



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

# ENVIRONMENT

Sectoral Committee  
Weekly Update  
**18.03.10**

## Contents



- Meeting of the Council of Ministers on ENVIRONMENT - Main results..... Pg 2
- Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean..... Pg 3
- Stop biodiversity loss..... Pg 4



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

## The 3002nd session of the Council of the European Union ENVIRONMENT - Main results

At its meeting which was held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March the Council set a new EU target for the protection of biodiversity in 2020: the EU intends to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, restore them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. The Council conclusions outline at the same time the EU vision for protecting species in the EU by 2050.

In its conclusions on climate change, the Council evaluated the outcomes of the Copenhagen climate conference and stressed the opportunities for immediate implementation offered by the Copenhagen Accord. It requested the Commission to present a study of the comparability of greenhouse gas emission reductions offered by third countries as well as an impact assessment of the EU's conditional move to a 30% emissions cut.

The Council debated for the first time the proposed regulation setting CO2 emissions standards for light vans so as to guide further work on this file.

Without discussion, the Council adopted its first-reading position on a draft regulation concerning novel foods.

Find the full press release here:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/113373.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/113373.pdf)

### Proposal for a Council decision

**COM (2010) 30** - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean

1. The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, also known as the "Barcelona Convention", specifically obliges Parties to promote integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), taking into account the protection of areas of ecological and landscape interest and the rational use of natural resources.
2. In the EU, the main instrument promoting Integrated Coastal Zone Management is the European Parliament and Council Recommendation (Recommendation 2002/413/EC) concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe.



## Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

Chapter V of the Recommendation stresses the importance of cooperation in regional seas to achieve better coordination and responses to cross-border coastal issues. The European Union promotes integrated management on a larger scale by means of horizontal instruments, including in the field of environmental protection, and by developing a sound science base for it, through its research programs.

3. The ICZM Protocol was approved on behalf of the European Community, subject to subsequent conclusion at a later date by the Council Decision of 4 December 2008. The EU Member States which are Party to the Barcelona Convention have all signed the Protocol, except Cyprus. The Parties are now urged to ratify the Protocol so that it enters into force as soon as possible. Ratification and accession processes are underway.
4. The Mediterranean coastal zones continue to experience high pressures on the environment and degradation of coastal resources. Projected population growth concentrated in coastal urban areas, a near doubling of tourist flows and even greater transport growth are likely to aggravate the pressures. The Protocol provides a framework to stimulate a more concerted and integrated approach which is required to address these problems more effectively and achieve a more sustainable development of the Mediterranean coastal zones.
5. The Protocol covers a broad range of provisions which will need to be implemented by different levels of administration, taking the subsidiarity and proportionality principles into account. Member States and their relevant competent authorities will be responsible for the design and implementation of certain detailed measures laid down in the Protocol related to the coastal territory, such as the establishment of zones where construction is not allowed.

Find the full proposal here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0030:FIN:EN:PDF>

## Stop biodiversity loss

All over the world, biological diversity - the variety of ecosystems, species and genes - remains under severe threat. If mankind continues with "business as usual", the annual loss of vital ecosystem services provided for free by nature is estimated to equal €50 billion, while by 2050 the accumulated welfare losses could amount to 7% of GDP. To tackle the issue, on 15 March the Environment Council set a new headline target of halting the loss of biodiversity in the EU by 2020 and defined its vision for protecting this richness of nature until 2050.

Find the full article at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showFocus.aspx?id=1&focusId=452&lang=EN>