

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 Lamers (EPP/NL)

1st Vice-President

Mr Biwer (LU/PES)

Vice-President

Mr Flego (HR/ALDE)

EPP Coordinator

Mr Hranic (HR)

Point system update

EPP	38
PES	43
ALDE	21
EA	13
ECR	12

Meetings in 2018

8 February

12 April

28-29 June 2018 tbc

27 September

22 November

22 November 2017

Brussels

Organization of future work

- Appointment of new rapporteurs
- Renunciations
- Ongoing work programme
- Proposals for external events 2018
- Work Program for ENVE 2018 and Political priorities of the ENVE Commission for 2018 and beyond
- Follow-up opinions

Opinions on the agenda

- Borboly (RO/EPP): Promoting coexistence with conflict species within the framework of the EU Nature Directives – Discussion and Adoption

Debates

- Follow-up to the CoR participation in the UNFCCC COP23
- Presentation of the EIB support for energy efficiency investments
- Transformative Action Award Ceremony



1. Adoption of the draft agenda

Adopted.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 15th ENVE meeting

Adopted.

3. Statement by the new Chair of the ENVE Commission

The ENVE Chair announced the following:

- The date of the ENVE Commission meeting in February 2018 has been moved from 9 to 8 February 2018.
- The external ENVE Commission meeting and conference which had been foreseen to take place in Zagreb, Croatia on 12-13 April 2018 has been cancelled. The ENVE meeting will take place in Brussels on 12 April. Two days have been currently foreseen on 28-29 June 2018 (possibly, external meeting and conference, depending on the proposals received).
- On 23 November, ENVE held the first CoR Covenant Ambassadors' Coordination meeting with the European Commission and the Covenant Office to discuss the potential and added value of reinforced cooperation. All 34 CoR Ambassadors were invited.
- A proposal for the round table on space policy during the ENVE meeting on 8 February 2018 together with the European Space Agency.
- On 20 and 23 November the European Robotics Week took place at the CoR co-organised by euRobotics and the European Commission. On 22 November the focus was on environment robotics.
- The ENVE Chair has been invited by the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform Secretariat to participate at the first meeting which took place on 22 November 2017. It was proposed to nominate Ms Winter (PES/DE), the rapporteur of the Circular Economy Action Plan, as a permanent CoR ENVE member of the platform.

4. Organization of future work of the Commission

For decision

4.1 Appointment of rapporteurs

1) **Mr D'Attis (EPP/IT)** has been appointed as rapporteur for the opinion on **Rules for the internal market in natural gas**, COM (2017) 660 final, 2017/0294 (COD).

Cost: 4 points

Timetable:

- Exchange of views: 8 February 2018, tbc
- Discussion and adoption in ENVE Commission: 12 April 2018, tbc

- Adoption at Plenary Session: 04-05 July 2018

2) **Mr Lamers (EPP/NL)** has been appointed as rapporteur for the Own-initiative opinion on **Towards an 8th Environment Action Programme**. Cost: 4 points

Timetable:

- Exchange of views: 12-13 April 2018
- Discussion and adoption in ENVE Commission: 29 June 2018
- Adoption at Plenary Session: 09-10 October 2018

4.4 Renunciations

There was one proposal for renunciation:

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council setting emission performance standards for new passenger cars and for new light commercial vehicles as part of the Union's integrated approach to reduce CO2 emissions from light-duty vehicles

COM (2017) 676 – final

The proposal does not directly touch upon the competences and powers of the local and regional authorities, it has been therefore recommended to issue a renunciation in the form of a letter, recalling relevant recommendations of CoR opinions COR 5780/2016 and COR 18/2017.

The ENVE members supported the renunciation proposal.

4.5 Ongoing work programme and follow-up to opinions

Please refer to the list of the ongoing as well as possible future opinions and renunciations included in your ENVE dossier.

