

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Brussels

Monday 21 November 2011, 15.00 – 18.30

Tuesday 22 November 2011, 9.00 – 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

➤ **SULPHUR CONTENT OF MARINE FUELS**

*Co-decision, first reading 2011/0190(COD)
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft report on the amendment of Directive 1999/32/EC as regards the sulphur content of marine fuels (Satu Hassi, Verts/ALE, Finland).

One of the main purposes of the Commission proposal is to implement into EU law the obligations already laid down in Annex VI to the MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Convention on the sulphur content of marine fuels. The sulphur limits in Annex VI to the MARPOL Convention are 0.1% in Sulphur Emission Control Areas (SECAs) from 2015 and 0.5% in other sea areas from 2020.

The Rapporteur is supportive of the Commission's proposal and in addition suggests that the 0.1% sulphur limit should extend beyond the SECAs and apply to the

territorial waters of all Member States within the 12-mile limit. Furthermore the Rapporteur believes that the Commission's proposal to extend the sulphur limits to passenger ships by 2020 should instead come into force in 2015.

In order to ensure a transition to the new obligations, the Rapporteur also proposes that the use of state aid for investment in the SECAs should be permitted until the end of 2013.

*Deadline AM: 13 December 2011, 12.00
Vote in ENVI: 24 January 2012
Vote in Plenary: May 2012*

NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

ENVIRONMENT

➤ **A RESOURCE-EFFICIENT EUROPE**

*Consideration of working document
2011/2068(INI)*

The ENVI Committee will consider a working document on a resource-efficient Europe (Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, ALDE, Netherlands).

The rapporteur fully supports the initiative taken by the Commission to make Europe less dependant on resources from outside with positive effect on the environment.

To enjoy the benefits of a resource-efficient and low-carbon economy, according to the rapporteur three conditions need to be fulfilled:

- Take coordinated action in a wide range of policy areas, backed by political visibility and support;
- Act urgently due to long investment lead-times. While some actions will have a positive impact on growth and jobs in the short-term, others require an upfront investment and have long pay-back times, but will bring real

The Environment Committee website:

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

economic benefits for the EU economy for decades to come.

– Empower consumers to move to resource-efficient consumption, to drive continuous innovation and ensure that efficiency gains are not lost.

A resource-efficient Europe is one of seven flagship initiatives as part of the Europe 2020 strategy aiming to deliver smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The rapporteur counts very much on companies and business to achieve the ambitious goals set by the 20-20-20 strategy.

Workshop: 31 January 2012
Consideration of draft report: February 2012
Vote in ENVI: March 2012
Vote in Plenary: May 2012

➤ **A ROADMAP FOR MOVING TO A COMPETITIVE LOW CARBON ECONOMY IN 2050**

Consideration of draft report 2011/2095(INI)

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft report on a roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050 (Chris Davies, ALDE, UK).

The draft report endorses the Commission's Roadmap to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050, together with its trajectory, the specific milestones for domestic emission reductions and the ranges for sector-specific milestones. The rapporteur also invites the Commission to bring forward within the next two years the measures necessary to achieve the 2030 objectives. As the carbon price within the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) is very much lower than was originally envisaged and companies hold the huge surplus of allowances, the rapporteur calls on the Commission to adopt measures to correct the failings of the ETS.

The Commission should also produce an analysis of sectors for which free allocation of allowances fails to prevent carbon leakage. The rapporteur then calls for improving the energy efficiency, providing sustainable biomass production, as well as the adoption of measures in the area of carbon capture and storage, research, power generation, industry, transport or agriculture.

Deadline AM: 6 December 2011, 12.00
Vote in ENVI: 23-25 January 2012
Vote in Plenary: 12-15 March 2012

OPINIONS

➤ **MINIMUM HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE EXPOSURE OF WORKERS TO THE RISKS ARISING FROM PHYSICAL AGENTS (ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS)**

Consideration of draft opinion 2011/0152(COD)

The ENVI Committee will consider a draft opinion to EMPL on minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields) (Philippe Juvin, PPE, France).

The Commission proposal seeks to amend and repeal Directive 2004/40/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields). An update of the current exposure limits is proposed to take on board new scientific evidence - particularly in relation to exposure limits of *magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)* in hospitals, considered today to be a vital tool for the diagnosis and treatment of several diseases.

The proposal further aims at clarifying the definitions on adverse effects on health and would introduce a number of provisions intended to facilitate the work of the employers when carrying out the risk assessments required by law, as well as a controlled framework for limited derogations for industry.

The rapporteur for opinion supports the proposed exemptions by adding an article specifically devoted to exemptions. Furthermore he seeks to clarify and simplify the text and to supplement and reinforce measures for ensuring the health and safety of workers.

Deadline AM: 5 December 2011, 12.00
Vote in ENVI: 24 January 2012
Vote in EMPL: 13 February 2012
Vote in Plenary: March I

➤ **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Consideration of amendments 2011/0172(COD)

The ENVI Committee will consider amendments on energy efficiency, repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC (Peter Liese, PPE, Germany).

