



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

ENVIRONMENT



10.12.09

Environment Sectoral Committee to meet again on the 14th of December

The Environment Sectoral Committee meeting is scheduled to meet again on the 14th of December. The meeting will be held at MEUSAC premises 4th floor at 1500hrs. The topics to be discussed are:

1. Discussion on the Transposition and Implementation of Directive 2008/10/EC on Environmental Quality Standards in the field of water policy;
2. Information session on General Binding Rules.

Officials from MEPA will be giving out presentations on the subject. Invited guests who do not form part of the committee but are main stakeholders will be present for the meeting.

Environment Quality Standards in the field of water policy

In the year 2000, the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD) established a framework for EU wide action for the protection and improvement of the water environment in order to ensure its long-term sustainable use. Directive 2000/60/EC was transposed into Maltese legislation as Legal Notice 194 of 2004 (Water Policy Framework Regulations, 2004).

Directive 2008/105/EC known as the Priority Substances Directive was published on 24th December 2008. As a daughter Directive to the WFD, the Priority Substances Directive has to be implemented fully within the framework of the WFD, which provides the implementation tools, reporting mechanisms, analysis and monitoring requirements for water.

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General Binding Rules

General Binding Rules (GBR's) are intended to regulate small scale enterprises through a standard set of environmental conditions, related to waste management, emissions to atmosphere, effluent discharges and storage of materials and chemicals.

GBR conditions are specific to each and every sector (or groups of sectors) which have been identified as being of major environmental concern. The majority of these conditions been extracted from EU directives and Legal Notices and have been tailor-made to cater national requirements for the specific sectors.

Operators have an obligation to understand and implement the requirements of the General Binding Rules.

Aim of Public Consultation

The purpose of this public consultation process is to seek views and comments from all concerned parties/sectors in order to make sure that the provisions in the GBR's cover all the associated environmental concerns.

Additionally, the consultation is also intended to provide an indication of whether conditions are fit for purpose and effective enough so as to improve environmental performance of micro, small and medium enterprises. The public consultation process will hopefully yield all the necessary amendments required in order to make GBR's more effective and easily interpretable.



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Commission approves over €1,5bn for 15 CCS and off-shore wind projects to support European economic recovery

The Commission approved today 15 energy projects which will significantly contribute to the economic recovery of the EU, while increasing our security of energy supply and substantially reduce CO2 emissions. With today's decision, the Commission grants €1 billion to six Carbon Capture and Storage projects and €565 million to nine offshore wind energy projects.

By promoting the technology of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) the Commission recognises the continued importance of fossil fuelled power and the need to adapt to a low carbon energy system. The offshore wind energy projects enhance the development and consolidation of a competitive offshore wind industry in Europe and create numerous green jobs.

These award winning innovative energy technology projects will contribute in reaching the binding targets of greenhouse gas emission reduction and renewables by 2020 and beyond.

The decision on these 15 projects is the first step towards the good use of almost €4 billion set aside by the EU in May 2009 for energy projects to support economic recovery. The landmark agreement on the European Energy Programme for Recovery in May foresaw Union financial assistance to energy projects in the fields of CCS, offshore wind energy and gas and electricity infrastructure. The procedures for the infrastructure projects are still ongoing. The decision is expected to be taken in February 2010.

COM (2009) 667 - Communication from the Commission - Fifth national communication from the European Community under the UN framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) (required under article 12 of the United Nations framework convention on Climate Change)

The EC and its 27 Member States, both individually and jointly, have been active on action against climate change now for a number of years. This action took a significant step forward in 2008, when an integrated and ambitious package of policies and measures to tackle energy and climate change was agreed for the EC. The package contains proposals covering: renewable energy, the emissions trading scheme (EU ETS), shared efforts of Member States to reduce emissions from sectors outside the EU ETS, and geological storage of carbon dioxide and sets specific targets for 2020. The package also contains a legally binding commitment to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 20 % compared to 1990 levels by 2020. At the same



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time as the energy and climate change package was agreed, a regulation setting emission performance standards for new passenger cars was passed, and an obligation was agreed for fossil fuel suppliers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their entire fuel production chain. Other important recent developments are the inclusion of aviation activities into the EU ETS and a new directive to promote clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles.

This is the 5th National Communication of the European Community (EC) under Article 12 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Read the full communication here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0667:FIN:EN:PDF>