

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Brussels:

Tuesday 3 November 2009, 15.00 – 18.30

Wednesday 4 November 2009, 09.00 – 12.30
and 15.00 – 18.30

Thursday 5 November 2009, 09.00 – 12.30

LEGISLATIVE WORK

ENVIRONMENT

- **CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC (OSPAR): ANNEXES II AND III RELATING TO THE STORAGE OF CARBON DIOXIDE STREAMS IN GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS**

Adoption of draft report

At the meeting of the OSPAR Commission in June 2007 decisions were taken to amend Annexes II and III of the OSPAR Convention in relation to the storage of carbon dioxide streams in underground geological formations, along with accompanying decisions, with a view to legally enabling Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) operations in the OSPAR maritime area. The rapporteur, MEP Rosbach, has forwarded three amendments to the proposal; an additional amendment has been submitted by MEP Arsenis.

Adoption in Plenary: November or December 2009

- **WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) (RECAST VERSION)**

Exchange of views without a document

The waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) Directive itself foresees the possible revision of the Directive based on the experience of its application. The 2003 Directive also sets out for the Commission to propose new mandatory WEEE collection target by 31 December 2008 and new targets for recovery and re-use/recycling.

The specific objectives of the review (recast) of the WEEE Directive are therefore:

- reduced administrative costs,
- improved effectiveness and implementation of the Directive,
- reduced impacts on the environment from the collection, treatment and recovery of WEEE at the levels where the greatest net benefit to society results.

Consideration of draft report: 30 November-2 December.2009

Deadline for amendments: 14 January 2010

Vote in committee: 6-7 April 2010

Adoption in Plenary: May II 2010

- **RESTRICTION OF THE USE OF CERTAIN HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (RECAST VERSION)**

Exchange of views without a document

The Commission proposal is a recast of the RoHS Directive, for which the ultimate aim is the elimination of certain hazardous substances from electrical and electronic equipment; where this is temporarily not possible, exemptions are granted. The proposal does not ban new substances. The main modifications in the Commission proposal are:

- two new annexes describing the Directive scope;

The Environment Committee website:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/envi/default_en.htm

- maximum concentration values for the banned substances are set and permission to use non-compliant spare parts is extended;
- a mechanism for introducing new substance bans in line with the REACH methodology is inserted;
- a 4-year maximum validity period for the exemptions is set.

Consideration of draft report: 30 November - 2 December 2009

Deadline for amendments: 14 January

Vote in committee: 6 - 7 April 2010

Adoption in Plenary: May II 2010

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

First exchange of views without a document

On the basis of the recent review of the functioning of Directive 98/8/EC, the Commission is now proposing to reform the existing system. The main elements of the reform are the following:

- Directive 98/8/EC is to be repealed and replaced by a regulation;
- the scope is extended to cover treated materials and articles;
- low-risk products and products based on a new active substance are authorised by a Community-wide authorisation; harmonised procedures are proposed for the national authorisation of all other biocidal products; and detailed rules on mutual recognition are set out;
- ECHA is entrusted with carrying out certain technical and scientific tasks;
- new data requirements are introduced, and the sharing of vertebrate animal studies becomes mandatory.

With regard to the procedure in the Parliament, IMCO Committee requested the application of Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure (procedure with associated committees). The rapporteur for opinion in IMCO is Amalia Sartori (EPP). Initial contacts have already been made by the rapporteurs; and the detailed discussions on the practical arrangements for the application of Rule 50 are about to start very soon. In line

with the discussion held by the Conference of Committee Chairs on 20 October 2009, if no agreement is reached by the two committees by the next CCC (which is held on 24 November 2009), the CCC would proceed and adopt a recommendation for the attention of the Conference of Presidents.

Consideration of draft report: 25-27 January 2010

Deadline for amendments: 9 February 2010

Vote in committee: 6-7 April 2010

Adoption in Plenary: May 2010

➤ **POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF A CORRIGENDUM TO THE COSMETICS REGULATION (2008/0035 (COD))**

Possible adoption of corrigendum (2008/0035 (COD), P6_TA-PROV(2009)0158

Parliament and Council reached a first reading agreement on the Cosmetics Regulation. Parliament's first reading vote, confirming the agreement, took place on 23 March 2009; Council is expected to adopt the text in November 2009. A draft corrigendum might be issued and examined by the committee pursuant to Rule 216/3 of the Rules of Procedures.

