

ENVI-News

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

The ENVI Committee wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!



Meeting in Brussels

Monday 29 November 2010, 15.00 – 18.30

Tuesday 30 November 2010, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30

Wednesday 1 December 2010, 9.00 – 12.30

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

NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

HEALTH

➤ **REDUCING HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN THE EU**

Consideration of draft report 2010/2089(INI)

The ENVI Committee will consider 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).

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.

The reasons for these differences in health are, in many cases, avoidable and unjust, because they are a consequence of differences in opportunity, in access to services and material resources, as well as differences in the lifestyle choices of individuals.

Deadline for AM's: 10 December 2010, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 25 January 2011

Vote in plenary: March I

➤ **A EUROPEAN INITIATIVE ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND OTHER DEMENTIAS**

Adoption of draft report 2010/2084(INI)

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft report on a European initiative on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias (Marisa Matias, GUE, Portugal).

A full Committee workshop was held on the 28th of October.

According to the figures presented by patients' associations, every year 1.4 million citizens living in Europe develop some type of dementia. A new case is diagnosed every 24

The Environment Committee website:

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

seconds. Almost one in 20 people over the age of 65 and one in five over 80 suffer from dementia. It is estimated that more than 8 million Europeans aged between 30 and 99 suffer from neurodegenerative diseases, and scientists anticipate that this number could double every 20 years. Alzheimer's disease is responsible for more than half of these cases. It is significant that only 3% of people diagnosed have survived for more than 40 years after receiving their diagnosis.

188 amendments have been tabled in ENVI, 16 Compromises have been proposed.

Vote in ENVI: 30 November 2010

Vote in Plenary: January 2011

OPINIONS

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

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

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion on the report 2010 on the implementation of the cohesion policy programmes for 2007-2013 (José Manuel Fernandes, EPP, Portugal)

The ENVI draft opinion among others 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.

Deadline for AM's: 9 December 2010, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 24-26 January 2011

Vote in REGI: 28 February 2011

Vote in Plenary: April 2011

➤ **RECOGNITION OF AGRICULTURE AS A STRATEGIC SECTOR IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY**

Adoption of draft opinion to own initiative report 2010/2112(INI)

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft opinion on recognition of agriculture as a strategic sector in the context of food security (Sergio Berlato, PPE, Italy).

The AGRI Committee has decided to draw up an own-initiative report in view of the expected increase in the world population over the coming decades and the need to adapt food production while facing strong price fluctuations. It strives to seek recognition from the EU for agriculture to be considered as a strategic sector to ensure worldwide food security.

The draftsman for the ENVI-opinion affirms the importance of guaranteeing European and global food security and wants agricultural products to be economically accessible to all consumers. He furthermore claims that the control on food safety must not be undermined by the economic crisis but ameliorated and strengthened. He underlines the need to reconcile agriculture productivity and conservation of biodiversity. 56 amendments have been tabled.

Vote in ENVI: 30 November 2010

Vote in AGRI: 1 December 2010

Vote in Plenary: January 2011

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

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

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion 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 special Committee on the policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013 (known as 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.

Deadline for AMs: 14 December 2010, noon

Vote in ENVI: 26 January 2011

Vote in SURE: March/April 2011

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

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

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion on aviation security with a special focus on security scanners (Crescenzo Rivellini, EPP, 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.

Deadline for AM's: 6 December 2010, noon

Vote in ENVI: 24-26 January 2011

Vote in TRAN: April 2011

Vote in Plenary: May 2011

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

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

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion on The EU protein deficit: what solution for a long standing 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 among other 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.

Deadline for AM's: 7 December 2010

Vote in ENVI: 25 January 2011

Vote in AGRI: 26-27 January 2011

Vote in Plenary: March 1 2011

ORAL QUESTIONS

➤ **ORAL QUESTION N° 2010/14 BY JÁNOS ÁDER, ANJA WEISGERBER AND JIM HIGGINS ON VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY**

➤ **ORAL QUESTION N° 2010/15 BY BAS EICKHOUT ON DIRECTIVE 2004/24/EC ON TRADITIONAL HERBAL MEDICINAL PRODUCTS**

➤ **ORAL QUESTION N° 2010/17 BY PAVEL POC ON DIRECTIVE 2004/24/EC ON THE TRADITIONAL HERBAL MEDICINAL PRODUCTS**

➤ **ORAL QUESTION N° 2010/16 BY CORINNE LEPAGE ON THE NEW GUIDELINES ON THE**

EVALUATION OF THE HEALTH RISKS OF GMOs

- **ORAL QUESTION N° 2010/18 BY BART STAES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GMO LEGISLATION**
- **ORAL QUESTION NO. 2010/13 BY SATU HASSI ON THE RED MUD DISASTER IN HUNGARY**

