


EU Environmental Legislation Monitoring

New ▾ Actions ▾

Update Issue Brief description Latest developments


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

 July
2011

 Polish
Presidency
of the EU

**Polish Presidency of the
European Union (July-
December 2011)**

The Presidency will focus on sustainability of raw materials biodiversity and examine how to transition to a resource-efficient economy.

From 1 July to 30 December 2011, Poland is holding the six-month rotating presidency of the European Union. The Polish Presidency will have four priorities in field of environment policy:

- Resource Efficiency
- Biodiversity
- Water
- Climate Change: Rio +20 discussions


 July
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)

 July
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. In May, the European Commission finally published its post 2010 Biodiversity strategy that sparked some disagreement between Member States on finding the funding to reach these goals. Therefore, biodiversity will continue to be an important area for discussion as now EU officials will need to put their targets into concrete actions.



Policy Sector : 4. Water (1)

July 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.	<i>In the run up to 2012: "the Year of Water", there continued to be more and more conferences and dialogue on water sustainability. 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. These documents are expected by the end of 2011. In addition, in the last couple of months other EU institutions, such as the Committee of the Regions, have begun discussions on water sustainability. 2012 will be an opportunity for the EGA GCC to promote its best practice on sustainable golf course management.</i>
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Policy Sector : 5. Pesticides (1)

July 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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