



EU Environmental Legislation Monitoring

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Brief description

Latest developments



Policy Sector : 1. Presidency of the EU (2)

April
2011

[Hungarian
Presidency
of the EU](#)

Hungarian Presidency of the European Union (January-June 2010)

Both presidencies will focus on sustainability of raw materials and examine how to transition to a resource-efficient economy.

In December, the Belgian Presidency held the closing event for the Year of Biodiversity "Better understanding and communicating the socio-economic value of biodiversity – The future and ecological advantages for all - Biodiversity and social responsibility". The Hungarian presidency has also indicated that their environmental priorities will include looking at integrated water management, adopting the post 2010 Biodiversity strategy and discussing resource efficiency.



April
2011

[Sport](#)

The treaty of Lisbon has given the EU competence in the area of sport. The EU now has powers to initiate and manage a direct and coherent European Sports Policy and to allocate financial resources to it.

The new EU competence in sport will be an opportunity for the EGA GCC to become even more engaged in EU policies. The EGA GCC has already become active by submitting an amendment to Mr. Santiago Fisas, EP rapporteur on the Commission proposal "Developing the European Dimension in Sport". The amendment suggests the need for sports facilities to be developed and managed so as to contribute to the environmental goals of the European Union. In particular, this will be done by providing facilities which are compatible with a high level of environmental protection and in line with the principles of sustainable development and by preserving and enhancing biodiversity.



Policy Sector : 2. Global views on business and biodiversity (1)

April
2011

[Biodiversity
and
Business](#)

The conservation of biodiversity has become a key issue worldwide, impacting all areas of life, in particularly the business sector.

Following the 2010 year of biodiversity both at international and EU level, a number of initiatives continued to take place in the first quarter of 2011, indicating that biodiversity is still a priority area for companies and EU Institutions. Different organizations have organized conferences and research programmes raising awareness on ways to halt biodiversity loss. Therefore it remains important to be active in this area and to promote the EGA GCC guidance on sustainable golf course management. Once the European Commission will publish the post-2010 Biodiversity Strategy, we can expect biodiversity preservation to be included as an important criterion into upcoming EU legislation. Please find below a summary of activities in this area.



Policy Sector : 4. Water (1)

April 2011	Water scarcity and drought	The growing scarcity of water is causing a tension of the demand for water and leading to a price increase of water. Furthermore, the quality of water has become ever more important with regards to health standards.	In the run up to 2012: "the Year of Water", there will be more and more conferences and dialogues on water sustainability. These will be opportunities for the EGA GCC to get engaged and share their efforts on golf course management and implementing measures for the sustainable use of water. The European Parliament and Commission have already started working in this area and are currently preparing the "Blue print for safeguarding Europe's water" and the review of the Water Framework Directive. Once these documents will become available, we will assess how the EGA GCC can get involved and share its ongoing work in this area.
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Policy Sector : 5. Pesticides (1)

April 2011	Regulation on pesticide statistics	The Regulation on pesticide statics is the final step towards completion of the "Pesticides package" which contains 3 proposals, 2 of which have already been formally adopted in December last year (the Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and the Directive relating to the sustainable use of pesticides).	At the moment most activities related to pesticides are focused at national level. Member States are working on the implementation of the NAPs – National Action Plans – to reduce the use of pesticides to the minimum necessary in accordance with the EU Directive on Sustainable use of pesticides. It would therefore be important for the EGA GCC to engage with the relevant officials at national level to promote a sustainable approach to golf and avoid unnecessary restrictions of the use of plant protection products.
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Policy Sector : 6. Soil (1)

April 2011	Soil policy	Soil protection is becoming an increasingly important issue at European level. The Commission adopted a soil thematic strategy and framework directive on soil. In addition, Different EU policies (water, waste, chemicals, industrial pollution prevention, nature protection, pesticides, agriculture) are contributing to soil protection.	On 23 September, the Joint Research Center (JRC) published a "Soil Atlas". The atlas, the first initiative of its kind, is an indicator-based map which identifies potential threats to soil biodiversity. The JRC will continue focusing on soil issues as it is currently compiling a "chemical content map of EU land" which will be part of a major survey of EU land cover and usage
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