



EU Environmental Legislation Monitoring

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Update

Issue

Brief description

Latest developments



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

October
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

October
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.

From an EU sports and tourism policy perspective, there have been two developments of note in the last quarter. The first one being that a recent independent evaluation of funding for EU sport, found that the sector is considerably underfunded. In addition an own-initiative report prepared by MEP Carlo Fidanza (EPP, IT), on the role of tourism in making Europe more competitive, was also adopted by the Parliament.



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

October
2011
[Biodiversity
and
Business](#)

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

It has been a quiet quarter in terms of biodiversity policy developments. August saw the European Commission give its final verdict of the sixth Environmental Action Plan, where it concluded amongst other things, that biodiversity goals had been too ambitious to be met. Also in September the EEB (European Environmental Bureau), on behalf of the European Habitat's Forum (EHF), gave its recommendations to the Environment Council's conclusions on the EU biodiversity strategy.



Policy Sector : 4. Water (1)

October
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

The EU Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs highlight the importance of meeting the Millenium Development Goal (MDG) of halving the amount of people without access



health standards.

to safe drinking water by 2015, whilst the Commission has also threatened to take various Member States to court over a failure to properly implement various aspects of EU water policy legislation. A European Commission report was also published, which looked at how global crop production affects water and land use.

Policy Sector : 5. Pesticides (1)

July 2011	Regulation on pesticide statistics	The Regulation on pesticide statistics 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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