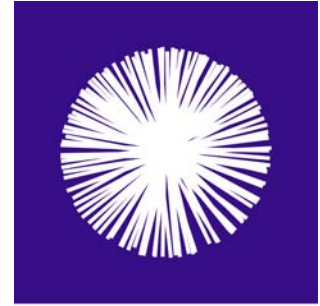


European Monitoring November 2009



Contents

1. General News
2. The European Parliament
3. The European Commission
4. The European Council
5. European Environmental Bureau (EEB) News

1. General News

Copenhagen – Climate Change Agreement

7-18th December 2009

The European Council agreed the EU position in October. For the EU the essential elements are:

- Binding emission reductions by all industrialised countries based on comparable efforts;
- Appropriate action by developing countries to limit emissions;
- A framework for action on adaptation to climate change;
- Action to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management in tropical regions;
- Updated accounting rules for emissions from land-use, land-use change and forestry;
- An expanded international carbon market to generate financial support for developing countries and promote cost-effective emission cuts;
- Provision of international public finance to developing countries to supplement financial flows from the carbon market and domestic investment;
- A comprehensive package on technology cooperation and funding to accelerate development of a low-carbon global economy.

The EU wants the Copenhagen agreement to be a single legally binding instrument that builds on and takes forward the Kyoto Protocol. The agreement needs to be ratified by governments in time for it to enter force on 1 January 2013.

More info: [Commissions Environment Newsletter](#) | [Press release](#)

Lisbon Treaty

With ratification by the Irish and the Czech's, the Lisbon Treaty will enter into force on the 1 December 2009, it will give the European Parliament greater powers in policy areas such as immigration, criminal law, agriculture spending, and the appointments of the European Commission President and EU foreign policy representative. There will also be a move towards more qualified majority voting at the Council.

More Info: [Wikipedia](#) (good explanation of QMV)

European and External Relations Committee (Holyrood) Inquiry in to EU Budget Reform

LINK are providing oral evidence on the 17th November 2009. if you have anything you would like us to note or highlight please contact Jonny Hughes (jhughes@swt.org.uk).

Cool Products, Warm Homes

"Cool products, warm homes" is a manifesto developed by a coalition of organisations including Friends of the earth, green alliance and the EEB.



coolproducts
for a cool planet

The manifesto identifies policy weaknesses and sets out five recommendations for EU and national decision-makers to put in place a coherent EU energy saving policy which ends the energy waste for heating and cooling buildings. It was launched on 14th October 2009 in the European Parliament, where it received the support from a broad range of interest groups, including industry, consumers and Members of the European Parliament.

EEB are inviting organisation to sign up to the Manifesto by **20th of November 2009**. You can do this via <http://www.coolproducts.eu/manifesto/> where you also find the Manifesto text and the current supporters.

Ozone

Following ratification of the Montreal Protocol by Timor-Leste on the 16 September 2009, all 196 members of the United Nations have now ratified the Montreal Protocol. The treaty was opened for signature 22 years before on September 16, 1987. Slow, but progress!

However since it's signing the protocol has been updated several times – the latest update being in Beijing – and only 154 countries have signed up to this Amendment.

2. The European Parliament

Question Time

The European parliament has introduced a question time slot, akin to PMQ's or FMQ's for the Commission President.

Mr Barroso will, from now on, come to every Strasbourg session of the Parliament for an hour of Question Time. The basic format will involve questions from representatives of the political groups in the Parliament for half an hour - on any subject; followed by questions



from backbench MEPs for half an hour on a pre-determined theme, such as climate change, jobs or the economy - this theme to be determined in the week preceding each session.

You can watch live on [EU parliament TV](#).

