










Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2017/2705(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the EU environmental implementation review (EIR)		
Subject 3.70 Environmental policy		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		28/04/2017
		 PIETIKÄINEN Sirpa	28/04/2017
		 BONAFÈ Simona	28/04/2017
		 DEMESMAEKER Mark	28/04/2017
		 GERBRANDY Gerben-Jan	28/04/2017
		 FLANAGAN Luke Ming	28/04/2017
		 JÁVOR Benedek	28/04/2017
European Commission	Commission DG Environment	Commissioner VELLA Karmenu	

Key events			
15/11/2017	Debate in Parliament		
16/11/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/11/2017	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T8-0450/2017	Summary
16/11/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2017/2705(RSP)

Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p5
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 0111-p6
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/8/09825

Documentation gateway

For information	COM(2017)0063	03/02/2017	EC	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE609.640	11/09/2017	EP	
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament	B8-0606/2017	15/11/2017	EP	
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament	B8-0607/2017	15/11/2017	EP	
Motion for a resolution	B8-0590/2017	15/11/2017	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T8-0450/2017	16/11/2017	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2018)52	22/03/2018	EC	

Resolution on the EU environmental implementation review (EIR)

The European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety on the European Union Environmental Implementation Review (EIR).

Members recalled that the weak and defective implementation of strong EU environmental legislation is a long-standing problem, and that these implementation gaps threaten sustainable development, have adverse trans-boundary impacts on the environment and human health and entail important socio-economic costs.

Importance and context of EIR: Parliament welcomed the Commission's initiative to introduce an EIR. It called for a more proactive role to be played by the Commission in monitoring the implementation of environmental legislation and policy, and act decisively in cases of breach.

The Commission was invited to ensure that the EIR covers in future important areas such as climate change, energy efficiency measures and energy savings and chemicals and industrial emissions, as well as key issues such as hormone and medicine residues in waste water, surface water and groundwater and their effects on drinking water, human health, biodiversity and the (aquatic) environment.

In addition, a closer link between the EIR and the European Semester would be beneficial to the coherence of the Union's action.

Improving legislation: the resolution stressed that the implementation of environmental legislation could be improved by better integrating it into other policy areas as well as through the systematic application of the precautionary principle.

Parliament called for:

- addressing the lack of administrative capacity and governance through the establishment of partnerships between public authorities;
- using market instruments by the Member States, including a fiscal policy based on the polluter pays principle;
- improving the exchange of good practices and peer review;
- informing the public and raising their awareness, increasing the participation of civil society and strengthening public mobilisation and education in environmental policy;
- bolstering compliance assurance, including by means of improving and stepping up efforts in implementing the Environmental Liability Directive;
- putting forward a new legislative proposal on minimum standards for access to judicial review, and proposing the revision of the Aarhus Regulation implementing the Convention in relation to Union action;
- ensuring that the Commission, the competent authorities in the Member States and the relevant stakeholders participate fully in the EIR;
- improving data collection and availability of information, dissemination of good practice and participation of citizens and local authorities.

Lastly, Parliament urged that the issue of implementation should feature as a recurring item in trio-presidency priorities and programmes, that it be discussed at the Environment Council at least once a year, perhaps through dedicated Implementation Council.