The proposed Directive seeks to establish a common framework for the promotion of energy efficiency within the EU, in order to ensure the achievement of the target of 20% primary energy savings by 2020 and to prepare for further improvements beyond that date. Energy efficiency is seen as the most cost-effective way to increase security of supply and an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thereby mitigate climate change. Proposed measures address in particular energy efficiency targets (to be set by Member States and reviewed in 2014), efficiency in energy use (public buildings and procurement, obligation schemes for achieving energy savings, energy audits, metering and billing requirements) and energy supply (national heating and cooling plans and requirements on installations, energy efficiency data inventory for installations combusting fuels or refining mineral oil and gas, requirements on grid access). Energy efficiency is also a key element of the Roadmap for moving to a low carbon economy in 2050.

411 amendments have been tabled. Issues include the setting of national targets; requirements on public bodies in building renovation and purchasing; scope and organization of obligation schemes; metering and billing requirements; provisions for heating, cooling and cogeneration; energy distribution and demand management; professional training measures; and the follow-up of the implementation of the directive.

Vote in ENVI: 20 December 2011
Vote in ITRE: 24 January 2012
Plenary: April 2012

➤ **HOW TO AVOID FOOD WASTAGE:
STRATEGIES FOR A MORE EFFICIENT
FOOD CHAIN IN THE EU**

Adoption of draft opinion 2011/2175(INI)

The ENVI Committee will vote on a draft opinion to AGRI on how to avoid food wastage: strategies for a more efficient food chain in the EU (Anna Rosbach, ECR, Denmark).

40 to 50 % of all food is wasted in the world but the picture is very different: in the developed world food wastage occurs at the distribution and the end-consumption stages whereas in the developing world the wastage occurs in the production, harvest and post-harvesting stages.

The rapporteur in her opinion:

- favours a policy aiming at avoiding food waste and respecting the waste hierarchy;
- points out that in the distribution and end-consumption stages improving practices and behaviour is the only way forward since it falls outside the scope of legislation;
- refers to a previous report by Mr Fernandes on bio-waste who asked the Commission to come forward with special legislation in this field;
- favours also the option for food waste to be turned into energy if this can be efficiently done.

92 amendments have been tabled and 5 compromise amendments will be tabled.

Vote in AGRI: 23 November 2011

RESOLUTION

➤ **EU GLOBAL RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS**

Adoption of Oral Question

Adoption of motion for resolution

The ENVI Committee will vote on a motion for resolution on the EU global response to HIV/AIDS, based on Oral question n° 2011/03 adopted in ENVI under rule 197 on 21 June.

53 Amendments and 4 Compromise Amendments have been tabled.

In 2009, the European Commission adopted its Communication aimed at "Combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries, 2009-2013". The strategy concentrated on 3 key areas: HIV prevention and HIV testing, priority groups most at risk of HIV and priority regions.

Today, there is still no decrease in number of new infections in the EU and neighbouring countries. Estimates from the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC) indicate on average that 30% of HIV-positive individuals are not diagnosed, and have 3,5 times higher risk of transmitting HIV than do those who are diagnosed. Half of all HIV-positive people still present late for care and progress to late stages of infection before they are diagnosed and can start treatment.

Vote in Plenary: November II

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

➤ **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH JANEZ POTOČNIK (COMMISSIONER)**

Exchange of views

The ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with Commissioner Janez POTOČNIK. The Commissioner will notably present the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe, which has been published by the Commission on 20 September 2011.

PRESENTATION

➤ **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE DIRECTIVE**

Presentation by the Commission

The Commission has been invited to present the main findings of their report on the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive in accordance with Article 11 of Directive 2002/49/EC (COM(2011)0321).

Directive 2002/49/EC (which had to be transposed by 18 July 2004) requires the Member States among other to determine the exposure to environmental noise through noise mapping, to adopt action plans based upon the noise mapping results and to ensure that the information on environmental noise is made available to the public. The assessment relating to the first round of noise mapping suggests that around 40 million people across the EU are exposed to noise above 50 dB from roads within agglomerations during the night, another 25 million outside agglomerations. The Commission concludes that while the Directive has achieved to introduce a management system of environmental noise in all the Member States, there is still a lot of room for improvement, e.g. in terms of comparability of data. In 2008 the Joint Research Centre started a project called 'CNOSSOS-EU' (Common Noise Assessment Methods in Europe) which might lead to a Commission implementing decision to review annex II in early 2011

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN PLENARY

ENVI resolutions that have been adopted by the European Parliament during the last part-session was the following: resolution (B7-0571/2011) on the climate change conference in Durban (COP 17).

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

European transport sector must be ambitious to meet targets

Emissions of many pollutants from transport fell in 2009. But this reduction may only be a temporary effect of the economic downturn, according to the latest annual report on transport emissions from the European Environment Agency (EEA). The Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism (TERM) explores the environmental impact of transport. For the first time, the report considers a comprehensive set of quantitative targets proposed by the European Commission's 2011 roadmap on transport.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/pressroom/newsreleases/european-transport-sector-must-be>

Ozone and particulates most serious air quality problems in Europe

Air quality in Europe has improved between 1990 and 2009, as emissions of most pollutants have fallen, according to a new report from the European Environment Agency (EEA). But there is still a lot of room for improvement, as many EU countries are expected to exceed the emissions ceilings in 2010 for at least one pollutant. In addition, concentration levels of ground-level ozone and particulate matter have remained stable over recent years despite efforts to improve air quality.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/ozone-and-particulates-most-serious>

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=](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

Date of next meeting (Brussels):

19-20 December 2011
