

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Brussels

Tuesday, 14 June 2011, 15.00-18.30

Wednesday 15 June 2011, 09.00 – 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

LEGISLATIVE WORK

ENVIRONMENT

➤ **PHOSPHATES AND OTHER PHOSPHOROUS COMPOUNDS IN HOUSEHOLD LAUNDRY DETERGENTS**

*Co-decision, first reading
Adoption of draft report 2010/0298(COD)*

The ENVI committee will adopt a draft report on an amendment of Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 as regards the use of phosphates and other phosphorous compounds in household laundry detergents (Bill Newton Dunn, ALDE, UK).

The aim of this legislative proposal is to introduce limitations on the use of phosphates and other phosphorus compounds in laundry detergents as of 2013.

In his report, the Rapporteur broadens the scope and extends this limitation to dishwasher detergents, as of 2015. He also

proposes some amendments to the existing regulation in order to take into account the new rules for implementing and delegated acts.

Vote in Plenary: November 2011

➤ **CONTROL OF MAJOR-ACCIDENT HAZARDS INVOLVING DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES**

*Co-decision, first reading
Consideration of draft report 2010/0377(COD)*

The ENVI committee will consider a draft report on control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (János Áder, PPE, Hungary).

Directive 96/82/EC, the so called "Seveso II directive" aims at preventing major accidents (like the ones in Seveso, Bhopal, Schweizerhalle, Enschede, Toulouse and Buncefield) involving large quantities of dangerous substances (or mixtures thereof) and to limit the consequences of such accidents for man and the environment. There is a tiered approach to the level of controls, with the larger the quantities of substances, the stricter the rules. The Seveso II Directive covers around 10,000 establishments within the European Union.

The main reason for the revision of the Seveso II Directive is to align its Annex I to Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of dangerous substances and mixtures (hereinafter the CLP Regulation), which amends and repeals Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC to which the Seveso II Directive currently refers. The CLP rules become definitive with effect from 1 June 2015.

The draft report supports the methodology chosen by the Commission for the

The Environment Committee website:

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

alignment to the CLP directive. The Rapporteur furthermore agrees that no major changes regarding the basic structure and the main provisions of the current Directive are needed. One of his main concerns is the proposal by the Commission to use delegated acts for changes to Annex I, which defines the scope of the directive. As Annex I is an essential part of the directive, the Rapporteur proposes to only allow for modifications through the ordinary legislative procedure.

Deadline for AM's: 23 June 2011, 12.00
Vote in ENVI: 3-5 October 2011
Vote in Plenary: 12-15 December 2011

➤ **EMISSION STAGES TO NARROW-TRACK TRACTORS**

Co-decision, first reading
Consideration of draft report 2011/0002(COD)

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

The proposal 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 and IV for

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

The rapporteur supports the Commission's proposal.

Deadline for AM's: 16 June 2011, 12.00
Vote in ENVI: 14 July 2011
Vote in Plenary: September/October

NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

ENVIRONMENT

➤ **A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH FOR THE NON-CO₂ CLIMATE-RELEVANT ANTHROPOGENIC EMISSIONS**

Adoption of motion for a resolution further to a question for oral answer

In an effort to mitigate the consequences of climate change, the European climate policy has focused on long-term reductions of CO₂ emissions. Scientific data prove that the EU policy is lacking a comprehensive approach towards the reduction of the non-CO₂ climate-relevant anthropogenic emissions, namely the HFCs, black carbon and pollutant gases that lead to formation of tropospheric (lower atmosphere) ozone. The same data indicate that it is important to complement our efforts against climate change, by firmly and timely addressing the non-CO₂ pollutants, while taking advantage of existing technologies and institutions (such as the Montreal Protocol, bilateral agreements, etc). Relevant policy options include:

- (a) Phasing down the production and consumption of HFCs with global warming potential, to accelerate the phase-out of HCFCs, and recover and destroy stratospheric ozone-depleting greenhouse gases (GHGs) in discarded products and equipment,
- (b) Reduction of emissions of black carbon, giving priority to emissions that affect regions of snow and ice, including the Arctic, Greenland and the Himalayan-Tibetan glaciers,
- (c) Reduction of pollutant gases that lead to formation of tropospheric ozone, a significant GHG.

Vote in Plenary: July 2011

Further to this, the Policy Department A is organizing together with ENVI a **workshop** on "**Climate change: reduction of non-CO2 emissions**" on Tuesday 28 June from 16.00 to 18.30.

OPINIONS

➤ **FACING THE CHALLENGE OF THE SAFETY OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES**

Adoption of draft opinion 2011/2072(INI)

The ENVI Committee will vote on the adoption of a draft opinion to the ITRE Committee's report on the Commission Communication entitled "Facing the challenge of the safety of offshore oil and gas activities" (Corinne Lepage, ALDE, France).

ENVI has been granted certain exclusive competences under Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure, in relation to environmental and civil protection aspects of the Communication.

The draft opinion centres in particular on the EU disaster response capacity in relation to offshore oil and gas installations and environmental liability regimes and financial guarantee mechanisms. The draft opinion also makes proposals for revision of the Environmental Liability Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, and proposes the extension of Seveso III to oil rigs and of the mandate of the European Maritime Safety Agency to cases of marine pollution.

