

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Brussels

Monday, 28 February 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 2001/18/EC AS REGARDS THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE MEMBER STATES TO RESTRICT OR PROHIBIT THE CULTIVATION OF GMOs IN THEIR TERRITORY**

*Co-decision, first reading, 2010/0208(COD)
Consideration of a draft report*

The ENVI committee will consider a draft report on the amendment of Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory (Corinne Lepage, ALDE, France).

The aim of this legislative proposal is to amend Directive 2001/18 to introduce provisions allowing Member States to decide themselves whether or not they want to cultivate GMOs on their own territory.

In its proposal, the Commission foresees that Member States may adopt measures prohibiting the cultivation of GMOs provided that those measures are based on grounds other than those related to the assessment of the adverse effect on health and environment.

In her report, the rapporteur broadens the scope of the grounds that Member States can invoke to prohibit GMOs cultivation: She states that those grounds can be relating to environmental impacts which are complementary to the environmental impacts examined during the assessment under Directive 2001/18.

Deadline for AM: 7 March 2011, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 11-12 April 2011

Vote in plenary: June 2011

ORAL QUESTION

- **PREVENTION OF NATURAL AND MAN MADE DISASTERS**

Adoption of question for oral answer without debate

The Oral Question for plenary (Rule 115) 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 and an invitation to Member States to assess the possibility of improving the integration of disaster prevention in national operational programming for EU funding,
- a study and 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.

The Environment Committee website:

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

HEARING

➤ MOVING BEYOND A 20% GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION TARGET IN THE EU

The hearing serves as a forum for debate on currently prepared report entitled Analysis of options to move beyond 20% greenhouse gas emission reductions and assessing the risk of carbon leakage. The report will be built on a working document drafted by ENVI rapporteur Bas Eickhout that quotes the estimations and conclusions of European Commission (COM(2010)0265) and studies of various organisations related to the possibility of moving from the current 20% EU greenhouse gas emission reductions to 30%. According to the rapporteur this 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.

Consideration of draft report: 16 March

Deadline for AM: 22 March (tbc)

Vote in ITRE: May 2011

Vote in ENVI: May-June 2011

Vote in Plenary: June-September 2011

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN PLENARY

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

- ***I (A7-0287/2010) CALLANAN: Setting emission performance standards for new light commercial vehicles as part of the Community's integrated approach to reduce CO2 emissions from light-duty vehicles,
- ***I (A7-0148/2010) MATIAS: The prevention of the entry into the legal supply chain of medicinal products which are falsified in relation to their identity, history or source.

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

Meeting in Strasbourg

Monday, 7 March 2011 19.15 – 20.00

COMITOLOGY

- **OBJECTION: "AUTHORISATION AND REFUSAL OF CERTAIN HEALTH CLAIMS ON FOODS REFERRING TO CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT (DHA IN BABY MILK)"**

Consideration of draft motion for a resolution

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft motion for a resolution objecting to a draft Commission Decision on the authorisation and refusal of certain health claims made on foods and referring to children's development and health. The authors (Ms Willmott, Ms Sarbu, Ms Childers and Ms Kadenbach) object to the claim that DHA (Docosahexaenoic acid, an omega-3 fatty acid) in baby milk "contributes to the normal visual development of infants up to 12 months of age". The draft decision falls under the Regulatory Procedure with Scrutiny (RPS). The vote in ENVI is scheduled for 16 March 2011.

Date of next meeting (Brussels):

16 March 2011, 09.00 – 12.30 and 15.00-18.30
17 March 2011, 09.00 – 12.30 and 15.00-18.30