

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Brussels

Monday 15 March 2010, 3.00 - 6.30 p.m.
 Tuesday 16 March 2010, 9.00-12.30 p.m.
 and 3.00-6.30 pm
 Wednesday 17 March 2010, 10.00 - 12.30 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE WORK

ENVIRONMENT

➤ **INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS (INTEGRATED POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL) (RECAST VERSION)**

*Co-decision-second reading (2007/0286(COD))
 Consideration of draft recommendation for second reading*

The ENVI committee will consider a draft recommendation for second reading on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (recast version) (Holger Kraemer (ALDE), Germany).

The Industrial Emissions Directive seeks to prevent and control, in a coordinated way, pollution of the air, water and soil resulting from emissions from industrial installations. The Council discussed the issue of large combustion plants (LCPs), i.e. power plants as well as combustion installations in oil refineries and the metal industry. In order further to reduce pollution from these sources, the Commission had proposed tightening the existing emissions limits for them by bringing them into line with current Best Available Techniques (BAT) by 2016. BAT refers to the most effective and available emission reduction technology, as documented in European BAT Reference Documents (BREFs). The Council agreed to apply current BAT to new LCPs earlier than proposed by the Commission, namely within two years after the entry into force of the Directive. Existing LCPs would

have to apply current BAT from 2016, but the agreement foresees a transition period: until the end of 2020, Member States may define transitional national plans capping emissions of certain pollutants (NO_x and/or SO₂ and/or dust). These annual ceilings must decline between 2016 and 2020 and meet levels associated with current BAT at the end of 2019. The Council did not accept the so called emissions safety net as adopted by Parliament in the first reading. The draft recommendation from the Rapporteur stays close to the first reading position. Instead of the European safety net, he proposes minimum requirements that would only need to be set for problematic sectors (high impact and insufficient implementation).

Deadline for amendments: 23 March 2010 at 12.00

Vote in ENVI : 27/28 April 2010

Vote in Plenary : July

➤ **EMISSION PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR NEW LIGHT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

*Co-decision - first reading (2009/0173(COD))
 Exchange of views*

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views on the information on emission performance standards for new light commercial vehicles (Martin Callanan, ECR, Great Britain).

The proposal is a follow-up of the Community Strategy to reduce CO₂ emissions from Light duty vehicles and complements the Regulation on the emission reductions for passenger cars (Sacconi-report). It aims to reduce the impact of LVC's by ensuring that the average specific emissions of new LVC's do not exceed 175 g CO₂/km. This target will be phased in gradually from 1 January 2014 onwards with full compliance of the new fleet from 2016.

The proposal is built up very much in the same way as the regulation for passenger cars

(Supercredits for zero-or low emission cars, fines in case of excess of the limits, pooling, phasing in, derogations for certain manufacturers, eco-innovation etc.)

Presentation of a draft report: 3-4 May 2010

Vote in ENVI: September

Vote in ITRE: June

Vote in Plenary: October -November

PUBLIC HEALTH

➤ **INFORMATION ON MEDICINAL PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO MEDICAL PRESCRIPTION (AMENDMENT OF REGULATION (EC) NO 726/2004 AND AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIVE 2001/83/EC)**

Co-decision - first reading (2008/0255(COD))

Co-decision - first reading (2008/0256(COD))

Exchange of views

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views on the information on medicinal products subject to medical prescription (amendment of regulation (EC) NO 726/2004 and amendment of Directive 2001/83/EC) (Christofer Fjellner, PPE, Sweden).

The "information to patients" proposals form part of the Pharmaceutical Package. The objective of the proposals is to allow pharmaceutical companies to provide non-promotional information to the general public on prescription-only medicines. The proposal defines the scope of information which can be made available, limits the channels through which information can be provided, and sets criteria on the quality of information. The proposal maintains the advertisement ban.

The draft report proposes to change the focus of the proposal and emphasise the patients' right to get access to information instead of the opportunity for the pharmaceutical companies to provide information. The draft report also emphasises the central role of the doctor-patient relation; and proposes to involve patients' organisations and health professionals into the issues related to the implementation and application of the directive and regulation.

Deadline for amendments: 13 April

Consideration of amendments: 2-3 June

Vote in ENVI: 21-23 June

Vote in Plenary: September - I

➤ **STANDARDS OF QUALITY AND SAFETY OF HUMAN ORGANS INTENDED FOR TRANSPLANTATION**

Co-decision - first reading (2008/0238(COD))

Adoption of draft report

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft report on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation (Miroslav Mikolášik, PPE, Slovakia).

