



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy



27.02.09

EU ANNUAL STRATEGY FOR 2010

[COM \(2009\) 73](#) - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Annual Policy Strategy for 2010

This Annual Policy Strategy paves the way for establishing a policy agenda for 2010 and launches the interinstitutional dialogue on the priorities for next year. With regards to this particular sector, the strategy outlines the Community's vision to continue promoting and implementing its integrated maritime policy during the coming year, as well as providing operational support for the implementation of the Baltic Sea Strategy and its action plan, covering areas like energy, transport, ICT, research, innovation, and enhanced co-operation with third countries.

News from the European Parliament

MEP's discuss Green Levies on Lorries

Green issues continue to dominate the headlines, as MEP's from the Transport committee discuss possible new charges for Lorries based not only CO2 emissions but other factors such as noise and air pollution and congestion. The Commission proposed that air and noise pollution and congestion be taxed, while other are opposed to a congestion charge. The Commission is also proposing that all the revenue generated from new charges should be reinvested in greener transport. MEPs support investment into alternative technologies. MEPs however are concerned that EU governments may be opposed to tying up revenue.....more information can be found by clicking [here](#).



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News Item

Maritime spatial planning needs common European approach

Brussels, 26 February 2009

Joe Borg, Commissioner in charge of maritime affairs and fisheries, opened an EU-wide debate on how to improve maritime spatial planning across the European Union. The European Commission is promoting the use of maritime spatial planning to facilitate offshore investments. Maritime spatial planning also helps to monitor and evaluate the impact of activities at sea on each other and on the marine environment. It is an essential tool for ensuring a rational use of the sea and reconciling the interests of different maritime sectors. The Commission believes that a common approach across the EU and closer coordination between Member States could cut administrative procedures and provide a stable legal framework for investors.

Addressing representatives from national and regional administrations and stakeholders, Commissioner Borg said: "For maritime spatial planning to be functional in sea areas shared by two or more Member States, cross-border cooperation will be of vital importance in making spatial planning projects viable. That is where a common European approach can add value."

Further reading and information:

- Communication from the Commission - [Roadmap on Maritime Spatial Planning: Achieving Common Principles in the EU](#)
- Maritime Spatial Planning - http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/spatial_planning_en.html

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

COM (2009) 104 – Communication from the Commission - "Responding to the crisis in the European automotive industry"

Preparing the ground for EU leaders meeting at a summit in Brussels on Sunday (1 March 2009), the EU executive has outlined measures to tackle 'economic nationalism' looming large over the European car industry. Individual companies and their management are primarily responsible for solving the crisis



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currently facing the car industry, the European Commission said, urging manufacturers to tackle their own structural problems. The Commission argues that giving temporary government support as well as EU bodies creating framework conditions, in which the industry can thrive, can help the industry to withstand the current crisis. According to the commission, however, this shouldn't lead to protectionism, which would only deepen the crisis.