

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Brussels

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

Thursday, 17 March 2011, 09.00 – 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 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

- **PROVISIONS FOR TRACTORS PLACED ON THE MARKET UNDER THE FLEXIBILITY SCHEME (COM (2010)0607)**

*Co-decision, first reading, 2010/0301(COD)
Adoption of draft report*

The ENVI committee will adopt a draft report on the amendment of Directive 2005/25/EC as regards the provisions for tractors placed on the market under the flexibility scheme (Salvatore Tatarella, PPE, Italy).

The Commission proposes to increase the percentage of the number of engines authorised to be placed on the market from 20% to 50% of the tractor manufacturer's annual sales of equipment and an adaptation of the maximum number of engines that may be placed on the market under the flexibility scheme as an optional alternative, in the period between Stage III A to emission Stage III B. The measure will expire on 31 December 2013.

The Environment Committee website:

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

The rapporteur basically agrees with the proposed measures and even wants an equally long period of increased flexibility for the different categories of engines.

Several compromise amendments have been tabled fixing the flexibility percentage at 35% in stead of the proposed 50% limited to 3 years.

Vote in plenary: May 2011

- **PROVISIONS FOR ENGINES PLACED ON THE MARKET UNDER THE FLEXIBILITY SCHEME (COM (2010)0362)**

*Co-decision, first reading, 2010/0195(COD)
Adoption of draft report*

The ENVI committee will adopt a draft report on the amendment of Directive 97/68/EC as regards the provisions for engines placed on the market under the flexibility scheme (Sirpa Pietikäinen, PPE, Finland).

The Commission proposes to increase the percentage of the number of engines used for application in land based machines, placed on the market under the current flexibility scheme in each engine category from 20 % to 50% of the Original Equipment Maker's annual sales of equipment and an adaptation of the maximum number of engines that may be placed on the market under the flexibility scheme as an optional alternative, in the period between emission Stage IIA to emission Stage III B. The Commission proposes also to include engines used for the propulsion of railcars and locomotives in the flexibility scheme providing the possibility for the OEM to place on the market a limited number of engines under the flexibility scheme. The measure would expire on 31 December 2013.

The rapporteur fundamentally disagrees with the proposal and has proposed many exceptions.

Vote in plenary: May 2011

FOOD SAFETY

➤ **FOOD INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS**

*Co-decision, second reading, 2008/0028 (COD)
Consideration of draft recommendation*

The ENVI committee will consider a draft recommendation for second reading on food information to consumers (Renate Sommer, EPP, Germany).

The free movement of safe food is an essential aspect of the internal market and contributes significantly to the health and well-being of citizens, and to their social and economic interests. This Regulation strives to simplify, ensure legal certainty, reduce red tape and benefit citizens by requiring clear, comprehensible and legible labelling of foods.

In order to achieve a high level of health protection for consumers and to guarantee their right to information, it should be ensured that consumers are appropriately informed as regards the food they consume. Purchasing decisions can be influenced by, inter alia, health, economic, environmental, social and ethical considerations.

The rapporteur introduces 107 amendments in her draft recommendation for second reading aiming to re-establish the EP position to the Council common position.

Deadline for AM: 18 March 2011

Vote in ENVI: 12 April 2011

Vote in Plenary: July 2011

LEGISLATIVE OPINIONS

➤ **PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY**

Adoption of draft opinion 2010/0257(COD)

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft opinion to TRAN on a programme to support the further development of an integrated maritime policy (Corinne Lepage, ALDE, France).

The Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) promotes synergy between all EU policies relating to the

oceans, seas, costal regions and maritime sectors.

The long-term funding of the further development and implementation of this policy is not currently guaranteed. The purpose of the present legislative proposal is to provide the IMP with a stable financial framework for the period 2011-2013 by establishing a financial envelope of EUR 50 million.

The draft opinion seeks to clarify, supplement and entrench the programme's objectives. In particular, it suggests that the promotion of sustainable development, the protection and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources and the development of individualised sea basin strategies should be included among the programme's general objectives. The opinion also suggests that the proposal's general presentation should be clarified and the 'specific objectives' should be expanded and renamed 'operational objectives'.

Vote in TRAN: 12 April 2011

Vote in Plenary: June 2011

➤ **AMENDMENT OF REGULATION (EC) 1406/2002 ESTABLISHING A EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY**

Consideration of draft opinion 2010/0195 (COD)

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion to TRAN on an amendment of Regulation (EC) 1406/2002 establishing a European Maritime Safety Agency (Bart Staes, Verts/ALE, Belgium)

The Commission proposal includes proposed amendments to the objectives, tasks, inspection functions and administrative arrangements governing the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), established under Regulation (EC) 1406/2002.

