

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Brussels

Monday 26 April 2010, 15.00 - 18.30
 Tuesday 27 April 2010, 09.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30
 Thursday 28 April 2010, 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

HEALTH

➤ **FALSIFIED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS (AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIVE 2001/83/EC)**

*Co-decision, first reading (2008/0261(COD))
 Consideration of amendments and adoption of draft report*

The ENVI committee will consider the amendments and adopt the draft report on Falsified Medicinal Products (Amendment of Directive 2001/83/EC) (Marisa MATIAS, GUE/NGL, Portugal).

There is an increase in the EU of medicinal products which are falsified in relation to their identity, history or source. The existing provisions of Directive 2001/83/EC are in some respects insufficient to address this problem. The Commission therefore proposed a number of amendments, including certain obligations for other players than wholesale distributors; a legal basis for the Commission to render obligatory specific safety-features; a prohibition in principle of manipulating safety features on

the packaging; obligatory audits of supplying wholesale distributors of medicinal products; strengthened requirements for imports from third countries; strengthened rules for inspection.

The amendments inter alia aim at better clarifying the definitions and responsibilities; propose a review on the need to also have safety features for non prescriptive medicines. Furthermore the amendments propose provisions to deal with the selling of falsified medicines through the internet, which is considered to be a key source and which is not covered by the Commission proposal.

Vote in plenary: July 2010

➤ **PHARMACOVIGILANCE (AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIVE 2001/83/EC) / PHARMACOVIGILANCE (AMENDMENT OF REGULATION NO 726/2004)**

*Co-decision, first reading (2008/0260(COD))
 Co-decision, first reading (2008/0257(COD))
 Consideration of amendments and adoption of draft reports*

The ENVI committee will consider the amendments and adopt the draft report on Pharmacovigilance (amendment of directive 2001/83/EC and amendment of regulation no 726/2004) (Linda McAvan (S&D), Great Britain).

The proposal aims at the strengthening and rationalizing the EU pharmacovigilance system of medicinal products for human use through the amendment of the two legal acts governing this field.

The proposal ensures clearer roles, responsibilities and obligations for the different actors. They rationalise the EU decision-making, enhance transparency and communication on medicines in order to improve trust and understanding of patients, health care professionals, companies and all the other parties involved. They also ensure a

The Environment Committee website:

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

proactive and proportionate collection of high quality data which are relevant to the safety of medicines. Finally they also involve stakeholders in the pharmacovigilance process and simplify the procedures.

These proposals form part of the Pharmaceutical package.

Vote in plenary: June 2010

➤ **THE PLACING ON THE MARKET AND USE OF BIOCIDAL PRODUCTS**

*Co-decision, first reading (2009/0076(COD)
Consideration of amendments*

The ENVI committee will consider the amendments for first reading on The placing on the market and use of biocidal products (Christa Klab (PPE), Germany).

The placing of the market of biocidal products is currently governed by Directive 98/8. The new proposal aims at reforming the current system.

The rapporteur's draft report contains 102 amendments. The draft report, among others, proposes to (i) define nanomaterials with the aim to adjust the definition to further technological development; (ii) clearly label treated articles and materials coming from or outside the EU; (iii) inform industrial users and consumers about the safe use of and alternatives to biocidal products; and (iv) extend the EU-wide authorisation to all products.

Vote in ENVI: 3 June 2010

Vote in Plenary: July 2010

NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

➤ **COMMISSION GREEN PAPER ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BIO-WASTE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

*Own-Initiative report 2009/2153(INI)
Consideration of draft own initiative report*

The ENVI committee will consider a draft own initiative report on the Commission Green Paper on the management of bio-waste in the European Union (José Manuel Fernandes PPE, Portugal).

In his report Mr Fernandes urges the Commission to come with specific legislative proposals for a Directive which lays down

criteria for the production of various types of compost obtained through the treatment of bio-waste. He equally asks the Commission to establish a mandatory separate collection system taking into account the subsidiarity principle. Mr Fernandes insists also on awareness -raising campaigns amongst youth.

