

CHAIR'S WELCOME



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Happy New Year everyone! The first ENVI meeting of 2020 will take place on 20-21 January. 2019 drew to a close with mixed messages on the climate front: whilst the COP25 in Madrid did not produce any significant breakthrough in our collective ability to tackle the climate emergency, the EU's resolve on this defining issue appeared stronger than ever.

On 11 December, the European Commission put forward its landmark European Green Deal (EGD): both a blueprint and a roadmap for ENVI's work in this legislature. On 14 January, the accompanying Investment Plan and Just Transition Mechanism were also presented. On all issues - from sustainable mobility to biodiversity, from a toxic-free environment to green financing - the success of the EGD will depend on the pace and ambition of the Commission, Parliament and Council and our ability to turn wider objectives into clear, workable and effective policies. The continued activism and pressure of citizens and civil society on their elected representatives - whether at local, national or European level must also be unrelenting.

Parliament has been fully involved from the start to ensure that the EGD results in a success: a special plenary was held on the same day of the presentation of the Communication to hear and debate the proposals. ENVI held an *ad hoc* committee meeting on 16 December to debate the Commission's text with Executive Vice-President Timmermans. Last week, plenary set out its stall on the EGD with a detailed resolution adopted by a large majority of Members.

Signs of the new impetus on ENVI issues also became apparent during the legislative negotiations with Council. At the end of the Finnish Council presidency, agreements were reached during trilogue negotiations on three key files: the so-called "Green Taxonomy", "Drinking Water" and "Water Reuse". The agreement on the latter will be put to a vote in ENVI on Tuesday. Once approved, and if properly implemented, these files have the potential to be transformative for sustainability and health, in the EU and beyond.

The year 2020 unfortunately opened with the saddening news of the deadly bushfires in Australia and other extreme weather events - issues also dealt with by plenary. These events are proofs of the increasing price we are likely to pay as a consequence for inaction on the climate emergency. They are also reminders of what is at stake in crisis situations and of the need to continuously work on stepping up the prevention, preparedness and response cycle - whether in the EU or worldwide. ENVI is working on the legislative proposal on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) for the period 2021-2027 aimed at addressing exactly these issues. The consideration of the UCPM draft report will be on the agenda on Monday.

We will also exchange with the Croatian Presidency on their programme for the next semester in Council. We will debate with Mr Milan Kujundžić, the Minister of Health on Monday and Mr Tomislav Čorić, Minister of Environment and Energy and Ms Marija Vučković, Minister of Agriculture on Tuesday.

At the next meeting, Members will also debate and vote on the ENVI opinion on the AFCO report on the UK Withdrawal Agreement. In the draft opinion, ENVI notes that with the removal of the UK-wide backstop, relevant binding environmental and level playing field provisions have also fallen and will need

to be properly addressed in the future relationship. The next ENVI meeting will also be the last for our British colleagues. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the British colleagues who have worked hard to move forward the EU agenda, especially in ENVI's remit. Their contribution will be long-lasting - no matter how Brexit will ultimately play out.

You can follow the ENVI Committee meeting live at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/envi/home.html>

You can also follow the activities of the ENVI Committee on its official Twitter account [@EP_Environment](https://twitter.com/EP_Environment)

Pascal Canfin - 20 January 2020

MEETING ITEMS

Results of the votes of the last ENVI meeting are available [here](#).

Votes:

- Conclusion of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community
- Objection pursuant to Rule 111(3): Commission Regulation amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the EP and Council on REACH as regards lead and its compounds
- Protecting the EU's internal market and consumer rights against the negative implications of the illegal trade in companion animals
- European Year of Greener Cities 2021
- 2018 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission
- 2018 discharge: EMA - EFSA - EEA - ECDC - ECHA
- Minimum requirements for water reuse

Considerations:

- Type approval of motor vehicles with respect to emissions from light passenger and commercial vehicles (Euro 5 and Euro 6) and on access to vehicle repair and maintenance information.
- Objection pursuant to Rule 111(3): Commission Regulation amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the EP and Council on REACH as regards lead and its compounds
- Amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism
- Conclusion of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community

Presentation of the Council Presidency's programme:

- EoV with Mr Milan Kujundžić, Croatian Minister of Health
- EoV with Mr Tomislav Čorić, Croatian Minister of Environment and Energy
- EoV with Ms Marija Vučković, Croatian Minister of Agriculture

Reporting back on ongoing inter-institutional negotiations:

- Establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (ECON-ENVI)
- Quality of water intended for human consumption (recast)
- Minimum requirements for water reuse

Public Hearing

- "Reducing Greenhouse gas emissions from EU-related maritime transport: what's next after the EU MRV?"

ENVI IN NEXT PLENARY

Draft agenda of the Plenary available [here](#).

VOTES

(see [meeting documents](#))

UK Withdrawal Agreement

Adoption of draft opinion in letter form



On 17 October 2019, the EU and the UK negotiators agreed on a revised Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland, and a revised Political Declaration on the framework of the future EU-UK relationship. Later on the same day, the European Council endorsed the draft agreement on the withdrawal of the UK and the Political

Declaration. In accordance with Article 50, the European Parliament needs to give its consent prior to any withdrawal agreement. Parliament received the revised Withdrawal Agreement on Monday 21 October 2019. The file was attributed to the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO) as committee responsible with ENVI, AFET, INTA, EMPL, TRAN, JURI, PETI and LIBE as the opinion giving committees. ENVI Coordinators approved the draft opinion in the form of a letter at their meeting of 6 November 2019. The draft opinion focuses on ENVI issues contained in the Withdrawal Agreement and the Political Declaration. In the draft opinion, the ENVI Committee welcomes that the underlying objective of the amended Withdrawal Agreement is to continue to contribute to the preservation of peace on the island of Ireland and commends the unity that the EU has shown throughout the negotiations. In the draft, ENVI notes that with the removal of the UK-wide backstop, relevant binding environmental provisions have also fallen and that clauses on non-regression in the level of environmental protection no longer apply. The opinion also covers issues such as the Paris Agreement, carbon pricing, the level playing field, access to medicines and medical devices. The vote in AFCO is planned for 23 January 2020, whilst the plenary's consent is planned for 29 January 2020 - right before the planned Withdrawal of the UK on 31 January 2020.

Rapporteur: [CANFIN](#) (Renew).

Illegal trade in companion animals

Adoption of motion for a resolution



Each year a significant number of companion animals are illegally traded across the Member States often by abusing the EU's pet movement legislation (Regulation (EU) No 576/2013), which is intended for non-commercial movements of pet animals, to commercially move them across borders

for sale, which should be carried out under Council Directive 92/65/EEC. The trafficking of companion animals has negative implications on public health, animal welfare and consumer protection. It has become a major source of income for organised international crime and also affects the smooth functioning of the EU internal market through lost taxes and by creating unfair competition, particularly with the increase in the online sale of companion animals, which is poorly regulated both nationally and under EU law. The draft motion for a resolution calls for compatible systems for the means and methods of identification and registration of cats and dogs in databases in the Member States, an EU Action Plan to address the illegal trade in companion

animals, improved law enforcement and tougher sanctions, and better cooperation and training for customs and veterinary authorities. A total of 107 amendments were tabled to the draft resolution and 6 compromise amendments covering 24 amendments were prepared.

Co-Rapporteurs: [POLČÁK](#) (EPP), [SPUREK](#) (S&D), [HOJSÍK](#) (Renew), [PHILLIPS](#) (Greens/EFA), [WIŚNIEWSKA](#) (ECR), [HAZEKAMP](#) (GUE/NGL), [EVI](#) (NI).

European Year of Greener Cities 2021

Adoption of motion for a resolution

Our urban environments face an array of challenges ranging from health concerns to environmental impacts. The "European Year of Greener Cities 2020" is an initiative of a platform of European NGOs consisting of organisations covering issues ranging from children, disabled people and elderly people's rights to allergy and asthma sufferers, sports organisations, environmental groups and citizens' organisations. The initiative will be coordinated by the European Landscape Contractors Association (ELCA). The aims of the year are *inter alia* to raise awareness of the benefits of green spaces in built environment; to increase the quantity and quality of research and development of new innovations; to encourage citizens to act and improve their own neighbourhoods; to create a culture of appreciation of the green spaces; to increase the amount of green infrastructure projects; to connect existing initiatives and share best practices across Member States, and to create a roadmap of greening the European cities by 2030. On 22 July 2019 ENVI Coordinators decided to draft an Oral Question and Motion for a Resolution to support this initiative. The aim of the resolution would be to explore the importance of urban and green infrastructure and what kind of benefits the European Year of Greener Cities 2021 would bring to Europeans and European cities. 98 amendments were tabled to the draft motion of resolution and 5 compromise amendments have been proposed.

Co-Rapporteurs: [PIETIKÄINEN](#) (EPP), [SCHALDEMOSE](#) (S&D), [KARLSBRO](#) (Renew), [EICKHOUT](#) (Greens/EFA), [WIŚNIEWSKA](#) (ECR), [VILLANUEVA RUIZ](#) (GUE/NGL).

2018 discharges: General budget of the EU: EC and European Agencies

Adoption of draft opinions

The discharge procedure is the process by which the Parliament and Council scrutinise the implementation of the EU budget and hold the Commission and other EU bodies accountable for their financial management, based mainly on reports prepared by the European Court of Auditors, the Commission and the Agencies (discharge is granted by Parliament on a recommendation from the Council). This year, the discharge procedure concerns financial year 2018. As in previous years, ENVI will deliver six opinions: one for the discharge to be granted to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union, and five for the discharges to be granted to the agencies under ENVI's responsibility (ECDC, ECHA, EEA, EFSA and EMA) in respect of the implementation of their budget. The six draft opinions express the view that, on the basis of the data available, discharge can be granted to the Commission with respect to expenditure in the areas of environmental and climate policy, public health and food safety for the financial year 2018, and that discharge can also be granted to the five agencies under the remit of the ENVI Committee. In total, 43 amendments were tabled to the different opinions (there are no compromise amendments).

Rapporteur: [CANFIN](#) (Renew).

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

Croatia Council Presidency



Croatia took over the Presidency from Finland on 1 January 2020. It forms a presidency trio with the two last presidencies: Romania and Finland. The general priorities of the Croatian Presidency are (under the motto of “A strong Europe in a world of challenges”):

- a **Europe that develops** (balanced regional development, environmental protection and fighting climate change, strengthening of competitiveness and skills and a more satisfied and vital society);

- a **Europe that connects** (single European transport area, high-quality and secure data infrastructure, integrated energy market, stronger connections between Union citizens)

- a **Europe that protects** (strengthen internal security, comprehensive and sustainable migration policy, protection of freedoms and democracy, strengthening resilience against hybrid threats)

- an **influential Europe** (leading international actor, global partner, guarantee for progress and stability in South East Europe and a security provider).

ENVI Members will hold exchanges with Mr Milan Kujundžić, Croatian Minister of Health; Mr Tomislav Čorić, Croatian Minister of Environment and Energy; Ms Marija Vučković, Croatian Minister of Agriculture.

CONSIDERATIONS

(see [meeting documents](#))

Type approval of motor vehicles with respect to emissions

Consideration of draft motion for a resolution

Euro 5 and 6 Regulation (EC) No 715/2007 sets the emission limits for cars for regulated pollutants, in particular nitrogen oxides (NOx, i.e. the combined emissions of NO and NO2) to 80 mg/km. The need to adopt the current proposal results directly from the Judgement of the General Court judgment in Direct Actions T-339/16, T-352/16 and T-391/16. In the Judgement the Court finds that Regulation (EU) 2016/646 (an implementing act adopted under the Regulatory Procedure with Scrutiny) 'de facto' modifies the limit of 80mg/km set by Regulation (EU) 715/2007 through the so called "conformity factors" by allowing for a higher level of emissions in real-driving emission tests than when measuring emissions under laboratory conditions. The Court finds that only the legislator itself could have introduced the conformity factors. The Court has therefore annulled the part of Regulation (EU) 2016/646, which established the conformity factors. To avoid legal uncertainty on the type approvals already granted since 1 September 2017, the General Court delays the effects of the annulment by a maximum period of 12 months, to give time to the Commission to implement the judgment. With this proposal, the Commission aims to reinstate the previously adopted conformity factors. TRAN and IMCO will provide opinions to the ENVI report.

Rapporteur: [de LANGE](#) (EPP)

Shadows rapporteurs: [DALLI](#) (S&D), [SOLÍS](#) (Renew), [EICKHOUT](#) (Greens/EFA), [LIMMER](#) (ID), [ZALEWSKA](#) (ECR), [KONEČNÁ](#) (GUE/NGL).

PUBLIC HEARING

Reducing Greenhouse gas emissions from EU-related maritime transport: what's next after the EU MRV?

21 January 2020, 16:00–18:30, Room: József Antall 4Q2 (Brussels)



The public hearing on the topic of decarbonisation of the maritime transport takes place in context of the current work on the Commission proposal on the monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport (“MRV shipping”). According to international projections, global shipping emissions could grow by between 50 % and 250 % by 2050, depending on future economic and energy developments. If left unchecked, these emissions risk undermining the goals of the Paris Agreement and cancelling out the emission reductions achieved in other sectors. This public hearing consists of two panels with 2 experts each:

Panel 1: GHG emissions from EU-related maritime transport – state of play and future prospects

Panel 2: Reducing GHG emissions from EU-related maritime transport: towards the setting of GHG emissions reduction objectives and the extension of the EU ETS to maritime transport.

