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CHAIR'S WELCOME



The next ENVI Committee meeting will take place in Brussels on 23 February 2016. Members will vote on two oral questions on the Zika virus and the mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for certain foods. Exchanges of views will subsequently be held on the two related motions for resolutions. An

opinion on the implementation of the Energy efficiency Directive will also be considered.

Ms Andrea Ammon, Acting Director of the ECDC will be taking part in the agency's annual exchange of views with the Members, a timely discussion in light of the Committee's interest in closely following the response to the Zika virus' outbreak. Additionally, the European Commission will be present for an implementation session on health legislation.

Finally, let me draw your attention to the public hearing on Real Driving Emissions tests, organised in the context of the first phases of the development of such new testing and of the shortcomings of laboratory testing brought to light by the recent revelation of Volkswagen's use of defeat devices.

[Giovanni La Via](#)

MEETING PREVIEW

Mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for certain foods

Adoption of questions for oral answer and consideration of motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))



In the past, Parliament already adopted **several resolutions on country of origin labelling**. In its

resolution of 11 February 2015 on meat in processed

foods, Parliament urged the Commission, in particular, to come up with legislative proposals making the indication of the origin of meat in processed foods mandatory in order to ensure **greater transparency** throughout the food chain and to **better inform** European consumers. However, citing the costs of mandatory country of origin labelling to industry and that consumers would not be willing to meet the additional costs, the Commission has so far not made any such proposals.

In the current draft motion for a resolution following the Coordinators' decision of 1 December 2015, co-sponsors refer to **consumer surveys** according to which a significant percentage of consumers consider it necessary to indicate the origin of milk, of meat other than beef, swine, sheep, goat and poultry as well as of meat in processed foods. Consequently, they restate Parliament's position **in favour of mandatory indication** of the origin of meat in processed foods. However, they call on the Commission to **define "lightly processed" foods**, to **investigate** the possibility of initially limiting the scope of mandatory country of origin labelling to cases where consumer interest is balanced against costs, and to make **legislative proposals** in these areas.

Co-rapporteurs: [Sommer](#) (EPP - only for OQ), [Willmott](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Jätteenmäki](#) (ALDE), [Boylan](#) (GUE/NGL), [Rivasi](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD), [Salvini](#) (ENF)

Zika virus outbreak

Adoption of questions for oral answer and consideration of motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))

On 1 February 2016 the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee declared that the Zika outbreak constitutes a **Public Health**



Emergency of International Concern. The experts agreed that a causal relationship between Zika infection during pregnancy and microcephaly is strongly suspected, though not yet scientifically proven. All agreed on the urgent need to coordinate international efforts to improve surveillance, to intensify the control of mosquito populations, and to expedite the development of diagnostic tests and vaccines to protect people at risk, especially during pregnancy. In accordance with the Serious Cross-Border Health Threats Decision, the **EU's Early Warning and Response**



System for medical emergencies has been activated, and the Health

Security Committee (HSC), bringing together EU Member States and the Commission, will meet regularly to coordinate Zika virus prevention and readiness.

Following the decision taken by the Coordinators on 5 February 2016, an oral question with resolution is tabled to the Plenary.

Co-rapporteurs: [Schreyer-Pierik](#) (PPE), [Groote](#) (S&D), [Piecha](#) (ECR), [Faria](#) (ALDE), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Häusling](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD), [Mélis](#) (ENF)

Implementation report on the Energy Efficiency Directive

Consideration of draft opinion (see [meeting documents](#))



The draft opinion will feed into the INI report by the ITRE committee on the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive, which establishes binding measures to enable

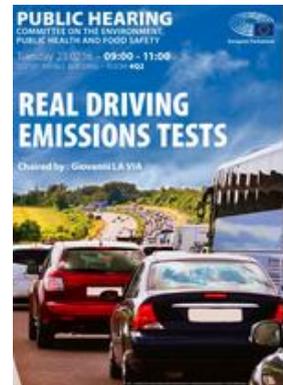
the EU to reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all Member States are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain from its production to its final consumption. The transposition deadline for this Directive was 5 June 2014.

In his draft opinion, the rapporteur stresses inter alia that the Directive has triggered many **positive developments** in the Member States, but that **poor implementation** is hindering its full potential. He points out that the main weakness of the existing Directive is that **most of the measures will expire in 2020** unless the Directive is appropriately amended, which means that its main provisions, in particular **Article 7, should be extended** not only up to 2030, but also beyond. Furthermore, the rapporteur for opinion regrets the target of **at least 27 %** for improving energy efficiency in 2030 adopted by the European Council in 2014, which he considers very **unambitious** and which is in his view mainly justified by an extremely unrealistic high discount rate from a previous impact assessment. He also calls for the elimination of loopholes in the existing Directive, especially in Article 7, while keeping flexibility for the Member States to choose among the different possible measures.