Deadline for tabling amendments: 4 May 2010

Vote in ENVI: 2 June 2010

Vote in Plenary: July 2010

OPINIONS

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

Adoption of draft opinion to own initiative report (2009/2230(INI))

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft opinion to the Committee on International Trade (INTA) on the Human Rights, Social and Environmental Standards in International Trade Agreements (Thomas Ulmer, PPE, Germany).

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 for opinion rejects the global harmonisation of environmental and health standards.

24 amendments have been tabled.

Vote in INTA: 28-29 September

Vote in plenary: October

➤ **DEVELOPING THE JOB POTENTIAL OF A NEW SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**

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

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion to the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) on Developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy (Rovana Plumb, S&D, Romania).

The EMPL committee chose to draw up an own-initiative report to give an input shaping future EU employment policy in the framework of the EU 2020 Strategy.

The Rapporteur for opinion encourages taking the post-crisis economy as starting point for sustainable growth, based on social justice and eco-efficiency. She urges the Commission to develop policies that would guarantee the smooth transition towards a green economy, clearly giving priority to green jobs and depicting ways to tackling climate change.

Deadline for tabling amendments: 4 May 2010

Vote in ENVI: 3 June 2010

Vote in EMPL: 14 July 2010

Vote in plenary: September 2010

RESOLUTION - COMITOLOGY

- **FOOD ADDITIVES OTHER THAN COLOURS AND SWEETENERS (ADDITION OF BOVINE AND/OR PORCINE THROMBIN TO ANNEX IV OF DIRECTIVE 95/2/EC)**

Adoption of motion for a resolution (objection)

The ENVI committee will vote on an objection to a draft Commission Directive which proposes to insert thrombin into the list of permitted food additives under EU food legislation. This objection has been proposed by Åsa Westlund (S&D, Sweden).

Vote in plenary: May II

ORAL QUESTIONS

- **ORAL QUESTION N° 2010/05 BY THOMAS ULMER ON THE REPROCESSING OF MEDICAL DEVICES**

Exchange of views with Commission

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH CONNIE HEDEGAARD (COMMISSIONER)**

On Monday afternoon, the ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with **Commissioner Connie Hedegaard**.

- **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH DR MARC SPRENGER**

On Tuesday afternoon at 15.00 pm, the ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with **the new director for the ECDC, Dr Marc Sprenger (NL)**.

DELEGATIONS

- **REPORT BACK FROM THE DELEGATION TO ECHA, 8-9 APRIL 2010 IN HELSINKI**

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN ENVI COMMITTEE

At its meeting of March 15-17, 2010 the ENVI Committee adopted:

- an own-initiative report on Action against cancer (Peterle-report);
- an opinion on the Community financial assistance with respect to decommissioning the Kozloduy nuclear power plant in Bulgaria (Parvanova-opinion),
- an opinion on the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region and the role of macro-regions in the future of cohesion policy (Rosbach-opinion);

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- **TOWARDS A RESOURCE-EFFICIENT TRANSPORT SYSTEM - TERM 2009**

The EEA will publish the 10th report under the Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism (TERM). Issued annually, the TERM report tracks transport's impacts on the environment, such as greenhouse gas emissions, emissions of air pollutants, fuel prices and charges. This year's TERM report will be published on 27 April at 1.30 pm CET and will be made available at:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/term2010>.

➤ **URBAN ATLAS**

The EEA now hosts Europe's urban atlas, developed as a land monitoring project under the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative. It compiles thousands of images from European satellites and provides detailed and cost-effective mapping of larger urban zones, yielding accurate land cover and usage data. More information is available at [this webpage](#).

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/10-messages-for-2010>.

Dates of next meeting:

Date of next meeting:

Monday 3 May 2010, 15.00 - 17.30

Tuesday 4 May 2010, 09.00 – 12.30

➤ **BIODIVERSITY**

The Copenhagen-based EU Agency also issued the fifth out of ten messages on biodiversity to be published in the course of this year, covering forest ecosystems. The five biodiversity messages published so far can be viewed at: