

ENVI-News

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

Meeting in Brussels

Wednesday, 21 January 2009, 09.00 – 12.30
& 15.00 - 18.30

Thursday, 22 January 2009, 09.00 - 12.30
& 15.00 - 18.30



**WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH
ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY
AND HEALTHY 2009**

LEGISLATIVE WORK

ENVIRONMENT

- **THE OBLIGATIONS OF OPERATORS WHO PLACE TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET**

*Co-decision - first reading
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will consider the draft report on the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market (Caroline Lucas, Verts/ALE, United Kingdom).

Illegal logging is the harvest, transportation, sale or purchase of timber in violation of applicable national laws. It is a substantial and growing problem with serious environmental implications including the loss of biodiversity, deforestation and forest degradation.

The Commission is proposing a regulation to support the fight against illegal logging and its related trade. The proposal is based on the due diligence principle requiring the operators to apply a system (due diligence system) to minimize the risk of placing illegally harvested timber and timber products on the European market.

The Rapporteur welcomes the proposed Regulation, whilst considering that it needs to be strengthened.

*Deadline for amendments: 23 January 2009
Adoption in ENVI: 17 February 2009
Adoption in Plenary: March II or April 2009*

➤ **ECODESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR ENERGY RELATED PRODUCTS**

*Co-decision - first reading
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will consider the draft report on the Ecodesign requirements for energy related products (Magor Imre Csibi, ALDE, Romania).

Framework Directive 2005/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2005 establishes a framework for the setting of eco-design requirements for energy-using products, hereafter referred to as the "Eco-design Directive". The aim of the proposed recast of the Eco-design Directive is to incorporate the amending Directive 2008/28/EC¹ and to extend its scope to allow for

The Environment Committee website:

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

the setting of Community eco-design requirements also for *all energy related* products. Such eco-design requirements are binding provisions, set by implementing measures and intended to ensure that products do not have harmful effects on the environment.

The Rapporteur proposes the immediate extension of the scope to *all* products except for means of transport for persons or goods in order to allow for more flexibility to adapt to future environmental challenges and priorities such as the sustainable use of natural resources.

Deadline for amendments: 26 January 2009

Adoption in ENVI: 17 February 2009

Adoption in Plenary: 1-2 April 2009

➤ **COMMUNITY ECOLABEL SCHEME**

Co-decision - first reading

Consideration of draft report

The ENVI Committee will consider the draft report on Community ecolabel scheme (Salvatore Tatarella, UEN, Italy).

The Commission proposes a regulation revising the EU Ecolabel scheme. The overall objective is to promote products with a reduced environmental impact through the use of a voluntary scheme, the Ecolabel scheme.

The proposal sets general requirements for the development of the Ecolabel criteria. The criteria themselves will not be determined by the regulation, but by subsequent decisions, for each product group (laundry detergents, soaps and shampoos, tissue paper, camp site service, etc.)

The proposal strengthens the scheme by widening the number of products covered and making the system less costly and bureaucratic.

The Rapporteur welcomes the proposal. In his amendments, he addresses a number of issues to strengthen the Ecolabel scheme.

Deadline for amendments: 26 January 2009

Adoption in ENVI: 17 February 2009

Adoption in Plenary: 1-2 April 2009

➤ **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION BY ORGANISATIONS IN A COMMUNITY ECO-MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SCHEME (EMAS)**

Co-decision - first reading

Consideration of draft report

The ENVI Committee will consider the draft report on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) (Linda McAvan (PSE) United Kingdom)

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a voluntary EU scheme that helps an organisation to identify, monitor, measure and report on their environmental impacts. The objective of this Regulation is to revise the EMAS scheme, in order to better encourage a continuous improvement in the environmental performance of all organisations.

The Commission is using the opportunity of the revision of EMAS' revision to propose some changes aimed at simplifying the system and increasing the number of participants to 35,000 within 10 years which is the same level of EU participation as in ISO 14001. The International ISO 14001 has, for example, become the leading Environmental Management System (EMS) and is preferred to EMAS because it is seen as less onerous. ISO 14001 has around 130,000 participants world wide and 35,000 in the EU.

The Rapporteur welcomes these changes. However, there are some areas where the Commission and Member States could do more to attract organisations to register EMAS without harming its environmental integrity.

Deadline for amendments: 26 January 2009

Adoption in ENVI: 17 February 2009

Adoption in Plenary: 1-2 April 2009

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

Co-decision - first reading

Adoption of draft report

The ENVI Committee will adopt the draft report on industrial emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) (Holger Kraemer, ALDE, Germany).

The Commission proposal aims to revise and recast several separate instruments into a single legal act, such as the directives related to waste from the titanium dioxide industry, the "IPPC Directive", the "VOC Solvents Directive", the "Waste Incineration Directive" and the "large combustion plants Directive".

The draft report supports the integrated approach proposed by the Commission. It seeks, however, to strengthen the provisions of the directive and safeguard against their misinterpretation, to simplify transposition and to reduce red tape. It aims at maintaining the so called Seville Process and the BAT reference documents. It proposes a comitology committee subject to Parliamentary scrutiny, which will have the task of laying down measures to limit emissions in the form of minimum requirements. These requirements will form a European safety network whose rules may not be breached by any installation.

Amendments tabled: 533

Adoption in Plenary: March I 2009

➤ **SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER (RECAST)**

*Co-decision - first reading
Adoption of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will adopt the draft report on Substances that deplete the ozone layer (Recast) (Johannes Blokland, IND/DEM, Netherlands).

Regulation (EC) No 2037/2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer is the main instrument for implementing the Montreal Protocol.

The main objectives of this revision are: (1) to simplify and recast the 2000 Regulation whilst at the same time reducing any unnecessary administrative burden; (2) to ensure compliance with the Montreal Protocol as adjusted in 2007; (3) to make sure that the future key challenges are addressed, in order to ensure the timely recovery of the ozone layer and to avoid adverse impacts on human health and ecosystems.

The report and the amendments tabled aim to improve the Regulation further in line

with the above mentioned challenges. In this way the EU can be more ambitious for itself and take a leading role in the world (being like in the past ahead of the Montreal Protocol). The increased stringency proposed in the report will protect us more against the destructive effects of UV-radiation, and decrease the greenhouse effect/climate change.

Amendments tabled: 115

Adoption in Plenary: March 2009

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

*Co-decision - first reading
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will consider the draft report on the placing of biocidal products on the market (Daciana Octavia Sârbu (PSE) Romania)

The present Commission proposal amending Directive 98/8/EC on the placing of biocidal products on the market has become necessary after an evaluation of its implementation showed that the ten-year-period until 14 May 2010, foreseen for the evaluation of active substances used in biocidal products with the aim to include them in the Community positive list, will not be enough. As a consequence, the transitional period, during which the biocides market will continue to be regulated by national rules, would expire without the Community positive list being established. In practice this would mean that important products, like for instance disinfectants in hospitals would have to be taken from the market as from 15 May 2010. In order to avoid this unwanted effect, the Commission proposes a prolongation of the transitional period for three years until 14 May 2013.

The Rapporteur is seeking a first reading agreement with the Council.

Deadline for amendments: 26 January 2009

Adoption in ENVI: 17 February 2009

Adoption in Plenary: March II 2009

FOOD SAFETY

➤ **HEALTH RULES AS REGARDS ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS NOT INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

*Co-decision - first reading
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will consider the draft report on health rules as regards animal by-products not intended for human consumption (Horst Schnellhardt (EPP-ED) Germany)

Regulation 1774/2002 was a response to several crises linked to products of animal origin which threatened the safety of public and animal health (TSE, dioxin scandal, FMD).

Based on findings of the FVO and information from the Member States, it has been concluded that more effort is needed to guarantee the necessary traceability of the flow of materials based on animal by-products (ABP) throughout the various production chains.

The primary objective of the proposed Regulation is to maintain a high level of food and feed safety and consumer protection - to improve and clarify the legislation and rules as regards the interaction with other Community legislation - to provide a clarification on the end-point in the life-cycle of ABP - to clarify the scope of the rules on ABP and wild game, closing potential sanitary gaps - operators are entrusted with increased responsibility for the placing on the market of safe products.

The Rapporteur welcomes the proposal, but objects to the fact that many provisions fall under the Commission implementing Regulation and not under the co-decision procedure. He therefore introduces several of those provisions to an ANNEX of the Regulation. These provisions do not cover technical details; they will continue to fall under the implementing regulation.

Several amendments serve to clarify the text. Some amendments also regulate the issue of catering waste; when it can be used as feed for animals, when it poses a potential health risk.

*Deadline for amendments: 27 January 2009
Adoption in ENVI: 16-17 February 2009
Adoption in Plenary: March II 2009*

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

NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

➤ **HEALTH CONCERNS ASSOCIATED WITH ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS**

*Own-Initiative report
Consideration of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will consider the draft report on health concerns associated with electromagnetic fields (Rapporteur: Frédérique Ries, ALDE, Belgium)

Electromagnetic fields (EMF) are a matter of direct concern to EU citizens. A special Euro barometer on EMF indicated that Europeans are divided in their concerns about the potential health risks of EMF: 14 % not at all concerned, 35% not very concerned, 35% fairly concerned and 13% very concerned. Several scientific studies on the matter were published in recent years, among others e.g. by the Commission's "Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks" (SCENIHR) which examined possible effects of electromagnetic fields on human health. Binding Community legislation on electromagnetic fields is scarce. The Environment Committee therefore had requested authorisation to draw up a non-legislative own-initiative report on "Health concerns associated with electromagnetic fields".

The Rapporteur argues that the fixed limit values should be regularly updated to guarantee a high level of protection to consumers, however without harming the functioning of mobile phone networks.

*Deadline for amendments: 26 January 2009
Adoption ENVI: 17 February 2009
Adoption Plenary: March II 2009*

➤ **MENTAL HEALTH**

*Own-Initiative report
Adoption of draft report*

The ENVI Committee will adopt the draft report on Mental Health (Evangelia Tzampazi, PSE, Greece).

On 13 June 2008, an EU High-Level Conference "Together for Mental Health and Well-being" took place in Brussels, leading to an adoption of a "European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being". The conference was hosted by the Commission and attended by high-level representatives of the Presidency, Member States, and the European Parliament as well as of civil society and social partners. The Conference was a part of the Commission follow-up to the Green Paper on Mental Health (COM(2005)484), on which the European Parliament adopted an own-initiative report in 2006 (A6-0249/2006).

The Coordinators of the ENVI Committee decided to seek authorisation to draw up an own-initiative report on mental health in order to be able to contribute to and support the implementation of the Pact, and to maintain mental health high on the EU Health Policy agenda.

103 amendments have been tabled.

Amendments tabled:103

Adoption in Plenary: February II 2009

➤ **THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EU LEGISLATION ON GMO'S, IN PARTICULAR DIRECTIVE 2001/18/EC AND REGULATIONS (EC) NO. 1829/2003 AND 1830/2003**

Own-Initiative report

Consideration of draft report

The ENVI Committee will consider the draft report on the implementation of EU legislation on GMOs, in particular Directive 2001/18/EC and regulations (EC) no. 1829/2003 and 1830/2003 (Justas Vincas Paleckis, PSE, Lithuania)

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs), notably their cultivation, give rise to discussion and questions within society as well as among the scientific community. The EU has put in place a comprehensive legal framework on genetically modified organisms. The own-initiative report focuses on the implementation of this legal framework and addresses the following issues:

- Authorisation procedure, in particular the need for greater transparency and reduction of undue delays, and the problem of never reaching a

qualified majority in favour or against in the decision process;

- Harmonisation of environmental risk assessment, with a need for a closer cooperation between the EFSA and the Member States;

- Importance to take into account socio-economic considerations and to dramatically improve public information on GMOs;

- Need to set up a labelling thresholds for the presence of GM seeds in conventional seeds;

- GMO-free zones.

Deadline for amendments: 26 January 2009

Adoption ENVI: 17 February 2009

Adoption Plenary: March II 2009

OPINIONS

➤ **2007 BUDGET DISCHARGE**

Consideration of draft opinions

The ENVI Committee will consider the draft opinions (Mr Péter Olajos, EPP-ED, Hungary) on the budget discharge for 2007 for the EU general budget, Section III - Commission, the European Environment Agency, the European Medicines Agency, the European Food Safety Authority, The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the European Chemicals Agency.

Mr Olajos is in favour of granting the discharge.

Deadline for amendments: 21 January - 18.00.

Adoption in ENVI Committee: 9 February 2009.

Adoption in lead Committee: 16 March 2009

Adoption in Plenary: April II 2009

➤ **ENSURING FOOD QUALITY - HARMONISATION OR MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF STANDARDS**

Consideration of draft opinion

The ENVI Committee will consider the draft opinion on ensuring Food Quality - Harmonisation or mutual recognition of standards (Magor Imre Csibi (ALDE), Romania).

The Green Paper on Agricultural product quality: product standards, farming requirements and quality schemes, looks at how to ensure the most suitable regulatory framework to promote and protect the quality of agricultural products, without creating additional costs or burdens.

The draftsman in his opinion, underlines that food quality systems should offer a guarantee for consumers of the authenticity of local ingredients and production techniques.

The labelling of the main ingredient (more than 50%) of a product is desirable, in order to increase information to consumers. The main criteria for marketing standards need to be clarified so as to avoid confusion and misleading practices. Organic products and farming need to be promoted in terms of the benefits they bring for the environment and animal welfare protection as well as being high quality food.

Finally, the Commission is called upon to provide criteria for GMO-free labelling schemes to provide consumers with a free choice, bearing in mind that such schemes are being developed and used in several Member States.

Deadline for amendments: 22 January 2009

Adoption in Committee: 10 February 2009

Adoption AGRI: 9 February 2009

Adoption Plenary: March I 2009

➤ **THE CHALLENGE OF
DETERIORATION OF
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE
EU AND IN PARTICULAR
SOUTHERN EUROPE: THE
RESPONSE THROUGH EU-
AGRICULTURAL POLICY
INSTRUMENTS**

Adoption of draft opinion

The ENVI Committee will adopt the draft opinion on The challenge of deterioration of agricultural land in the EU and in particular in Southern Europe: the response through EU-agricultural policy instruments (Inés Ayala Sender, PSE, Spain)

The draft opinion aims to have a stronger support on soil policies. Soil is the basis for the production of human foodstuffs, fodder, textiles and fuels, but it plays at the same time an important role in CO₂ capture. However, soil is more than ever at risk of irreversible damage

caused by erosion, pollution, salinisation, sealing, depletion of organic substances and the loss of soil biodiversity. That's why the draft opinion calls on the Council to adopt, as first step, its common position on the framework directive on soil, keenly awaits the creation of the European observatory and early warning system on drought and calls for the promotion of the preservation and regeneration of forests, primarily in Member States which have lost their natural forest heritage.

Amendments tabled: 22

Adoption AGRI: 17 February 2009

Adoption in Plenary: March II 2009

➤ **EQUAL TREATMENT OF
PERSONS IRRESPECTIVE OF
RELIGION OR BELIEF,
DISABILITY, AGE OR SEXUAL
ORIENTATION**

Adoption of draft opinion

The ENVI Committee will adopt the draft opinion on Equal treatment of persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation (Amalia Sartori, EPP-ED, Italy)

The Commission proposal aims to implement the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation outside the labour market. It sets out a framework for the prohibition of discrimination on these grounds and establishes a uniform minimum level of protection within the European Union for people who have suffered such discrimination.

The draft opinion supports the strategy developed since the Amsterdam Treaty to combat discrimination. It is consistent with the horizontal objectives of the European Union, and in particular with the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs and the objectives of the EU Social Protection and Social Inclusion Process. While non-discrimination is recognised to be one of the fundamental values of the EU, in practice the level of legal protection to secure these values differs among Member States and between discrimination grounds.

Amendments tabled: 11

Adoption LIBE: 17 February 2009

Adoption in Plenary: March II 2009

➤ TRADE IN SEAL PRODUCTS

Adoption of draft opinion

The ENVI Committee will adopt the draft opinion on Trade in seal products (Frieda Brepoels, EPP-ED, Belgium).

Several EU Member States have adopted legislation to ban trade in seal products as a response to citizens' animal welfare concerns. The proposal for a Regulation is intended to stop the fragmentation of the internal market and thereby bans the placing on the market and the import in, transit through and the export from the Community of seal products. Trade would however be possible when certain conditions, which concern the manner and method whereby the seals are killed and skinned, are met.

The draftsman welcomes the Commission proposal but considers it not to be enforceable as the different derogations will be difficult to control. She therefore proposes a total ban on trade in seal products with a limited exception for Inuit communities. Such a ban meets the widely demonstrated concern of the European Citizens and will put an end to hunting methods which are perceived as cruel, it also meets environmental concerns as regards the decline of the seals population and the possible extinction of certain species.

Amendments tabled: 63
Adoption IMCO: 2 March 2009
Adoption in Plenary: April 2009

➤ PROTECTION OF ANIMALS AT THE TIME OF KILLING

Adoption of draft opinion

The ENVI Committee will adopt the draft opinion on Protection of animals at the time of killing (Jens Holm, GUE/NGL, Sweden).

