

# Summary of Decisions

Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy

ENVE

## EPP preparatory meeting

10.00-10.30 • JDE 51 • Committee of the Regions • Rue Belliard 101 • Bxl

## Commission meeting

11.00-18.00 • JDE 52 • Committee of the Regions • Rue Belliard 101 • Bxl

## President

Mr Pigliaru (PES/IT)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

Mr Stepien (EPP/PL)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

Ms Hertell (EPP/FI)

## EPP Coordinator

Mr Hranic (HR)

## Point system update

EPP	40
PES	36
ALDE	18
EA	8
ECR	12

## Meetings in 2015

- 20 November 2015

28 September 2015, Brussels

## Organization of future work

- Appointment of new rapporteurs
  - Renunciations
  - External activities in 2016
  - Dossiers for information
- Ongoing work programme, follow-up to opinions

## Opinions on the agenda

- **Roby Biwer (PES/LU)**: Contribution to the REFIT process for the EU Birds and Habitats Directives
- **Kata Tüttő (PES/HU)**: The future of the Covenant of Mayors



## 1. Adoption of the draft agenda

## 2. Adoption of the minutes

## 3. Statement by the Chair

## 4. Organization of future work of the Commission

### *For decision*

#### **Appointment of rapporteurs**

- **Mr Michel Lebrun (EPP/BE)** was appointed as a rapporteur for the Opinion on Delivering a New Deal for Energy Consumers, adopted by the EC on 15/07/2015, cost: 2 points
- **Mr Andres Jaadla (ALDE/EE)** was appointed as a rapporteur for the Outlook Opinion on the "EU environment law: improving reporting and compliance", EC referral letter of 02/09/2015, cost: 4 points
- **Mr Marco Dus (PES/IT)** was appointed as a rapporteur for the Opinion on the EU Emissions Trading System (Proposal for a Directive amending Directive 2003/87/EC to enhance cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments – COM(2015) 337 – final), cost: 4 points

#### **Renunciations**

- Members decided not to issue an opinion on a Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council setting a framework for energy efficiency labelling and repealing Directive 2010/30/EU COM(2015) 341 final - 2015/0149 (COD), as the opinion does not fall within the political priorities of ENVE Work Programme 2015. The **renunciation letter** according to Rule 67(1) of the CoR Rules of Procedure will be sent instead.

#### **External activities in 2016**

The members have accepted the following proposals:

- **Study visit** on public and private initiatives on the circular economy, in Copenhagen, in May/June 2016, proposed by **Mr Jens Ive (DK/ALDE)**.
- **Study visit** to the 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns on 27-29 April in Bilbao, proposed by **Ms María Ángeles Elorza Zubiría (ES/ALDE)**.

In 2016 the ENVE could still organise an external commission meeting and a conference.

*For information*

**Dossiers for information**

- 1) Retail Energy markets, 2 points
- 2) Evaluation of the Directive 2009/28/EC –promotion of the use of renewable energy, 2 points
- 3) Directive amending Directives 2008/98/EC on waste, 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste, 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment, 4 points
- 4) Evaluation of Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC, 2 points
- 5) Possible modified proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC, 4 points
- 6) Mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, 2 points
- 7) Fitness Check of Ecolabel and Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) Regulations, points tbc
- 8) Evaluation report on the application of Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/EC, 2 points

**Ongoing work programme and follow-up to opinions**

• **Mr Michel Lebrun (EPP/BE)**, presented a follow-up to the opinion on the Energy Union, and reported on his participation as a moderator at the conference of the European Commission and the Council in Luxembourg on the SET Plan. He stated that the workshop demonstrated the expectations of consumers in terms of development and deployment of low-carbon technologies in the energy sector and that there is a need of simplifying the communication with consumers.

• **Mr André Van De Nadort (PES/NL)** reported on the ENVE study visit in Bristol on 8 September. He stressed it was an informative visit and that we need efforts to involve the citizens; he also appreciated the attention given to the issue of tackling the plastic.

**5. Draft opinion on the Contribution to the REFIT process for the EU Birds and Habitats Directives (ENVE-VI-005)**

*Information*

- Rapporteur: **Mr Roby Biwer (PES/LU)**
- First discussion and adoption, final adoption at the plenary session of 3-4 December 2014
- No amendments

- The opinion was adopted by majority.
- Invited speakers:
  - Mr Camille Gira, State Secretary for Sustainable development and Infrastructure, Luxembourg, EU Presidency
  - Ms Margrete Auken, MEP (DK/Greens-EFA), European Parliament shadow rapporteur on the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020
  - Mr Stefan Leiner, Acting Director Natural Capital, European Commission
  - Mr Carlos de Oliveira Romao, Project Manager Biodiversity and Ecosystems, European Environment Agency (EEA)
  - Ms Antonella Battaglini, Chief Executive Officer of the Renewables Grid Initiative, Berlin

### *Discussion*

The Rapporteur firstly described the process of this REFIT initiative. He reminded that the draft was based on the European Commission's fitness check mandate and stressed that around 575 000 respondents were involved in the online discussion. He identified a key concern – the insufficient implementation of the Directives, in which also local and regional authorities play a crucial role; therefore, there is a need to ensure the proper implementation, together with the harmonisation of rules for all the Member States with regards to transposition and implementation of the Directives. Further, he highlighted the importance of biodiversity, identifying it with a social good, which constitutes a basis for environmental and economic advantages (as tourism or improved image) on local and regional level. Mr Biwer concluded disagreeing with the revision of the Directives, as there is a possibility of leading to social problems. He calls for a serious guardianship of biodiversity, for identification of infringement in case of not respecting the Directives, for the improvement of public information, and for the interaction between different levels of governance.

