

COMMITTEE VOTE ON EDC CRITERIA
ON 4 JULY?

CAP GREENING DELEGATED ACT
AVOIDS EP VETO

REACH REMOVED FROM
ALIGNMENT PROPOSAL

One million signatures against glyphosate

The Commission has just received more than one million signatures opposing glyphosate, the active substance which had its approval extended until the end of 2017. Since the European Chemicals Agency's (ECHA) conclusion that the substance is not carcinogenic, the Commission is leaning towards granting a new 10-year authorisation.

And now we have a million EU citizens who, using their right of initiative under the Treaties, believe that their views trump ECHA's scientific expertise.

One million citizens is a significant number. Significant in an absolute sense, but a lot less significant when compared to 500 million EU citizens.

But the real question is this: whether it is 10, 1,000, 100,000 or a million people against glyphosate, should this be given precedence over the scientific opinion of an EU agency? Should decision-making be rational or emotional? Can we really allow the man in the street to take primacy over the official authorities tasked with assisting the EU Institutions?

Glyphosate, GMOs, neonicotinoids, endocrine disruptors...by letting opinion trump science, we are in danger of sliding out of the 21st century and back to the era of kerosene lamps.

DG



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#39, June 2017

CHEMICALS

Will it be *En Marche* or *En Panne* for criteria on endocrine disruptors?

It is now officially 12 months since the draft criteria for endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) were unveiled, and the Commission is still struggling to get over the comitology hurdle. There are signs, however, that its *annus horribilis* may be coming to an end.

Following two rapid-fire meetings of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) last month, the EU executive has drawn a line in the sand as regards the measure on criteria for plant protection products (PPPs), ruling out any further technical discussions or amendments to the text.

The Commission has managed to get around half of Member States on board, bringing it agonisingly close to the hallowed

qualified majority required to get adoption at committee stage. But many countries have made their green light conditional upon further commitments from the Commission as regards derogations for substances where risk to humans is negligible.

The final fly in the ointment is France which, due to the recent changing of the guard in Paris, has held off on taking a clear position. For this reason, the French requested the postponement of a formal vote until after their legislative elections of 11 and 18 June.

Reports suggest the PAFF Committee will finally take a vote on 4 July.

NEW PACT WORKSHOPS



Understanding the basics of EU secondary legislation

by Daniel Guéguen and Vicky Marissen

Improve your knowledge of delegated and implementing acts in an operational and interactive setting!

Three available dates: 7 July, 15 September or 10 October

For more info and registration, [click here](#)

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AGRICULTURE

CAP greening measure good to go after surviving plenary vote

By the skin of its teeth, the much-debated **delegated act** on greening put forward under the reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has avoided a veto in the European Parliament (EP).

A central plank of Commissioner Phil Hogan's simplification agenda for the CAP, the measure grouped together a variety of reforms, but only one of these provoked opposition from MEPs: a proposal to ban the use of pesticides within Ecological Focus Areas.

Viewing this as a threat to European protein production, a majority of the EP's Committee on Agricultural and Rural Development (AGRI) adopted a **resolution** on 30 May to block the delegated act (30 for, 11 against).

The plenary, however, was unable to make the veto official. On

14 June in Strasbourg, 363 MEPs **declared** their support for the resolution, falling 13 votes short of the absolute majority required under the Treaties. As a result, the measure can now enter into force.

Despite its failure, the AGRI objection has helped shine a light on the Commission's controversial practice of 'bundling', whereby multiple empowerments for delegated acts are addressed via one single legal text.

Neither the EP nor the Council are fond of this method as they consider it undermines their right of scrutiny, in effect forcing them to accept or reject an entire act even if they have an issue with only one aspect of it.

LISBONISATION

Council removes REACH Regulation from Omnibus

Before handing over the reins to the Estonians, the Maltese Council Presidency has signed off with a **progress report** on the Lisbonisation Omnibus.

It seems Member States have made great strides on this proposal which aims to align pre-Lisbon legislation from the Regulatory Procedure with Scrutiny (RPS) to the post-Lisbon system of delegated and implementing acts.

The big news is that the 2006 REACH Regulation has been taken out, to be dealt with via an individual legislative proposal at a later stage. Not surprisingly, European governments are reluctant to give up their comitology powers over the regulation of chemicals.

COMITOLOGY PROCEDURES

AFCO Committee debates changes to comitology reform proposal

Should implementing acts affecting health be subject to a higher voting threshold in the Appeal Committee?

Green MEP Pascal Durand thinks so. Rapporteur for an opinion of the EP's Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO), Mr Durand has stripped out most elements of the Commission's draft, while proposing that product authorisations should be considered refused unless a qualified majority of Member States are in favour.

His idea was greeted with scepticism by some AFCO colleagues – and no doubt by many stakeholders who would regard such an onus as far too high. The Committee on Legal Affairs, the EP's lead on this file, is yet to start work on the reform proposal.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- 26 May: Commission **withdraws** delegated act on transport networks before Council due to veto
- 1 June: NGO Transport & Environment publishes **critique** of proposal to reform comitology
- 9 June: Draft measure on reducing acrylamide in food **submitted** for 4-week public consultation, discussed by Standing Committee on 19 June
- 15 June: ECHA **sends** opinion on classification of glyphosate to Commission for decision

IN THE PREMIUM NEWSLETTER THIS MONTH:

- Comitology reform: the AFCO Committee discussion in depth
- Lisbonisation: Council progress report
- Endocrine disruptors: detailed state of play
- Updates on CAP greening, transport networks, acrylamide and much more!

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