The draft ENVI opinion focuses on strengthening the existing functions of EMSA so as to further environmental protection objectives and accident response capacity in EU waters. The Rapporteur for the opinion considers this to be particularly pertinent in the light of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and consequently the need to

examine maritime safety and pollution prevention issues in EU waters. He proposes that the EMSA's expertise be used to assist and support the Commission and Member States in relation to the prevention of pollution from offshore oil and gas installations and in the development of requirements and guidance on the licensing of oil and gas exploration and production.

The Rapporteur also proposes that the Regulation be amended to provide for an enhanced role for systems such as CleanSeaNet and the electronic detection system, used by EMSA in its existing work, to extend EMSA's inspection functions, and to examine its potential to carry out an independent audit role in relation to licensing and financial liability matters.

Deadline for AM: 24 March 2011

Vote in ENVI: 18-19 April

Vote in TRAN: September 2011

NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

ENVIRONMENT

➤ FOREST PROTECTION AND INFORMATION IN THE EU:

Adoption of draft report (2010/2106 (INI))

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft report on the Commission Green Paper on forest protection and information in the EU (Kriton Arsenis, S&D, Greece).

298 Amendments were tabled in ENVI, 27 in AGRI (under Rule 50) and 45 in ITRE.

There are 48 Compromise and Consolidated Amendments which cover the following issues:

- Importance of Forests,
- Biodiversity,
- Forest protection,
- Wood as material,
- Diversity of eco-systems/threats,
- Subsidiarity/coordination,
- Sustainable forest management,
- Forest Action Plan,
- Funding,
- Monitoring, information, participation and research,
- ETS, LULUCF and the external dimension.

Vote in ENVI: 16-17 March 2011

Vote in Plenary: May 2011

➤ OPTIONS TO MOVE BEYOND 20% GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND ASSESSING THE RISK OF CARBON LEAKAGE

Consideration of draft report 2011/2012(INI)

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft report on an analysis of options to move beyond 20% greenhouse gas emission reductions and assessing the risk of carbon leakage (Bas Eickhout, GREENS/EFA, Netherlands).

The draft report calls the Commission to come forward with proposals to move to a 30% greenhouse gas reduction by 2020 as soon as possible, and at the latest by the end of 2011. The rapporteur also points out that the EU's current 20%-target is not in line with the objective of maintaining climate change to 2°C above preindustrial levels; delaying climate action would result in higher costs for achieving the 2050 target of 80-95% greenhouse gas emissions reduction. The rapporteur suggests that moving to a 30%-reduction target would be achieved with cost-effective effort sharing between ETS and non-ETS sectors, and a 25% domestic effort. Among the co-benefits of such move the text mentions increased competitiveness and innovation, job creation, improved air quality and reduced imports of oil and gas. As regards the risk of carbon leakage, the border adjustment measures or including imports in the ETS would need to be combined with full auctioning to the sectors concerned.

Deadline for AM: 25 March 2011

Vote in ITRE: May 2011

Vote in ENVI: May-June 2011

Vote in Plenary: June-September 2011

➤ BEYOND GDP - MEASURING PROGRESS IN A CHANGING WORLD

Consideration of draft report 2010/2088(INI)

The ENVI Committee will consider a 2nd version of the draft report on "Beyond GDP - Measuring progress in a changing world" (Anna Rosbach, ECR, Denmark).

The first draft report was rejected in committee. Coordinators agreed however- given the great interest in the subject- that the rapporteur should explore possible avenues for compromise with the shadows. After respective meetings a new draft report has been tabled.

The Commission Communication on "Beyond GDP" aims at improving the current situation regarding indicators for policy debates, decisions and evaluations which are mainly based on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It proposes a number of measures, such as complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators, near real-time information for decision-making, more accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, developing a European Sustainable Development Scoreboard, extending national accounts to environmental and social issues.

The rapporteur suggests developing a clear and comprehensible set of indicators that are consistent, relevant and measurable in order to contribute to improved policy analysis and debate.

Deadline for AM: 21 March 2011

Vote in ENVI: 19 April 2011

Vote in Plenary: June 2011

➤ **AGREEMENT ON THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRESPA PARK AREA**

Adoption of draft report 2010/0300(NLE)

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft report on an agreement on the protection and sustainable development of the Prespa Park area (Kriton Arsenis, S&D, Greece).

