs's initiative report on the power of legislative delegation.

On 21 January 2010, the Conference of the Presidents decided that the Legal Affairs Committee should elaborate a report entitled "Power of legislative delegation" as soon as possible in order to give internal guidance to the application and implementation of Article 290 (delegated acts) and Article 291 (implementing acts) under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The draft opinion inter alia:

- emphasises the importance of using delegated acts instead of implementing acts;
- calls upon the Commission to ensure that Parliament can fully exercise its role as co-legislator (by providing all documents and inviting Parliament to meetings);
- calls for an interinstitutional agreement between Parliament, Council and the Commission, in order to provide the urgently needed clarity on the practical implementation;
- calls for an alignment of all basic legislative acts, while at the same time ensuring that the Rapporteurs and experts are involved in this alignment.

Deadline for amendments: 24 February at 12.00
Vote in ENVI: 16 March
Vote in JURI: 23 March
Vote in Plenary: April

➤ **MOBILISING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES TO FACILITATE THE TRANSITION TO AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT, LOW-CARBON ECONOMY**

Consideration of draft opinion
(2009/2228(INI) COM(2009)0111)

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views on the draft opinion (Daciana Octavia Sârbu, S&D, Romania) to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy 's own initiative report on 'Mobilising information and communication technologies to facilitate the transition to an energy-efficient, low-carbon economy'.

The report concerns the Commission Communication on the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in moving towards a low-carbon economy and the related Recommendation which includes targets for the ICT sector itself and Member States.

The opinion focuses on the importance of technologies such as smart-metering and the contribution of ICTs to increased energy efficiency and reduction of CO₂ emissions in the transport sector.

The opinion also emphasises the need for a standardised methodology for the measurement of energy efficiency and for the promotion of ICTs through R&D, public procurement processes and education and awareness-raising for consumers.

Deadline for amendments: 24 February, 12.00
Vote in ENVI: 16 March
Vote in ITRE: 7th April
Vote in Plenary: May

➤ **“KOZLODUY PROGRAMME”**

Consideration of draft opinion
(2009/0172(CNS) COM(2009)0581)

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion (Antonyia Parvanova, ALDE, Bulgaria) to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy 's report on the community financial assistance with respect to the decommissioning of units 1 to 4 of the Kozloduy nuclear power plant in Bulgaria (“Kozloduy programme”).

During the accession negotiations, Bulgaria committed itself to the closure of Units 1 and 2 of the Kozloduy nuclear power plant by 31 December 2002 and to the closure of Units 3 and 4 by 31 December 2006 at the latest (all VVER 440/230 type reactors). The Act of Accession provides, inter alia, for Community support under the Kozloduy Programme of €210 million for the period 2007 – 2009. The current proposal is to extend EU financial support and provide 300 million EUR for the period 2010-2013.

The draft opinion, among others, (i) stresses that the loss of generating capacity due to the early closure of Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant Units 1 to 4 has led to a significant additional volume of greenhouse gas emissions which therefore necessitates additional CO₂ reductions; (ii) puts further emphasis to encourage energy-saving measures and promote renewable energies; and (iii) calls for annual reporting, mid-term and ex-post evaluation, and compliance assessment by the Commission.

Deadline for amendments: 1 March, 12.00
Vote in ENVI: 6-7 April
Vote in Plenary: 28-29 April

ORAL QUESTION

➤ **ORAL QUESTION 2010/02 ON FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS**

Exchange of views with Commission representatives

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

➤ IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

On Tuesday afternoon at 3.00 p.m. Ms Bucella, Director of DG ENV - Directorate A, Legal Affairs and Civil Protection, will give a general overview on the state of play of Implementation of European Environmental Legislation. The presentation will be followed by an open discussion with no written questions submitted in advance.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 15 March 2010, 15.00 - 18.30

**Tuesday 16 March 2010, 09.00 – 12.30 and
15.00 – 18.30**

Thursday 17 March 2010, 09.00 – 12.30