



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

ENVIRONMENT



04.09.09

Reminder: Climate Change to be discussed on Wednesday 9th September
Global, EU and Maltese Perspectives

The Global, EU and Maltese perspectives of issues relating to managing climate change will be presented and discussed during a Seminar organised by the Swedish Embassy to Malta and MEUSAC. The Seminar will be opened by the Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs, the Hon. George Pullicino and the main speakers will be Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar, Malta's Ambassador on Climate Change, Dr. Johan Schaar, Head of Secretariat at the Swedish International Development Agency and Commissioner for Climate Change and Development, and Mr. David Spiteri Gingell, Chairperson of the National Climate Change Committee.

The Seminar will take place as follows:

Wednesday, 9th September

Time: 09.30 - 12.30

Registration: 09.00 hrs

Venue: The Grand Ball Room, Hotel Phoenicia, Floriana.

A light reception will follow.

Participation is free of charge. Registration is highly recommended in view of seating restrictions and should reach MEUSAC offices by not later than noon of **Monday, 7th September 2009** on email address info.meusac@gov.mt. For further details and assistance on this event, kindly contact Brian Pace on telephone 2200 3300.



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

Commission supports UN World Climate Conference: Realizing a Global Framework for Climate Services



On the 3rd of September, the European Commission declared its support for a new Global Framework for Climate Services that is being discussed at the 3rd World Climate Conference (WCC-3) in Geneva. Proposed by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the purpose is to obtain more scientifically reliable data and prediction systems for climate forecasting. It will set new international foundations for the provision and use of science-based climate information and prediction. This initiative comes in the run up to the Copenhagen Conference that will take place in

December this year.

This initiative of the WMO is in line with the EU position on adaptation in the UN climate negotiations and with the needs identified by the Commission White Paper on Adaptation from April 2009. It will also contribute to the research and information needs emphasised in the EU strategy on supporting Disaster reduction in developing countries and the Community approach on the prevention of natural and man made disaster.

Key scientific questions and challenges in vulnerable regions around the globe have been targeted. Examples are studies about the melting of Himalayan glaciers and their impact on water resources in Northern India. There are also projects which support environmental observation in Asia and Africa, contributing to global observation systems and capacity building in developing countries. Other topics include the impacts of climate change on water resources as threats to security in Southern Europe and neighbouring countries, the carbon cycle and land-use change in Africa, climate change predictions in Sub-Saharan Africa and the better quantification of impacts.

COM (2009) 436 - Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Additional Protocol to the Cooperation Agreement for the Protection of the Coasts and Waters of the North-East Atlantic against Pollution

The European Community is a party to regional agreements on marine pollution, such as the Bonn Agreement, the Barcelona Convention and the Helsinki Convention, which facilitate mutual assistance and cooperation between Member States in this field in the North, Mediterranean and Baltic Seas. After tanker ship *Aragon* caused a major oil spill off the coast of Madeira in 1990, Portugal initiated the Cooperation Agreement for the Protection of the Coasts



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

and Waters of the North-East Atlantic against Pollution (Lisbon Agreement), which creates a mechanism to ensure the cooperation between the Contracting Parties in case of pollution accidents, and obliges them to establish and implement their own emergency structures and plans.

The Lisbon Agreement was signed on 17 October 1990 by Portugal, Spain, France, Morocco and the European Community. Although ratification followed by Portugal, France and the European Community, a political dispute over the borders in Western Sahara prevented Spain and Morocco from ratifying the Agreement because of Article 3 (c) on the geographical scope of the Agreement, which stipulated: "to the south by the southern limit of the waters covered by the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Morocco.". The Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Community, of the Additional Protocol to the Cooperation Agreement for the Protection of the Coasts and Waters of the North-East Atlantic against Pollution was adopted on 12 December 2008. The Additional Protocol was co-signed on behalf of the European Community by the Czech Presidency and the Head of the European Commission Representation in Portugal on 25 March 2009.

It is therefore appropriate for the Community to conclude the Additional Protocol to the Cooperation Agreement for the Protection of the Coasts and Waters of the North-East Atlantic against Pollution.

The full proposal can be found here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0436:FIN:EN:PDF>