**Mr Camille Gira** expressed the conviction that the Directives are fit for purpose, and finally working and delivering. However, in addition to the lack of implementation, he identified other crucial challenges in terms of reaching the Directives' full potential – the shortage of comprehensive management plans in protected areas (only 50%), the insufficient financial resources, and the CAP, which is not yet fully in synergy with the environment, and which requires to be re-oriented towards sustainability. He expressed encouragement in terms of "getting back on track" for the biodiversity target, although stating that the EU failed to reach its 2010 goal.

**Ms Margrete Auken** pointed out that the Directives are some of the most popular in the EU. She also raised the significance of proper implementation, and presented a strongly opposing stance towards the changes in the Directives. She called for the

engagement of local and regional authorities, without whom the preservation of biodiversity would not be possible; while also stressing the need of institutional cooperation in order to promote the mobilisation that is present in Europe.

**Mr Carlos de Oliveira Romao** presented the results of the EU State of Nature report. The findings showed that rather small fractions of birds, habitats, and threatened animal and plant species can be regarded as in a favourable state. Main pressures in the Member States contributing to the deterioration of the biodiversity were identified – agriculture, changes in rivers, forestry, and urbanisation. The results also showed that the areas covered by Natura 2000 are deteriorating less, but the overall conditions are unfavourable and not on the 2020 track.

Representing the European Commission, **Mr Stefan Leiner** stressed that the fitness check is part of the REFIT programme for better legislation agenda, which is still being exercised; therefore, no decision about the revision of the Directives has been made. He also emphasised the importance of Natura 2000 as having the stabilising effect, while recognising the crucial importance of local and regional authorities in the implementation of the legislation.

**Ms Antonella Battaglini** stressed the importance of engaging the NGOs in the process. She portrayed several examples of the projects with respective results and messages they had delivered, and pointed out the necessity of good practice use. She presented several recommendations: do not revise the directives; improve implementation, information and public consultation; promote partnership with NGOs; and demand the regulation and inclusion of NGOs involvement.

*Interventions from the floor*

In the debate that followed, **Mr Csaba Borboly (EPP/RO)** called for addressing the issue related to the situations when nature causes harm and injuries to people. The argument was built on a personal experience from his County where bears intrude into populated areas and represent a significant threat to people. **Mr Bruno Hranić (EPP/HR)** also contributed with a personal regional experience with otters building barriers which interfere into natural flow of waters and cause flooding. He thus called for finding a right balance between animals and men.

**6. Draft opinion on The future of the Covenant of Mayors (ENVE-VI-006)**

*Information*

- Rapporteur: **Ms Kata Tüttő (PES/HU)**
- First discussion and adoption, final adoption at the plenary session of 3-4 December, 2015

- Amendments: 13 + 13R
- The opinion was adopted by majority.
- Invited speakers:
  - Mr Claude Turmes, MEP (Greens-EFA/LU)
  - Mr Jan Pánek, Head of Unit, Retail markets coal and oil, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission
  - Ms Pirita Lindholm, Head of Brussels Office of Climate Alliance

### *Discussion*

The Rapporteur highlighted several aspects of the draft opinion, which she regarded as the most significant to share with the Members. Firstly, she underlined the need for long-term goals and vision surpassing the year of 2020. Secondly, she emphasised the importance of Covenant of Mayors (CoM) and called for further reinforcement, especially in terms signatories' engagement, while she also asked for a deeper cooperation between the CoR and the CoM. Thirdly, she pointed out to a financial aspect of 2030 goals and stressed that in order to make the 40% reduction goals realistic, regions must push for national regulations to adapt. Ms Rapporteur also raised the problem with finances for the initiatives, which are often tailored for big-scale projects of several million euros, and thus called for the discussion on how to make the finances available for small and medium authorities. Lastly, the Rapporteur highlighted the investments into soft projects, such as green purchasing policies or planting trees.

**Mr Claude Turmes** stressed the role of the alignment of NGOs and cities, and called for the consideration of a long-term perspective, i.e. zero-carbon cities as a 2050 vision. He also recognised a lack of financing, especially in terms of receiving project development funds, and therefore, called for pushing national governments to make structural funds available to project management in cities. He recognised the CoM as an overall success, including its positive impact on climate change.

