



EU Environmental Legislation Monitoring

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Update	Issue	Brief description	Latest developments
Policy Sector : 1. Presidency of the EU (3)			
January 2012	Polish Presidency of the European Union (July-December 2011) and Danish Presidency of the European Union (1 January – 30 June)	The last half of 2011 was lead by the Polish Presidency of the EU. All in all, the presidency did not focus on the environment, but dealt with the euro crisis that during the last months of 2011 dominated the discussions in Brussels. However, at the December environment council the Polish presidency did manage to adopt the Biodiversity Strategy and focused their discussions on greening the agriculture sector. The Danish presidency on the other hand, will focus its priorities on green and sustainable growth. Denmark has always been more environmentally conscious and therefore it is expected that it will focus the debates on environmental issues.	The last half of 2011 was lead by the Polish Presidency of the EU. All in all, the presidency did not focus on the environment, but dealt with the euro crisis that during the last months of 2011 dominated the discussions in Brussels. However, at the December environment council the Polish presidency did manage to adopt the Biodiversity Strategy and focused their discussions on greening the agriculture sector. The Danish presidency on the other hand, will focus its priorities on green and sustainable growth. Denmark has always been more environmentally conscious and therefore it is expected that it will focus the debates on environmental issues.
	Polish and Danish Presidency of the EU		
January 2012		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.	On 10 November, the Committee for Culture, Education and Sport of the European Parliament endorsed a proposal submitted by MEP Santiago Fisas (EPP) to set an insurance mechanism to compensate clubs allowing players to play in their national team and to regulate at the European level the profession of sports agents. However, the report underlines that insurance mechanism
	Sport		

January 2012

Fertilizers

The European Union gathers all rules applying to fertilizers into a single piece of legislation in order to ensure the uniform application of a package of very technical provisions.

The EU has rules relating to the placing of fertilizers on the market, i.e. the conditions for designating "EC fertilizers", as well as the provisions regarding their labeling and packaging.

cannot be applied to all sports. The Royal and Ancient proposed amendment on taking account environment factors when building sports facilities was taken into account. The report will be voted in the February plenary session.

In Q4 2011, the European Commission announced that it is preparing for the revision of the Fertilizers Regulation. The revision will assess new products on the EU market and if they should be regulated under the Regulation. The European Commission is currently working on a study to support the revision of the Regulation. The study aims at collecting information on the EU fertilizers market and at developing and assessing a set of policy options in terms of their possible impacts on human health and environment, as well as economic and social impacts. Also in the first months of 2012, the Council (Member States) working group on fertilizers will start meeting to prepare for the revision.



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

January 2012

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, the Council had published its conclusions regarding the EU Biodiversity Strategy and concluded that they agree with the Commission's targets and actions to halt biodiversity loss. This strengthens the new EU Biodiversity strategy and will allow for further cooperation between the Commission and



the Commission and Member States. Moreover, the Commission is currently implementing the various tools that it had outlined in the strategy and moving forward on promoting the actions for Member States to stop biodiversity loss.

Policy Sector : 4. Water (1)

January 2012

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.

As 2012 is the year of water, there has already been increasing activity around this issue. Currently DG Environment is preparing the Blueprint on European Waters and is engaging with stakeholders to make the assessment most accurate. This new document will look at water management and drought, and water quality. It will aim to ensure good quality water in sufficient quantities for all legitimate uses.



Policy Sector : 5. Pesticides (1)

January 2012

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).

In 2011, Member states continued to focus on developing their pesticide national action plans. Even though there was no legislative update, MEPs have asked a number of Parliamentary questions to the Commission on the impact of pesticides on bees and water. In particular, the bees extinction debate has picked up momentum in Brussels and continues to be an important issue when discussing biodiversity loss and pesticides.



Policy Sector : 6. Soil (1)

January 2012

Soil protection is becoming an increasingly important issue at European level.

Even though soil continues to be in grid lock at EU level as



Soil policy

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.

lock at EU level, as Member States do not want to give up their competence, a report published at the end of 2011 calls for the need of a common soil policy to encourage soil conservation. In addition, DG Environment published a report on the need for better soil management across the EU.