4.6 Proposals for external events in 2018

The ENVE members agreed to hold the following ENVE external events in 2018:

- 1) The Members voted in favor of an external meeting and conference on *Sustainable development in the European Lake Regions* to be held in Balatonfüred (Hungary) proposed by Mr. Boka (EPP/HU).
- 2) The Members voted in favor of an external seminar (25% members, 1 day event) on *Energy – Education – Sustainability: Investing in the future of the regions. From vision to citizens' everyday lives Burgenland succeeded in achieving electricity independence as early as 2013* to be held in Burgenland (Austria) proposed by Mr Illeditis (PES/AT).
- 3) The Members voted in favor of a study visit (Max 12 Members, 1 day event) on

The role of local government in developing a circular economy to be held in Lodz (Poland) proposed by Mr Stepien (EPP/PL).

4.7 Work programme of the ENVE commission for 2018 and Political priorities of the ENVE Commission for 2018 and beyond

The ENVE Work Programme for 2018 was approved with some comments from the members from the floor and in written sent to the ENVE Chair.

The Political priorities of the ENVE Commission for 2018 and beyond were also approved.

For discussion

4.8 Follow-up to opinions

The rapporteurs were encouraged to intervene in the commission meetings on recent concrete developments and events to inform other members about the outcome of the rapporteur's follow-up efforts.

5. Follow-up of the CoR participation in the UNFCCC COP23

Information

Statements by:

Mr Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI

Representative of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission

Mr Gino Van Begin highlighted that the COP23 focused on the issues of local authorities as well. He underlined that the guidelines from cities and regions adopted during the Climate Summit were included in the final conclusions of the COP23. He noted that the next steps in the framework of the Talanoa dialogue will be to further facilitate the dialogue between local and regional bodies and international organizations such as the UN and the EU. Mr Van Begin stressed that the Global Covenant of Mayors is a way to bring to the COP24 a number of concrete proposal to reinforce the role of local authorities in addressing climate change.

Representative of the European Commission underlined that COP23 achieved concrete goals for local and regional authorities. He stressed that COP23 goals for LRA are generally related to the Paris agreement goals. He reminded that in Marrakech the President of COP 22 and the Incoming-President of COP 23 were mandated by the COP to undertake inclusive and transparent consultations with third parties on the organization of the

facilitative dialogue in 2018. He therefore noticed that the Talanoa Dialogue (or Facilitating Dialogue for 2018) is an important outcome of the COP23 which can empower local and regional authorities to contribute to the UN climate change strategies. He emphasised that the Talanoa dialogue will officially start in 2018 and an online platform for inputs will soon be available.

Discussion

Mr Lehman (EPP/DE) stressed that his opinion on the future of the EU industry is in line with the outcomes of the COP23. He highlighted that the guidelines of the COP23 commitments need to be fully translated into the national legislations. He remarked that the EU Member States should create prevention measure to reduce negative consequences related to climate conditions or climate occurring.

Ms Hertell (EPP/FI) highlighted that climate change has negative consequences on the different parts of the world, including the regions in Europe. There are many LRAs that are very committed to mitigate climate change. She highlighted that the perception on local and regional authorities has changed in the last few COPs and this is also due to the work of the CoR. Concluding, he stressed that we need proper climate governance with a stronger role for LRAs and adequate financing possibilities.

6. Transformative Action Award Ceremony

Interventions

Mr Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the CoR

Mr Iñaki Arriola López, Minister for Environment, Territorial Planning and Housing of the Basque Government

Mr Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI

Mr Lambertz (PES/BE) highlighted that local communities need to protect environment and develop concrete actions to address issues related to climate change. He remarked that innovates strategies should be used to create sustainability at the local level. He underlined that climate is a multidimensional challenge which needs to be addressed at the local, regional as well as national, European and global level.