Possible examination and approval of the corrigendum: 4 November 2009

Possible announcement of the corrigendum in Plenary: 11 November 2009

HEALTH

➤ **ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE NON-COMMERCIAL MOVEMENTS OF PET ANIMALS**

Consideration of draft report

As far as rabies is concerned, Sweden, Ireland, Malta and The UK, are temporarily entitled to impose more stringent criteria than the other EU Member States for pets entering into their territory. As far as tapeworm echinococcus and ticks are concerned the above mentioned Member States and Finland are allowed to make the entry into their territory temporarily subject to additional requirements.

These current transitional arrangements run until June 2010 and are now proposed to be extended for the last time to December 2011. If special measures are necessary, they still can be taken by the Commission by way of a RPS comitology procedure.

Deadline for amendments: 11 November 2009
Vote in committee: 1 December 2009

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

First exchange of views without a document

These proposals aim at the strengthening and rationalizing the Community pharmacovigilance system of medicinal products for human use through the amendment of the two legal acts governing this field Regulation no 726/2004 and Directive 2001/83/EC. More in particular the proposals ensure 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 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 .

This proposal forms part of the Pharmaceutical package.

Deadline for amendments: 3 February 2010
Vote in committee: 15-16 March 2010 or 6-7 April 2010

OPINION

➤ **INVESTMENT PROJECTS INTO
ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE
WITHIN THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY**

Consideration of draft opinion

The proposal is to revise the current system of notification on energy investment projects: it aims at gathering adequate information on planned investments and major decommissioning projects in order to enable the Commission to monitor the situation of the infrastructure and to forecast potential problems. Even though the proposal is of a rather administrative nature, it gives a signal about the expected nature and qualities of future investments.

Deadline tabling amendment: 9 November 2009
Vote in ENVI: 1 December 2009
Vote in the lead committee (ITRE): 27 January 2010
Vote in Plenary: February-II 2010

ORAL QUESTIONS / RESOLUTIONS

➤ **SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS**

Adoption of question for oral answer

Following the Presidency 's decision to adopt the Recommendation in EPSCO Council on 1 December and therefore without the opinion of the Parliament on October 14, the coordinators decided to change the procedure and to adopt an Oral Question pursuant to Rule 115 in ENVI committee followed by a Resolution drawn up by the political groups directly to the Plenary.

Adoption in Plenary: November II 2009

- **QUESTION TIME ON LEGAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF A POSSIBLE MORATORIUM ON FOODSTUFFS DERIVED FROM CLONED ANIMALS**

Exchange of views with Commission representatives

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with **Commission representatives** on a "question time" on legal, scientific and technical aspects of a possible moratorium on foodstuffs derived from cloned animals.

COMITOLOGY

- **RPS DRAFT COMITOLOGY MEASURE UNDER THE EMISSIONS TRADING SYSTEM DIRECTIVE - LIST OF SECTORS AND SUBSECTORS DEEMED TO BE EXPOSED TO A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF CARBON LEAKAGE**

Consideration and adoption of motion for a resolution

The ENVI Committee will vote on a RPS draft comitology measure under the emissions trading systems directive concerning a list of sectors and subsectors deemed to be exposed to a significant risk of carbon leakage.

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

- **EChA PROGRAMME**

Exchange of views with Geert Dancet (Executive Director of EChA)

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with **the Executive Director of EChA, Mr Geert Dancet**, on the EChA programme.

- **OVERVIEW OF EEA ACTIVITIES AND PRESENTATION OF EEA REPORT ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TRENDS**

Exchange of views with Jacqueline McGlade (Executive Director of EEA)

The **Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA), Ms Jacqueline McGlade**, will give an overview of EEA activities and a presentation of EEA report on greenhouse gas emissions trends.

- **COPENHAGEN AND THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS**

Exchange of views with Stavros Dimas (Commissioner)

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with **Commissioner Stavros Dimas** on Copenhagen and the international climate negotiations.

DELEGATION VISIT

The head of the ENVI-delegation, Jo Leinen, will report back on the delegation visit to Washington on 26-28 October 2009.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 30 November 2009, 15.00-18.30
Tuesday 1 December 2009, 9.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30
Wednesday 2 December 2009, 9.00-12.30