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications:

- Study on [EU public health policies - state of play, current and future challenges](#) (also its [At a glance](#) version)
- Study on [EU environment and climate change policies - state of play, current and future challenges](#) (also its [At a glance](#) version)
- Briefing on [the Commitments made at the hearing of Stella KYRIAKIDES, Commissioner-Designate on Health](#)
- Briefing on [the Commitments made at the hearing of Virginijus SINKEVICIUS, Commissioner-Designate on Environment and Oceans](#)
- Briefing on [the Commitments made at the hearing of Frans TIMMERMANS, Executive Vice President-Designate on European Green Deal](#)
- Study on [international climate negotiations in view of the COP25 UN Climate Change Conference in Santiago](#)
- Study on [Sampling points for air quality](#) – Representativeness and comparability of measurement in accordance with Directive 2008/50/EC (also available in DE)
- Briefing on [European energy and climate policies towards 2020, 2030 and 2050](#).
- Workshop proceedings on [Robots in Healthcare: A Solution or a Problem?](#)

Upcoming Publications:

- Briefing on the key issues at stake in the 75th session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC75)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



Europe's state of the environment 2020: change of direction urgently needed to face climate change challenges, reverse degradation and ensure future prosperity. Europe will not achieve its

2030 goals without urgent action during the next 10 years to address the alarming rate of biodiversity loss, increasing impacts of climate change and the overconsumption of natural resources. The European Environment Agency's (EEA) latest 'State of the Environment' report published on 4th December states that Europe faces environmental challenges of unprecedented scale and urgency. [More here.](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



EMA has published an overview of its [key recommendations in 2019 on the authorisation and safety monitoring of medicines for human use](#), and an overview of its [key recommendations of 2019 regarding](#)

[the authorisation and safety monitoring of veterinary medicines](#). In 2019, EMA recommended 66 medicines for human use for marketing authorisation. Of these, 30 had a new active substance which had never been authorised in the EU before. Regarding veterinary medicines, in 2019, EMA recommended 15 medicines for marketing authorisation, an increase of 50% compared to 2018. Of these, five had a new active substance. Four are vaccines, including one new biotechnological vaccine. In addition, EMA also published a [Report on pharmacovigilance tasks from EU Member States and EMA 2015-2018](#).

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA starts work on making drinking water safer – Further to the agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on the recast Drinking Water Directive, ECHA will

compile and manage an EU positive list of chemicals that can be safely used in materials that come into contact with drinking water, e.g. in water pipes and taps. The first positive list is expected to cover around 1 500 chemicals and will be adopted by the Commission by 2024. [Read more](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



On 9 January 2020, EFSA published three Scientific Opinions on the health and welfare of rabbits kept for meat production in Europe, including, as requested by the European Parliament, a Scientific Opinion on the health and

welfare of rabbits farmed in different production systems and a Scientific Opinion on stunning methods for slaughter of rabbits for human consumption, as well as a Scientific Opinion on methods for killing rabbits for purposes other than human consumption. According to EFSA, the welfare of adult rabbits kept in conventional cage systems is worse than that of those housed in other systems used in the EU. The main welfare issue they experience is restricted movement. The findings are part of a comprehensive comparison of the different rabbit housing systems used in the EU. [More info.](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



E-health proof-of-concept studies from 2020 - ECDC is planning to perform a number of e-health proof-of-concept (POC) studies from 2020 for a total of 4 years. These studies will test the feasibility of extracting selected data from a sample of electronic health records (EHR) and/or of laboratory information management systems (LIMS) in Member States for surveillance purposes. The studies will focus on two surveillance areas: antimicrobial resistance with an emphasis on detecting pan-drug-resistant pathogens and risk factors for severe influenza, pertussis and invasive pneumococcal disease. [More info](#)

Next meetings of the ENVI Committee: 3 February and 17-18 February 2020 (Brussels).

Future meetings: [2020 meeting dates](#).

Watch online the Committee meeting on the [EP web site](#) or on [Europarl TV](#).

Past meetings are available: [EP Live multimedia library](#) and you can also download the extracts of speeches.

More information: envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu or [website](#) of the ENVI Committee.

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