

NEWSLETTER - Meetings of 24-25 February 2026



Dear All,

As a new Chair of the ENVI Committee, I am very happy to share this edition of the Newsletter where we present the latest updates on the work of our Committee ahead of the upcoming ENVI meeting, as well as the joint meetings with CONT, with ECON and LIBE and with IMCO, taking place on 24 and 25 February.

On 24 February, we will exchange views with the European Court of Auditors (ECA) on the special report on LIFE, together with our CONT colleagues. On 25 February, the ECA will also present its special report on the management of municipal waste. The same day, we will first consider the ENVI draft opinion on the European Competitiveness Fund. We will then discuss with the Commission the outcome of the COP20 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), as well as on the communication on "Accelerating Europe's transition to a circular economy: a pilot for boosting circularity of plastics".

Together with ECON and LIBE, we will vote on the 4th Omnibus Simplification Package, dealing with the extension of certain mitigating measures available for small and medium sized enterprises to small mid-cap enterprises. Together with IMCO Members, we will vote on the outcome of provisional agreement reached with the Council and will also consider the amendments pertaining to the simplification of certain requirements and procedures for chemical products.

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You can also watch committee meetings live via webstreaming under this [link](#).

Pierfrancesco MARAN

ENVI Chair

LIST OF MEETING ITEMS

Exchanges of views (25/02):

- Exchange of views with the Commission on the outcome of the COP 20 meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Presentations:

- Presentation by reporting ECA Member Joëlle Elvinger on the ECA Special report 25/2025: LIFE strategic projects (24/02)
- Presentation of the report by reporting ECA member Stef BLOK: "Municipal waste management – Despite gradual improvement, challenges remain for the EU's progress towards circularity" (25/02)
- Presentation by the Commission of the Communication on Accelerating Europe's transition to a circular economy: a pilot for boosting circularity of plastics (25/02)

Considerations (25/02):

- Consideration of draft opinion for establishing the European Competitiveness Fund ('ECF')
- Consideration of draft motion for a resolution to Rule 115(2) and (3) approving formaldehyde released from the reaction products of paraformaldehyde and 2-hydroxypropylamine (ratio 1:1) as an existing active substance for use in biocidal products of product-types 2, 11 and 13 in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- Consideration of draft motion for a resolution to Rule 115(2) and (3) approving formaldehyde released from the reaction products of paraformaldehyde and 2-hydroxypropylamine (ratio 3:2) as an existing active substance for use in biocidal products of product-types 2, 6, 11, 12 and 13 in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council (RP 3:2 thereafter)
- Consideration of amendments on proposal amending Regulations (EC) No 1272/2008, (EC) No 1223/2009 and (EU) 2019/1009 as regards simplification of certain requirements and procedures for chemical products

Votes (25/02):

- Objection pursuant to Rule 115(2) and (3) approving formaldehyde released from the reaction products of paraformaldehyde and 2-hydroxypropylamine (ratio 1:1) as an existing active substance for use in biocidal products of product-types 2, 11 and 13 in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- Objection pursuant to Rule 115(2) and (3) approving formaldehyde released from the reaction products of paraformaldehyde and 2-hydroxypropylamine (ratio 3:2) as an existing active substance for use in biocidal products of product-types 2, 6, 11, 12 and 13 in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council (RP 3:2 thereafter)
- Vote on draft report - Amending Regulations (EU) 2016/679, (EU) 2016/1036, (EU) 2016/1037, (EU) 2017/1129, (EU) 2023/1542 and (EU) 2024/573 as regards the extension of certain mitigating measures available for small and medium sized enterprises to small mid-cap enterprises and further simplification measures (together with ECON and LIBE)
- Vote on the provisional agreement on Circularity requirements for vehicle design and on management of end-of-life vehicles, amending Regulations (EU) 2018/858 and 2019/1020 and repealing Directives 2000/53/EC and 2005/64/EC (together with IMCO)

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Exchange of views with the European Commission on the outcome of CITES COP20



