



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

ENVIRONMENT



23.02.09

CO2 EMISSIONS FROM CARS

COM (2009) 9 - Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament - Monitoring the CO₂ emissions from cars in the EU: data for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007.

The CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars have been monitored already as part of the earlier strategy on CO₂ from cars. According to Article 9 of Decision 1753/2000/EC, the Commission is required to submit to the European Parliament and Council reports for each calendar year on the effectiveness of the strategy based on the monitoring data submitted by Member States. This Communication concerns the monitoring data for 2005, 2006 and 2007.

PERSISTANT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

COM (2009) 27 - Proposal for a Council Decision - establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Community with regard to proposals for amending Annexes A, B and C of the Stockholm Convention at the fourth meeting of the Conference of Parties on 4 – 8 May 2009 (presented by the Commission).

The overall objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the Environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Article 8 of the Convention allows parties to submit proposals for including additional chemicals in the Annexes of the same Convention. This proposal deals with amending Annexes from the Stockholm Convention to include new POP substances.



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CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT IN COPENHAGEN

COM (2009) 39 - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen.

In order to limit the global average temperature increase to not more than 2 degrees above preindustrial levels, developed countries as a group should reduce their emissions to 30% below 1990 levels in 2020. The EU has set the example by committing to a 20% reduction in its emissions compared to 1990 levels by 2020, irrespective of whether or not an international agreement is concluded.

This is by far the most ambitious commitment by any country or group of countries in the world for the post-2012 period. This communications sets out concrete proposals to achieve the goal of extending agreements of the Climate and Energy package with third countries, both in the UN context and beyond.

Further information and a Q&A on the commission's proposal can be found [here](#).

PETROL VAPOUR RECOVERY

COM (2008) 812 - Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Stage II petrol vapour recovery during refuelling of passenger cars at service stations.

This legislative proposal aims at recovering petrol vapour which is emitted to the atmosphere during the refuelling of passenger cars at service stations (so called "Stage II Petrol Vapour Recovery or PVR"). The emissions of volatile organic compounds contained in petrol contribute to local and regional air quality problems (benzene and ozone) for which Community air quality standards and objectives exist. Ground level ozone is a pollutant which crosses national borders and is also the third most important greenhouse gas.



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Consultation Note:

Discussions on minimum energy efficiency requirements for electric motors (0.75KW – 375KW) and circulators (pumps for central heating systems) are in an advanced stage and are expected to be approved later on this year. These will imply that:

Motors – 3 phase continuous duty and variable speed drives;
Circulators rated between 1W and 2500W.

cannot be placed on the market unless they meet certain minimum energy efficiency criteria.

The latest documents under discussion may be found at:

For motors –

http://www.msa.org.mt/rad/ecodesign/EUP_discussed/motors/

For circulators -

http://www.msa.org.mt/rad/ecodesign/EUP_discussed/pumps%20and%20circulators/

Kindly send any comments to the Malta Standards Authority on joseph.micallef@msa.org.mt by 6 March 2009.

SHARKS

COM (2009) 40 – Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on a European Community Action Plan for the conservation and management of sharks.

The reference point for this Action Plan is the FAO IPOA SHARKS, which aims to ensure the conservation and management of sharks and their long-term sustainable use worldwide. The Action Plan pursues the following three specific objectives:



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To broaden the knowledge both on shark fisheries and on shark species and their role in the ecosystem;

To ensure that directed fisheries for shark are sustainable and that by-catches of shark resulting from other fisheries are properly regulated;

To encourage a coherent approach between the internal and external Community policy for sharks.

Hence, the Action plan foresees both actions that can be implemented without delay and others that need a longer term commitment and must be based on progressively available evidence and scientific advice. The timing of the implementation of the Plan of Action will therefore depend on the contributions of all actors involved.

Water Scarcity and Droughts

[COM \(2008\) 875](#) - Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament - Follow up Report to the Communication on water scarcity and droughts in the European Union COM(2007) 414 final

This report is a follow-up report based on the progress made in putting forward the options provided by Communication COM (2007) 414. Key challenges that need to be tackled if Europe is to move forward with regards to water efficiency and water saving economy are highlighted in the report. Adaptation to climate change has clearly become a top priority for the EU agenda, and the challenge of water scarcity should be considered in this broader context. The report also stresses the need to implement water efficient technologies and practices.

WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

[COM \(2008\) 810](#) - Proposal for Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) (Recast)

This is a proposal to review the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive. The communication outlines the main problems related to the actual



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application of the WEEE directive that arose and proposes a revision of the Directive. The objectives of the review are a) That of reducing the administrative costs through the removal of all unnecessary administrative burdens, without lowering the level of environmental protection, b) improving effectiveness and implementation of the Directive through increased compliance and reduced free-riding and c) reducing impacts on the environment from the collection, treatment and recovery of WEEE at the levels where the greatest net benefit to society results.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

COM (2008) 809 - Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (Recast).

The Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive aims to restrict hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment so as to contribute to the protection of human health and the environmentally sound recovery and disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment. This review of this Directive is being carried to ensure that the Directive is simple, understandable, effective and enforceable.

TIMBER

COM (2008) 644 - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market

Illegal logging takes place when timber is harvested, processed or traded in violation of national laws applicable in the country of harvest. The reasons are many but they start with the high demand for timber and the weak rules to prevent trade in illegally harvested timber.

Illegal logging is part of a larger problem that includes issues of forest governance, law enforcement and corruption. The main objective of this proposal is to complement and underpin the EU's current policy framework and support the international fight against illegal logging and its related trade.

The proposal focuses on the first time that timber and timber products are made available on the Community market, regardless of their origin, by determining



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the obligations of those operators who place timber and timber products on the Community market. The proposed measures aim at deterring operators from placing on the Community market timber and timber products without having a reasonable assurance as regards their legality contributing therefore to the global efforts to fight illegal logging. They also provide consumers with the certainty that by buying timber and timber products they do not contribute to the problem of illegal logging and associated trade.

OZONE LAYER

COM (2008) 505-1 - Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions completing the phase-out of substances that deplete the ozone layer: Better regulation building on 20 years of success

This Communication outlines the various successes of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the ozone layer. In 2007, the Parties (including the European Community) celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, hailing it as one of the most successful of all international environmental agreements. By then, all 191 Parties had achieved a 95% reduction in consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) compared with the baselines set.

However, the Scientific Assessment Panel (SAP) established under the Montreal Protocol, in its 2007 report, warned the Parties that despite the successes continued vigilance was required to keep to the newly projected timetable for recovery of the ozone layer, also taking account of the remaining uncertainties, notably about the impact of climate change.

COM (2008) 505-2 - Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on substances that deplete the ozone layer

This communication is the second part of COM (2008) 505, proposing a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the substances



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that deplete the ozone layer, and subsequent amending acts against the context of a near complete phase out of ozone depleting substances and a number of outstanding challenges that need tackling from an EU and the global perspective. The Regulation includes a phase-out schedule as well as a provision laying down a flexible mechanism to ensure that substances identified as ozone depleting by the Scientific Assessment Panel under the Protocol are to be reported to ensure that those new substances which have been identified as having a significant ozone depleting potential are submitted to control measures.



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Consultation Note:

Discussions on minimum energy efficiency requirements and energy labelling requirements for household refrigeration appliances and televisions are in advanced stage and are expected to be approved later on this year. These will imply that:

Household refrigeration appliances which include refrigerators, freezers, refrigerator cellars and wine storage appliances;

Television sets which include televisions with a remote tuner and television monitors,

cannot be placed on the market unless they meet certain minimum energy efficiency criteria and must have the appropriate energy label affixed to them at the point of sale.

The latest documents under discussion may be found at:

For household refrigeration appliances -

http://www.msa.org.mt/rad/ecodesign/EUP_discussed/commercial%20and%20household%20equipment/refrigerators/

For televisions -

http://www.msa.org.mt/rad/ecodesign/EUP_discussed/sound%20and%20vision/Television/

Kindly send any comments to the Malta Standards Authority on joseph.micallef@msa.org.mt by 6 March 2009.