



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

ENVIRONMENT



25.09.09

COM (2009) 485 - Proposal for a Council Decision on the establishment of the Community position to be adopted in the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources

According to the second subparagraph of Article 300(2) of the EC Treaty, the positions to be adopted on behalf of the Community in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations when they are called upon to adopt decisions having legal effects, with the exception of decisions supplementing or amending their institutional framework, must be decided on by the Council, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission.

In view of this obligation, and following similar Council Decisions and proposals from the European Commission for other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, the European Commission proposes the present decision to establish the Community position to be adopted in the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources. This proposal follows the same approach as for other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations so as to ensure consistency.

The proposal can be found here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0485:FIN:EN:PDF>

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The European Commission has long been at the political forefront of fighting global climate change. As an organisation with a large workforce, it also leads by example and makes a real

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difference. Building on the success of its pilot project launched in 2001, the European Commission has now decided to extend its environmental management system to all its activities and buildings in Brussels and Luxembourg. With this certification scheme — based on the EMAS regulation (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) — the Commission implements a system that defines and evaluates environmental aspects of its activities, leading to continuous improvements in areas such as increased energy efficiency, optimal use of natural resources and reduction of CO 2 emissions.

Based on the positive outcomes of the pilot phase, the environmental management system based on the EMAS regulation has proven to be the most appropriate instrument to manage and improve environmental performance at the European Commission. The system also demonstrated synergies between different departments and involved employees in working towards common objectives. The decision taken by the Commission today extends this management system to all its activities and buildings in Brussels and Luxembourg. Official EMAS registration by the competent national authorities should be achieved in 2012 for all Commission activities, and in 2014 for all buildings.

Ms Carlsson speaks on Climate Change on behalf of the EU at the UN General Assmebly week



Poor countries are the hardest hit by climate change, and the global community must be prepared to help those in the greatest need. This is the view of Minister for International Development Cooperation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Gunilla Carlsson, who is in New York for UN General Assembly week. "Development assistance plays a key role in the area of energy and climate, but it cannot take on the financial, technical and political challenges alone," says Ms Carlsson, who is speaking as a representative of the EU at the meetings in New York.

"We must look at it in connection with trade policy, security policy and, of course, climate and environmental policy as well. New types of challenges necessitate cross-border efforts and require us to organise ourselves so that we learn how to manage these crises.



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Because it is a matter of crises, plural: the economic and financial crisis, the food crisis and perhaps, in the future, a population growth crisis. Poor people have the greatest difficulty adapting because they are hit hardest by the changes. This is why it is important to improve people's basic conditions," Ms Carlsson explained on the 24th of September. "It is a matter of ensuring that poor people receive an education, enjoy good health, are able to organise and make their voices heard, and that there are functioning markets and functioning institutions."

During her week in New York, the Minister for International Development Cooperation has held a large number of bilateral talks. She has also met members of civil society organisations to discuss matters such as the problem of the vulnerability of the poorest countries and how work is carried out on such issues. Ms Carlsson led the International Commission on Climate Change and Development, and says that it is important that the Commission's work, the main task of which was to produce proposals concerning how to strengthen the adaptation capacity of poor countries, is taken forward.

"We must now ensure that this becomes policy in both Sweden and Europe, and that it fits in well with the meeting in Copenhagen," says Ms Carlsson.

Background info: the UN and Climate Change

- In 1972 an environment forum was held in Stockholm; it was the first UN conference of its kind held to highlight the most burning issue at that time. A few years later, the time had come again. Climate change had now been placed on the international agenda and the first world climate conference was held in Geneva. At this conference, scientific evidence was presented on how human activities affect climate.
- The climate change issue, or rather the climate threat as it was by then also known, continued to be discussed at international level over the following years. The Brundtland Commission presented its report in 1987. This report pointed out that the world could hardly manage the same kind of transformation in the countries of the South as the countries of the North had undergone. According to the report, this would put enormous strain on the environment.
- In 1988 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to protect global climate for present and future generations. This recognised climate change as a problem that concerns the whole of mankind. In the same year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established. The Panel's steering group, consisting of around



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thirty researchers, bases its conclusions and recommendations on international research.

The Earth Summit

The Earth Summit (also known as the Rio Summit) was held in 1992 in response to the Brundtland Commission's proposal for a conference to be held twenty years after the Stockholm conference. The scientific findings regarding the impact of human activities on the environment, including how emissions have contributed to depleting the ozone layer, made their mark at the Rio Summit. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted at the Rio Summit. By 2005 it had been ratified by 188 countries and the European Commission. The parties to the Convention meet every year. The first meeting took place in Berlin in 1995. The third meeting was held in Kyoto, Japan, and it was here, in 1997, that a protocol requiring a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions was adopted