Rapporteur: [Liese](#) (EPP)
Shadows: [Cabezón Ruiz](#) (S&D), [Duncan](#) (ECR), [Faria](#) (ALDE), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Škrlec](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD), [Goddyn](#) (ENF)

Public hearing on Real Driving Emissions Tests

A key feature of ENVI's position on the Commission proposal on the **reduction of pollutant emissions from road vehicles** - adopted in september 2015 - is that **test procedures** for certain pollutant emissions, including NOx, should **reflect real driving conditions**, a timely response given the recent revelation of Volkswagen's use of defeat devices in laboratory emissions testing.



On 3 February 2016, the European Parliament did not object to the Commission's draft regulation, proposed in parallel to the [Dess file](#), relating to RDE tests and the use of portable emission measurement systems (PEMS). The most contested issue within this package was the **conformity factor** relating to RDE tests. This package was the second of four that have been envisaged by the Commission, that have been or are in the process of being developed under **comitology procedure, to introduce RDE tests** ahead of the eventual implementation of the new proposal on the reduction of pollutant emissions from road vehicles.

This hearing will host expert speakers representing industry, consumers, research, and civil society, with a view to informing ENVI's ongoing work on the development of real driving emissions tests.

Implementation of health legislation

Exchange of views with Commission representatives on cross-border healthcare



This session is the first exercise linked to the implementation of health legislation and will focus on questions related to Directive 2011/24/EU on the **application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare**. A second implementation session dedicated to questions related to the implementation of the tobacco products directive will follow.



The 13 questions on cross-border healthcare cover a **wide spectrum of issues**, ranging from the European Reference Network, National Contact Points, specialised care and awareness, to infringements and data security and protection. Following a request of the **IMCO Committee**, two written questions on issues within its remit have also been included.

- Study on the "Implementation of the Ambient Air Quality Directive"

Exchange of views with Ms Andrea Ammon, acting Director of ECDC



The annual exchange of views is part of the **regular dialogue** between the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Parliament.

Ms Ammon is acting Director since 1 May 2015, following the end of mandate of the previous Executive Director. She will present the **main activities of ECDC in 2015** - a year with numerous challenges, among which Ebola. Next year's programme of activities with ECDC will have to be discussed with the new Director, once appointed.

The Centre was established in 2005 and is seated in Stockholm, Sweden. It is an EU agency which aims to strengthen Europe's defenses against infectious diseases. According to the Article 3 of the [founding Regulation](#), ECDC's mission is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases.

NEWS FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

Recent Publications:

- [Briefing on 'Issues at stake at the 10th session of the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection \(CAEP10\)'](#)
- [Study 'Food Safety Situation in Ireland and Overview of the European Food and Veterinary Office'](#)
- [Workshop Proceedings 'Data Saves Lives: The impact of the Data Protection Regulation on Personal Data Use in Cancer Research'](#)

Upcoming Publications:

- Study on 'Wildlife crime'
- Workshop Proceedings "Food Contact Materials – How to ensure food safety and technological innovation in the future?"



ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

European Environment Agency (EEA)



The **road transport** sector is a major contributor to Europe's emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollution. For certain pollutants, vehicles can emit substantially **higher emissions on the road** than official emissions tested in laboratories. A new EEA report provides a **non-technical guide** that describes the reasons for these often significant discrepancies. [More](#)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



ECHA launched public consultations for REACH authorisation applications related to Chromium VI compounds, **1,2-dichloroethane (EDC)** and **Diglyme**. More information about the uses that authorisation is applied for, including the description of the function of the substance, exposure scenarios, possible alternatives identified by the applicants, together with socio-economic information, is available on ECHA's website. Comments can be submitted **until 6 April 2016**. [More](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



ECDC is closely monitoring the evolution of the **outbreaks and investigations on the Zika virus**. It found that the risk is extremely low for continental Europe but some of the Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions of the EU are more exposed to the Zika virus. [More](#)

European Medicines Agency (EMA)



The EMA and the European Commission have prepared an **implementation plan** for centrally authorised medicines to guide applicants and marketing-authorisation holders in meeting the requirements of a **new regulation of the Falsified Medicines Directive**. The delegated regulation introduces two safety features, a unique identifier (a 2-dimension barcode) and an anti-tampering device, to be placed on the packaging of most medicines for human use. [More](#)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



EFSA has updated its **database of plants** that are reported to be hosts for the plant pathogen **Xylella fastidiosa**, which has been present in Europe since October 2013. The updated list consists of 359 plant species – both naturally and experimentally infected hosts. Forty-four new species are included. The majority of the new species (70%) were identified in southern Italy (Apulia), Corsica and southern France (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region). [More](#)

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Do you need more information?

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

Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

16-17 March 2016 (Brussels). See also the [2016 meeting dates](#) for future meetings.

Further information sources

The **EP Policy Departments** [publish](#) studies, notes, information notes and workshop proceedings; to contact them, write to Poldep-Economy-Science@europarl.europa.eu. The **EP Library** regularly prepares briefings summarising information related to topical subjects. Find the latest updates via the links [briefings](#) and [blog](#).

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