



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY

Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update
16.07.10

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COM (2010) 363 Proposal for a Council Decision on establishing the European Union position with the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community (Skopje, 24 September 2010)



The Ministerial Council of the Energy Community will meet on 24th September 2010 in Skopje (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). In order for the European Union to take part in the relevant decisions, it is necessary to establish the position of the European Union pursuant Article 218, paragraph 9 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union and in accordance with the provisions of Council Decision 2006/500/EC of 29 May 2006 on the conclusion by the European Community of the Energy Community Treaty.

The proposal for a Council Decision covers all agenda items for which a decision by the Ministerial Council is expected as indicated hereafter. The other agenda items are also mentioned below for information.

The Commission shall express the European Union positions on the following elements for decision:

- Budgetary matters
- Renewable Energy Sources
- Internal market for electricity and gas – "Third Package"

The full proposal can be found at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0363:FIN:EN:PDF>



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COM (2010) 364 - Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the application by the member states of Council Directive 95/50/EC on uniform procedures for checks on the transport of dangerous goods by road

Council Directive 95/50/EC on uniform procedures for checks on the transport of dangerous goods by road provides that each Member State has to send a report on the application of the Directive to the Commission for each calendar year not later than twelve months after the end of that year. The Directive also provides that the Commission has to send the European Parliament and the Council at least every three years a report on the application of the Directive by the Member States. The report from the Commission is based on the annual reports received from the Member States. This is the fourth report on the application of Council Directive 95/50/EC in the Member States and it covers years 2006-2007. The first report covered years 1997-1998, the second reports years 1999-2002 and the third report years 2003-2005.

The Commission found that all Member States have carried out road side checks according to Directive 95/50/EC. There has been an improvement in the volume and quality of the data which has been submitted to the Commission. Most Member States are using the correct reporting formats. There continues to be a proportion of vehicles found during these checks that infringe the legislation. The number of infringements per check appears to be stable. The number of checks in the EU increased in the region of 20% from 2006 to 2007, reaching some 285 000 annual checks in 2007. Approximately in one check out of eight an infringement was detected. Some 40% of these infringements were of the most serious type. Consequently, almost 10 000 vehicles were immobilised following their check. This clearly demonstrates that practical enforcement of rules on the transport of dangerous goods at the roadside is useful and helps to improve safety. The Commission will consider making recommendations to further harmonise the interpretation and content of the information submitted by the Member States in their annual reports.

The full report can be found at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0364:FIN:EN:PDF>

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Proposal on deepwater drilling moratorium



Last week European Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger said that the European Union should consider a moratorium on new deepwater drilling for oil until a probe is completed into the causes of BP's spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Europe's energy chief told the European Parliament "Utmost caution must be exercised for the moment with respect to new drillings. Given the current circumstances, any responsible government would at present practically freeze new permits for drilling with extreme parameters and conditions. This can mean de facto a moratorium on new drills until the causes of the accident are known and corrective measures are taken for such frontier operations (such) as the ones carried out by the Deepwater Horizon."

"Authorisation procedures must require demonstrations of the capacity of the operator to deal with critical events," said Oettinger. "Equally, a demonstration of the financial strength necessary to assume full responsibility for damage caused is needed," he added. "We have to see what best instruments can be used in that regard, whether insurance obligations, a special European fund or some other adequately robust solution ... If proven necessary, we will not hesitate to come with legislative initiatives in the coming months."

The full article can be found here <http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/oettinger-proposes-deepwater-drilling-moratorium-news-496106>