On 27 June 2006, the Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission, on behalf of the European Union, to negotiate the conclusion of international river basin agreements to improve cooperation in European river basins shared between certain Member States and third countries. The Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area has been negotiated by the European Commission, Greece, Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The Prespa Lakes and their surroundings are a unique natural area with high ecological significance, which can only be preserved through a holistic approach at basin level. Before adopting the Decision to conclude the Agreement, the Council must obtain the consent of the European Parliament.

Vote in Plenary: May 2011

OPINIONS

➤ **MANAGEMENT OF SPENT FUEL AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

Consideration of draft opinion 2010/0306(NLE)

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion to ITRE on management of spent fuel and radioactive waste (Pavel Poc, S&D, Czech Republic).

The proposed Directive sets out an EU legal framework for spent fuel and radioactive waste management. It revises the Commission proposal for a Council (Euratom) Directive on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. Whatever the future of nuclear power and non-power applications is, the implementation of disposal as the end point in the management of existing and future radioactive waste is needed in order to assure safety in the long term.

The rapporteur in his opinion welcomes the draft proposal for a Council Directive which would help all the Member States to take the necessary political decisions to establish and implement their national programs especially with regards to the responsible and safe management of high level radioactive waste and spent fuel.

Deadline for AM: 21 March 2011

Vote in ENVI: 12 April 2011

Vote in ITRE: 26 May 2011

Vote in Plenary: June II 2011

➤ **THE CAP TOWARDS 2020 - MEETING THE FOOD, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TERRITORIAL CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE**

Consideration of draft opinion 2011/2051(INI)

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion to AGRI on the CAP towards 2020 - meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future (Karin Kadenbach, S&D, Austria).

The Commission communication on the same subject sets out three key challenges for agriculture: to preserve Europe's capacity to deliver food security, to help farming adapt and make a positive contribution to address climate

change and environmental challenges and to mitigate the territorial imbalances and improving the vitality and economic potential of rural areas. These challenges are translated into three objectives: viable food production, sustainable management of natural resources and climate action, balanced territorial development. Finally, the communication evokes three broad policy options, differentiating between little, more and great attention to environmental and climate change concerns.

The rapporteur for the ENVI opinion, favouring policy option 2, underlines that a post-2013 CAP must respond to the environmental challenges and asks for sufficient funding for targeted agro-environmental measures.

Deadline for AM: 21 March 2011

Vote in ENVI: 12 April 2011

Vote in AGRI: 2 May 2011

Vote in Plenary: June 1 2011

➤ **INNOVATION UNION: TRANSFORMING EUROPE FOR A POST-CRISIS WORLD**

Adoption of draft opinion 2010/2245 (INI)

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft opinion to ITRE on "Innovation Union: Transforming Europe for a post-crisis world" (João Ferreira, GUE/NGL, Portugal).

The "Innovation Union" is one of the seven flagships announced in the Europe 2020 Strategy. It aims to improve conditions and access to finance for research and innovation, to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services that create growth and jobs.

In its "Innovation Union" Communication of 6 October 2010, the Commission has put forward a proposal to launch European innovation partnerships, briefly describing their rationale and setting out in general terms how these could be set up and operated. It proposed to test the concept by means of a pilot partnership in the area of active and healthy ageing, whilst setting out a process for the possible launch of further partnerships before the end of 2011.

The opinion of the ENVI rapporteur introduces 14 points aiming to reinforce the environmental aspects of the "Innovation Union".

Vote in ITRE: 12 April 2011

Vote in Plenary: May 2011

➤ **2009 DISCHARGE**

Adoption of draft opinions 2010/2170(DEC)

The ENVI Committee will adopt draft opinions on the 2009 discharge (Jutta Haug, S&D, Germany) for the following:

- EU general budget, Section III - Commission
- European Medicines Agency
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
- European Food Safety Authority
- European Chemicals Agency
- European Environment Agency

The draft opinions consider the implementation of the general EU budget in the fields of environment, public health and food safety. The rapporteur concludes that in overall terms the implementation rates in 2009 have been satisfactory and is therefore in favour of granting discharge to the Commission and to the Agencies.

Vote in CONT: 28 March 2011

Vote in Plenary: May 2011

COMITOLOGY

➤ **TRANSITIONAL UNION-WIDE RULES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF EMISSION ALLOWANCES (BENCHMARKING)**

Adoption of motion for a resolution 2011/2504(RPS)

The ENVI Committee will vote on two motions for a resolution concerning objections to the draft Commission Decision determining transitional Union-wide rules for the harmonised free allocation of emission allowances (Benchmarking)".

The draft Commission decision on Benchmarking falls under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny (Comitology) under which Parliament has a right of veto.

