



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY

Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update
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COM (2010) 389 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions –

Towards a European road safety area: policy orientations on road safety 2011-2020

Road safety is a major societal issue. In 2009, more than 35,000 people died on the roads of the EU, i.e. the equivalent of a medium town, and no fewer than 1,500,000 persons were injured. The cost for society is huge, representing approximately 130 billion Euros in 2009.

Road safety will play an important role in the upcoming White Paper on transport policy 2010 – 2020, as lowering the number of road users' casualties is key to improving the overall performance of the transport system and to meet citizens' and companies' needs and expectations.

A coherent holistic and integrated approach is therefore needed, taking into account synergies with other policy goals. Road safety policies at local, national, European or international level should integrate relevant objectives of other public policies and vice versa. The proposed policy orientations takes full account of the results obtained during the 3rd road safety action programme 2001-2010, showing that in spite of important progress made on road safety, efforts need to be continued and further strengthened. The European road safety policy orientations up to 2020, aims to provide a general governance framework and challenging objectives which should guide national or local strategies.

In the framework of these policy orientations, the Commission considers that the three following actions should be undertaken as a priority:

- The establishment of a structured and coherent cooperation framework which draws on best practices across the Member States, as a necessary condition to implement in an effective manner the road safety policy orientations 2011-2020.
- A strategy for injuries and first aid to address the urgent and growing need to reduce the number of road injuries.
- The improvement of the safety of vulnerable road users, in particular motorcyclists.

Find the full communication here:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety/pdf/com_20072010_en.pdf



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**COM (2010)
372 final –
Proposal for a
Council
Regulation on
State aid to
facilitate the
closure of
uncompetitive
coal mines**

The European Commission said that Europe's unprofitable coal mines will have to be shut down within the next four years before state subsidies are halted. The EU executive presented a proposal for a new regulation that would allow member states to grant operating aid to coal mines only if they present plans to close by 15 October 2014. The subsidies would have to be gradually reduced by at least 33% every 15 months and paid back to the state in case the mine fails to close on time. The new regulation is to set up a transition regime as the current coal regulation expires at the end of the year. The new rules would allow the hard coal industry to receive closure aid but they would no longer be granted aid for investment or accessing coal reserves. The aim of the regulation is to bring to an end decades of repeatedly extended subsidy schemes to maintain uncompetitive mines, instead directing state aid towards paying for the social and environmental consequences of closures.

Find the full proposal here:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/sectors/energy/coal_regulation_20_07_2010_en.pdf



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€90 million available for research in future internet to make Europe's systems smart and efficient

The EU is investing in the future of the Internet to ensure it will be able to support increasing demands from citizens, businesses and governments. The European Commission today made available €90 million under the Future Internet Public-Private Partnership.

Researchers from all parts of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector can apply for funding for projects in 2011. This research will focus on innovative internet applications to make infrastructures like health systems, energy grids or traffic management systems 'smart'.

Find the full article here:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=6021