



EU Environmental Legislation Monitoring

New ▾ Actions ▾

Update Issue Brief description Latest developments



Policy Sector : (1)

January 2011 Biodiversity and Business

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

In November and December 2010 there continued to be many conferences dedicated to Biodiversity and ecosystem preservation. The European Environment Agency (EEA) published in its annual report that the EU needs to dedicate management of natural capital, such as forests and clean water supplies, to tackle environmental risks. Biodiversity will continue to be a priority in 2011. The Commission is expected to publish its Communication on Post 2010 targets on Biodiversity during the Spring.



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

January 2011 Belgian and Hungarian Presidency of the EU

Belgian Presidency of the European Union (July-December 2010) and 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.



Policy Sector : 4. Water (1)

January 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.

On 28 October, the Commission issued a series of infringement actions against member states implementing river basin management plans and the European Commission confirmed that it will consider new measures to decrease water consumption in buildings, agriculture and other areas. A major review of the current EU water legislation will be completed by 2012 which will be reflected in the Commission's "Blueprint for Safeguarding Europe's Water".



Policy Sector : 5. Pesticides (1)

January 2011 Regulation on pesticide

The Regulation on pesticide statics is the final step

On 21 October, NGO HEAL (Health and Environment Alliance) launched a



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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).

website to strengthen the impact of its Sick of Pesticides campaign. The campaign, launched in 2008, aims to raise public awareness that reducing pesticide use could help reduce cancer rates in Europe, encourage pesticide-free public spaces, and support countries in the setting up of national action plans for pesticide use reduction by 2012 in accordance with EU regulations.

☐ Policy Sector : 6. Soil (1)

October 2010 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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