



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

ENVIRONMENT

Sectoral Committee
Weekly Update
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The Future of the Common Agricultural Policy

The Managing Authority (Rural Development) through the National Rural Network is organising a **Consultation Meeting** on the Future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) after 2013, more specifically on rural development policy.

This consultation meeting is being carried out in light of the public debate launched earlier this month by Mr. Dacian Cioloş (EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development) in order to assess the need for a future CAP and how the CAP can help agriculture and rural areas become more competitive, sustainable and meet future challenges such as climate change and water management.

In view of this, the Maltese National Rural Network is organising a consultation meeting on the **11th of May 2010** at 08:30am at the Corinthia Hotel, Balzan where all rural stakeholders will be invited and encouraged to participate and give their valued opinion on the subject.

Those who wish to attend for the meeting may reserve a seat by calling on 25904205 or 25904188 till Friday 7th May 2010.

COM (2010) 186 - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee - A European strategy on clean and energy efficient vehicles

This Communication sets out a strategy for encouraging the development and uptake of clean and energy efficient ("green") heavy-duty (buses and trucks) and light-duty vehicles (cars and vans) as well as two- and three-wheelers and quadricycles. Currently, transport is responsible for about a quarter of EU CO₂ emissions and also contributes significantly to reduced air quality (particulate matter, NO_x, HC and CO) and related health problems, in particular in urban areas.

The internal combustion engine is likely to remain dominant in road vehicles in the short and medium term perspective. However, alternative fuels and propulsion technologies will be increasingly important in the future. Green vehicles have very low environmental impacts throughout their lifecycle: they use low-carbon energy sources, have very low air pollutant and noise emissions and can be easily recycled. The strategy builds on the existing 2007 strategy to reduce CO₂ emissions from passenger cars and light-duty commercial vehicles, and complements ongoing and planned activities to decarbonise transport and to reduce their environmental impacts. While it is limited to road transport, road vehicles and the mid-term

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perspective, it supports the goal of reducing carbon emissions by 80-95% by 2050. Technological developments in green automotive propulsion technologies can/should have spin-offs to maritime, air, heavy-duty vehicles, urban and light-rail transport modes.

To read the whole Communication and more information go to:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0186:FIN:EN:PDF>

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/automotive/competitiveness-cars21/energy-efficient/communication_en.htm

Large majority of citizens in favour of European legislation on Radioactive Waste



On the 29th of April, the European Commission published a Eurobarometer survey showing that an overwhelming majority of Europeans would find it useful to have European legislation on radioactive waste management. The concern for the safety risk related to radioactive waste is shared both by countries with nuclear power plants and those with no nuclear energy. It is up to the Member States to decide whether they use nuclear energy or not.

At present, 15 out of 27 EU States have nuclear power plants, but there are only a few projects for final repositories for the most hazardous radioactive waste category. The European Commission will propose European legislation on radioactive waste management in the second half of 2010 and is currently conducting a public consultation on such a legislative proposal. While the EU Commission respects fully that the energy mix is a national competence, the EU is engaged in creating the most advanced EU legal framework for nuclear safety, security and the management of radioactive waste. This Community competence to establish basic safety standards at EU level is explicitly regulated in the Euratom Treaty.

Radioactive waste management

An overall majority of 82% European citizens say nuclear waste management should be regulated at EU level, according to the Special Eurobarometer survey "Europeans and Nuclear Safety". This belief is extremely consistent all across the European Union. Agreement is almost



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unanimous in Cyprus (93%), Hungary (90%), the Netherlands (90%) and Slovenia (90%). On the other end of the spectrum – in those countries where the smallest numbers of people share the view – a consistent majority exists (Austria 59%, UK 60%, Malta 62%).

Safety of nuclear plants

While citizens also have concerns towards wrong use of nuclear materials and terrorism, a large majority (59 %) believe that nuclear power plants can be operated in a safe manner. This EU average remained stable compared to the 2006 survey.

The Commission consultation can be viewed here:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/consultations/2010_05_31_fuel_waste_en.htm