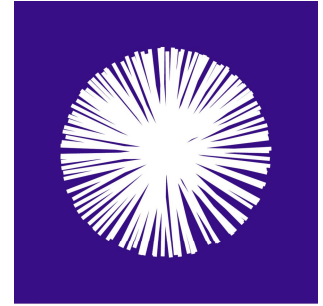


# European Monitoring

## July 2010



### Contents

1. General News
2. The European Parliament
3. The European Commission
4. The European Council
5. European Environmental Bureau (EEB) News

## 1. General News

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### 10 Years of the Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive was adopted in 2000, December 2009 was the deadline for delivery of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). These plans are supposed to be the main instrument for establishing a new water management regime. In Scotland the WFD was transposed in the 2003 Water Environment and Water Services Act (WEWS Act).

To mark this anniversary the EEB have produced a [snapshot of ambitions report](#). Problems collecting data, caused EEB to focus on just 10 RBMPs, but both Scotland and England and Wales are in this list. The Europe wide summary isn't promising – only 14 states have adopted RBMPs, with only 6 proving objective for restoring nutrient conditions.

The Big Jump was a public campaign to make the anniversary and highlight the lack of progress.

More: [10 years of the Water Framework Directive: A toothless tiger? | LINKs Freshwater Work | The Big Jump](#)

### Aarhus Update

One for the geeks. There was recently a big conference on Aarhus – lots of focusing on participation on decision making and how to improve it. There's more on this in EEB's InBrief.

## 2. The European Parliament

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### Illegal Timber Imports

The European parliament recently voted to approve new legislation banning the sale of illegally-harvested timber, along with traceability measures and sanctions.

The new legislation bans illegally-harvested timber or timber products from being placed on the EU market. This will prevent such wood from effectively being laundered once it reaches the EU. Currently, at least 20% of timber and timber products reaching the EU market is estimated to come from illegal sources.

Through this measure the EU aims to strengthen efforts to halt illegal logging and the negative economic, social and environmental consequences that it brings, including impacts on deforestation, biodiversity loss and emissions of greenhouse gases. The draft legislation is expected to be formally adopted (they have already informally agreed) by the Council of Ministers in October and should become applicable from early 2013.

More: [Press Release](#) | [EC page on illegal timber](#) |

### 3. The European Commission

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#### Review of Environmental Impact Assessment Legislation

The European Commission has launched a **consultation** on the review of Environmental Impact Assessment legislation, which aims to ensure that the environmental implications of projects are taken into account before they are approved.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive was adopted 25 years ago, and the commissions feels that it should be updated to reflect changes in EU legislation and policy and European Court of Justice case law. The Commission has identified several areas where they feel further improvements are needed.

The consultation covers issues such as the screening of projects for Environmental Impact Assessment, the quality of the EIA process, the harmonisation of assessment requirements between Member States and cross-border difficulties when projects affect more than one Member State. It also seeks opinions on the role of the environmental authorities and the development of synergies with other EU policies, such as climate change and biodiversity. The findings of the consultation will feed into a Commission review next year.

All interested parties – citizens, stakeholders and organisations involved in environmental assessments – are invited to respond to the public consultation by **24 September 2010**.

More info: [Consultation](#) | [Press release](#)

#### Ending State Aid to Coal by 2014

The European Commission has demand to end state aid to 'hard coal' mines in the EU by October 2014. Any further operating aid to the sector will be conditional on the presentation of a closure plan for the loss-making mines. The Member States concerned will be able to assist with the counselling and training of the affected workers and ensuring that the mining sites are properly cleaned up and safe. The EEB have welcomed the move on environmental grounds.

More: [EC Press Release](#) | [EEB Press release](#)

## 4. The European Council

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### Biodiversity post 2010

European Environment Ministers agreed in March on the headline target to *“halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, restore them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.”* A long-term vision for EU biodiversity policy was also adopted in the **Council**

**Conclusions:** *“By 2050 European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity’s intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided.”* The new vision and headline target were subsequently endorsed by European Heads of State and Government at the European Council meeting of 26 March 2010

More: (EC) [beyond 2010](#) |

### Belgian Presidency

On 1 July, Belgium took over the EU’s six-month rotating Presidency. The goals identified by Belgium largely echo the priorities of the outgoing Spanish EU Presidency, and closely match the **18-month common work programme** presented jointly by Spain, Belgium and Hungary in the "trio" presidency format. Energy, environment, and climate change figure prominently on the agenda; Belgium will have to strive for political agreement on several pending dossiers and coordinate the EU’s position for two key international events, the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan and the UN climate negotiations in Cancun, Mexico.

More: [EU Presidency website](#) | [Programme of the Belgian Presidency of the EU](#)

## 5. European Environmental Bureau (EEB) News

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### Press Releases

- [EEB calls upon European leaders to back proposal ending state aid to coal](#) - July 20, 2010
- [EU/Oil industry meeting: calls for immediate arctic oil drilling moratorium grow](#) - July 14, 2010
- [Jump into Europe’s waters and call for better implementation of EU water policy](#) - July 9, 2010

### EEB In Brief

In-brief is the EEB round up of environmental developments from across Europe.

[InBrief -2010/10](#)

- Aarhus

- Zero Mercury
- EIA

Back Issues of European Monitoring and supporting documents are available from the **members section of our website** or the parliamentary office.