The Commission proposal for a Regulation implies a revision of Directive 93/119/EC on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter. The proposed Regulation imposes the same minimum rules on the treatment of animals at the time of slaughter in the whole of the EU.

All amendments tabled aim at further improving animal welfare protection,

particular in including the killing of animals for fur production in these new provisions.

Amendments tabled: 63
Adoption AGRI: 9 February 2009
Adoption in Plenary: March I 2009

➤ COMMUNITY CONTROL SYSTEM FOR ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES FOR THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

Consideration of draft opinion

The ENVI Committee will consider the draft opinion on Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy (Roberto Musacchio, GUE/NGL, Italy).

One of the main goals of the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is to establish conservation measures to ensure fish stocks being exploited on an environmentally sustainable basis. As the current state of fish stocks in EU waters demonstrates however, the levels of exploitation have been too high.

The basic idea of the proposed Regulation is that an efficient control policy should be global and integrated and cover all facets of the problem, from net to plate. A new, common approach to control and inspection is established. Although the level of compliance by fishing vessels with technical measures should not be ignored, greater attention needs to be paid to comprehensive monitoring of catches.

The draftsman proposes amendments which ask the Commission to come forward with **binding legislative measures in 2010 for the reduction of the EU fishing capacity**. If the CFP main objective is to achieve the sustainable use of the fisheries resources, the present control, inspection and sanction systems must be strengthened considerably, and thereby ensuring the health of our marine living resources and a sustainable and economic viable livelihood for those fishing communities which would otherwise have few alternatives to sustain themselves.

Deadline for amendments: 27 January 2009

Adoption in Committee: 9-11 February 2009
Adoption PECH: 17 February 2009
Adoption in Plenary: April 2009

FORTHCOMING SECOND READINGS

The ENVI Committee will decide on the procedure and timetable for adoption of draft recommendations for second reading on the common positions on:

- Statistics on plant protection products (Bart Staes (Verts/ALE, Belgium))
- Establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin (Avril Doyle (EPP-ED, Ireland))

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

On **Wednesday morning at 11.00 a.m.** the ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with **Mr Martin Bursík**, the Czech Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment.

On **Wednesday afternoon at 15.00 p.m.** there will be an exchange of views with **Mr Tomáš Julínek**, Czech Minister of Healthcare.

On **Thursday morning from 11.30 a.m.** the ENVI Committee will hold an exchange of views with **Mr Peter Gandalovič**, Czech Minister of Agriculture.

DELEGATION VISITS

The head of the ENVI-delegation, John Bowis, will report back on the delegation visit to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 29-31 October 2008.

The head of the ENVI-delegation, Ms Satu Hassi, will report back on the delegation visit Turkey on 27-28 October 2008.

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN ENVI COMMITTEE

At its meeting of December 8, 2008 the ENVI Committee adopted:

- Corrigendum on the Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures

RECENTLY ADOPTED IN PLENARY

ENVI reports/resolutions that have been adopted by the European Parliament during the last part-session were the following:

- ***II (A6-0443/2008) KLAB: Sustainable use of pesticides
- ***II (A6-0444/2008) BREYER: The placing of plant protection products on the market
- ***I (A6-0341/2008- 131) SCHLYTER: Dangerous substances and preparations (dichloromethane)

Information on the vote is available on Parliament's "Plenary Sessions" website: (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/plenary.do?language=EN>)

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

2009 will be a significant year for our environment and offers us a remarkable opportunity to engage with citizens globally and in the EU. We also know that as awareness to the environmental challenges we face becomes greater, so does our need to communicate more effectively.

In this context the EEA has developed a report 'Signals', which is aimed at the broad range of European citizens to increase transparency and understanding of the issues we face. In partnership with our 32 member countries, the EEA monitors the environment across Europe. Finding, interpretation and understanding the range of 'signals' regarding the health and diversity of our environment is at the heart of what the Agency does. EEA Signals 2009, which will be published in all 26 EEA

languages, takes a story-based approach to provide a snapshot of key environmental topics of special relevance to the year ahead.

The stories in EEA Signals are not exhaustive but have been selected on the basis of their relevance to the current environmental policy debate in Europe. They address priority issues of climate change, nature and biodiversity, the use of natural resources and health and the environment.

Translated versions of Signals 2009 are available here:

<http://reports.eea.europa.eu/signals-2009>

Date of next meeting:

9 February 2009, 15.00-18.30

10 February 2009, 9.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30

11 February 2009, 9.00-12.30