On 25 February, the Commission will debrief ENVI Members on the outcome of the 20th Conference of the Parties (CoP20) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which a five-member ENVI delegation attended from 24 to 26 November 2025. The conference marked the 50th anniversary of the Convention, which aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Delegates examined 51 proposals concerning species listings under CITES. Parties reached broad agreement on numerous new listings, including marine species, sharks, endemic reptiles, sloths, sea cucumbers and several bird species. A number of these proposals were submitted or co-sponsored by the EU. Important decisions were also adopted to strengthen implementation

and enforcement measures, notably to combat online wildlife crime, address illicit financial flows and improve traceability. In addition, Parties agreed on the “CITES Strategic Vision: 2021–2030” and adopted a range of measures concerning governance and financial matters.

PRESENTATIONS

Joint presentation of an ECA Special Report on the LIFE programme with CONT



On 24 February, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) will present the Special Report on the LIFE programme to CONT and ENVI Members. LIFE is the only MFF instrument only dedicated to environmental and climate policies. LIFE funded 70 projects from 2014 to 2020. Since 2021, and as of April 2025, it has awarded €436 million to 25 projects. The audit examined 22 projects to assess their added value to meeting EU objectives. The ECA concludes that LIFE projects support the execution of EU strategies by involving key stakeholders, mobilising additional funding and promoting continuity despite national policy shifts and budgetary uncertainty. However, the selection process does not take member states’ most important needs into account. The ECA also identified inconsistencies in reporting and dissemination on mobilised additional

funding, and a lack of systematic sharing of results and best practices. It found arrangements for ensuring the sustainability of project results and for monitoring projects’ contributions to EU objectives weak. It recommends that the Commission better align project selection with identified needs; clarify and standardise methods for tracking mobilised additional funding; enhance monitoring and reporting systems; promote the better dissemination of results and good practices; and strengthen arrangements to ensure the sustainability of project results once EU funding ends.

Presentation of the Communication on “Accelerating Europe’s transition to a circular economy - a pilot for boosting circularity of plastics”



On 25 February, ENVI Members will exchange views with the Commission on the Communication on Accelerating Europe’s transition to a circular economy: a pilot for boosting circularity of plastics, which was published on 23 December 2025. The Communication is one of the first pilot actions focusing on transition to a circular economy ahead of the Circular Economy Act, that is currently being prepared by the Commission. This Act will focus on strengthening circularity in the plastics sector. Structural and market challenges threaten the recycling industry’s ability to benefit from anticipated growth in demand for recycled and circular plastics. Measures proposed by the Communication include among others implementing acts on end-of-waste criteria for plastics and on the calculation, verification and reporting of chemically recycled

plastic content of PET bottles. The aim is to provide the regulatory certainty and conditions needed to expand recycling capacity, while encouraging innovation and investment. The Commission plans to relaunch and strengthen the Circular Plastics Alliance for cooperation across the value chain. It reiterates its commitment to ensure a level playing field by revising customs codes to differentiate virgin plastics from recycled products. Apart from this, the Commission has launched a public consultation and call for evidence to evaluate the Single-Use Plastics Directive.

Presentation of an ECA Special Report on Municipal Waste Management



On 25 February, the ECA will present the Special Report on Municipal Waste Management to ENVI Members. This waste accounts for 27% of waste generated in the EU. Effective management requires the separate collection of materials, infrastructure for sorting, treatment, incineration and/or landfill, and a viable market for recycled output. The EU sets targets for re-using and re-cycling waste, and for recycling packaging waste. It also sets a limit for municipal waste sent to landfills. The ECA audit assessed whether the Commission’s initiatives and enforcement are fit for purpose, whether Member States have progressed in achieving targets, and whether projects co-financed with EU funds were well-implemented. It finds that the

EU has strengthened waste legislation and targets. However, progress is unevenly distributed across Member States, due to financial constraints and weaknesses in planning and implementation. The Commission failed to launch timely procedures against Member States that did not meet targets. Other findings include that financial constraints limit investment in infrastructure and innovation, and that fiscal incentives vary widely across Member States, reducing their effectiveness. Weak recycling markets and a lack of demand for secondary raw materials also affect viability. The ECA recommends taking measures to enhance viability, making better use of monitoring and enforcement tools and assessing the feasibility of harmonising taxes at the EU level.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration of a draft opinion on the European Competitiveness Fund

