



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

# ENVIRONMENT

Sectoral Committee  
Weekly Update  
**05.03.10**

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## EUROPE 2020

### A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

#### **COM(2010) 2020 – Communication from the Commission: Europe 2020 A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**

Europe 2020: Commission proposes new economic strategy in Europe.

On Wednesday the European Commission launched the Europe 2020 Strategy to go out of the crisis and prepare EU economy for the next decade. The Commission identifies three key drivers for growth, to be implemented through concrete actions at EU and national levels: smart growth (fostering knowledge, innovation, education and digital society), sustainable growth (making our production more resource efficient while boosting our competitiveness) and inclusive growth (raising participation in the labour market, the acquisition of skills and the fight against poverty). This battle for growth and jobs requires ownership at top political level and mobilisation from all actors across Europe.

Progress towards these objectives particularly in the area of environment is highlighted in these key points throughout the proposal:

- The "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right).
- "Resource efficient Europe" to help decouple economic growth from the use of resources, support the shift towards a low carbon economy, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernise our transport sector and promote energy efficiency.
- "An industrial policy for the globalisation era" to improve the business environment, notably for SMEs, and to support the development of a strong and sustainable industrial base able to compete globally.

Climate and resource challenges require drastic action. Strong dependence on fossil fuels such as oil and inefficient use of raw materials expose our consumers and businesses to harmful and costly price shocks, threatening our economic security and contributing to climate change. The expansion of the world population from 6 to 9 billion will intensify global competition for natural resources, and put pressure on the environment. The EU must continue its outreach to other parts of the world in pursuit of a worldwide solution to the problems of climate change at the same time as we implement our agreed climate and energy strategy across the territory of the Union.

The full proposal can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/COMPLET%20EN%20BARROSO%20%20%20007%20-%20Europe%202020%20-%20EN%20version.pdf>

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## REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

**COM (2010) 64** - on experience acquired in the application of Regulation (EC) No 1365/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on statistics of goods transport by inland waterways

Regulation (EC) No 1365/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on statistics of goods transport by inland waterways specifies in Article 8 that, by 15 October 2009 and after consulting the European Statistical System Committee (former Statistical Programme Committee), the Commission must submit a report on the implementation of the Regulation to the European Parliament and the Council. The purpose of this report is to comply with that requirement.

This report outlines the background, objectives and policy context of the legislation. It then discusses issues linked to its implementation and describes the main results achieved. The final section presents conclusions and possible future developments.

The Regulation led to an increase in detailed information on European freight transport by inland waterways and improved data quality and timeliness. Member States have made efforts to meet the requirements of the Regulation and most are providing all requested data by the deadlines specified.

The full report can be found at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0064:FIN:EN:PDF>

## Green Paper

**COM (2010) 66** - On Forest Protection and Information in the EU: Preparing forests for climate change

This Green Paper:

- briefly identifies the general situation and global relevance of forests;
- describes the characteristics of EU forests and their functions;
- identifies the main challenges faced by EU forests in a changing climate and how they could compromise forest functions;
- presents an overview of the tools available to ensure forest protection, and of the existing forest information systems that could be used to address the challenges and monitor environmental impacts and effects of actions.



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The responses from EU institutions, MS, EU citizens and other interested stakeholders will inform and guide Commission considerations regarding any additional action at EU level to better prepare EU forests for climate change, and enhance the fulfilment of their functions.

The full paper can be found at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0066:FIN:EN:PDF>

More news...

## Commission to table carbon emissions tax proposal



The European Commission is planning to table a proposal for a carbon tax in the next couple of months, a move likely to cause division among member states. EU taxation commissioner Algirdas Semeta told Brussels weekly European Voice that he is planning a draft legislation on a minimum rate of tax on carbon emissions. Mr. Semeta is looking to calculate the tax according to how environmentally damaging the fuel is, with fuels emitting high level of carbon emissions taxed more heavily.

Full article can be found at: <http://euobserver.com/9/29614>