Industrial Emission Directive

The EEB states that 'one of the most crucial dossiers going into second reading this year will be the Proposal for a Directive on Industrial Emissions'. The directive is controversial and the position of the European Parliament and the Common Position adopted by the Council are clashing on how to deal with the level of flexibility regarding derogations from BAT. To find out more and to get involved see IB-16

CAP Reform

George Lyon, Liberal Democrat MEP for Scotland, has been appointed by the European Agriculture Committee to draft a report setting out the Committee's priorities for the upcoming reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

More info: [Lyon press release](#) | LINK [Beyond the CAP](#) Report

European Parliament plenary sessions 2009

- 11-12 November 2009, Brussels
- 23-26 November 2009, Strasbourg
- 14-17 December 2009, Strasbourg

3. The European Commission

Common Fisheries Policy Reform

The European commission is seeking to reform the common Fisheries policy, and to this end has issued a [green paper](#). The Green Paper identified five failings of the CFP:

1. a deep-rooted problem of fleet overcapacity;
2. imprecise policy objectives resulting in insufficient guidance for decisions and implementation;
3. a decision-making system that encourages a short-term focus;
4. a framework that does not give sufficient responsibility to the industry;
5. lack of political will to ensure compliance and poor compliance by the industry.

Both the Scottish and UK governments are preparing responses to the paper. The consultation on the green paper is open to all, and closes at the end of 2009. The excellent SPICe briefing below outlines. Once the consultation has closed the commission will issue proposals to be agreed by the council and parliament – if this happens change will take effect in 2013.

More information: [SPICe Briefing on Reform of CFP](#) | LINK [oral evidence to Holyrood RAE committee](#)

Proposed Legislation on Light Vehicle Emissions

The European Commission has proposed legislation to reduce the average CO² emissions of light commercial vehicles (vans) to 175 grams per kilometre. The proposal will be phased in from 2014 to 2016, and contains a long term emission reduction target of 135 g/km by 2020. The legislation is modelled on existing legislation for cars, where only the fleet average is regulated, so manufacturers will still be able to make vehicles with emissions above the limit value curve provided these are balanced by other vehicles which are below the curve.

The proposal will now be communicated to the Council and to the European Parliament as part of the co-decision legislative procedure.

More info: [Commission Press release](#) | [Q+A's](#) | [Commission Newsletter](#)

4. The European Council

Soil Framework Directive

After the French Secretary of State Chantal Jouanno announced on October 19 that France would no longer block the adoption of a Soil Framework Directive, the heat is on again for a renewed push under the Spanish Presidency. The EEB are planning activities around this (see IB-17 for more information).

The remaining blocking 4 stopping the EU making progress in this area are Netherlands, Germany, UK and Austria. The UK government feels that "the Directive seeks to introduce a prescriptive 'one size fits all' approach". And that "It would have serious cost implications for the taxpayer, businesses and individuals – and it does not take account of existing national measures."

More info: [UK Env Minister Speech on Soil Strategy](#) | [DEFRA Summary of Progress](#)

Biodiversity – beyond 2010

Back in September a conference on biodiversity, and TEEB was held – The purpose of the conference was to intensify the EU's preparations for the strategic international discussions and negotiations on biological diversity, in the run-up to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2010.

The very useful paper resulting from the conference was presented to the October Environment Council meeting. The paper outlines concisely arguments about ecosystems benefits and international governance of biodiversity

More info: [Visions for Biological Diversity beyond 2010 - People, Ecosystem Services and the Climate Crisis](#)

5. European Environmental Bureau (EEB) News

Press Releases

- [Time to end use of mercury-based blood pressure devices](#) - 27th October 2009

- [World Governments Move Towards Global Treaty on Mercury](#) – 23rd October 2009
- [EEB Comment on Environment Ministers conclusions on eco-efficient economy](#) - 21st October
- [Green groups demand new EU laws to end energy wastage in buildings](#) – 13th October 2009
- [Environment Ministers must make EU lead at UN climate talks](#) – 12th October 2009
- [New EEB report assesses critical governance issues of nanotechnologies](#) – 8th October 2009

EEB In Brief

In-brief is the EEB round up of environmental developments from across Europe.

09-IB-17 (attached)

- EU Policy on Soil
- Cool products, warm homes
- Light Pollution
- Biodiversity
- Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)

09-IB-16 (attached)

- Eco-label
- IPCC
- Spring Alliance

EEB Publications

- [Environment Committee briefing cards - seven issues](#) (Oct 2009)
- [Position Paper: REACH dissemination of information on chemical substances](#) (Oct 2009)
- [Nanotechnologies in the 21st Century - A critical Review of Governance Issues in Europe and Elsewhere \(October 09\)](#)

Back Issues of European Monitoring and supporting documents are available from the parliamentary office.