On 25 February, ENVI Members will consider a draft opinion on the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF). The ECF is the largest funding instrument under heading 2 of the MFF. It aims to consolidate 14 instruments into one to bolster competitiveness. The ECF is designed to contribute to the shift towards a sustainable, circular, energy-, water- and resource-efficient, climate-neutral and resilient economy under the 'Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation' window of the proposed Regulation. According to the proposal, support for 'Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation' window shall be implemented through specific activities, such as LIFE activities; circular economy, water efficiency, ocean health and environmental policy; climate and water resilience; pollution prevention, control and remediation; investment, innovation, and modernisation in sustainable blue economy sectors; and sustainability and clean transition of SMEs. In her draft opinion, the rapporteur proposes 102 amendments, which emphasize the link between resource-efficiency, reduction of dependencies and strategic autonomy. The amendments also call for innovations that strengthen the environmental sustainability of digital and AI technologies. They also aim to ensure the continuity of the core objectives and delivery principles of LIFE activities.

Rapporteur: [BOSSE](#) (Renew)

Shadows: [TER LAAK](#) (EPP), [GONZÁLES CASARES](#) (S&D), [STANEK](#) (PFE), [VONDRA](#) (ECR), [NORDQVIST](#) (Greens/EFA), [ANDERSON](#) (The Left)

Consideration and vote on objections to certain existing active substances in biocidal products

On 25 February, ENVI Members will consider and vote on objections to two Commission implementing regulations approving formaldehyde released from certain reaction products as an existing active substance for use in biocidal products. The objectors oppose these measures on the grounds that they are not compatible with the aim and the content of the Biocidal Products Regulation. The objectors point out that the approval of the substances concerned is inappropriate and disproportionate because the Commission based its analysis of alternatives on an incomplete hazard profile, failed to consider their endocrine-disrupting properties in its evaluation, and proposed risk mitigation measures that cannot be considered binding. The objectors also argue that the regulation violates the precautionary principle and the Commission's obligation to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment. The objectors call on the Commission to withdraw the draft regulations.

Co- objectors: [CLERGEAU](#) (S&D), [PAULUS](#) (Greens/EFA), [HAZEKAMP](#) (The Left)

Joint consideration with IMCO of amendments on the Chemicals Omnibus

On 25 February, ENVI and IMCO Members will consider amendments on the sixth simplification omnibus for chemicals. The Commission proposal, presented on 8 July 2025, aims to simplify and streamline specific requirements and procedures to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens and compliance costs, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), while maintaining a high level of protection for human health and the environment. The draft report was presented on 29 January and amends the CLP Regulation to clarify derogations for small packaging and technical containers, streamline advertising and distance-sales obligations. Proposed amendments to the Cosmetic Products Regulation establish clearer and more efficient procedures for

approving cosmetic ingredients. The proposed changes to the Fertilising Products Regulation aim to improve proportionality, competitiveness and innovation, particularly for SMEs. 508 Amendments were presented by ENVI and IMCO Members and will be subject to consideration during the joint Committees' meeting.

Rapporteurs: ENVI [TSIODRAS](#) (PPE), IMCO [MÜLLER](#) (ECR)

ENVI Shadows: [VIGENIN](#) (S&D), [FRIGOUT](#) (PFE), [FIOCCHI](#) (ECR), [HOJSÍK](#) (Renew) [SBAI](#) (Greens/EFA), [CLAUSEN](#) (The Left), [SCHNURRBUSCH](#) (ESN)

