



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

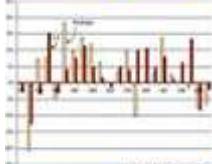
GENERAL AFFAIRS

Sectoral Committee
Weekly Update
18.06.10

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[COM \(2010\) 312 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the financial contributions to be paid by the Member States to finance the European Development Fund \(2nd instalment 2010\)](#)

This Decision deals with the second instalment of the contribution for 2010 that have to be contributed by donor member states to finance the European Development Fund (EDF). Part of the amount is managed by the Commission, whilst part of it is managed by the European Investment Bank. The second instalment contributions for 2010 amount to €1.320.000.000 of which €1.200.000.000 is managed by the Commission and the rest by the EIB.

Malta does not contribute to this fund.

In accordance with Article 57(3) of the Financial Regulation, the Council must decide on this proposal at the latest 21 calendar days following the presentation by the Commission of its proposal and Member States must pay the second instalment of the contribution at the latest 21 calendar days following the date on which the Council decision is notified to them.

Article 60(1) of the Financial Regulation provides that a Member State which fails to pay the instalment of the contribution due by the deadline will be required to pay interest on the amount unpaid

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0312:FIN:EN:PDF>



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COM (2010) 308 - Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Action Plan on Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Applications

EGNOS (European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service), the European satellite-based augmentation system that paves the way for GALILEO, has been in service since 1 October 2009. It offers free enhanced satellite navigation signals over Europe which are ten times more precise than GPS. All application domains which use positioning and velocity information can benefit from this improved accuracy: all transport modes through the management of infrastructure and the provision of geo-localised information, logistics, precision agriculture, civil protection and emergency management, mapping and land registry, fisheries, energy, management of natural resources, mining, Earth sciences, meteorology, the modelling of climate change, environment, justice and law enforcement, border control, etc.

Another advantage EGNOS can offer civilian users is integrity, i.e. a measure of the trust which can be placed in the correctness of the information supplied by the system, with the user being automatically alerted whenever an error made by the system is beyond a certain confidence limit. Integrity plays an important role in Safety of Life applications in transport, sensitive commercial applications, or liability-critical applications needing legal recourse.

Together with the GPS signal, EGNOS today, and later GALILEO, strengthens the infrastructure leading to a global market for GNSS products and services, called downstream GNSS applications. However, despite Europe's investment in its GNSS infrastructure and the availability of EGNOS, European industry has only a low share of the global GNSS applications market compared with what it is capable of achieving in other sectors of high-technology.

So given the new reality of EU GNSS programmes, a detailed action plan is called for: to boost people's confidence in the programmes, to foster the development of EGNOS and GALILEO downstream applications, and to achieve the quickest, deepest, broadest development of applications across all domains so to reap maximum benefit from the EU's infrastructure.

The Action plan can be found at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0308:FIN:EN:PDF>



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Conclusions of the European Council

The European Council met yesterday, the 17th June, in Brussels and reached agreement on a number of issues. The items debated include:

- Europe 2020 strategy
- Fiscal sustainability
- The G20 Toronto Summit
- Millennium Development Goals
- Climate Change
- And various other issues including immigration

One of the main outcomes of this meeting was the discussion on the need for the introduction of a tax on banks. This tax should help to defray the costs of future financial crises, a principle which the Europeans will defend at the next G-20 summit. Moreover, it has been decided that by no later than the second half of July, the solvency tests that the banks have been subjected to must be made public, as a measure to reduce uncertainty about the health of the European financial system.

During the meeting an important discussion was held on the Europe 2020 strategy. Leaders approved the sustainable growth economic strategy "Europe 2020", which will promote a series of reforms aimed at competitiveness and employment, placing research and development at the centre of economic initiatives for the next decade. According to the conclusions of the meeting, this strategy will form a framework for the Union to mobilise all its instruments and policies, and for member states to act with greater coordination, with the objectives of reaching a 75% employment rate for men and women, and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 20%.

The European Council was attended by Prime Minister Dr. Lawrence Gonzi and the Maltese Permanent Representative to the EU Mr. Richard Cachia Caruana.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/115346.pdf