OTHER BUSINESS

- **INDIRECT LAND USE CHANGE AND BIOFUELS**

Exchange of views with Commission representatives

The Renewable Energy Directive requires that the Commission shall, by 31 December 2010, submit a report reviewing the impact of indirect land use change (ILUC) on greenhouse gas emissions and addressing ways to minimise that impact.

The Commission has recently finalised its consultation on the subject of the indirect land use change (ILUC) effects of biofuels.

This exchange of view takes place as a result of a request by the Greens/EFA, for a study on the indirect land use change effects of biofuels, which was agreed upon in the coordinators meeting of 5 October. Part of the request was to invite the Commission for an exchange of views on the requirement in the Renewables Directive to address ILUC in the GHG calculation methodology. The Commission was asked how they will proceed with this requirement and on the outcome of the consultation.

- **HEARING OF THE CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF EFSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

As the mandate of the current EFSA executive director Ms Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle will end up on 1 July 2011, the agency is in the process of renewal of her mandate. According to Article 26 of the Regulation 178/2002, the "Executive Director shall be appointed by the Management Board, on the basis of a list of candidates proposed by the Commission after an open

competition, following publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities and elsewhere of a call for expressions of interest, for a period of five years which shall be renewable. Before appointment the candidate nominated by the Management Board shall be invited without delay to make a statement before the European Parliament and answer questions put by members of this institution."

The Commission agreed on its meeting of 17 November 2010 to extend the mandate of Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle for a second period of 5 years from 1st July 2011, when her current mandate expires.

- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH JACQUELINE MCGLADE (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EEA)**

Presentation of the European Environment State and Outlook 2010 report (SOER 2010)

Mrs. McGlade will notably present the "European Environment State and Outlook Report 2010" (SOER 2010).

This report is the flagship product of the European Environment Agency (EEA). SOER 2010 will be the fourth State and Outlook Report on the European environment produced by the EEA (one every 5 year). It will cover 38 countries and will provide a set of assessments of the current state of the environment, how we got to that state, what that state might be by 2020, what is being done and what could be done to improve that state.

- **EMISSION TRADING AND AIR POLLUTION**

Exchange of views with Commission representatives

On 20 September 2010 the coordinators decided that the Commission should be asked to report on the state of play in relation to the compatibility of emission trading of air pollutants with existing legislation.

The Commission was asked to inform the Members on:

- the environmental and economic costs and benefits of emission trading of air pollutants, taking into account the existing legislation,

- possible implications for the existing legislation.

➤ **IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION**

- *Presentation by Pia Bucella (Director of DG ENV A) on recent developments on major infringement cases and on the 27th annual report on the application of EU law*
- *Exchange of views with Commission representatives on individual questions tabled by Members*

➤ **CO2 REDUCTION POTENTIAL OF HEAVY COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

Exchange of views with Commission representatives

This question stems from a budget -amendment by Mr Davies which was adopted in ENVI but rejected in the BUDG Committee.

The coordinators decided to launch a study instead but before doing so it was also decided to hear the Commission first.

Possible questions are:

- What are the coming steps the Commission's strategy to reduce CO2 from Heavy Duty Vehicles
- Which technologies are the most promising for this category of vehicles as an alternative to classical combustion engines?
- How to measure real world CO2 emissions from Heavy Duty Vehicles?
- How can we ensure that the market accepts new engines once they are on the market?

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN ENVI COMMITTEE

At its meeting of 9th November 2010 the ENVI Committee adopted:

- a recommendation (LEINEN) on European environmental economic accounts,
- an opinion (LIOTARD) to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) on Strengthening Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Security in the European Union – an EU CBRN Action Plan;

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

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

➤ **THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT – STATE AND OUTLOOK 2010**

SOER 2010 provides a set of assessments of the current state of Europe's environment, its likely future state, what is being done and what could be done to improve it, how global megatrends might affect future trends and more. For further information, please consult:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer/launch-of-the-european-environment> .

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):
24-26 January 2011