VOTES

Joint vote with IMCO on a provisional agreement on End of Live Vehicles

On 25 February, ENVI and IMCO Members will vote on a provisional agreement reached on 11 December on the regulation concerning circularity requirements for vehicle design and the management of end-of-life vehicles (ELVs). The regulation replaces two existing directives by setting and harmonising requirements to ensure that new vehicles are designed to support re-use, recycling and recovery. It will apply 24 months after entry into force. The deal sets targets for phasing in plastic recycled content in new vehicles over ten years (15% in 6 years, 25% in 10 years). At least 20% of the recycled plastic must come from closed-loop recycling to ensure valuable materials are retained within the EU's circular economy. After completing feasibility studies, the Commission must set targets for recycled steel and aluminium. The feasibility of setting targets for other critical raw materials will

also be studied. To address 'missing vehicles' and illegal dismantling, the deal clarifies the distinction between a used vehicle and an end-of-life vehicle. It also sets requirements for transferring the ownership of used vehicles, without further burdening citizens. The co-legislators agreed on a ban on the export of non-roadworthy vehicles applicable 5 years after entry into force. The deal includes an extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme, including a cross-border mechanism to ensure functioning across the EU single market

Rapporteurs: ENVI [GIESEKE](#) (EPP), IMCO [SAUDARGAS](#) (EPP)

ENVI Shadows: [RICCI](#) (S&D), [SARDONE](#) (PFE), [VONDRA](#) (ECR), [CANFIN](#) (Renew), [MATTHIEU](#) (Greens/EFA), [SJÖSTEDT](#) (The Left), [ARNDT](#) (ESN)

Joint vote on draft report extending mitigating measures to small mid-cap enterprises (with ECON and LIBE)


On 25 February, ENVI, ECON and LIBE Members will vote on the 4th Omnibus Simplification Package, which amends six regulations with the objective of extending certain mitigating measures currently available to SMEs to small mid-cap enterprises (SMCs) and introducing further targeted simplifications. The proposal establishes a new category of companies - SMCs - and seeks to facilitate their scaling-up, while reducing administrative burdens to enhance coherence, proportionality and legal clarity. Six compromise amendments have been negotiated, covering all 136 amendments tabled. Central elements include the definition of SMCs and harmonised thresholds for SMCs (fewer than 1 000 employees and either annual turnover not exceeding EUR 200 million or a balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 172 million), calculated in line with the relevant Commission Recommendation. In addition, a review clause empowers the Commission to reassess thresholds five years after entry into force and every five years thereafter, and to accompany this review with a report assessing economic, social and environmental impacts. IMCO and INTA delivered opinions within their respective competences.

Rapporteurs: ENVI [HANSEN](#) (EPP), LIBE [MANDL](#) (EPP), ECON [VIVALDINI](#) (ERC)

ENVI Shadows: [VIGENIN](#) (S&D), [BONTE](#) (Pfe), [OZDOBA](#) (ECR), [KARLSBRO](#) (Renew), [EICKHOUT](#) (Greens/EFA), [CLAUSEN](#) (The Left)

AGENCY IN THE SPOTLIGHT
European Environment Agency ([EFSA](#))
EFSA provides rapid risk assessment on cereulide in infant formula


Several infant formula products are being recalled after cereulide - a toxin produced by the bacterium *Bacillus cereus* - was detected. The European Commission requested urgent scientific advice from EFSA to support risk management across the EU. EFSA's rapid risk assessment established an acute reference dose (ARfD) for cereulide in infants and established cereulide concentrations in infant formula of potential safety concern. This guidance helps EU authorities decide when products should be removed from the market for public health protection. The precautionary recalls and withdrawals were initiated in December 2025 and continue as a preventive public health measure. The recalls are global, with products sold both in Europe and in countries outside of Europe. Recalled

products should not be given to infants or young children. Consumers are advised to follow the instructions and guidance issued by national food safety authorities. More information can be found [here](#).

LATEST FROM THE POLICY DEPARTMENT

- [Upcoming study | February 2026] Impacts of the 2028-2034 MFF on climate and environment – Assessment of the Commission proposal.
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UPCOMING IN ENVI AND PLENARY

- The next meeting of the ENVI Committee is planned for 5 March 2026.
- The next Plenary is planned for 9-12 March 2026. Draft agenda available [here](#).

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