In May 2007, the Commission adopted a communication on the donation and transplant of organs and the communication entitled Action plan on Organ Donation and Transplantation (2009-2015): Strengthened Cooperation between Member States (Perello INI Report). The regulatory approach of this proposed directive based on a framework model, ensuring that national legislation is put in place to deal with key aspects of organ donation and transplantation but without prescribing detailed policy measures. The Directive will ensure that the quality and safety structures are in place. These will facilitate the conditions for organ exchanges and ensure a basic level of quality and safety for all patients in Europe. The Directive, given its binding nature, will support and trigger the implementation of key priority actions of the Action Plan.

Vote in plenary: May II

FOOD SAFETY

➤ **FOOD INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS**

Co-decision - first reading

(2008/0028(COD))-COM(2008)0040

Consideration of draft report

The ENVI Committee will consider and adopt the draft report on Food information to consumers (Renate Sommer, PPE, Germany).

The COM proposal for the reformulation of EU's provisions on food labelling is intended to meet the requirements of better law-making by combining and replacing seven directives and a regulation. In addition, it is designed to reduce red tape, offer stakeholders in the food chain a greater degree of legal certainty, improve the competitiveness of the European Food industry,

guarantee food safety, ensure that consumers are provided with comprehensive information about foods and promote healthy eating as part of the EU's strategy against obesity. The proposal contains the following key proposals: Mandatory particulars, indication and presentation of nutritional values as well as possibilities to adopt or maintain national labelling rules.

The Rapporteur, MEP Sommer, proposes a comprehensive revision of the approach proposed by the COM (202 AMs). ENVI Members have submitted 373, AGRI 122 and IMCO 97 AMs.

Vote in ENVI: 16 March 2010

Vote in Plenary: May II 2010

NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

➤ **WHITE PAPER: ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE: TOWARDS A EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION**

Initiative report (2009/2152(INI))

Adoption of draft own initiative report

The ENVI Committee will adopt an INI report (Vittorio Prodi, S&D, Italy) on the White Paper: Adapting to climate change: towards a European framework for action.

The White Paper "Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action", sets out a framework to reduce the EU's vulnerability to the impact of climate change. In his draft report, the Rapporteur agrees with the objective of improving EU's resilience in dealing with the impact of climate change. The draft report focuses on the following points:

- Developing the knowledge base
- Integrating adaptation into EU policies: Water, Agriculture, Soil, Health, Infrastructure, Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage
- Structure and governance
- Financing

Vote in plenary: April 2010

➤ **REPORT ON THE COMMISSION COMMUNICATION : A COMMUNITY APPROACH ON THE PREVENTION OF NATURAL AND MAN MADE DISASTERS**

Initiative report (2009/2151(INI))

Consideration of draft own initiative report

The ENVI committee will consider a draft own initiative report on the commission communication : a community approach on the prevention of natural and man made disasters (João Ferreira (GUE/NGL) Portugal).

The Communication by the Commission sets the ground for the preparation of an overall European disaster prevention framework. Short-term actions proposed by the Commission include, among others, creating an inventory of information on disasters; spreading best practices; developing guidelines on hazard/risk mapping; encouraging research activities; focusing more on training and awareness-raising, reinforcing early warning tools; targeting Community funding; and taking account of disaster prevention in the preparation and review of Community legislation.

In his draft report the Rapporteur, while underlining the importance of solidarity between Member States, emphasises the role of national, regional and local authorities in the prevention and management of disasters. He also stresses the need to create a suitable financial instrument for disaster prevention and indicates some priorities; and calls for specific measures concerning forest protection and fire prevention.

Deadline for tabling amendments: 22 March 2010, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 3-4 May 2010

Vote in Plenary: June 2010

➤ **ACTION PLAN ON ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION**

Initiative report (2009/2104(INI))

Adoption of draft own initiative report

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft own initiative report on the 'Action plan on Organ Donation and Transplantation (2009-2015): Strengthened Cooperation between Member States' (Andrés Perello Rodríguez, S&D, Spain).

The Action Plan on Organ Donation and Transplantation for the period 2009 to 2015 sets

out a collaborative approach with 10 European and Member State priority actions. This approach is based on the identification and development of common objectives, agreed quantitative and qualitative indicators and benchmarks, regular reporting and identification of best practices.

Vote in plenary: May II

OPINIONS

➤ **THE EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION AND THE ROLE OF MACRO-REGIONS IN THE FUTURE COHESION POLICY**

Consideration of draft opinion (2009/2230(INI))

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion (Anna Rosbach (EFD), Denmark) to the Committee on Regional Development's own initiative report on the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the role of macro-regions in the future cohesion policy. The report concerns the Commission Communication and accompanying Action Plan on the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the role of macro-regions in future EU cohesion policy.