Vote in ENVI: 15 June 2011

Vote in ITRE: 16 June 2011

Vote in Plenary: July 2011

➤ **MODERNISATION OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**

Consideration of draft opinion 2011/2048(INI)

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

In her Green Paper the Commission sounds out the possibilities for a simplification of legislation concerning public procurement.

Many public authorities complain that legislation is too complicated and too compelling.

In this green Paper the Commission put many questions on subjects 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.

Deadline for AM's: 16 June 2011, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 16 July 2011

Vote in IMCO: 19 September 2011

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

Consideration of draft opinion 2011/2071(INI)

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

ECON's own initiative report is based on the Commission Communication on the "*Annual Growth Survey: advancing the EU's comprehensive response to the crisis*" (COM(2011)11 of 12 January 2011). This Communication marked the start of the first so-called European Semester as a key exercise (to take place during the first half of each calendar year) within the new EU economic governance approach for reviewing and coordinating the budgetary and economic policies in the EU. The role of Parliament in the European Semester is however not yet well defined.

The ECON draft report is putting forward, in particular, a formal structure and procedure for

Parliament's involvement in the European Semester.

The ENVI draft opinion stresses 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 (already) now, pointing out 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 emphasizes 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.

Deadline for AM: 20 June 2011, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 13 July 2011

Vote in ECON: 12 September 2011

Vote in Plenary: October 2011

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH JOHN DALLI (COMMISSIONER) ON THE EHEC (ENTEROHEMORRHAGIC ESCHERICHIA COLI) OUTBREAK**

PRESENTATIONS

- **PROTECTING DRINKING WATER RESOURCES**

Presentation by the Commission

In February the Commission informed the EP about a change in the work programme 2011: Following an in-depth assessment, the Commission concluded that a revision of the Drinking Water Directive was finally not needed. Therefore the Commission is invited to present what they are doing to protect drinking water resources.

- **2ND REPORT ON VOLUNTARY AND UNPAID DONATION OF BLOOD AND BLOOD COMPONENTS**

Presentation by the Commission

In accordance with Article 20 of Directive 2002/98/EC, Member States shall submit reports on the practice of voluntary and unpaid blood donation to the Commission every three years. Under the same article Member States are required to take the necessary measures to encourage voluntary and unpaid blood donations with a view to ensure that blood and blood components are in so far as possible provided from such donation. Largely in line with the findings of the first report this report shows that legislative provisions and guidelines on voluntary and unpaid blood donation are well established across the EU.

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN ENVI COMMITTEE

At its meeting of 23-25th May 2011 the ENVI Committee adopted:

- its first reading report (PERELLO) on an amendment of council directive 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption;
- a report (EICKHOUT) on analysis of options to move beyond 20% greenhouse gas emission reductions and assessing the risk of carbon leakage;
- a report (ROTH-BEHRENDT) on TSE legislation and related feed and food controls;
- an opinion (FERNANDES) to IMCO on Universal Service and '112' Emergency Number;
- an opinion (ROSBACH) to PECH on combating illegal fishing at the global level - the role of the EU;
- an opinion (PLUMB) to ITRE on energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond;
- an opinion (ROSSI) to EMPL on mobility and inclusion of people with disabilities and the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020;

- a question for oral answer on EU subsidies for polluting and unsustainable practices;
- a question for oral answer on a comprehensive approach for the non-CO₂ climate-relevant anthropogenic emissions.

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN PLENARY

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

- ***I (A7-0330/2010) LEINEN: Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European environmental economic accounts;
- (A7-0175/2011) ROSBACH: GDP and beyond – Measuring progress in a changing world.

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

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

More efforts required to reduce ozone pollution in Europe

Ground-level ozone is one of the most harmful air pollutants in Europe today. A new report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) shows that despite efforts to reduce ozone pollution, in 2010 levels continued to exceed the long-term objective established in EU legislation to protect human health. EU Member States will also face difficulties in meeting the target value, applicable as of 2010.

http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/more-efforts-required-to-reduce?&utm_campaign=more-efforts-required-to-reduce&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions

EU to exceed nitrogen oxides emission ceiling, mostly due to road transport

The EU-27 and its Member States must meet legally binding limits for four air pollutants set by the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive) to protect human health and the environment. The annual status report released today by the European Environment Agency (EEA) shows that while EU-27

emissions for three air pollutants are projected to meet the ceilings, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions for the EU-27 as a whole will exceed its ceiling by 17 %. Ten Member States expect to miss their respective NO_x ceilings.

http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/eu-to-exceed-nitrogen-oxides?&utm_campaign=eu-to-exceed-nitrogen-oxides&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>

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

RECENT EXPERTISE FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Study on EU subsidies for polluting and unsustainable practices:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=en&file=34691>

Study on Indirect Land Use Change and Biofuels:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=en&file=35128>

Study on Differences in Costs of and Access to Pharmaceutical Products in the EU:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=en&file=35108>

Date of next meeting (Brussels):

21 June 2011, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30