Mr Iñaki Ariola Lopez stressed that a more sustainable Europe is the key goal of the Basque Declaration. He noticed that local levels have a better and realistic view on sustainability. He stressed that public-private partnership can facilitate the technological development and create a more sustainable environment. He pointed out that joint efforts can provide sharing of information and exchange of practises to develop concrete action and remove the environmental issue from a mere economic sphere.

The award, funded by the Basque Country and the City of Aalborg (Denmark), rewards current or concluded Transformative Actions that address the pathways of the Basque Declaration related to three categories: socio-cultural transformation, socio-economic transformation, and technological transformation. Cor Lamers, Chair of the ENVE Commission, took part in the jury.

The Award went to the city of Nilüfer, in Turkey. Its Transformative Action aims to increase civic engagement and participatory local democracy through Neighbourhood Committees, the Nilüfer Energy Cooperative and the Nilüfer Innovation Center.

7. Discussion and Adoption of the Opinion 'Promoting coexistence with conflict species within the framework of the EU Nature Directives' (ENVE-VI-025)

Information

Rapporteur: **Mr Csaba Borboly** (RO/EPP)

Adoption timetable: final adoption at the plenary session of 31 January – 1 February 2018

Statement by:

Marco Cipriani, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

Valeria Salvatori, expert on wildlife and project coordinator LIFE projects

Herbert Dorfmann (EPP/IT), Member of the European Parliament

Amendments

Approved: 1R, 3R, 6, 7R, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19R, 21, 22R, 23R, 24, 26, 28, 29

Compromised: 13R, 17R, 20R, 25R

Rejected: 10

Fell: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27

The opinion was adopted **by majority**.

The rapporteur stated that conservation of conflict species cannot be achieved only with the protection provisions but needs complementary efforts to deal with conflicts, ensuring coexistence of conflict species with human communities. Mr Borboly underlined the importance of identifying areas where additional practical steps and more effective coordination of measures may be needed so as to improve biodiversity and coexistence with large carnivores. The rapporteur emphasised that funding opportunities to promote coexistence with conflict species already exist under different EU funds. However, they are not used everywhere, for example Romania, Slovakia and Poland haven't used any money for preventive measures from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Concluding, the rapporteur raised the importance of involving local and regional authorities in finding the most appropriate solution to protect not only natural areas and endangered species but also the citizens and their livestock.

Marco Cipriani, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission proposed a number of points to be included or changed in the text of the opinion to reflect the situation of protected wildlife species across the EU, and not to concentrate only on the problematic cases.

Valeria Salvatori, expert on wildlife and project coordinator LIFE projects, stated that bears by nature are not aggressive. Quoting the Trentino experience, she stated that there is a lot of efforts involved in monitoring and managing the protected wildlife species, and in raising awareness among the citizens. Concluding, she mentioned a project where citizens from different backgrounds and representing different values (e.g. hunters, environmentalists, business sector, residents, etc.) sat together to debate solutions to the coexistence with wildlife species.

Herbert Dorfmann (EPP/IT), Member of the European Parliament, stated that this topic is a source of political controversy. In the Northern parts of Italy, there is a problem with wolfs. He underlined that politicians should take part in this debate and deliver a solution. He asked the question whether the Nature Directives are sufficient to meet today's challenges and whether they provide enough flexibility to those that have to implement them on the ground. He stressed that we need to find a balance between the protection of biodiversity, wildlife species and the protection of people. Referring to the EP resolution on the Action Plan for Nature, People and Economy, he emphasised that for the first time the EP has put the protection of environment on the same footing as the protection of people. He concluded giving the example of the French Alps where the traditional breeding of sheep and goats is almost gone due to the attacks of large predators.

8. Presentation of the EIB support for energy efficiency investments

Information

Mr Reinhard Six, Energy efficiency and Small scale energy projects Unit of the EIB, presented the EIB support for energy efficiency investments and preparation of the Smart finance for smart buildings initiative. The European Commission wishes to further strengthen the EIB's European Local ENergy Assistance (ELENA) Facility and the Project Development Assistance (PDA) calls under the Horizon 2020 Programme. To this end, the EC might promote dedicated local or regional one-stop-shops for project developers, supported at the EU level by an exchange of good practices through Manag'Energy.