Deadline for tabling amendments: 16 March 2010, noon

Vote in ENVI: 7 April 2010

Vote in REGI: 26-28th April 2010

Vote in Plenary: May 2010

➤ **HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS**

Consideration of draft opinion (2009/2219(INI))

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion (Thomas Ulmer (PPE), Germany) to the Committee on International Trade (INTA) own initiative report on the 'Human rights, social and environmental standards in International Trade agreements'.

The draftsman for the ENVI-opinion, Mr Ulmer, declares himself in favour of measures concerning the compliance with important environmental, as well as human and some veterinary health standards in international trade agreements. He urges the Commission to pursue

such standards in bilateral trade agreements and pushes her to call on the WTO to take decisions in disputes not only on the ground of trade policy considerations. The draftsman rejects the harmonisation of environmental and health standards.

Deadline for amendments: 18 March 2010, 12.00

Vote in ENVI: 27 April 2010

Vote in INTA (lead): 22-23 June 2010

Vote in plenary: July 2010

➤ **POWER OF LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

Consideration of draft opinion (2010/201(INI))

The ENVI Committee will consider draft opinions (Jo Leinen, S&D, Germany) to the Committee on Legal Affairs on the Power of legislative delegation.

Article 290 allows the legislator to delegate to the Commission the power to adopt non-legislative acts of general application to supplement or amend certain non-essential elements of a legislative act. As is the case for the current regulatory procedure with scrutiny (comitology) Parliament has the right to object to a delegated act. New is that Parliament can also revoke the power given to the Commission to the delegated acts

Article 291 allows MS to adopt measures of national law necessary to implement legally binding Union acts. Under this article Parliament does not have the possibility to object. It provides that a regulation must be adopted "in advance" under the 'ordinary legislative procedure' (former codecision procedure) for implementing that Article.

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.

Vote in JURI : 23 March 2010

Vote in Plenary : April 2010

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

*Co-decision - first reading (2009/0169(COD))
Adoption of draft opinion*

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft opinion (Anna Rosbach, EFD, Denmark) to the industry, research and energy committee on the joint Baltic sea research and development programme.

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. Also the EU's Joint Research Centre will participate.

But the Commission links some conditions to its participation as regards financial transparency, availability of the results of research having been carried out etc.

Deadline for tabling amendments: 25 February 2010

Vote in ENVI: 16 March 2010

Vote in Plenary: May 2010

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

Adoption of draft opinion (2009/2228(INI))

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft opinion (Daciana Octavia Sârbu, S&D, Romania) to the report of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee 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. It 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.

Vote in ITRE : 7th April 2010

Vote in Plenary : May 2010

ORAL QUESTIONS

➤ **ORAL QUESTION N° 2010/01 BY CHRIS DAVIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVE 2000/53/EC ON END-OF- LIFE VEHICLES FOR THE PERIOD 2005-2008**

Exchange of views with Commission

➤ **ORAL QUESTION NO. 2010/04 JOINTLY BY BAS EICKHOUT, CORINNE LEPAGE, KRITON ARSENIS, ESTHER DE LANGE AND JAN-GERBEN GERBRANDY ON SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA FOR BIOFUELS AND BIOMASS**

Exchange of views with Commission

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

➤ **DISTRIBUTION AND TARGETING OF THE CAP BUDGET FROM A BIODIVERSITY PERSPECTIVE**

The EU has highlighted the importance of using the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) to prevent the abandonment of high nature value farmland and its intensification as a key action to halt biodiversity decline. The present technical EEA report sets out to assess whether the current distribution of CAP funds is likely to favour the maintenance of farmland with high nature value (HNV). And it explores the extent to which CAP funds are likely to support the long-term economic and ecological sustainability of these HNV farming systems.

Read more ...

http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/distribution-and-targeting-of-the-cap-budget-from-a-biodiversity-perspective?utm_campaign=distribution-and-targeting-of-the-cap-budget-from-a-biodiversity-perspective&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions

➤ **BIODIVERSITY – 10 MESSAGES FOR 2010. MESSAGE 3: FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS**

This EEA document is the 3rd in a series of '10 messages for 2010'. Each message provides a short assessment focusing on a

specific ecosystem or issue related to biodiversity in Europe.

Read more

http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/10-messages-for-2010?utm_campaign=newsletter.2010-03-09.3033173503&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions

Dates of next meeting:

- Brussels, 6 April 2010, 15.00-18.30
7 April 2010, 09.00 - 12.30