



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

# TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY

## Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update  
**04.06.10**

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**COM (2010) 283 - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 663/2009 establishing a programme to aid economic recovery by granting Community financial assistance to projects in the field of energy**

Energy saving is the EU's most immediate and cost-effective way of addressing the EU's strategic objectives of fighting climate change, ensuring security of energy supply and achieving sustainable economic and social development. In the spirit of the Europe 2020 strategy for sustainable growth and jobs, the development of further renewable sources and the promotion of energy efficiency would contribute to greener growth, building a competitive and sustainable economy, and tackling climate change. By giving support to these policies, Europe will create new jobs and green market opportunities fostering the development of a competitive, secure and sustainable economy.

Regulation (EC) no 663/2009 of 13 July 2009 established a programme to aid economic recovery for Europe (EEPR) by granting EUR 3.98 billion by the end of 2010. The EEPR is a financial instrument whose overall objective is to stimulate recovery from the downturn affecting the EU economy while enhancing the achievement of the EU energy policy priorities, namely the security and diversification of energy supply, the operation of the internal energy market and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This Community financing was allocated to three sub-programmes in the field of gas and electricity infrastructure projects; offshore wind electricity projects (OWE), and carbon capture and storage projects (CCS).

In this proposal the Commission is proposing to use the uncommitted funds under Chapter II of the EEPR Regulation for the creation of a dedicated financial instrument to support energy efficiency and renewable initiatives within the Sustainable Energy Financing Initiative. The financial facility shall support the development of bankable energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and facilitate the financing of investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, in particular in urban settings. In order to foster a large number of decentralised investments, municipal, local and regional public authorities will be the beneficiaries.

The sustainable energy projects to be financed include public and private buildings, high energy efficient combined heat and power (CHP) and district heating/cooling networks (in particular from renewable energy sources), decentralised renewable energy sources embedded in local settings, clean urban transport and local infrastructure such as smart grids, efficient street lighting, and smart metering.

**The proposal can be found here:**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0283:FIN:EN:PDF>



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## European high-level panel consults on ICT solutions to help elderly to live more independently



A consultation inviting citizens, businesses and researchers to share ideas on how best to use information and communications technologies (ICTs) to help older Europeans live more independently, and more generally to establish new ways to put ICTs at the service of the most vulnerable members of society, has been launched by a high-level panel established to advise the European Commission on the functioning of the Ambient Assisted Living joint programme. The panel is chaired by former European Commissioner Meglena Kuneva. The public consultation is the first step towards meeting the target of

**doubling the take-up of independent living arrangements for the elderly by 2015 set by the Digital Agenda. The consultation runs until 1 July 2010.**

The Ambient Assisted Living joint programme, which involves both the European Commission and EU Member States, aims to ensure that ICTs permit a more independent and dignified life for elderly people who are socially isolated, frail, suffer from chronic conditions or have disabilities, and inter alia develops new solutions to deal with such problems as preventing falls and supporting sufferers of dementia. Such applications improve older and vulnerable people's quality of life; keep down the cost of social and health care and open new market opportunities for Europe's industry and service providers.

Examples of Ambient Assisted Living research projects include, for example, 'eldercare social robots' which can help perform daily tasks such as lifting or cooking, or set off an alarm if an in-built camera registers that a person has fallen. Another example is a 'smart home' environment, where smart cameras interpret the activities of people and can communicate changes in their behaviour to emergency centres. Advanced research is also being carried out to develop brain-controlled exoskeletons, external outfits that restore the walking ability of frail people by responding to nerve movement in the legs.

**The public consultation is available at:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/einclusion/research/aal/interim\\_review/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/research/aal/interim_review/index_en.htm)

**EC actions for "Ageing well in the information society":**

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/einclusion/policy/ageing/action\\_plan/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/policy/ageing/action_plan/index_en.htm)

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