The draft Decision sets benchmarks in relation to the products specified in the Annexes to the

Decision to be met for the free allocation of emissions in the second phase of the ETS from 2013 onwards. The objections and the 2 motions for resolution tabled concern inter alia the non-progressive application of the benchmarks applicable to the refining, petrochemical and fertiliser sector, the benchmarks applicable to lime and dolime, waste gases, and the absence of a fuel correction factor in the setting of the benchmarks.

*Vote in Plenary if adopted in ENVI:
4-7 April 2011*

➤ **HEALTH CLAIMS ON FOODS REFERRING TO CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT (DHA IN BABY MILK)**

*Vote on draft motion for a resolution
2011/2549(RPS)*

Several ENVI Members object to the authorisation of a health claim that states 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 opposed draft decision falls under the Regulatory Procedure with Scrutiny (RPS) under which Parliament has a right of veto.

Vote in Plenary if adopted in ENVI: April 2011

ORAL QUESTIONS

➤ **ORAL QUESTION N° 02/2011 ON ASPARTAME AND OTHER SIMILAR OR RELATED CHEMICAL SWEETENERS**

Exchange of views with Commission representatives

Aspartame is an artificial sweetener used as a sugar substitute in some foods and beverages. The safety of aspartame has been the subject of several political and medical controversies, hearings and internet hoaxes since its initial approval for use in food products by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1974. The Oral Question requests the Commission to ask EFSA to reconsider its opinion on aspartame and other similar or related chemical sweeteners, in the light of recent studies that

have shown aspartame's negative impacts on pregnant women as well as its carcinogenic potential.

➤ **ORAL QUESTION N° 2011/01 ON THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE CURRENT EU POLICY FOR COLORECTAL CANCER**

Exchange of views with Commission representatives

With more than 200.000 deaths a year, colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second most killing cancer in Europe. Preventive screening measures as recommended in 2003 by the Council of Ministers could reduce this number by at least 60.000 per year. The first implementation report on the Council Recommendations among Member States from 2008 showed that Colorectal Cancer screening had the lowest implementation rates of all recommended screening activities across the EU. In this context, the Commission is asked which additional measures it will take to speed up the implementation of national population-based screening programmes, whether it will give more attention to the field of Colorectal Cancer in the future health research programmes and when it will publish the guidelines for colorectal cancer screening.

➤ **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUEL QUALITY DIRECTIVE, INCLUDING AN EU DEFAULT VALUE FOR TAR SANDS AND OIL SHALE**

Adoption of Oral Question for plenary (Rule 115) without debate

As the deadline of 1 January 2011 in the Fuel Quality Directive has passed for implementing provisions to set the baseline value for greenhouse gas emissions from transport fuels, and for the methodology on the Member States' annual reporting procedures, an oral question has been tabled to the Commission about the reasons for not meeting the deadline and the position of the Commission to include a default value for tar sands and oil shale in the delayed implementing provisions aiming at a level playing field for these unconventional fuels with the other unconventional fuels covered by the provisions.

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

- with **PATRICIA ESPINOSA CANTELLANO** (Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs and President of COP16/ CMP6)
- with **Commissioner OETTINGER** on the consequences of the **EARTHQUAKE in JAPAN**, in particular as regards nuclear power plants
- with **DURWOOD ZAEELKE**, President of the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development (IGSD) on ways to **PROTECT CLIMATE** through the **MONTREAL PROTOCOL**
- with **Francesca BALZANI** (General Rapporteur for the 2012 budget) on the **Mandate for the TRILOGUE** on the **2012 DRAFT BUDGET**
- **IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION**

PRESENTATIONS

by the European Commission on

- **LOW LEVEL PRESENCE OF GMOS IN FEED**
- **END-OF-LIFE VEHICLES**
- **THE REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY CONCERNING MERCURY**

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN PLENARY

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

- (A7-0035/2011) **RIVASI**: Evaluation of the management of H1N1 influenza in 2009-2010 in the EU,
- (A7-0032/2011) **ESTRELA**: Reducing health inequalities in the EU,
- (A7-0026/2011) **HÄUSLING**: "EU protein deficit: what solution for a long-standing problem?"

RECENT EXPERTISE FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Study on End of life vehicles

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=en&file=33075#search=%20ELV%20>

Study on the New Financial Perspectives related with ENVI competencies

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=en&file=34626><http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=en&file=34626>

Study on EU subsidies for polluting and unsustainable practices

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

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://ecdc.europa.eu/EN/HEALTHTOPICS/SEASONAL_INFLUENZA/EPIDEMIOLOGICAL_DATA/Pages/Weekly_Influenza_Surveillance_Overview.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):
11 April 2011 15.00-18.30 and
12 April 2011 09.00 – 12.30 and 15.00-18.30