9. Any other business

- For the **Territorial Impact Assessment** (TIA) Work Programme 2018, the following dossiers have been agreed to put forward by the political coordinators:
 - REFIT revision of the Drinking Water Directive (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Art. 192 TFEU, Q4 2017) in the framework of the initiative of the EC WP 2018 on Delivering on the Circular Economy Action Plan;
 - Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2009/73/EC concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas COM(2017) 660 final, 2017/0294 (COD). The proposal has been adopted by the EC on 8 November 2017.
- The political coordinators agree to launch the **study** on 7th EAP in view of the 8th EAP, linked to Mr Lamers opinion on *Towards an 8th Environment Action Plan*.
- The political coordinators agreed to involve the CoR in the **Annual Covenant of Mayors Ceremony**. On 21-21 February 2018, the European Commission and the Covenant of Mayors Office are organizing the Annual Covenant of Mayors Ceremony in the Hemicycle of the European Parliament. 800 European mayors – signatories of the Covenant will gather to discuss ways to develop and further reinforce this initiative. President Juncker, President Tajani, President Lambertz, Commissioners Šefčovič and Canete have been invited.

10. Confirmation of the date of the next meeting

The next ENVE meeting will take place on 8 February 2018.

Overview of Opinions

6th 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	October 2015	Pascal Mangin (FR/EPP)	Energy Union Package
4	December 2015	Roby Biwer (LU/PES)	Contribution to the REFIT process for the EU Birds and Habitats Directives
5	December 2015	Kata Tüttö (HU/PES)	The future of the Covenant of Mayors
6	April 2016	Michel Lebrun (EPP/BE)	Delivering a New Deal for Energy Consumers
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
9	June 2016	Domenico Gambacorta (EPP/IT)	Waste legislation review
10	October 2016	Ms Babette Winter (PES/DE)	EU action plan for the circular economy
11	October 2016	Ms Daiva Matonienė (ECR/LT)	Sustainable heating and cooling
12	October 2016	Mr Francesco Pigliaru (PES/IT)	Delivering the Paris climate agreement
13	February 2017	Ms Sirpa Hertell (EPP/FI)	Towards a new EU climate change adaptation strategy – taking an integrated approach
14	October 2016	Mr Cees Loggen (ALDE/NL)	Effective water management system: an approach to innovative solutions
15	February 2017	Witold STĘPIEŃ (EPP/PL)	Mid-term evaluation of the LIFE Programme <i>(pending the Bureau decision)</i>
16	March 2017	Juri GOTMANS (PES/EE)	Legislative proposals for an Effort-Sharing Regulation and a Land Use, Land Use Change

and Forestry Regulation (LULUCF)

17	July 2017	Bruno Hranic (EPP/HR)	Energy Union governance and clean energy
18	July 2017	Michiel Rijsberman (ALDE/NL)	Energy efficiency and buildings
19	July 2017	Daiva Matonienė (ECR/LT)	Renewable energy and the internal electricity market
20	October 2017	Andrew Cooper (EA/UK)	Environmental Implementation Review
21	July 2017	Andres Jaadla (ALDE/EE)	Space Strategy for Europe
22	December 2017	Kata Tűttő (PES/HU)	The role of Waste-to-energy in the circular economy
23	October 2017	Marco Dus (PES/IT)	Climate finance: An essential tool for the implementation of the Paris Agreement
24	January 2018	Csaba Borboly (RO/EPP)	Promoting coexistence with conflict species within the framework of the EU Nature Directives
25	July 2018	Mauro D'Attis (IT/EPP)	The rules for the internal market in natural gas
26	October 2018	Cor Lamers (NL/EPP)	Towards an 8th Environment Action Plan