**Mr Jan Pánek** presented the CoM as an initiative that has been changing lives of people in terms of both, energy consumption, and the way citizens perceive their life. He analysed several reasons behind its success – bottom-up approach, high flexibility, robust monitoring system, and a multi-level character of governance. He also called for the need of reflecting new priorities, especially in terms of exploiting new synergies and funding. He encouraged searching for innovative financing instruments and solutions, including private funding or use of the EIB financial instruments.

**Mr Christophe Hansen** from the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU stated that the Luxembourg Presidency of the council to the EU will support any measures required to achieve the climate goals. He signalled that in Luxembourg the most popular initiative that aim for the reduction of greenhouse emissions is the Climate Alliance, with more than 1,700 cities and municipalities as members developing and implementing strategies to reduce CO2 emissions especially in transport and energy sectors.

**Ms Pirita Lindholm** introduced several recommendations concerning the future of the CoM - a need for long-term ambition for 2050 and a clear target for 2030; linking the synergies between the CoM and Mayors Adapt initiative; upscaling the CoM by exporting the concept; using decentralised cooperation in implementing the CoM; and making use of the potential of sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) in order to boost financing. She also suggested to appoint CoM ambassadors and to create a working group to cooperate with the CoR.

*Interventions from the floor*

In the debate that followed, **Mr Michel Lebrun (EPP/BE)** drew attention to the responsibilities of LRAs in the transition to a low-carbon economy and put an emphasis on constant investments that local and regional authorities must deal with, which makes it almost impossible to bring savings to the budget. **Mr Csaba Borboly (EPP/RO)** called for a simplified procedure for small, especially rural communities that are willing to access and ratify CoM and on extending the CoM to other resources.

*Amendments*

Accepted: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13R

Fell: 13

Rejected: 1, 2, 8, 9

**7. Any other business**

- ENVE 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Ms Hertell (EPP/FI) presided ENVE meeting instead of ENVE President Mr Pigliaru (PES/IT).
- The ENVE Commission Conference "Closing the loop in the Circular Economy: contributions and expectations from Europe's local and regional authorities" took place on 29 September, 9:00-13:00 in JDE 52, Committee of the Regions.
- There is a new strategic planning process launched concerning the priorities of the commissions. As a first step, the priorities of each commission for the next few months/for the next year will be

identified, in order to have a concrete plan for some related actions. The work plans as such would be discussed and adopted in the next meetings on 20 November.

- Upcoming conferences: OPEN DAYS 2015 workshops:
  - 1) **"Regions open for green business: environment legislation as the driving force"** on 14 October, 14:30-17.00, VM3. Co-organised with the European Commission (DG ENV) and ENCORE - Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe. The workshop provides with the 6th meeting of the joint CoR/European Commission Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment.
  - 2) **"Bringing mitigation, adaptation and green cities together"** (working title) on 13 October, 14.30-17.00 followed by a networking session, co-organised with the European Environment Agency and ICLEI;
  - 3) **Specific challenges of energy governance at local/regional level related to energy data**, co-organised together with the Federene (the association of local and regional energy agencies) on 14 October.
  - 4) **"The role model of the Covenant of Mayors in Multi-level Governance: Views from Academia and Local and Regional Actors"** co-organised together with the Covenant of Mayors Office on 14 October 2015, from 14:30-17:00.
- **EESC-CoR joint conference on cities, regions, civil society preparing for the COP21**, 19 November  
A joint conference will be organised to spread the EESC and the CoR positions, as well as to maintain visibility as regards local and regional stakeholders and the EU delegation featuring the best practice cases of LRA's action.
- **Preparation of the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris**, 30 November - 11 December  
At the COP21, the CoR will co-organise with ICLEI a side event discussing measurable and transparent commitments of cities and regions as means to build trust among negotiators. The CoR will also co-organise the side event "The Covenant of Mayors World Tour" with the Covenant of Mayors Office as well as a side event on community energy with the EESC and ICLEI. It will also be involved in other events.
- The following dates have been proposed for the **ENVE commission meetings in 2016**: 24 February, 26 April, 30 June, 20-21 September and 29 November. They haven't been confirmed yet, the final dates will be announced at the next ENVE meeting.

**The next ENVE meeting will take place on 20 November in Brussels.**



## Overview of Opinions

### 6<sup>th</sup> Mandate ENVE

#	Plenary session adoption	Rapporteur	Opinion title
1	October 2015	Rhodri Glyn Thomas (UK/EA)	Developing the potential of Ocean Energy
2	October 2015	Annabelle Jaeger (FR/PES)	The Paris Protocol – A blueprint for tackling global climate change beyond 2020
3	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>Pascal Mangin (FR/EPP)</b>	<b>Energy Union Package</b>
4	December 2015	Roby Biwer (LU/PES)	Contribution to the REFIT process for the EU Birds and Habitats Directives
5	December 2015	Kata Tüttő (HU/PES)	The future of the Covenant of Mayors
6	<b>April 2016</b>	<b>Michel Lebrun (EPP/BE)</b>	<b>Delivering a New Deal for Energy Consumers</b>
7	April 2016	Marco Dus (PES/IT)	The EU Emissions Trading System
8	April 2016	Andres Jaadla (ALDE/EE)	EU environment law: improving reporting and compliance

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